

have now been erected over every stream crossing the different lines of Great Road throughout the Province, that convenience requires or economy will admit, except four, viz. the River Saint John at the Grand Falls, Big Tracadie, Pokemouche, and Caraket; the first in the County of Victoria, on the Road leading to Canada, and the last three in the County of Gloucester, on the line of Road leading around the Gulf Shore.

Of the forty two Great Roads, nearly all have been opened, turnpiked, and made passable for travel. Amongst those still unfinished, are the lines from Fredericton to Richibucto in the County of Kent, and from Oak Bay, in the County of Charlotte, to Eel River, in the County of Carleton.

A considerable portion of these Roads passes through uncultivated and thinly settled districts; and although on some of the lines the inhabitants from their numbers and position might be expected to contribute by statue labour to the support of the Roads, yet the amount realized from this source is found to bear a very insignificant proportion to the sum expended.

It will be observed by Your Excellency that the amount appropriated by the Legislature during the Session in June last for the Great Road service, was considerably less than the expenditure of previous years. After providing for the erection of such new Bridges as were absolutely necessary, and repairing such others as were unsafe, there remained but a small sum to each line of Road to keep it in passable condition. In addition to this circumstance, the season has been unusually severe and destructive to turnpike Roads, and during the months of October and November the rainy weather continued for the greater part of the time, and the consequence has been that lines of Road over which heavy and constant teaming have passed, (such as those from Fredericton to Woodstock, and from Saint John to the Bend of Petitcodiac,) were very much cut up and injured. These lines should receive the earliest attention in the Spring.

The moving of earth in connection with the Roads, and turnpiking in particular, should always be done in the early part of the season; this rule has not in all cases been strictly adhered to; and particular instructions should be given for the future to parties having charge of a Road, that all such work should be effected before the first of August in each year, except the repairing of such damages as may occur from time to time.

The fact that a number of the large streams that were a few years ago crossed by Ferries are now spanned by expensive Bridges, renders it more and more important that great care should be taken to select the best and most durable material for these structures, that they should be erected upon the most approved and economical designs and plans, and that as far as practicable their erection should be contracted for in the Fall or Winter season, in order to give the Contractor an opportunity of obtaining cedar, hacmatac, or other durable description of wood, which in many districts in the Province can only be brought from swamps and other difficult places on the snow or ice.

In order to carry out this principle the Board have had all the Bridges on the different Roads carefully examined, and the result has proved that at least thirty require to be rebuilt during the ensuing season. A number of these have had plans, specifications, &c. prepared for them, and during the last six weeks contracts have been let, and arrangements have been completed for the reconstruction of fifteen of the most important ones. The prominent objects observed in the designs for the new Bridges have been the use of the most durable timber, and the reduction of the planking as much as possible. The following Table will serve to shew how far these results have been obtained:—

Name of Bridge.	Timber used.	Roadway.
Long's Creek,	Cedar,	Pine.
Dow's Creek,	Cedar,	Gravel.
Negro Brook,	Cedar,	Gravel.
Head of Bellisle,	Hacmatac,	Pine.
Johnston's Cove,	Pine,	Pine.
Digdeguash,	Cedar,	Pine.
Bartibog,	Cedar,	Pine.
Ellis's Brook,	Cedar,	Gravel.
Sweeney's Brook,	Cedar,	Gravel.