

House of Assembly Debates, 1920.

Speech of

HON. H. H. WICKWIRE, Minister of Highways.

March 19th, 1920.

HONOURABLE MR. WICKWIRE by command of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor laid upon the table of the House the Second Annual Report of the Provincial Highways Board. Mr. Wickwire, in presenting the report said:

Inasmuch as this volume contains the report of the Highways Board which was referred to in the Speech from the Throne and which has been adopted by the government, and further, inasmuch as in my humble opinion, its adoption by this House comprises one of the most important steps this legislature has been asked to take for a great number of years, I am asking the indulgence of the House and take this opportunity to make some remarks upon the report itself as well as upon the general highway conditions in this province.

It has occurred to me, sir, that in order to properly understand the position in which we find ourselves at this moment in Nova Scotia with regard to highway and bridge construction and maintenance, it is not only necessary we should have some idea what is being done in other provinces of Canada as well as in the States of the Union, particularly those nearest to us, but that we should have some idea of what has gone before in the history of Nova Scotia so far as road construction and maintenance is concerned, and with that idea in my mind, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask honourable gentlemen of this House to go back with me to the first settlement of this province. I want to point out where the first roads were constructed, how they happened to be constructed, how they were maintained and to trace the progress of road making in this province from that period down to the present time.