

should look into the faces of their audiences and tell them a few plain truths affecting their own public integrity; tell them that if public life is at low ebb, they are responsible, as they are units in the State, and that there are other functions than making money, paying taxes, and contributing, even handsomely, to election funds.

This world catastrophe is, however, awaking men to a sense of their responsibilities to the State. And in the new era following the war, we shall find men accepting a higher standard of citizenship, where before, some at least, seemed to think the only function was to amass wealth, while that occasional lonely individual with ideals was looked upon as more or less of a freak.

I will now pass on, gentlemen, for a moment to the Civil Service. May I lay down this axiom—that Canada never can expect to make any sound progress on the road to real greatness until we realize the necessity of having a great public service. And that is not to be built up in a year nor in ten years. It is a question of a generation or even longer. It means the laying down of some broad skeleton plan, to be followed in the upbuilding of that service. For what purpose? To give Canada a group of men engaged in her service with a section prominent in research work, men capable of working out the economic needs of development problems that must from time to time confront a young country possessed of the natural resources of Canada. A group of men that Canada could place in front of a similar group from any other country, and in whom we would feel a justifiable pride. Now, that is an ambition worthy of any people.

It is gratifying to find the economic need of the proposed Georgian Bay Canal being studied. But associated with work of that character there should always be some men prominent in our civil service, in order that the training and education obtained in dealing with complicated problems may not be lost to the State. No matter how efficient men may be when taking hold of large and important investigations, the experience obtained therefrom will always make them much more efficient for their next great task. But if investigations are to be carried on entirely outside of our service, and possibly by never using the same group twice, it must be quite evident that there will be both great waste of energy and a lessening in efficiency.

Canada certainly has been courageous in undertaking vast public works. In our recent days of plenty, the air was full of projects, some more or less fantastic, but with advocates seriously pushing them forward. There was one, however, that was overlooked, possibly because there are no constituencies scattered along the route, and that was a rapid transit scheme for wheat from our west to Europe, by way of a tunnel driven down through the earth's crust direct to Liverpool, through which wheat would shoot when the earth revolved, leaving Liverpool underneath. (Laughter). Surely it must be obvious to us all that Canada needs trained and skilled men in her service capable of quickly separating the grain from the chaff.

It is with much pleasure I admit that we have some able technical men, but they are like so many loose ends in the service. We have departments duplicating work with little or no co-ordination. And as for statistical work, with one or two exceptions, we are exceedingly