

one. I have said a hundred times that I have no interest in a forest that is not of use for something. If our forests are simply to stand there and all we get out of them is the knowledge that we have them, then, so far as I am concerned they disappear—I care nothing about them whatever. But the great aim and object of this whole movement as the President has stated over and over again is the making and the maintenance of prosperous homes. Our forest reserves are part of the great equipment of our country for the good of its citizens; and, just so far as we use these forests to promote family life, to make prosperity for the people—in fact to make and maintain prosperous homes—just so far shall we think ourselves successful. (Loud applause.)

AFTERNOON SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH JANUARY.

At this session the first paper on "Dominion Forestry" was read by Mr. E. Stewart, Dominion Superintendent of Forestry. It is reproduced elsewhere.

Dr. Robert Bell, Acting Director of the Geological Survey, followed with a paper on "Forest Fires." The northern forest area, as defined by Dr. Bell covers a tract nearly 4,000 miles in length, by from 500 to 800 miles in width. There have been great forest fires in this region and the areas so denuded have been marked out by the Geological Survey. Looking over this country from a high hill, it presents a patchwork of different colors, according to the age of the different parts of the forest. There is the light green of the poplar and birch contrasted with the dark green of the coniferous forest. Most of the fires in the north are caused by lightning, but human agency is responsible for its share. The white men are careless and have taught the Indians to be the same. These fires sometimes cover tens of millions of acres, and the forests burned are of the value of hundreds, if not thousands of millions of dollars. Surely it is most important for the Government to take any reasonable means to prevent this destruction and loss. What we need to do is to give the forest a chance to grow. Dr. Bell exhibited a map showing the forest areas referred to, on which were indicated the burned-over and the still forested tracts.

C. H. Keefer, C.E., representing the Society of Civil Engineers, read a paper on "The Effect of the Conservation of the Forests of Canada on the Water Powers." After reciting the various factors that entered into the question, Mr. Keefer stated in conclusion, that the effect of the conservation of the forests on the water powers is most beneficial, and its importance cannot be overestimated. While the influence of forest covers on rainfall