

## COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION.

**Minerals.**—The studies of the Committee on Minerals refer to possibilities of greater development of the mineral resources of Canada, as well as to the means of eliminating all available waste in actual mining operations. The heavy annual loss of life among mine-workers in Canada, which received the Committee's early consideration, is now showing a gratifying decrease. Measures have been taken, following a thorough study of coal-mining operations throughout the Dominion, to reduce the waste which has characterized this branch of industry in western Canada, and attention has been directed to the possibilities of utilizing the lignite coal of the prairie provinces and of building up a valuable industry based upon the utilization of by-product coke ovens. Action has also been secured with a view to checking the great loss resulting from the careless abandonment of natural gas wells. The recent discovery of phosphate in Rocky Mountains Park, by officials of the Commission, is of importance to the agricultural as well as to the mining industry. Should the deposits prove as extensive as indicated, they will form the basis of a fertilizer enterprise not only valuable to the predominant industry of western Canada but important also as a branch of mineral production.

**Fisheries, Game and Fur-Bearing Animals.**—The Committee has devoted its energies mainly to promoting more efficient exploitation of Canada's commercial fisheries. Strong representations have been made respecting the necessity for effective measures to revive the whitefish and oyster fisheries, to improve marketing methods and facilities and to secure greater development of the home market. With regard to wild life, the Committee has been largely instrumental in facilitating the conclusion of a migratory bird treaty with the United States—a measure of inestimable value in conserving both insectivorous and game birds. Further important service has been rendered the development, along sound, legitimate lines, of the fur-farming industry. The remarkable rise in fur prices during recent years ensures the commercial success of such an enterprise, properly conducted, and the climate of portions of the Dominion is admirably adapted for the industry.

**Public Health and Town-Planning.**—Of the many questions that have commanded the attention of the Committee on Public Health, in advancing human health and efficiency, the problems of safeguarding the purity of domestic water supplies and checking the growth of unsanitary housing conditions have been accorded special study. The prevention of the pollution of streams, whether under provincial, federal or international jurisdiction, has been thoroughly investigated. After a careful survey of housing conditions in Canada, a special Town-planning Branch of the Commission was created to promote the betterment of housing, town-planning and the general use and development of land throughout the Dominion. The keynote of town-planning as advocated by the branch is conservation of life and economy in the system of developing land. Through the efforts of this branch, town-planning legislation of an advanced character has been enacted in Nova Scotia and Manitoba, while similar Acts have been brought forward in Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan. To promote voluntary effort along these lines and to arouse a more effective public interest in civic affairs in general, the