

"THE HOW AND WHY OF SAFETY FIRST."

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Mr. Chairman and Fellow Members of the Central Railway
and Engineering Club.

Your presence here to-night shows your interest in the subject of "Safety First" in a very patent way; as many of you are in the employ of the Grand Trunk Railway, the pioneer of railroads in Canada to take up safety work all along their lines, as a definite policy of their management, you are by this time more or less familiar with the length and breadth of the subject; Mr. George Bradshaw, Safety Engineer, who has charge of this campaign, and whom I claim as a friend is eminently fitted for the work; coming to your road after ten years of success with the New York Central and the Chicago North-western lines. The magic sign "safety first" stares both the employe and the traveling public in the face all along the lines of your road.

The slogan "Safety First" is taking on a national character having started a few years ago in the United States and spreading so rapidly in Canada, that it is almost impossible to keep up with it. It is used by bankers, and bakers, and candle-stick-makers; by automobile and rubber tire builders, by dealers in all kinds of goods, by manufacturers and by sellers alike, for advertising purposes, drawing attention to their lines, by appropriating the well-known slogan "Safety First."

What does "Safety First" mean to you? Has it caught you in the grip of its great underlying principles? Have you grasped the full meaning of the term? or do you just look at the words, and smile at the silliness of the crank who put them there and go on in the same careless indifferent way, without a thought of your own danger, or safety, and no thought of the other fellow. What is the meaning of this term? In my mind it can be covered by the term "personal consideration for others." Personal safety, as well as community safety, is a habit, and one that can be easily acquired, and I am sorry to say just as easily discarded. "Safety First" is applied common sense.

It is the acquired habit of the individual, *not* to take the chance. It is the realization of the individual's responsibility for his *example* upon those around him. It is the making it