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CHEMISTRY THE BASIS OF INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

An Appreciation of the Work of the Chemist by the Minister of Trade and Commerce—What Civilization Owes to Chemistry.

By RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE FOSTER, P.C., K.C.M.G.

RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE FOSTER, having been introduced by the Chairman, Dr. Shutt, spoke as follows:

Dr. Shutt, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The Chairman was very wise in not committing himself to any statement of the lines I may follow in speaking to you this evening. He was wise, also, in taking his pleasure, and trying to persuade you to take your pleasure, by way of anticipation before anything had been said. I advise you to follow his example and suggestion.

I do not know why I am here to-night. I hope that I am not here under false pretences. I can bear testimony to one thing that Dr. Shutt said, and that was in regard to the pertinacity and confirmed obstinacy of your Secretary, who, once he started out on the quest, never let up until I had to give in. There is one valuable quality that you have—and by the way, he comes somewhat under the wing of my department. In fact, I was quite surprised to know what a large part I was of this Society. In matters of high-grade research, in the way of pure science or applied science, my department has been instrumental in providing you with the *fons et origo*. We have an advisory scientific committee, the head of which is Dr. Macallum, who has graced us with his presence here to-night. So there you have a mentor, advisor, guide, analyst and synthesist, all in one.

Then, to my right there is another gentleman who did at one time, at any rate, come under the wing of my department (Dr. McGill). I do not know what happened him; he keeps his old quarters—he knows when he is well off in that respect—but he now gives his allegiance to another Minister rather than to myself. Still, in a certain way, he belongs to my department. And when you want to look at your films my department has the facilities for your doing so, having arranged, at some expense and with some trouble, a meeting-place where your films may be