

## ADMINISTRATION.

The Council has also enlisted the close co-operation of all the Government departments, both federal and provincial, for the purpose of correlating and rendering more easily accessible the wealth of information concerning the natural resources of the Dominion which lie stored in the Government archives and reports.

In addition to this broad and general work, which looks toward the establishment of a substantial basis for the further development of the industries of the Dominion in the immediate future, the Council has examined carefully a large number of specific projects which have been submitted to it, and has approved of certain of these which appear to give promise of valuable results.

They have decided to recommend that two of these projects be at once taken up and work be started upon them immediately. The first has for its object the provision of an adequate supply of good fuel for the Western Plains, more especially in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. There are in the former province large supplies of lignite. This is an inferior fuel possessing a relatively low heating power and which, furthermore, will not stand shipment and storage. It is, therefore, of comparatively little value for domestic or manufacturing purposes. The Council, however, believes that by a special treatment there may be produced from this lignite two grades of high class briquetted fuel, one similar to anthracite or hard coal in character, and the other resembling soft coal in general character, and that at the same time certain valuable bye-products may be secured. The Department of Mines and the Commission of Conservation have already carried out a good deal of investigation in connection with this problem, and the former Department is now making some further studies for the Council. If they give satisfactory results, the Council will advise that a plant to turn out this high grade fuel on a commercial scale be erected, and the possibility of producing this fuel at a cost considerably lower than that at which coal from the United States is now laid down in Manitoba and Saskatchewan be demonstrated on a large scale, the coal being actually placed on the market. With an abundant supply of good cheap fuel the conditions of life on the great plains in winter will be much improved.

The other project has to do with the preservation of the forests of eastern Canada. These, contrary to the opinion which prevails generally, are not inexhaustible. They have already been seriously depleted and are rapidly deteriorating in character. In most of the leading countries of Europe the forests, whether owned by the Government or by private interests, have, by the application of modern scientific knowledge, been immensely improved in character, and, instead of being plundered and then abandoned, have been converted into assets of enormous national value, and year by year yield large revenues to the Government, or to their private owners, which are as regular and as continuous as those from any other gilt-edged investment, the forest all the time being maintained with its capital unimpaired.

Different methods of forest management have been adopted in different parts of Europe to secure this most desirable result. The Canadian forests present special problems of their own. The Council has recommended that the necessary means be provided in order to