

in our country. Some of the waste could not, in those early days, have been avoided; but the same spirit of waste has gone on through the whole of the forest production of this country. How much of the lumber that is felled is left where it falls and allowed to go to waste? Now, this is where chemistry comes in. Material in connection with our great industries—timber, coal, fisheries—is rotting in our fields and forests, running to our rivers, burned up by the fires; and with the assistance of the chemist much of this material can be put to good use. There is one great field that is open to us. Necessity will compel us to husband our resources, if only for the mere sake of commercialism itself. But again I say that there is something higher than mere commercialism. After all who are now living on this earth pass away another generation will require resources to live upon; therefore you are a conscienceless man, you are a thoughtless man, you are a heartless man if for the sake of making profit you care not whether you take the last fish that is in the lake, the last tree that is in the forest, the last piece of coal that is in the mine. You must remember that people are to come after you; that such control must be exercised and such methods adopted as will ensure to future generations a chance to exist within the bounds of our country. And by the conservation of the old things and the finding out and proper application of the new, you can make it pretty sure that no matter what the population of this country may be in the future there will always be ample for its subsistence.

There are certain things which, if exhausted, cannot be replaced. You cannot make coal again; it requires too much time. It is like the soldier who wants his gratuity now; he doesn't want to wait for it until later. It is like the civil servant who wants his bonus now, at Christmas time, and cannot afford to wait. It is like you, Mr. Chairman, who want the reclassification right, and that now. But I say that there are some things which you cannot replace, and coal is one. Coal can be conserved, and used as a national asset as well. But that is the extreme case; there are other things that do not perish in the use thereof. Take agriculture. The lands of this country should become richer the more they are tilled. For instance, you export one hundred million bushels of wheat.