

do to make the production of wheat and other field crops there assured year in and year out without reference to what may be a particular season's climate. We are fortunate in many ways in looking forward to this. Just to the west of the area I have described, we have the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. The eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains are clothed at the present time almost entirely with a forest growth, a forest growth, which, perhaps some lumbermen might not consider of the greatest value, a forest growth which does not compare with the growth of the forests in British Columbia and does not compare with the growth of the forest in the old days in this Ottawa valley, but still a very considerable forest growth, a forest growth, which, at any rate, is quite sufficient to conserve and keep permanently conserved all the water supply which flows down through the streams on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains most of which water eventually finds its way into the Saskatchewan River. Up to the present time, I do not think that any material inroads have been made into that forest growth, but I venture to predict, unless the greatest care is exercised to preserve it in the near future, the moisture of our plains will be considerably sacrificed and the mighty rivers which to-day come out of those hills and course through that prairie region will be turned, in the spring-time into floods and in the summer-time into dry water-courses. These great rivers and streams have cut deep courses through the fertile prairie, and as a general rule, the water-course itself is considerably sunk below the general prairie level. The farther and farther you go from the hills, the deeper and deeper becomes the valley in which the river runs. Fortunately, the general descent of the whole plain is so great that it is not a very difficult task to take the water out from the upper reaches of these rivers and by carrying it along on the upper levels over the prairie and keeping it within bounds we are able to distribute it over large areas of that country through irrigation, securing and ensuring the future development and cropping of the country. I believe that this is one of the most important pieces of work which the Government and people of this country must look to and see in the future.

A paper on "Forestry and Irrigation," prepared by Mr. J. S. Dennis, Commissioner of Irrigation for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, was read by Mr. Pearce. Mr. Dennis pointed out the great value of the irrigation works in Southern Alberta, amounting to \$3,500,000, and the necessity for preserving the forests on the watersheds of the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains in order to preserve the water supply.

"Water Powers" was the subject of a paper by Cecil B. Smith, C E., Chairman of the Temiskaming Railway Commission, which is reproduced farther on.