

difficult. We have provided against that very largely by Acts which have been passed through the House, but, nevertheless, when you are carrying out a policy it is nice to get along as smoothly as possible and without having to put into operation any drastic laws which we have been compelled to make on account of conditions as we have found them.

Another thing that is not generally appreciated is the value of the dollar. You cannot get done today for a dollar what you could get done five years ago for forty cents and I don't think that fact is fully appreciated. We really up to now have not had, owing to the fact of the depreciation of the dollar, as much money to expend on the roads as we had ten years ago. That fact, I think, in some instances is overlooked by our friends in the country. Then there is the greater traffic; enormous traffic,—growing all the time; motor cars extending to places that people never went before, and it has increased 20% during the past year and, as I have said, if it increases in the way which we predict in the next five years, Honourable gentlemen understand what kind of roads we will have to have to carry that traffic. There is a tendency to evade all these things. I see automobiles going around today with last years signs on indicating they have not yet paid this years fee; they do not seem to take into consideration the welfare of the roads depends on the good faith of our automobile owners.

Encouragements.

I must say that we have had some other things which are of an encouraging nature. It was my good fortune during the summer to attend the gathering at a leading town in the province of the commercial travellers, and I am glad to be able to say that the unanimous opinion expressed by those gentlemen, who have a great opportunity for knowing the condition of the roads, was that there was a very considerable improvement. I want to say also that many of the automobile societies have expressed to me the same view. Another sign that the people of this province are anxious to have better roads and are willing to pay for them, is the action of many of our towns in borrowing money in order to put down semi permanent roads. I am glad to know the effect in many towns has been to increase the price of real estate as much as 25% in one year. When towns see the necessity as well as the benefits and are willing to spend their money, I believe it should be a matter of encouragement to the Highway Board and to members of this House to go on with a similar policy so far as the province itself is concerned. Then there is another matter for congratu-