

GAVE LECTURE ON NATIONAL PARKS IN GEM THEATRE

D. W. Johnson Tells Bassano People To Learn to Appreciate The Beauties of Nature

D. W. Johnson, lecturer for the Dominion Parks branch of the Department of the Interior, dropped in here on Tuesday night and took "pot luck" at the crowd that would assemble at the Gem theatre to see the pictures, and told them all about the beauties and glories of Canada's National parks.

Mr. Johnson's text was of course the commercializing of the National Parks, and he told the people just how much money it was possible for Canada to make out of the tourist traffic to the country. Mr. Johnson urged Canadians to remember their own great natural resources as represented in parks. He extolled the Banff National park as one of the best in the world in the matter of natural scenery, and gave them to understand that right at their own back doors was one of the most healthful and delightful play houses the world could boast of.

He pointed out the need of a holiday to every man, woman and child quoting the words of Hon. Clifford Sifton "with respect to the general progress of conservation ideas, it must be remembered that in the last resort, the highest degree of conservation depends upon the efficiency of the human unit."

The speaker told of the work of the National Park Commission, pointing out the fact that at a cost of 5 cts. per capita this commission had preserved a natural resource which brought more money to the country in some years than the whole of the prairie crops. In Banff, he said, a park had been set aside for the use of tourists, where tents could be erected in a quiet scenic spot and every advantage offered for a rest, restful holiday.