

BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ASKED TO POOL THEIR WISDOM ON THE RAILWAY MEASURE

(Montreal Star)

The Bennett Government has taken a very sagacious course in inviting both Houses of Parliament to pool all their wisdom, without any political restrictions, in a combined effort to solve our highly burdensome railway problems. The routine course would have been to draft a Government measure and then crowd it through with the regular Government majorities. This would have kept the Conservatives in line and stung the opposition parties into the same sort of perfunctory criticism with which they are now meeting the Ottawa agreements. But it would have stifled the free expression of opinion on both sides of the House.

The railway problems are by far the gravest obstacles that block the path of this country back to prosperity. If we were rid of them, we could laugh at our war debts and smile through the Depression. Their solution is not properly a party question at all. Both parties were involved in the succession of mad-escapades and bad blunders which have landed us where we are. No post-mortem wrangling can do us any good. The task of finding a cure is a national task, a citizen's task—not a politician's plaything.

Must Find a Cure

The need of finding a cure is so imperative and imminent that no measure of wisdom, no local knowledge, no outcome of experience or study, and certainly no time, should be lost. The laying of the bill, implementing the suggestions of the Duff Commission, upon the tables of both Houses, with full and free permission to all the members to discuss, amend and improve its provisions in any way they think best, is surely the most effective way to concentrate upon this genuine rescue work the collective brains of our public men. If any student of the problems has a suggestion to make, this will give him his opportunity. If the united judgment of Parliament favours it or rejects it, it can do so without any damaging limitation from party pressure, any need to defend a Government, or any desire to attack one.

This bill should properly be regarded as a framework into which can be inserted whatever detail Parliament may favour. It quite properly follows the outlines of the Commission report. That is what we appointed the Commission for. We wanted a careful study, a complete plan of reform and an expert series of suggestions. Unless Parliament has greater wisdom or unless the debates uncover weaknesses in the Commission's proposals, the presumption will be in their favour. But it is only a presumption. Parliament is very properly being called

upon to perform its greatest function as the organized expression of the combined intelligence of the nation.

Co-operative Economy

Of all the things that the report suggests and the bill implements, the most important is undoubtedly co-operative economy. The two railway systems must combine loyally and unselfishly to save money and cut down deficits—deficits which in the case of the National Railway must be paid directly out of the pocket of the people. It is quite true, as is often urged, that this bill will take a great amount of authority over a privately-owned business. But only in that way can the very life of the publicly-owned enterprise be saved. If either road is permitted unrestrained rivalry against the other, the attacked system will soon be bankrupt.

An excellent item in the programme is the clause compelling the trustees of the C. N. R. to go to Parliament for money to meet their deficits. They can no longer hide them in bond issues which only pyramid endlessly into bankruptcy. The result of this will be that the road will not be able to spend any money that Parliament does not voluntarily vote it—and Parliament will be very slow to vote money which must sooner or later be taxed out of the people. The truth is that we as a people have far more railway accommodation than we can afford, and we ought immediately to cut down our luxuries to meet our resources.

The debates on this bill ought to be instructive, illuminating and helpful. Parliament has before it a real opportunity to prove its worth to the people. The members should attack this task, not as Conservatives or Liberals or Progressives, not as C.N.R. men or C.P.R. men, but as over-taxed and over-railroaded Canadians. It is not conceivable that men who are now sneered at as "back-benchers" may make fine Parliamentary reputations for themselves during these discussions. They may show diligence, intelligence and the power to marshal facts, figures and logic. It would be a splendid thing—and almost an unprecedented thing—for a scattered number of politicians to gain credit for making great speeches on a subject which had nothing to do with party advantage.

ESCAPE SUFFOCATION

Hubbard, Oregon, Nov. 1—Elmer Stauffer's cows nearly ate themselves into suffocation. Two bovines munched into the side of a straw stack until it collapsed, burying the cows. Missed at milking time, the two animals were freed.

DR. F. A. WIGHTMAN PRESENTS HIS REPORT TO THE N. B. FISH AND GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

Following is the report of President Dr. F. A. Wightman of the N. B. Fish and Game Protective Association:

Gentlemen:—

This meeting has been called in accordance with a motion made at our last meeting in March last. Coupled with it was a notice of motion to be submitted at this meeting for the restoration of our annual meeting to the fall, rather than in March, as has prevailed for one year. There are weighty reasons for this change and the submission of the motion referred to, will be in order before we adjourn. The date of this meeting is somewhat later than the date suggested, but the present later date was chosen by the executive, for reasons which seemed good and sufficient.

Like many other enterprises and activities, the prevailing depression has adversely affected the public interest and efficient working of some of our branch association. This has resulted in some instances because officers or key-men have been forced to seek employment in other localities and sometimes because even the small membership fee could not well be afforded. So a few branches are semi-dormant. Never-the-less we are able to report a year of substantial progress.

As directed and made financially possible by arrangements a year ago, your President and Secretary made a complete tour of the Province during the year. With the exception of a few centres adjacent to Saint John and Saint Stephen which these Branches agreed to look after. A complete report on all centers and Branches visited, will be given by the Secretary.

Your officers after intimate touch with many of the branches are strongly of the opinion that best interests of this work requires a close contact between the Parent Association and the Branches, through yearly visitations such as was made this year, or perhaps better still by a paid organizer. This matter will be more definitely before you, as an item from the agenda.

It is our opinion also that many of the Branches fail to make use of the social side of the work, as they might or should. In other words we recommend a get-together occasion at least

twice a year. In the summer this should take the form of a field day, in the nature of a picnic, and in the other seasons a banquet or entertainment in connection with their annual meeting. In this way a continual interest is maintained, new members secured and the good work kept before the public. In short we believe no Branch will fail in membership or interest when the social features are properly observed, but when neglected, failure frequently follows.

We note that there are still many violations of the game laws both federal and provincial. Illegal net-fishing on the Miramichi seems to have been particularly prevalent this season. We commend the officials for their attempt to enforce the law as is evident by the many prosecutions. But it is very evident that there is great need of more wardens and especially at certain seasons of the year. We feel that better protection could be obtained on the Miramichi if the entire river was under the one Supervisor, instead of two, as it now is. We hope to see something done along this line.

It is our belief also that still more game refuges should be established. We still believe, one specially adapted to Caribou should be founded for this now well nigh extinct big game animal. Possibly the Federal Government would co-operate in this move as they recently did in Alberta for the protection of the prong horned antelope, and action along this line was strongly sponsored by all our Branches three years ago through a questionnaire.

You will notice on the agenda that reference is made to some additions to the constitution and by-laws. These have been reviewed and sanctioned by the executive and will be presented to you for ratification.

Other business before you, will be the election of a new president. I desire to thank all members for their hearty co-operation and wish for you great prosperity for the coming year. I wish to thank all friends for their loyal support and co-operation during the past year and especially that of Mr. Cooper, who has been of great assistance in the work.

Yours Faithfully,
Dr. F. A. Wightman—President.

CLAIMS THAT A FLASH OF GENIUS IS ONLY A HUNCH, EINSTEIN'S BIG EQUATION

(New York Sun)

Do scientists, laboring over their test tubes, microscopes and complex mathematical charts, attach any value to a common, ordinary hunch in attempting to solve knotty research problems. If so, how much?

The division of chemical education of the American Chemical Society went to a peek of trouble to get the answers to these questions. A special inquiry into the matter was begun in 1930, under the direction of Prof. Ross A. Baker of the College of the City of New York, secretary of the division, and Washington Platt of the Borden Company, Syracuse. They sent out questionnaires to nearly 1,500 research chemists and directors in the United States, asking them quite seriously for their opinions on "The Relation of the Scientific Hunch to Research."

The answers received are quite revealing. It appears that the scientific gentlemen are divided on the question, but that a great many of them, despite a real believers in the hunch or intuitive "flash of genius," as some have called it. Others were vehement in denouncing the humble hunch, which comes to laymen and scientists alike, as utterly valueless and just so much bunk. These dissenters, however, are in the minority, according to the report, although they went so far as to view the thesis as "something new, revolutionary and even dangerous." To this view Prof. Baker and Dr. Platt are opposed and they can cite plenty of references substantiating their position, not only in scientific literature of past and present, but in the answers of contemporary research leaders to the questionnaire.

For instance, Dr. Robert A. Millikan, winner of the Nobel prize, is cited as the authority for the statement that Einstein's photo-electric equation, one of the most important single equations in the whole quantum theory, was originally a mathematical hunch—nothing more.

How They Come

Other scientists informed the investigators that hunches, which later proved valuable, came while walking to work, while fishing, while bathing, while dreaming, after relaxation by sleep, after a good meal and in solitude.

Coffee and tobacco were found by many to be aids to inspiration. On the other hand—and this may be a far to some folks—alcohol was said "to kill the imagination completely."

One scientist reported that the drone of an airplane helped him to think and occasionally was accompanied by a hunch. Conditions definitely unfavorable for the appearance of hunches however, are confusion and noise, telephone interruptions, burdensome executive duties and family and social responsibilities, according to some of the replies. Music is regarded by the scientists as an excellent stimulant.

A chemist contributor to the hunch theory said that at 4 p.m. he places the failures of a day all before him. "I look at them intently and curse them individually, collectively, vigorously and generously," he added. "By 4.30 a mental picture is created from which I cannot escape. The beakers do not seem to contain molecules, but rather maggots crawling where they will, and out of my control. Then I go home. By 11.30 p.m. the house is quiet. . . . I am rested, relaxed, wide awake and under

the influence of coffee and tobacco. The picture stands out, the maggots become molecules and I have the basis for a new day's work."

H. Poincare is quoted as saying that the most striking feature of mathematical invention is "apparent sudden illumination." The German physicist, Von Helmholtz, found that after previous investigation of a problem "in all directions, happy ideas came unexpectedly without effort, like an inspiration."

Hunches were described as the common fare for organic chemists, since their work is so often theoretical and they have to proceed by feeling rather than logic. Several scientists told of having solved difficult problems, on which they had spent much apparently.

hopeless hours, after awakening from a deep, refreshing sleep. Then the answer came to them like a flash, on a hunch. Another who had been working without success for six months on a particular problem obtained the answer in a similar flash while preparing to leave on a trip.

Spiritualism has had about seventy-five years in which to prove that it isn't a fake, but it hasn't done much toward convincing the majority that it is all right.

Not all the meanness extant is the outgrowth of the big war. There were toward mean people before the conflict started, which they had spent much apparently.

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