

the food of fresh-water fishes and the possibility of its artificial cultivation. This food consists largely of the larvæ of certain insects such as the May Flies or Ephemeroidea, part of whose life-history is spent in water. At first sight this line of work would appear to be somewhat impracticable, but when the importance of utilizing so great a natural resource as our inland waters for the production of a valuable form of food is realized, as will be essential, then the relation which this question, of the scientific provision of suitable food for the fishes, bear to the whole problem of fish-culture will be fully appreciated. You may compare it to the growing of a crop; by the provision of hatcheries good seed is provided, but does any farmer expect his seed to produce a good crop if the available plant food in the soil is insufficient? How then can we expect good fisheries if attention is not paid to the available fish food in the waters devoted to pisciculture? Fish flesh is a highly nutritious food, in fact it is said to be an excellent brain food; we may find that the conservation of this natural resource may influence the clear thinking of the people!

In these few random remarks an attempt has been made to show why the naturalist and the lover of nature should be especially concerned in this great question of the conservation of the natural resources of Canada. Conservation is nothing more than a gospel of unselfishness, a lesson on our duty to future generations of Canadians; no true citizen of this country can fail in that duty by keeping silent if these great sources of natural wealth are plundered, not only injudiciously for the use of the people, but wastefully by those who consider not the present needs and future requirements, but their own personal gain. Conservation, however, does not mean, as many wrongly suppose, the hoarding up of our national resources, such as our forests, and the prevention of their full utilization. It means use without waste, or with as little waste as possible. The significance of this will be understood if you will remember that at present only three-eighths of the timber cut is in the final product; conservation is the saving of the other five-eighths. Cut the forests, but see that for every tree cut another is growing to take its place and fulfil its function. We are fortunate in being able to begin at an early stage and to learn the lessons which other nations have learned too late. Let each so work that Canada may truly say:

"Carry the word to my sisters—

To the Queens of the east and south.

I have proven faith in the heritage,

By more than the word of the mouth."