

Conservation and Technical Education

was appointed to enquire into what we have and what we need in the way of means and opportunity for industrial training and technical education, in order that our people may be fit for the big job of making the most and the best of their resources *and of themselves*. The one Commission has to do chiefly with the conservation of our possessions, the other with the conservation and development of our powers. It is necessary that native talent should be trained into ability—into industrial efficiency—to ensure worthy progress and prosperity. Let me spend a moment in considering “who we are” from the point of view that has come to me, more definitely than before, from the survey of Canada as a member of these two Commissions.

WHO WE ARE.

I suppose we have been in the breeding, in the making, for at least 100,000 years on earth. That is a long process of creation. The fine things, the refined things, are not made fast. In McGill Museum, we saw the fossils of monsters that were on earth before the glacial period. One of them could not have stood at ease in this end of the room—big coarse creatures that grubbed and fought and just survived, and after all succumbed.

That is not the form or purpose of man. If I may be somewhat personal without bad taste, let me speak of one of my ancestors. I never knew him personally, but I can picture him in my imagination, from what I can learn from the little trace he left of his living. He lived a long while ago. I suppose he lived in a cave or hut, in the stone and club age, long ago, long, long ago; may be twenty or thirty thousand years ago. I did not have