

vince both under a responsible and irresponsible government gave small amounts towards road construction and continued to furnish from time to time small "assistance" as they called it to bridge construction, because I want to point out what perhaps everybody knows, that in those days and until comparatively recent days, not only was the burden of the construction and maintenance of roads laid upon the municipalities but the construction and maintenance of bridges in this country were also a municipal charge and the only thing they were able to get down to comparatively recent times was some "assistance" from the government towards road construction and some "assistance" from the government when there was a large bridge to be constructed, towards the construction of that bridge, so we find that if we go back to a period of a hundred years ago there was comparatively little progress in the construction of interior roads in this province. A glance at the conditions in some of the counties in Nova Scotia at a period of a hundred years ago or less, I have no doubt will be a matter of considerable surprise not only to honourable gentlemen of this House but to the country as well. I find at that time—a hundred years ago—the county of Yarmouth had no interior roads whatever; there was no road at all leading from Yarmouth to Digby and a person who wished to traverse that country was obliged to take the shore and go along the beach and wait until the tide went out from the various rivers which flow into the Bay of Fundy or into St. Mary's Bay from there to Digby. There was no mail route and if a man wished to send a letter from Yarmouth to Digby it was given to some person who was going to travel down that way and reached its destination some three or four weeks afterwards. There was no road from Yarmouth to Tusket, a most important settlement in the County, where today I believe we have one of the best pieces of road in Nova Scotia. At that time, even in the town of Yarmouth itself, now one of the most beautiful and flourishing towns in the province, the road where the main street now runs, wound along among the stumps, and in this country we find after that comparatively short period of time, perhaps the best system of roads, taking them altogether, in Nova Scotia.

In the County of Kings much the same condition prevailed as in Yarmouth. There were no bridges. Cornwallis River had to be forded in those days and is now spanned by a number of magnificent steel bridges, and we had not any interior roads to speak of. The County of Pictou as late as the year 1826 had no interior roads; travellers went through the interior by compass and by blazes on trees and people were frequently