

Sir Clifford  
Sifton's  
Resignation

Since our last annual meeting, Sir Clifford Sifton has resigned his position as Chairman of the Commission.

Pending the appointment of his successor, the Acting Chairman, Hon. Senator Edwards, has instructed me to prepare an annual statement of the operations of the Commission along much the same lines as Sir Clifford has done in the past.

First, I desire to refer to the great loss the Commission has suffered by reason of Sir Clifford Sifton's resignation. His untiring energy, his broad outlook, his ability to grasp the factors of a problem and arrive at its solution, and his master mind were well summed up by Augustus Bridle in his *Sons of Canada*, when he said that Sir Clifford is "the greatest constructive statesman that Canada has yet produced."

When we commenced our operations we were without any precedent to guide us, inasmuch as we were a unique organization. No other body, governmental or private, had ever undertaken conservation work on a large or comprehensive scale. The organic Act establishing the Commission, draughted by Sir Clifford, provided for the appointment of representatives of the Dominion Government, of the Government of each province, and of at least one university in each province. At the same time, it also provided for the appointment of representatives from each province and representatives who were interested in our great natural resources.

Efficiency and  
Economy of  
Operation

In commencing the work of organization, Sir Clifford laid down some basic rules, which are worthy of record. First, he gave instructions that all materials, printing, binding, etc., were to be purchased in the cheapest market, irrespective of politics, religion, nationality, or other consideration. Second, that the staff should consist of a limited staff of experts, so selected that, in a general way, we would have one expert adviser respecting each of the great natural resources, and that these advisers should, so far as possible, be assisted by clever members of the weaker sex. Third, that when special investigations which could be carried to completion in a limited space of time were undertaken, special investigators would be employed only until the investigation was completed, such action permitting the payment of ample remuneration without, in the aggregate, incurring excessive total cost. Fourth, he suggested that the work of the Commission could be carried on with the maximum of advantage if the work were apportioned to committees, one for each great natural resource and one on publication.

As a result, the Commission can fairly claim that its achievements are out of all proportion greater than its expenditure. An