

# THE SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT

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Paper read before the Ninth Meeting of the National  
Assembly of Civil Service Commissions,  
by Dr. Otto Klotz.

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The Chairman then introduced Dr. Otto Klotz, Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, who, he said, had just been made a Doctor of Laws by the University of Pittsburg, this being the third university which had so honoured him.

Dr. KLOTZ read the following paper:

## THE SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT.

In order to understand the term Scientific Work it is necessary to define what Science is. One is reminded here of Lord Morley, who in one of his addresses said that there are ten thousand definitions of Religion, about as many of Poetry, and that there can hardly be fewer of Liberty, or even of Happiness.

Hence one must indeed be bold to undertake to define Science. Sir William Hamilton, the Scottish philosopher, defined Science thus: "Science is a complement of cognitions, having, in point of form, the character of logical perfection, and in point of matter, the character of real truth."

I am sure you prefer the word to the definition. Huxley it was, I think, who defined Science as organized common sense, well knowing, I presume, that common sense is one of the very rare commodities extant.

I might have done as Bernard Shaw did on an occasion when he asked the Chairman to announce that the title of the address would be given at the close of the lecture. This Shavian idea has a good deal of merit for our brief discourse to-day; it avoids the definition of the subject in advance and allows the hearers to gather from the context what the speaker understands or takes to be his subject.

### *Department of Agriculture.*

I think we all recognize that the most important industry in Canada is that of agriculture. Canada is an agricultural country and ever will