

under construction of a higher order. That is to say that whereas hitherto we have had per mile for road construction in Nova Scotia considerably less than \$30.00 we will have \$50 per mile.

Comparisons.

I was speaking a little while ago about being able at the end of that period to have 9000 miles or considerably over fifty per cent of our roads in this condition and it may be of some interest to honourable gentlemen to show what percentage they have been able to put in that condition in the United States of America where in many of the States for many years an advanced road programme has been going on. For instance, take the State of California where road construction is comparatively easy compared with Nova Scotia, not only on account of climate but on account of wealth and other things. They have only succeeded up to now in making 2.9% of their roads to this standard. The State of Virginia only 11%, West Virginia 5%, Connecticut 22% Rhode Island 34% and Massachusetts the largest, 47.5%. The States nearest to us and where conditions are more like our own, Maine 14.5% New Hampshire 14.1% and Vermont 15.7%.

There is another thing I wish to point out in this connection that while none of these States, although some of them have been working at this problem for more than five years have succeeded in getting more than 50% of their roads first class condition; of the roads that have been resurfaced less than 6% have a surface of a better quality than gravel and less than ten per cent of the roads of the whole United States have any kind of a surface and less than two per cent are suited to heavy motor traffic. I have taken these figures from an American publication and our friends across the border are not in the habit of saying anything to stultify their efforts.

Difficulties in Nova Scotia.

If the programme I have outlined is carried out we will be able to put a greater percentage of our roads in good condition than has been done in any province of Canada or any State in the Union. No doubt there are difficulties in the way and I wish to refer to some of them. In the first place we have an excessive road mileage in this province. We have a road mileage in this province which is almost as great as that of the State of Massachusetts with its immense population and great wealth, a road mileage altogether in excess, I believe, of our acreage. In Massachusetts they have a similar road mileage