

Conservation and Homemakers.

Signs which show that the women of Canada are awakening on this subject.

Five years ago 'conservation' was an unknown term in the sense in which it is now applied. There were no newspaper articles on it and no addresses, except those of a few enthusiasts. Now it is scarcely possible to open a newspaper without finding some reference to the subject. One of the most hopeful signs is the way the women of Canada are taking hold of it. Women's organizations are among those which most frequently ask for lectures under the Canadian Forestry Association's lecture plan. Authorities on the subject are constantly being called upon by the women to explain the relation of conservation to the home.

Mr. J. F. MacKay, general manager of the *Toronto Globe*, and a member of the Canadian Commission of Conservation, by request recently spoke before the Toronto Household Economic Association.

Probably the most important gathering of the century, said Mr. MacKay, was the conference of governors, judges and scientific men which Theodore Roosevelt called together at Washington in May, 1908, to form a National Commission on Conservation. Sometime later the Canadian government decided to appoint a permanent commission, and the first meeting was held at Ottawa, January, 1910, the Commission being national, rather than political, in its aims.

The Commission is attempting conservation along seven lines, and leading experts in each branch are directing the work. The question of forestry, and the preservation of our forests, had been most in the public eye, and whereas a few years ago there was not one qualified forester

in Canada, chairs of forestry were now established at three universities. The evil results of bad lumbering in the injuring and cutting down of immature trees, the devastation by fire of vast areas of forest, were well known. Along with prevention of these two evils should come proper treatment of forestable land.

He dealt also with the conservation of fisheries, mines, soils and the public health, and concluded by speaking of the value of our fresh waters—not only for sustaining animal and vegetable life, but for purposes of navigation and electric power. The use of our waters as a mean of disposing of sewage, he characterized as a 'monumental misuse.' From our waters we could obtain heat, light, and power. It had been estimated that our Canadian waters can give sixteen million horsepower. Of this, only five hundred and fourteen thousand was as yet developed.

Mrs. Annie A. Wilder, a Canadian now resident in Washington, and an enthusiastic supporter of conservation, some time earlier was the guest of the Winnipeg Women's Canadian Club, and in the course of her address showing how closely related the home was to the preservation of the forests said:

'Forest preservation is a moral question. The waste of our national resources, whether in Canada or the United States, is not only criminal but immoral. I agree with Andrew Carnegie when he says that the land has been given us in trust; that we have a duty to succeeding generations in preserving the land and all its resources, and it is to this end that I am an active conservationist.'