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## A Campaign for Good Roads in Canada

The Canadian Good Roads Association is extending its activities to a Dominion wide educational campaign with the object of stimulating a more active interest in the Good Roads movement generally, and in particular to create sufficient public opinion to influence the provincial and local authorities to take advantage of the Dominion aid of \$20,000,000. For some reason the offer has not been taken up as well as expected. Even the boosting given it by the Commissioner (Mr. A. W. Campbell) has not made it popular, but now that the Good Roads Association has determined to take up the matter there is every chance for its success. The principal difficulty that the Association has to overcome is the jealousy of the provincial authorities who seem to have a chronic resentment against any scheme emanating from Ottawa for the benefit of the citizens generally, particularly when the said scheme is of such a nature that it should have been taken up, but for one reason or another neglected by the provincial authorities themselves. This is well illustrated in the Federal Aid scheme itself. Outside Quebec and Ontario the roads of Canada are anything but what they should be, the principal reason being that the Provincial Treasuries are not overflowing with funds—and good roads cost money. The Dominion authorities know this and, being urged by good road enthusiasts, such as the Canadian Good Roads Association, offer to subscribe \$20,000,000 for the building of good roads on certain conditions which in effect are, first, that for every forty cents put up by the Dominion Government the Provincial authorities must put up sixty cents, and second, the Dominion authorities must have a voice in the control and management of whatever roads are built with the aid of Federal funds. Whether these conditions are good or bad we are not prepared to say, but we do think the time has come for closer co-operation between the Federal and Provincial—and Municipal—authorities in everything that affects the welfare of the citizens. Canada has a population of

less than nine million, yet she has one Federal, nine Provincial and over 3,600 Municipal governments to control her administration, which means that unless each unit appreciates and works with the other units much that would be valuable is wasted. In the building and maintenance of our roads, highways and streets the three units are now associated, consequently there should be the closest co-operation between them though there is a tendency on the part of both the Federal and Provincial authorities to forget that there are rural as well as municipal authorities who know local needs better than either. Be that as it may, we wish the Canadian Good Roads Association every success in its campaign for good roads.

### "THE FLOWER CITY."

There are different means of booming a municipality, some not very wise, but we certainly congratulate St. Thomas (Ont.) on the way the local horticultural Society, through its President, Dr. F. E. Bennet, boosted the city by first winning one of the principal prizes of the American Gladiolus Association at its annual exhibition held in Detroit and second by tagging all the flowers sent in by the society with the legend, "Grown by Members of the Horticultural Society of St. Thomas, the Flower City." We cannot conceive any better way of municipal advertising than such propaganda as has been carried out by Dr. Bennett and his horticultural friends, not only through outside exhibitions but in the streets of St. Thomas itself, which throughout the season are one mass of bloom, largely through the efforts of the Society, backed up by a small annual subscription from the city council. "The Flower City" is a beautiful title, but it has been well earned by St. Thomas and its citizens, particularly when it is considered that not so very long ago St. Thomas was very prosaic in its surroundings, but that was before the time of Dr. Bennett.