

with the various objects of Natural History found in public gardens and museums established in every part of the kingdom. That this is the case was shown by the almost universal custom of wearing flowers, making collections of Natural History specimens, or having pets of various kinds in the houses. While in England, however, I paid most attention to my own branch of science, and to botany will chiefly direct your attention to-night. To-day in every part of the world except Canada Botanic Gardens have been established. Economic and other museums have been called into existence and the natural vegetable products of the various countries are exhibited under the same roof. Many visits to the Royal Gardens at Kew, near London; to the Botanic Gardens at Birmingham and at Dublin, convinced me that the present movement to establish experimental farms in Canada was a step in the right direction; but the cultivation of our native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants should be considered of equal importance and receive special and prompt attention. In all of the gardens mentioned the native plants of each order are planted according to their relationships, and students and others can obtain a great deal of useful information without much labour or loss of time. When walking with botanists and others through the arboretums in England and Ireland I had to make the humiliating confession that in Canada we had no such thing, and that very few of our people knew one tree from another. You may think this unfair, but how many of us could tell the names of one quarter of the 65 species of trees growing without cultivation in Ontario. Besides the Botanic Gardens nearly every city has an Economic Museum in which are exhibited the various products used in the arts; also the fruits, seeds, leaves, bark and wood of the native shrubs and trees, besides those of other countries.

Before I left for England I was told that a collection of small billets of wood was of little moment, and that our collection of birds would only cause laughter in the British Museum, where all these were represented. But what were the facts? When our 108 species of native trees were contrasted with 14 British species, and our magnificent display of game and other birds was studied by men who had visited every clime, a unanimous verdict was given in our favour.