

to securing economical and efficient results. Following the return to office of the present Government, the Works Department was completely reorganized. In lieu of the Road Superintendents, most of whom were chiefly political bosses, there were appointed eight District Engineers directly responsible to the Public Works Engineer for the work in their respective districts. With their Assistant Engineers or General Foremen (some of whom were the more competent of the former Road Superintendents), it has been possible for these District Engineers to closely supervise all maintenance and construction work and at the same time keep the Department fully advised as to local conditions.

The District Engineers are men of high type with wide technical experience and no political interests, and the reports submitted by them have been based solely upon the merits of the case from an engineering and business standpoint. Obviously this re-organization scheme, involving as it does so many interests and problems will take some considerable time to properly materialize, but already much splendid work has been accomplished, as is evidenced by the numerous appreciative references made by individuals and societies of widely divergent political opinions.

Labor Conditions

The abnormal labour conditions prevailing during the past two years has made the administration of the Department a difficult and expensive matter. Owing to the great demand for labour generally, and the high wages paid in the more skilled employments, the Department has had to pay correspondingly greater wages, and consequently has had to undertake less work. The high cost of materials, particularly of lumber, added to greatly enhanced freight rates, has enormously increased, particularly in bridge work, the cost of construction. Moreover, in keeping with the prevailing working conditions the Department has now adopted an eight-hour working day, the former rate of pay for a nine-hour day still obtaining. Where practicable, construction work will be undivergent political opinions.

Tractors, etc.

To offset the high cost of team labour, the Department has recently purchased tractors for facilitating the delivery of road building material, and it is proposed to further intro-