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Thornton and Dunning Heard at C. N. R. Banquet

Sir Henry Says The Last Six Months Has Been an Open Season for the News Monger—Discusses Some Rumors—Minister of Railways Says People are Proud of what Has Been Done by C. N. R. Staff.

(Special cable to The Daily Mail by the British United Press)

Montreal, Jan. 13—"I trust sincerely that you may be able to face the problems of the future with all the success that has characterized your efforts of the past year. True the Parliament of Canada imposed on you a heavy load in 1927. The Parliament of Canada reduced your revenue and your management imposed another financial load with respect to increased wages, regarding neither of these things as your shareholder do I complain. I believe both were essential both from the point of view of the system and the point of view of the country. But we must recognize that in connection with those two matters the task of your management was rendered not easier but more difficult. Don't think that the shareholders, many of them at all events—the responsible men of this country do not recognize that we recognize your difficulties, we are proud of what you have done and we are proud of you." With these words Hon. C. A. Dunning, Minister of Railways and Canals, concluded his address to the executive, directors and officers of the Canadian National Railways at the dinner held in connection with the annual system committee meeting here last night. Mr. Dunning was the guest of the evening.

All Day Conference

Following an all-day conference with the president of the system, Sir Henry Thornton. Other guests included Major Graham Bell, Deputy Minister of Railways, Matthew Lodge of Moncton, N. B., J. G. Gardner, of Brockville, Ont., D. A. McDougald, of Toronto, and Tom Moore, of Ottawa, all directors of the system. The gathering included officials from all departments and from all over the system, gathered here for the committee meeting and also traffic officials who have just concluded a three-days conference on matters pertaining to their department.

Sir Henry Thornton

W. C. Chisholm, K. C., general counsel for the system, presided at the after-dinner proceeding and introduced Sir Henry Thornton as the first speaker. Sir Henry Thornton, received with musical honors and cheers. After expressing his pleasure at meeting the officers who were an important part of the Canadian National family, extended an appreciation of the presence of the Hon. C. A. Dunning, whom he designated as "our Minister." He continued, "The last six months have been an open season for the news monger, the dispenser of monkey wrenches and the distributor of sand in the journal boxes. Day by day I have been designated as my successor and both of us have been put forward to aspire to the post of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and even our highly regarded Prime Minister has been shunted to Washington. Washington has been shunted to London and everyone has apparently been selected for everybody else's job.

Compared to Hot Tamale

"Certain individuals with more imagination than intelligence have even gone so far as to consign me to the land of the hot tamale. When I came back from Mexico I found the hot tamale was right here in Canada. "Now I want to put aside all this nonsense and in all seriousness I want to say to this great family of ours I never served under any other Minister of Railways who gave me as much support as Mr. Dunning, and I take advantage of this opportunity to say to all of you who are here and to the public of Canada that the affairs of the Canadian National Railways, insofar as the government are concerned are in safe and friendly hands with him in his present post.

Have One Object

We, both of us, have but one object and that is to advance the welfare of our National Railway System and in our respective posts to faithfully, conscientiously and loyally serve the people of Canada. Now after this state-

ment I hope that the busybody's will retire to a warmer clime and that Mr. Dunning and I, with the assistance of all of you will be permitted to do those things which we regard as essential for the welfare of the National Railway System in the Dominion of Canada. I hope that all of you when you return to your respective homes, you who are gathered from the length and breadth of Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, will do what you can to stop the ridiculous idle rumors which find their origin in a desire not to help the National Railways System, but to create dissension and trouble and hamper the work of all of us and Mr. Dunning and myself.

Praise for the Staff

Sir Henry declared that he was proud and happy in the knowledge that good fortune had placed him at the head of such an army as those that compose the official rank and file of the National Railway System. We have seen our railway grow from a relatively doubtful proposition, viewed some times with contempt, at other times with ridicule and generally with no confidence. We have seen it grow from that state to an organization which is earning annually in the neighborhood of \$45,000,000 net and which is performing a fine and effective service in the advancement of the prosperity of our Dominion. Time was when the deficits of the C. N. R. were an actual menace to the financial security of this Dominion, and the time has now come when the menace has disappeared and our National Railway System is regarded as an asset and not a liability. That is a fine achievement of which may be collectively and individually proud.

The Future Outlook

Turning to the future Sir Henry said that it had its problems and opportunities and in considering the victories of the past they must not ignore the problems which presented themselves for the future. Day by day and month by month competition becomes more severe. If we are to maintain our position in the future it will only be by the result of united, co-operative, enthusiastic effort on the part of each and everyone of you. There is only a certain amount of traffic to be had, we want as much of that traffic as we can legitimately get. We have faith in our organization, hope in the future based on the achievements of the past and that charity which finds its source in tolerance and the knowledge that from the strength of our position we can look upon criticism with friendly eye, accept the best of it and discard that which is abusive and vindictive. This is an army dedicated to the welfare of the people of Canada dedicated to the advancement of our Dominion, an army which faces the future with courage and hope.

Minister of Railways.

The Hon. C. A. Dunning, said that any remarks he might make were intended to be such remarks as a shareholder might be expected to make at a gathering of the officials of the organization of which he was a shareholder. It is true that this organization is unfortunate enough to be compelled to be in alliance with a politician and if in alliance with a politician you must expect that some of the grime and mud of politics thrown at the politician will on its way stick to you. It is true Sir Henry and I have a task, a joint task which very few people really appreciate the seriousness of the unique task of harmonizing the successful business-like conduct of publicly owned enterprise with the necessities of that thing we call responsible government and that is much harder to do than most men realize on the one hand the people of Canada expect this institution to be conducted in accordance with the best principles of business and without the intervention of these evils which are described as political patronage they expect at the same time the maintenance of responsible government in relation to this institution. I only need

to state the problem for you to appreciate the difficulty.

Relations Cordial.

"I can in every respect endorse all that Sir Henry has said with respect to my relations with him. Under the law this system is managed in all its branches as an operating enterprise without reference to me and properly so. When ever the management desire to increase the capital load of this enterprise, in other words the investment by the shareholders, it must come to the shareholders for the necessary permission to do so. There is relationship expressed in a few words and I think I can say that Sir Henry has never had to come to me without having on my part that careful study of whatever proposal was made which I believe my duty compels me to give.

Expansion of System.

"The best evidence that we team all right along that line is the expansion of this system during the period that I have had the honor of serving it as minister. Speaking for the shareholders I want to tell you that they have great expectations of you they expect first of all you to render efficient transportation service at a cost low enough to them to encourage the development of all legitimate industry in Canada. Together with that expectation perhaps because of the peculiar nature of this institution they expect you to be a model employer of labor. That again is I think unique in organizations of this kind. Your shareholders expect dividends along these two lines much more than they expect dividend in the form of cash. There must be it is true a sufficient charge levied at all times for the service rendered in connection with the first expectation to enable the second expectation to be complied with, and there must also be a sufficient revenue to enable the system to be developed in order that it may continue to meet in everlasting volume the demands made upon it." To little attention has been given by the Canadian public up to now to the peculiar nature of this great, this unique experiment which we are carrying out in such a large and successful way in this Dominion of Canada.

Service Appreciated.

May I say with respect to the year which has just closed that they do appreciate to the full the services which have been rendered to them by your president, by your board of directors, by your officers and by your employees, in various ways up and down the country the pride in this system is manifest. Your pride is the justifiable pride of men who are engaged in making this enterprise function, your institution when it first came into being. When this organization first came into being its main objective was to keep on living. Just to get the necessary sustenance to enable it to keep going. Within the last two or three years it has reached shall I say the reproductive stage, the stage when development is possible and strange to say the expectations of your shareholders have turned more and more in the direction of development.

Rolling up the Map.

They did not expect the C. N. R. to develop anything at first now they expect great things from it along the line of national development and you will have noticed during the past two years the manner in which the extension of system has tended to broaden Canada's belt of population, broaden its bond development and diversify the development of the resources of our country. The C. N. R. system is

engaged in rolling up the map towards Canada's great northland. "In conclusion", the minister said, "you need not let the rumor monger worry you. It has been my good fortune or ill fortune to have spent twelve years in public life, interesting years which have to some extent hardened me with respect to criticism I can say I have not learned to like the poisoned pen kind of criticism which does not attack men's policies or his administration but instead devotes itself to personalities demonstrating him by innuendo as a trait or to the interests he is supposed to serve. That kind of thing in Canada is poison in our national life and is one of the things which makes it most difficult to secure for public life the services of men who have the business ability, because they don't have to put up with that sort of thing in business life criticism is a fine thing it is a good thing. If you don't have it progress stops. We don't object to fair criticism of the Canadian National system because we try to analyze the criticism and see if there is anything in it which can be turned to the advantage of this great organization and so far as the other kind is concerned just hit it where ever you see it. A. T. Weldon, Vice president in charge of traffic in proposing a vote of appreciation to the guests said that every employee of the Canadian National Railways system was proud of their railway and what it was accomplishing in the development of the country. We are proud of our leader and of his wise and courageous leadership and we want to pledge our loyalty and our desire to follow him in every undertaking and try to make an even better showing in 1928 than we have in any previous year.

THE PROBLEM SUBMITTED WAS INSOLUBLE

Caen, Normandy, Jan. 13—Aspiring bachelors of arts whose mathematical accomplishments failed to satisfy the examiners at the last examination at Caen University are to have an unexpected chance to retrieve their fortunes.

They have been victims of an injustice. It has been discovered that one of the problems they were asked to solve was insoluble.

Edouard Herriot, Minister of Education has ordered that they be given the choice of having their papers remarked with due allowance for the insoluble problem or of sitting for a new mathematical examination.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION
AT GAIETY THEATRE

"The Spotlight" is the photo play at the Gaiety for Friday and Saturday featuring Ether Ralston.

"The Spotlight" carries no big theme and no big sets but it is mighty nice screen entertainment, mainly because of the ingenuity exercised in its production. The intelligent acting of Mr. Soussanin, Miss Ralston and Nell Hamilton adds the finishing touch to this bit of pleasantries.

A good comedy is also on the bill.

S. P. C. Meeting

The adjourned annual meeting of the Fredericton Branch of the New Brunswick Society for the Prevention of Cruelty will be held at the President's office at 4 p. m. Saturday, January 14th.

JEANETTE BEVERLY,
Secretary-Treasurer

L. C. MACNUTT,
President.
Fredericton, Jan. 12, 1928.

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Ladies' All Wool Cashmere Hose 75c to \$1.50 pair.
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Bi-tex Silk Hose, \$2.00 pair. Under Hose, 65c to 75c pair.
Children's and Infants' All Wool Hose 40c to \$1.00 pair.
Children's Fancy Silk and Wool Hose 75c to \$1.15 pair.
Golf Hose, 50 to 75 cents pair. Over Hose 40c to \$1.25 pair.
You will make no mistake in buying hosiery for yourself and family at this store.

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WANTED — Canadian Manufacturer of Electric Washers wants distributor for New Brunswick, to organize dealers and salesmen. Well known Washer of proven quality with many exclusive features. Big opportunity for live man with some capital. Give financial and character references in first application. Apply W. Box 699.

A Pennsylvania man was arrested for attempting to kiss a woman and set free upon his promise "never to look at a woman again." Worse than ten years in the penitentiary.