

—the maintenance of the soil-fertility, accomplished by scientific methods of cultivation, and the combatting of those factors which reduce the productivity by destroying the soil products, namely insects, plant diseases and weeds. We must put an end to exploitive farming, the taking out and not putting back the equivalent, which is nothing more or less than stealing the nation's wealth; and the farmer who exploits the fertile soil of Canada must be shown that he is criminally taking away the future subsistence of the generations to come.

FORESTS.

The forests of Canada were responsible for the foundation and the early history of the nation, for without the forests there would never have been that great natural resource of fur-bearing animals which lured the first wealth seekers and pioneers to this land rich in forest, river and lake. The forests will be responsible for the future prosperity of Canada, for upon their conservation depends the conservation of the land and water. They conserve the land in virtue of their great function as natural filters, allowing the gradual running away of rainstorms and melting snow, and in the place of wash-outs and floods sweeping away the fertile soil by erosion, a continuous steady flow of water is provided and maintained, and thus the water which we shall require more and more as our natural fuel supplies become more exhausted, is regulated in the best possible manner for the purposes of obtaining power. The maintenance and conservation of our natural water supplies is primarily dependent upon the conservation of the forests, and on the conservation of the water supplies depends the productivity of the land. What would our great western provinces produce if they were not watered by the rivers having their origin on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, the origin and flow of which rivers is directly due to the forests covering those mountains? The setting aside of the greater part of those forests on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains as a reserve is one of the greatest prospective actions ever taken by a government. In addition to the intimate relation between forests and the land and water, their effect upon the climate and also upon the health of the people are to be considered. By the majority of people one of the chief functions of the forests is, of course, their utilization. The varied industries which depend upon forest products, from the publishing of a newspaper to the building of a railway, render it still further necessary that we shall not only conserve but utilize in the most economical manner possible and, by afforestation of deforested areas and of areas unsuitable for agriculture, shall