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Original Memoirs

"THE CONSERVATION OF ALBERTA'S GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCE" *

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The first wealth is health—EMERSON.

When the armies of Greece returning home from their triumphs abroad brought with them the germs of malaria and this disease thus gained a foothold in the country, that nation was doomed to decline from the premier place in art, science, civilization and military power of the world, to almost the lowest rank. The power of Rome was doubtless also in great part similarly destroyed. It is only within very recent times that the advances of modern medical science have revealed the malaria mosquito in its true character and have made the fair land of Greece and Italy again safe for human abode.

~~Disease defied the best efforts of France to construct the Panama canal.~~ Scores of thousands of her citizens' lives were destroyed in the heroic attempt. But within the present decade modern sanitation has made the Panama isthmus as safe to live in as New York is—safer than many United States cities. The conquest of yellow fever, malaria and typhoid in the Panama Canal Zone is one of the greatest triumphs in the history of the world. Without this conquest the United States would never build the Panama Canal.

* Read before the Alberta Medical Association, Banff, August 12, 1910.