

with regard to timber,—by conserving that timber and encouraging natural regeneration and going further and providing for artificial regeneration, by the establishing of a small nursery, we can bring the Cypress Hills closer to its original state.

The question of artificial reservoirs is something that can be built up in a reasonable length of time, but a forest reserve takes a considerable time to build up. Nevertheless, if you have artificial reservoirs, you have a body of exposed water, but in a forest it may have more or less exposed water within it, but the evaporation of free bodies of water in the forest is not nearly so great as it is in the case of free bodies of water in the open, so it is our claim that, although the artificial reservoirs are necessary, we cannot be expected to build up in a period of eight or ten years something that depends upon the class of timber you are trying to get, something that might take from 40 to 150 years. Nevertheless steps should be taken to do as much as possible to convert this reserve back to its original state.

The question of stream flow is just as important. This is of importance to the people of all regions. It must be, in a hilly country or at least in a country that has a certain irregularity of topography, that irrigation works have to be carried out because after all, we have to depend upon gravity.

In closing, I want to say a few words about the period we have been through in the last two months. Mr. Prettie told me yesterday of an incident that happened on one of the logging railways. The C. P. R. had brought in oil to operate the train. Tiding on the way down on the oil locomotive with two others, these fellows threw away cigarette butts and they had to stop and put out the fires resulting from that action. Now, we have had a lot of fires in Alberta this year and a lot of them have been caused by campers and some, which have cost us as much as \$15,000 to get under control, have been caused by absolute carelessness.

On Monday when I came here and looked at this peaceful forest scene on the platform, I thought it was the most peaceful scene I had seen.

It makes me feel indignant every time I see a person on a train, in a street car in the cities, throwing cigarette butts away. In our work it is all these little things that have to be guarded against in order to conserve our forests.

Just a word of explanation, as to the difficulties in our work in the forest reserve. If there is one season since I have been associated with the Forestry Department that I entered with a degree of doubt, it is this year. The year 1916 was all right. 1917 was getting drier. Last year we got through, if I might use a slang expression, "by the skin of our teeth," and we had fires and fires but managed to keep them under control. This year we