

"We recognize as natural resources all materials available for the use of man as means of life and welfare, including those on the surface of the earth, like the soil and the waters; those below the surface, like the minerals; and those above the surface, like the forests. We agree that these resources should be developed, used and conserved for the future, in the interests of mankind, whose rights and duties to guard and control the natural sources of life and welfare are inherent, perpetual and indefeasible. We agree that those resources which are necessities of life should be regarded as public utilities, that their ownership entails specific duties to the public and that, as far as possible, effective measures should be adopted to guard against monopoly."

Let it be understood, that in this declaration, there was no intention of reflecting upon any government or upon any person. There is probably no government in North America and no man for any considerable time connected with administration of public affairs, as a representative or as an administrator, who has not frequently been a party to measures inconsistent with this declaration of principles. But it is only by recognizing the neglect and omissions of the past and by endeavouring to avoid them in the future, that progress can be made. The object in framing this declaration was to embody the results of experience and the highest wisdom attainable. The laws and the practice, as they exist to-day, are far from conforming to these ideal principles, but the ideal is our guiding star, and, towards its attainment, we should devote our most strenuous efforts.

The natural resources may be grouped generally under a number of headings:—The Minerals, The Fisheries, The Public Health, Inland Waters, The Land and The Forests.

Minerals—Up to the present moment, in the history of Canada, the sole effort has been to secure the exploitation of our mineral wealth. There is no reason why such exploitation should be discouraged; but there is every reason why intelligent consideration should be given to the more economic use and production of minerals. Improvement in methods of production may mean scores of millions added to the available mineral wealth and long continued enjoyment of the results of mineral production. Improved methods of saving and separating minerals will result in great quantities of mineral being profitably used which are now consigned to the refuse heap. The various Provinces have departments which have the care of their mining industries. The Dominion also has established a Department of Mines. The Dominion Department of Mines has lately been devoting attention to the issuing