

wealth. But, I venture to think that the public at large was aroused on that occasion to an interest in the work that it had never evinced before, and I fear it was only too late that this event occurred.

We boast that we are a young nation. We believe that we are a strong nation. We are proud of our material resources throughout the length and breadth of this vast area which is entrusted to our care. But as we are a young nation, I fear we have a great many of the faults of youth, and have been blind to the necessity for thrift in our forest wealth just as the young man is extravagant with his patrimony, whose resources he does not properly appreciate. We in Canada have had a great wealth committed to our charge. We have not properly realized its importance or vastness. We have thought that that wealth was inexhaustible, and we have drawn upon the bank of our supplies to such an extent, so wastefully, extravagantly and unscientifically that to-day we are face to face with the fact that our bank account is almost at an end, even though to-day, as was said a few minutes ago, it has probably the greatest wealth of forest resources of any country in the world.

But, country after country has found that they could not go on drawing upon this land without coming to an end, and we in Canada, young as we are, with the immense resources that we have, are face to face with the end of that account unless we take care to husband it and replace it by replanting of those trees that are necessary.

A reference was made by you, Mr. President, to a recommendation which was made at that convention for the establishment of Forest Reserves. Let me most heartily endorse that recommendation. I am glad to say that the Dominion Government, so far as its western lands are concerned, has to a considerable extent acted upon that recommendation, and the Minister of the Interior, during the last few years, has set aside large areas in the western provinces and in British Columbia as Forest Reserves.

I am glad to be in a position to-day to say further that in the near future it is the decision of the Government, that the whole eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, stretching from the International Boundary Line northwards, almost indefinitely, shall be established as an inalienable Forest Reserve (loud applause), and let me say to those here who may be interested in lumbering, who may believe that even though we must conserve our resources, that we should at the same time enjoy them and reap the full benefit of them, and I agree with those gentlemen most emphatically, that the creation of a forest reserve does not necessarily mean that the trees and products of that reserve shall not be utilized for the present or future generations. A forest reserve must be kept in forests, but for