

that, while I have often visited our own sabbath schools, I have never heard children answer questions better than the pupils did on that occasion. At the close of the school, the priest presented me with the catechism, and I found, on reading it, that it conveyed the fundamental doctrines which I had been taught.

When we recall with what vigour and strenuous opposition the educational clauses of the Autonomy Bill were resisted, we now have the verdict of the people of the west themselves, and that is an emphatic vindication of the policy of the government.

In respect to our great natural forest wealth, we have lived prodigally as a people. We have to some extent sold our birthright, and are not unlike the man who set his house on fire in order to cook a dinner; whereas the first lesson which civilization teaches is that man must not selfishly live wholly in the present, gratifying at any cost the needs of the moment, but that he must regard the rights of those who will come after him.

It will be said by some that we are locking the stable after the horse is stolen. Perhaps, however, it is not too late yet for us to preserve a large part of our once-magnificent forests. At all events public sentiment has been aroused. It is gratifying to see the interest which was manifested in this question at the Forestry Convention recently held in this city, and we are particularly fortunate in having had strong interest manifested therein by His Excellency the Governor General and by the right hon. the First Minister of this Dominion.

On account of the feeling of unrest which has recently characterized the public attitude towards life insurance, caused largely by the exposure of fraud and graft in the United States it is a source of the highest satisfaction to know that a Royal Commission composed of able men is now at work, clothed with the amplest powers necessary for bringing out the truth upon all material points of this important business. The amount of money which life insurance companies collect each year from the people for the fulfilment of future obligations is vast and rapidly increasing, and it is of great importance that such moneys shall be wisely invested.

That the present is a critical time in this regard, no one will deny. The system of inspection now exercised over the compa-

nies by the Insurance Department is extensive and thoroughly efficient as I understand. The head office of every company is visited each year, and its transactions subjected to the minutest scrutiny. Even if the law as it stands is well complied with, it may be advisable further to strengthen the hands of the department by a modification or extension of the present statutes.

We may be assured that the commission besides giving attention to the question of speculative investment of funds, if any such tendency exists, will in general be able to recommend amendments of the existing laws which will prove most valuable to parliament.

In a report published in the morning papers of the 8th inst., I notice that Judge MacTavish made an important announcement at the opening of the proceedings of the commission. He said:

The secretary has read the terms of the commission directing this inquiry which, with the order in council already published, discloses the very wide scope of the investigation now proposed to be held. It must be apparent to every one that there is an absence of any restriction or limitation to the scope of the inquiry, nor is there anything omitted therefrom that can, at this stage at all events, be suggested or anticipated.

We may be sure, then, that the commission, besides giving attention to the evidence that will be submitted, will in general be able to recommend amendments to the existing laws which will be most valuable to parliament.

I also see reference made to the progress being made in the exploration and survey of the eastern division of the National Transcontinental Railway and that it is expected that contracts for the construction of two important sections embracing together about four hundred miles will shortly be executed. On inquiry to-day I find that at this very hour, while this House is sitting, tenders are being opened for two sections, one for one hundred and fifty miles east of Winnipeg, and one for one hundred and fifty miles west of Quebec, and that contracts will be let immediately.

It is satisfactory to know that the report of the Transportation Commission will soon be forthcoming, for it is not too much to say that the problem of transportation, or in other words, distribution of the products of field and factory among those most in need of them, is the key of the whole econo-