

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING OF CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

(Continued from last week.)

Friday Morning's Session—January 26th, 1912. PRESIDENT C. H. RUST in the chair.

MR. TYE: It seems to me we are giving everybody an opportunity of discussing these reports. We are referring these reports back to the different branches for discussion, including this branch here, so that every member will have an opportunity of discussing it. The point is that you cannot discuss them here to-day. So we are giving you all a chance in this amendment of Mr. Duggan's to discuss them to your heart's desire—the Good Roads report and every other report.

MR. MARCEAU: I quite agree with Mr. Tye that these reports should be referred to the different branches for discussion and suggestions.

DR. GALBRAITH: Unfortunately for myself I did not hear Mr. Duggan's amendment very well. How is the vote on these reports to be decided?

MR. JOHN KENNEDY: While the action we have taken as regards these reports is a very good one in every respect, I have not a word to say about it, but what shall we do about the Senate matter? It has been before the Senate for some considerable time and can we do anything towards getting the bill held over or something of that sort, because the bill is very much the contrary of what I fancy the majority of engineers think to be practicable. Can we do anything in the matter? Can our council take any hand in the matter and ask that it should be held over? I am sorry I have not a proposition to make, but the case is a rather serious one, and something really ought to be done.

THE PRESIDENT: I quite agree with you, Mr. Kennedy, that it is a very drastic method, but some engineers, I believe, are rather in favor of it. I appeared personally before the Senate some two years ago, at their request, and I pointed out my opinion in connection with the matter, and I also called the attention of the City of Toronto Council to it, but they have not taken any action. In fact, a good many of the outside public generally, I think, approve of Senator Belcourt's resolution, but if the society of the whole should pass a resolution suggesting that the matter be postponed until we have had an opportunity of taking it up with the committee, it might probably be a good thing if we can do it. Mr. Chipman has been taking some interest in this matter and I would like to hear his views on it.

MR. CHIPMAN: I have read with great interest the report of the committee as they appeared in the transactions. I regret to say, however, that there are some inaccuracies in it which should not have gone to the public. With reference to the streams in the west, there was a remark made that typhoid fever was caused by the floods in the streams. Now, we all know, who have lived in that country, that typhoid fever is epidemic in many towns distant from those streams, and in those towns cited the typhoid epidemic was in sections of the city that were not served with the water supplied from the river at all.

With respect to the pollution of Lake Ontario, there is a contradictory report in that statement that Lake Ontario water is the purest on the face of the earth, and there is another statement to the effect that it is badly polluted. I don't think a report like that does any great credit to the society. Remarks of that kind, I think, should have been edited in some way by the committee before they were presented.

With respect to the city of Guelph, it is true that the city of Guelph was in trouble respecting its sewage disposal, but the facts were not all stated. The works were not properly conducted as all municipal works are at times, through the economy of the municipal council, the cause of the nuisance was due to another source altogether from the municipality. Now, there is a greater nuisance there to-day—ten times greater from a brewery than there is from the sewage disposal works. The sewage disposal works are quite up-to-date at the present time—even enlargements have been made.

With respect to this report I think we should receive it but not adopt it, as was done last year. The chairman of the committee is not here. Mr. Kennedy and I are the only two of the committee who are present. I think we should be permitted to report again next year.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to get your ideas as to whether this meeting should take any action in regard to Senator Belcourt's bill. That is what I was referring to, which prohibits the discharge of sewage of all kinds into any body of fresh water. Mr. Kennedy suggested that the society should take some action in the matter.

MR. CHIPMAN: I don't think at the present stage we should take any action in a matter of this kind. We are all studying these problems, and I do not think there would be anything gained by taking any action in the matter at the present time.

MR. TYE: I think it would be well for the society to take some action in the matter. I think it would be well if we appointed a committee to deal with the subject, if it is necessary to appear before the Senate and guide their legislation and help them. I think that the Senate would be quite willing and in fact glad to have the services of a committee from this society. This committee should be composed of men like Mr. Chipman, who are authorities on the subject, and who could help the Senate, and I think it is part of our duty to help guide legislation on such an important subject. Our committee composed of the proper men would certainly know more about it than the members of the Senate, and I beg to move that a committee be appointed to consist of Mr. Chipman, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Lea, to deal with this subject before the Senate, and that their expenses be paid by the society.

MR. ST. GEORGE: You would not wish the society to get the Senate to withdraw the bill for the present. You see, they have had it so many years before them now. If the society do anything to hamper them in passing legislation, they might give time to these different smaller municipalities, but it might not be advisable to stop the bill. The committee might give advice to the Senate with reference to giving certain municipalities the necessary guidance.

MR. LEONARD: You must not forget that the Provincial Governments are now spending much money and they are appointing officers every year with a special view of studying the question and obtaining legislation which would be adopted both by the Provincial and Dominion Governments. So I think it is scarcely wise for this society to interfere in the matter. The very best medical authorities in the country are working on the matter now, and are paid by the Provincial and Dominion Governments to study the