

den away to have a quiet smoke, and was trying, unsuccessfully, to light his pipe, a trial that is oath-provoking on the prairies. George offered to light it, and he succeeded—with the first match. Thereafter the General regarded him as the greatest man west of the Great Lakes. But George always was an adept at such tasks, even before he took to after-dinner speaking. But his speeches have not been restricted to dinners, for once by a speech (just before dinner) he earned the appointment of official station-opener. A station had been built not far from Toronto. George, being present on the occasion of the opening, was called on to do the act officially. He stepped forward, and in an apologetic manner said that he did not know whether to open it with a key, a crowbar, or prayer.

He felt like praying one time when, Hamlike, he surrendered his sleeping-berth to an unfortunate lady who was so fat that no one but a brute could go to sleep while thinking of her sitting up all night in the day coach. He was travelling in company with Mr. Edward Farrer, and when the two parted for the night Farrer told George not to worry about getting up in the morning, for he would call him at the right time. But as George