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TORONTO MAN TELLS OF VALUE OF GOOD HIGHWAYS

Dr. Doolittle Delivered an Address at St. John Under the Auspices of the Canadian Club—One of the Founders of the Motor League of Canada—Well Deserved Praise for New Brunswick's Minister of Public Works.

St. John, May 20—The road policy of the New Brunswick government and the administrative ability of Hon. P. J. Veniot, minister of public works were highly commended by Dr. P. E. Doolittle of Toronto, yesterday afternoon, in an address before the Canadian Club and members of the New Brunswick Automobile Association at a luncheon in Bonds. Dr. Doolittle who is one of the founders of the Motor League of Canada and a leading authority on and advocate of good roads and their blessings spoke on that subject which he handled clearly and convincingly.

A. M. Belding, president of the Canadian Club before he introduced the guest of the afternoon said he was glad to welcome members of the automobile Association, and he read a message of greeting to the province of New Brunswick sent by Hon. M. C. Biggs, minister of public works for Ontario.

In beginning his address, Dr. Doolittle said he desired to congratulate the city council and the highways commission for the splendid work in the Rothery road. He facetiously remarked that they had a real "hobo" farmer government in Ontario and had a good word to say for A. W. ("Good Roads") Campbell of Ottawa, federal commissioner of highways. He told of early

objections to good roads by a few farmers who complained that they provided too much competition in the city markets. (laughter).

Ontario's Experience

Speaking of what had been accomplished in the province of Ontario, Dr. Doolittle referred back to eighteen years ago, when in the county of Wentworth, the first permanent roadway had been laid down as an experiment in clay soil. The result was that when the county, which had not been so treated, it was found that the population in the latter county had gone down, while in the first named county the population had greatly increased. Not only was this a great benefit but the value of farm lands had gone up greatly, and there was a movement back to the land, good roads in the county making living there entirely different. Ideal farming conditions, the speaker declared, would come only when the country adjoined good roads and not till then. As an example of how cities and towns were benefited by good roads as well as the country districts, Dr. Doolittle pointed out that the cities of Hamilton and Peterboro had increased their population largely on account of the permanent road being laid between those cities and Toronto, through the farming districts. If more production was needed, and nothing was more urgent, one of the greatest aids to that end was the introduction of a progressive policy on behalf of good roads.

Speaking of the road policy of the province of Ontario, Dr. Doolittle remarked that they had lost their good government which woke up a few years ago and got to worry on the roads during the electoral "cyclone" that had descended upon the province, last summer. The government of a few years ago had made an agreement to pay sixty per cent of the cost of the construction of roads, if the country would pay the rest by taxation. They picked out 700 miles of highway to start with and were going ahead with the work when the last election came. Then the province had a farmer-laborite government who had to get a speaker from the ranks of the Liberals in order to have a majority.

However it was not long before the Farmers' government put in a bill that they would agree to pay eighty per cent of the cost. In the end the bill brought in by Hon. Mr. Biggs, Minister of Public Works, had provided for the payment of seventy per cent of the cost of provincial highways, county roads fifty per cent, and every county road leading to the main line would receive twenty per cent. The province now had under construction 600 miles of provincial highway, 4000 miles of county roads and with all others a total of 16000 miles of road.

The speaker gave figures showing the number of automobiles in the province and the yearly increase, quoting this as one of the means of getting better roads. Get more automobiles among the farmers, he said, and better roads would not be long in coming.

Should Change Rule

You must change the rule of your road in this province he said, and get into step with the rest of the continent. Accidents were economic losses and to reduce them they had formed their association. The French Canadians, when they were in authority, had the rule of keeping to the right of the highway, so New Brunswick merely would be returning to what once was. There was great danger to tourists coming here because of the road rule. It would be expedient to change the rule in the spring time when wheels were brought into use again. If the highways are improved and the rule not changed a law should be passed forbidding tourists to come here. Americans now were warned at the boundary not to come into New Brunswick because of the road rule.

Praise for Mr. Veniot

"You have a live wire in Hon. Mr. Veniot and he is building a splendid type of roads," Dr. Doolittle said. When he had heard of the amount of money expended by Mr. Veniot in the construction of all these roads he had thought that the minister of public works had done remarkably well.

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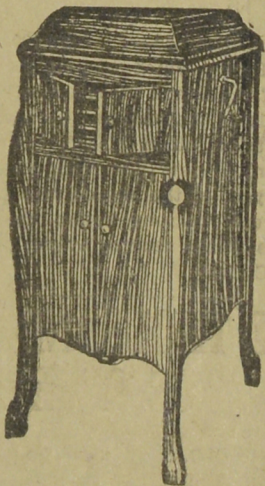
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EASTERN TIME

DEPARTURES—

5.45 A. M. EXPRESS FROM BOSTON, connecting at Fredericton Jet. for Fredericton, and at McAdam Jet. for North and South.

8.20 A. M. From W. St. John for St. Stephen.

8.20 A. M. Daily After May 8th—MONTREAL EXPRESS connecting for Fredericton and Branch Lines North and South of McAdam, except on Sunday.

4.10 P. M. LOCAL EXPRESS for Fredericton.

5.00 P. M. BOSTON EXPRESS, connecting for Fredericton.

6.45 P. M. MONTREAL EXPRESS, connecting for Fredericton.

ARRIVALS—

5.30 A. M. Daily—EXPRESS FROM MONTREAL.

7.55 A. M. EXPRESS FROM FREDERICTON.

11.45 A. M. EXPRESS FROM BOSTON, Portland, Bangor, etc.

12.00 N. MONTREAL EXPRESS.

4.40 P. M. At W. St. John FROM ST. STEPHEN.

10.10 P. M. EXPRESS FROM BOSTON, Portland, Bangor, etc.

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