

such institutions, and, if his heart is in his work, he will tell you that there are whole fields of labour, of valuable research and investigation, which he is unable to attack for lack of men and means.

We are fortunate in having among our membership men eminently qualified to direct our deliberations upon this subject, and under their advice it will, no doubt, be possible to do much valuable work.

Let me conclude by calling your attention to the unique position occupied by Canada at the present period of its history. For many years, the progress of the country was comparatively slow. A combination of circumstances was responsible for that fact. Sparse population, great natural obstacles to transportation, peculiarities of geography, our proximity to the more wealthy and attractive United States—all combined to retard progress. It has taken the toil of generations to attain the present position. Now our time has come. Population is flowing in; development of resources is proceeding rapidly; trade is growing. In all human probability a period of great expansion and prolonged prosperity lies before us.

It is as certain as that day follows night, that this condition will bring a large influx of capital, particularly from the country to the south. This capital will come with the object of acquiring whatever revenue-producing assets Canada possesses. It will not come for philanthropic purposes. It will come to acquire and to monopolize. It will come with a volume and a power that no single individual or corporation can resist. I could, if I chose, give you some very striking illustrations of how this movement has already begun, but that is not necessary. It does not take a very profound observer to see that, within ten years, United States capital will be on the spot to acquire nearly every one of our great natural sources of wealth, except our farm lands and fisheries, which, in the nature of things, cannot be monopolized, though they may be heavily tolled by monopolists.

If, then, we are desirous that Canada shall remain Canadian, a good place for Canadians to live in, and a good place for our children to make their homes, it is in the highest degree important that we should endeavour to promote such improvements in the organic laws of the country as will prevent the monopolization of the sources of wealth, and, at least, ensure to the people their full share of the wealth which is produced therefrom. We have the experience of other countries to draw from, and it will be our own fault if we do not profit by it.

This Commission can exert a powerful influence in the right direction. It can strengthen the hands of all who are desirous of following