

they have done. They have devoted a very large portion of their busy lives to this work, and are thoroughly enthusiastic in seeing that it is brought to a successful issue—that it shall not be a mere fad, but give practical results which will be of very great benefit to the country. The council has met in Ottawa once or twice a month since it was appointed. They sit from three to five days; at one meeting here they sat a whole week. They are not treating this matter as a plaything or anything of that kind.

Their viewpoint was a very good one, and it entirely coincided with mine. A council of that kind, with that desire and that ability to work along these lines, cannot, if good results are to be obtained, all be working separately with no one responsible for the whole work. It was essential that one man should be appointed to co-ordinate their efforts, and the best man amongst them was chosen—he was their choice as well as mine—to act in that capacity, to direct, to consult, to keep the whole machine going, as it were, with these men as the motive power. But that is really the smallest thing that has been done. The advisory council has been at work a little over a year now, and in that time has brought together all the different forces in the Dominion that are engaged in industrial or scientific research, and which hitherto had been doing their work on their own, often duplicating each other, and lacking that energy and spirit that comes from co-ordination with other workers in the same line with a common object in view. The research branch of the Interior and Mining Departments, the Conservation Commission, the Inland Revenue and other research branches, have all been linked up with this general endeavour. In a little over a year all this dispersed effort has been concentrated, and has become inspired with a spirit and energy, and with a determined effort to work along these lines, that was foreign to them entirely a year ago. The council has put new spirit into them all.

I do not need to follow up what my hon. friend from Halifax said as to the immense necessity of this work, particularly at this time. A few thousand dollars is a mere bagatelle to the advantage that only one successful solution along some line might bring to the economic strength of this country. This work is almost an absolute necessity, if we are to keep abreast with other nations. My hon. friend says that this is not the commission we should have appointed. I would ask him to give the com-

mission a free rein for a while, and after a year or so, I think he will come out of that contemplative area in which he has rested for about a year now, as respects undue criticism, and I think he will then revise his opinion of these men. Nobody can select members to suit everybody; we all have our opinions about them. But I am of the opinion that we have just about the very best council that could have been got together in the whole Dominion.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: Would it not be well to have some representative of agriculture on the council?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I suppose there is not a college or university in the whole Dominion which symbolizes agriculture so much as does the university of Saskatchewan, over which Dr. Murray presides. That is the foundation principle of his university, which was founded with a view to the agricultural possibilities and necessities of that great province.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: That hardly answers my question. I know Professor Murray very well. He has had very little to do with agriculture in a practical or scientific way in all his experience. He is a very busy man and is engaged in the building up of a new university in a new province. I am not objecting to him being a member of the board at all, because he is an excellent man indeed, one of the very best on the council. Still, I think it would be desirable to appoint another representative of agriculture to the board, with the qualifications I have indicated.

Mr. SINCLAIR: As these scientific men receive no salary, I can see no reason why the minister should not enlarge the council. It is a very big problem these men are undertaking, and there does not seem to be any reason why the number of members should be limited. There is a university in Nova Scotia, St. Francis Xavier, which has a number of eminent men on its staff who are devoting their time to scientific research, and I am sure some one among them could be found who would be of great value to the council if the minister should make up his mind to enlarge the number, I trust he will not fail to give this proposal his best consideration. I agree with my hon. friend from Halifax that youth counts for a great deal in work of this kind, especially for the chairman, and if the minister has put in charge of this work a man whose best days are over, and who has not the energy required for this work, I think he has made a mistake. I