

Should we not, therefore, before their policy has become too crystallized and fixed for change, meet them in a spirit of real concession, facilitate commerce between the two countries, and thus greatly increase the natural resources available to our people.

And further at page 7:

By giving our people access to Canadian forests we shall reduce the consumption of our own, which, in the hands of comparatively few owners, now have a value that requires the enlargement of our available timber resources.

And it is perfectly true that the timber resources of the United States at the present time are not only very considerably depleted, but have passed into the control of comparatively a very few men who are holding them not only for their value in the immediate present, but for that enormously increased value which will come in the early future, as the price of timber rises and increases in the United States. I shall give some figures and statistics in regard to that a little later on. Then at page 8:

The opening of the timber resources of the Dominion to our needs will be limited to no particular section.

I think then it is abundantly apparent to every hon. gentleman in this House that one of the impelling causes which have constrained the government of the United States to seek these reciprocal relations which they denied to us for so many years is the desire that they may have access to the abundant natural resources of Canada which ought to be kept and developed for the benefit of our own people.

Their Own Resources Nearly Exhausted.

Let us look for one moment at the condition of the United States to-day in respect of the natural resources which providence bestowed on them so freely. An authority in the United States, Mr. Gannett, says that the valuable and accessible coal in the United States will be exhausted in about 100 years. Mr. Van Hise, who has written a very exhaustive book upon the conservation of natural resources in the United States, thinks that estimate is perhaps too conservative and he believes that their coal will last for a longer period. The same gentleman whose work I cite because I believe him to be an author of repute and who seems to have examined the question very thoroughly, speaking of the wasteful use of coal in the United States, says:

In the last decade of the nineteenth century, more coal was mined in the United States than in all the previous decades of that century.

And further:

In the first decade of the 20th century more coal was mined in the United States than in all previous years in the history of that country.

They are already speaking in the United

States of prohibiting the exportation of coal. The same authority says that the natural gas of the United States will be exhausted in twenty-five years.

Look at their iron supplies. In the first decade of the 20th century they mined 53 per cent. of all the iron ore that has been extracted, they mined more in that decade than had been extracted from iron mines in the United States in all previous years. In thirty years more, according to this authority, the high grade ores of the United States, so far as they are known at present, will be exhausted.

Take their abundant supply of copper. In the first decade of the 20th century 57 per cent. of all the ore extracted has been mined. The process of using up their natural resources is proceeding in that country at an enormous rate.

More than half of their timber is gone, they are using it according to this same authority three times as fast as it is being reproduced.

Mr. Pinchot on American Resources.

Many hon. members in this House heard Mr. Gifford Pinchot address the Canadian Club of Ottawa upon the conservation of natural resources about a year or eighteen months ago. He has recently published a book from which I shall give an extract:

The five indispensably essential materials in our civilization are wood, water, coal, iron and agricultural products.

We have timber for less than thirty years at the present rate of cutting. The figures indicate that our demands upon the forest have increased twice as fast as our population.

We have anthracite coal for but fifty years, and bituminous coal for but two hundred.

Our supplies of iron ore, mineral oil, and natural gas are being rapidly depleted, and many of the great fields are already exhausted. Mineral resources such as these when once gone are gone forever.

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The diversion of great areas of our public lands from the homemaker to the landlords and the speculator; the national neglect of great water-powers, which might well relieve, being perennially renewed, the drain upon our non-renewable coal; the fact that but half the coal has been taken from the mines which have already been abandoned as worked out and by caving-in have made the rest for ever inaccessible; the disuse of the cheaper transportation of our waterways, which involves comparatively slight demand upon our non-renewable supplies of iron ores, and the use of the rail instead—these are other items in the huge bill of particulars of national waste.

Canadian Resources for Canadians.

We undoubtedly have in Canada very great natural resources. The government of this country, with the hearty support of members on this side of the House, have taken steps along the line of the conservation of those resources. We know how immensely important forests are to