

believe that was a wise policy, and as a result of that policy we have today in Nova Scotia provided for almost all the larger bridges of the country, and we find our streams crossed today by a system of iron steel, and concrete bridges, which I am safe in saying are not equalled, certainly not excelled, by any Province in Canada, or by any State in the Union that I know anything about.

As a matter of fact, I have crossed bridges in the New England States myself, on their magnificent \$30,000 dollar a mile highway, which we would consider in Nova Scotia a disgrace to the back districts of one of our larger counties. We are getting pretty well down to the period of 1917 now, and I want to say that the construction of these bridges has made possible the recommendation to this House on this occasion of a forward policy in connection with road betterment and road extension, because if we did not now have this magnificent system of completed bridges in this Province we could hardly undertake the burden of providing large sums of money to construct our highways and maintain them in a manner which we have hitherto been unable to do.

Present State of Roads.

I want to make this statement here, Mr. Speaker, accepting full responsibility for it—I want to say this, that notwithstanding conditions in Nova Scotia in the years gone by; notwithstanding many of the difficulties which we have had to contend with, I do want to make this statement, and I make it without fear of contradiction, whatever may be said to the contrary, the roads of Nova Scotia today, mile for mile, are better than in any other Province in Canada, and better than in any State of the Union I have been in. We find in some of the other Provinces stretches of road of magnificent quality, costing more money than we can hope to provide in many generations for such a surface, and in many of the New England States, we will find these roads leading between large centres, and we will find the lateral roads in a most deplorable condition. I have been over roads in the State of Massachusetts within gunshot of the main highway—and in Connecticut and in New York States—that would swamp a goose. I say mile for mile, notwithstanding the difficulties we have been up against in Nova Scotia, and the things we have had to contend with, we have, mile for mile a better lot of roads than in any Province in Canada, or in any State of the Union I know anything about. I am free to admit their high class roads, comprising a small percentage of the highways, are very much better