

patrol afford the best means of dealing adequately with fires.' Only a few weeks ago President Van Hise of Madison University, an enthusiastic lover of our Canadian woods, told me that during an expedition in the North-West last summer his party had the satisfaction of extinguishing three incipient forest fires due in each case to neglect of stamping out the camp fire by some party ahead. One day they came up with the party. It proved to be—two firewardens going their rounds! There needs to be less politics and more regard for competence and character in these, as in all our appointments.

Again, with regard to water-powers, a vital question, for the wonderful abundance of our supply should make this country a new and smokeless Lancashire, the Commissioners say:— 'No rights to the use of water-powers in streams should hereafter be granted in perpetuity. Each grant should be conditioned upon prompt development, continued beneficial use, and the payment of proper compensation to the public for the rights enjoyed; and should be for a definite period only.'

Yet I was told a few years ago that here in Quebec we had given away for ever possibly the finest and quite probably the most easily available water power in the world—I mean that at the Shawinigan Falls,—to a company mostly with foreign capital, for a lump sum of sixty thousand dollars! It seems incredible. I can hardly believe it now, though I once took an opportunity of asking the late Hon. Mr. Duffy about it, and he confirmed the fact, justifying the act of the government on the ground that it was the only way to secure rapid development. Why, gentlemen, if this power had been held for the province, it might have been an endless source of public wealth; it might for instance have paid for our education in perpetuity.

Then as to the coal. At the recent meeting of the Mining Society one of the engineers present informed me that from 40 to 60 per cent of the total amount is wasted through reckless and hasty methods of extraction; whereas with proper care and patience the waste need not be more than 15 per cent. And when we get it out, look how wastefully we burn it. The engineer of the Lake Ontario once told me that she could make nine knots on twenty-seven tons a day; but that to get two more knots out of her required sixty-six tons. Three hundred and fifty tons must be burned to get the eighteen knots of the Etruria; for only three knots more the Lucania wants five hundred and five tons; and our modern monsters, like the Mauretania, for their twenty-four knots must be fed with a daily allowance of upwards of a thousand tons. You see how rapidly the consumption mounts up in proportion to the result attained, and all to satisfy a few people in a hurry. I know that many look to science to provide a substitute before the coal measures