

ward movement or policy on this subject, it was still the duty of the Administration to improve this great public service if it was possible, practical, and within its financial reach. The Government was not sternly wedded to existing laws or systems on this or any other subject. It realized as did all Governments on this continent, charged with the administration, wholly or partial, of public roads, that all legislation or systems developed weak features.

A FORWARD STEP.

The good roads movement was now occupying the attention of all Governments and citizens in Canada and the United States. As he had previously remarked, in Nova Scotia there had been a marked increase of intelligent interest in this direction, and the Government were of the opinion that the time had arrived when the Province might and should take a forward step and establish a system of roads that would for many years meet all reasonable demands. The Government had concluded that a large expenditure of money was necessary to construct or reconstruct our highways; they believed this expenditure should be made under the direction of specially qualified men, and following a careful survey and study of our roads and the surrounding conditions. This would mean a large expenditure, involving some millions of dollars. If expended under the direction of qualified men, he felt it could give to our people good highways, which, if properly cared for and repaired by the continuous employment of men in defined and limited territory, or by some similar method, would ensure reasonably good roads for all time. Such was the policy the Government had decided upon and which it hoped in the near future to carry out.

WILL MAKE SURVEY FIRST.

He said the Government would not be warranted in embarking upon such a large capital expenditure for road construction, without first making an intelligent study of the roads of the Province, so as to ensure a uniform system or policy in the expenditure, and the organization of a Board or staff to direct and control this expenditure. The Government were, therefore, now considering the advisability of asking Parliament at its next session to grant authority for the expenditure of a sum of money to defray the expenses of a survey and study of our roads during next year, to be conducted by a competent staff, who if

not obtainable in Nova Scotia would be procured elsewhere.

Some of the points which this staff would be expected to study and report upon, would be, what roads require to be reconstructed or improved—and the best method and means of so doing as well as the cost; what sections of highways might profitably be relocated. What gradients might be improved, and what roads shortened or widened; a careful observation and location of available road material throughout the Province, and how best available for localities where no suitable material was found; the nature and quantity of road machinery necessary and most suitable in the different districts of the Province; the preparation of accurate plans of our highways accompanied with such data as would always furnish ample and complete information to the Government officials concerning all our highways; the most effective method of preserving in good repair a road once properly constructed; what roads require under-draining, and what sections might profitably be macadamized; how to deal with road construction and maintenance in sandy or clay districts.

Such were some of the matters which this staff might or should study and report upon. These were, however, merely his personal views as to the scope of the enquiry of such a staff, and might not all be regarded as practical by qualified and experienced men.

WILL BEGIN NEXT YEAR.

He said the Government had under contemplation the appointment of such a staff of experts, in order to put the Government in possession of the fullest information preceding the proposed expenditure on capital account, so as to ensure the best possible results. The Government had not definitely concluded its policy in detail in this respect, but in some manner or other, it proposed to obtain the fullest information possible, the best professional advice available, and secure the organization of a competent force before commencing the expenditure. He felt this would meet with the full approval of the citizens of the Province. It was the hope of the Government that the work preliminary to the expenditure could be completed during 1911, which would place the Government in possession of such facts as were essential for the preparation of the requisite legislation expenditure which would be commenced in the Spring of 1912.