

Canadian Good Roads Convention

The date of the ninth annual convention of the Canadian Good Roads Association has been advanced one day in order to make it concurrent with the provincial meeting of the western members of the Engineering Institute of Canada. The Good Roads Convention will now be held at the Empress Hotel, Victoria, B.C., on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 12, 13, 14 and 15, while the meeting of the Engineers will be held at the Vancouver Hotel, Vancouver, on June 16 and 17. The members of the Engineering Institute will attend the Good Roads Convention in Victoria and the delegates to the latter will at the conclusion of their labors return to Vancouver and assist at the Engineering meeting, it being realized that the two organizations have much in common, and can be of much assistance to each other.

The holding of the Good Roads Convention in Victoria this year will serve a double purpose—it will demonstrate the national character of the Association, which has now held conventions from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific, and it will give a splendid opportunity to the people of the Eastern provinces and of the Middle West to see the innumerable beauties of the far Western province under the most favorable conditions. Apart from the scenic attractions of Vancouver and its surroundings, there is nothing more delightful than the steamer trip from there to the capital of the province on Vancouver Island, dotted as it is with emerald islands lapped by an azure sea.

The Canadian Good Roads Association officials have already been assured that every province in the Dominion will send official delegates to the convention, while many of the municipalities that have participated in past conventions, and realized the great value of the papers and discussions that take place at them on highway problems, are sending their officials to Victoria, feeling that the expense incurred will be more than offset by the savings they can later effect in road construction and maintenance through the knowledge gained at the convention.

The President of the Association, the Hon. S. J. Latta, Minister of Education in the Saskatchewan Government, will preside at most of the sessions, and so important are the subjects chosen for discussion that the Executive have for the first time extended the convention from three to four days. Every kind of roadway will come under review and the best means of constructing them explained by men who are at the head of their profession in the chief cities of Canada and the United States, while the pressing problems of maintenance, rendered so urgent because of the rapid growth of the automobile and the commercial trucks, will have special attention paid to it. The convention is being held in co-operation with the Good Roads League of British Columbia, and other western organizations of a similar character, and in conjunction with it there will be an exhibition of modern road building machinery and special conferences of highway officials, municipal officers and local and provincial good roads associations, for the interchange of knowledge and ideas, with a view to securing uniformity of action as far as possible.

The convention will be of an international character, for since the formation of the Pacific Highways Association in 1912 there has been the closest affiliation between the province of British Columbia and the three western coast states of Oregon, Washington and California. The various good roads and motor organizations in these states have already signified their intention of sending delegates to Victoria and the convention will give them the opportunity of becoming better acquainted with the Canadians as well as of visiting the Portals of Peace on the international highway out of Vancouver city. The organizations that will be represented include the Highway Association of Dalles-California, Oregon State Motor Association, the Tri-State Auto Club and Washington State Good Roads Association. Many of the delegates from the States will motor to Vancouver over the Columbia River highway.

Among the speakers who have already accepted invitations to present papers for discussion are the following: M. A. Lyons, chief engineer of Roads Board, Province of Manitoba; C. W. Dill, superintendent of Highways, Province of Saskatchewan; A. W. Campbell, Commissioner of Highways for the Dominion Government; J. D. Robertson, Deputy Minister of Public Works, Alberta; A. H. Hearst, State Highway engineer of Wisconsin; B. M. Hill, chief engineer of Highways, Province of New Brunswick; J. A. Duchastel, city manager and engineer, Outremont, P.Q.; James Allen, Supervisor of State Highways, Olympia, Washington; F. L. McPherson, superintendent of Public Works, Victoria, B.C.; W. A. McLean, deputy minister of Highways, Ontario; F. L. Fellows, city engineer of Vancouver, B.C.; H. S. Carpenter, deputy minister of Highways, Saskatchewan; A. S. McMillan, superintendent of Highways, Nova Scotia, and N. D. Darlington, chairman of the California Highways Commission. This is not by any means the full list of the speakers who will deal with road matters, from the financial, legislative and practical standpoint, including foundations, drainage, wearing surfaces, bridges, culverts and so on. Of special interest to government officials who have to tackle the problem of highway maintenance in relation to modern automobile traffic, will be an address on motor trucks, maximum weight, width, loads, etc., by a representative of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, New York, while among the popular lectures will be one by H. D. Cuthbert, of the North-West Pacific Tourist Association, whose address at the Winnipeg Convention was so much appreciated.

The annual general meeting of the Canadian Good Roads Association will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 13, when the annual report and financial statement will be presented and the officers and executive elected. The banquet will be on the Wednesday evening at the Empress Hotel. The Canadian Automobile Association will hold their annual meeting and dinner at noon on Wednesday, June 14, at which delegates from all the motor leagues in Canada will be present, the invitations having been sent out by W. G. Robertson, the secretary of the national association with which all the provincial motor leagues are affiliated.