

Commission of Conservation

Brief Report of the Fourth Annual Meeting at Ottawa, Jan. 21, 22, 1913.

The fourth annual meeting of the Canadian Commission of Conservation held in the Carnegie Library, Ottawa, Jan. 21 and 22, gave evidence of steady growth. In the absence of Hon. Clifford Sifton in Europe the meetings were presided over by the Acting Chairman Hon. W. C. Edwards, Chairman of the Committee on Forestry. The sessions were well attended and nearly all the provinces were officially represented. The first morning was devoted to reports of work done during the year as follows:

Public Health—Dr. C.A. Hodgetts.

Mines—W. J. Dick.

Forests—Clyde Leavitt.

Extension of forest reserves and establishment of game preserves in Alberta—R. H. Campbell.

Fisheries, game and fur-bearing animals—M. J. Patton.

Fur-fishing in Canada—J. Walter Jones.

Waters and water-powers — Leo. G. Denis and Arthur V. White.

Press and co-operating organizations—M. J. Patton.

The first afternoon was taken up by an illustrated address on the Salmon Fisheries of British Columbia by Prof. J. P. McMurrich, Director of the Anatomical Department, University of Toronto, and by meetings of committees.

At the Wednesday morning session the following was the order of the work:

The Biological Board of Canada—Dr. E. E. Prince.

Trent Watershed Survey and Reconnaissance Survey of the Northern Ontario Clay Belt—Dr. B. E. Fernow.

Insect Food of Fresh-water Fish—Dr. C. G. Hewitt.

Work done by the Lands Committee during the past year—F. C. Nunnick.

Address on work of Lands Committee—Dr. J. W. Robertson.

Committee work and resolutions occupied all of Wednesday afternoon, and in the evening there was an illustrated address on Smoke Prevention by Dr. R. G. Benner.

Among the matters which related to forest conservation were the following:

Mr. Clyde Leavitt, Forester of the Commission of Conservation and Chief Fire Warden of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada, gave the results of organizing the patrol work along the railway lines in Western Canada and intimated that in 1913 this work would be extended all over Eastern Canada as well.

DOMINION FORESTRY WORK.

Mr. R. H. Campbell, Dominion Director of Forestry, told of the setting aside of the forest reserve on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains and of examinations made in 1912 of areas in the Peace River Country and in the northern parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. He pointed out that not all of the reserves were game preserves but that such areas were being set aside for this purpose as would best conserve the characteristic game of Western Canada. The number of trees distributed by the Dominion Government Forestry Branch to settlers now amounted to 21,000,000 and four million more trees were ready at Indian Head Forestry Nursery Station to be sent out this coming spring. These were for wind-breaks and woodlots not for orna-