

ROADS

New Roads Act Takes Roads Out of Politics and Gives the Settlers Control--Trunk Roads for Greater Ontario.

Any reference to the development of Greater Ontario under the Whitney Government would be incomplete did it not refer to the cordial and intelligent co-operation of the Minister of Public Works, Honorable Dr. Reanne, with the Minister of Lands. He has always shown a sympathetic interest in the necessities of the settler and the newer communities needing roads and bridges. The fact that the vote for roads and public works in 1908 is \$445,462.00 as against \$174,759.00 in 1904 is evidence that the Minister's sympathy assumes tangible and definite shape. His Roads Act of the session of 1907 is a long stride in the right direction. It gives the people much more say in the building of their own highways, and the people of the North appreciate this and will appreciate it more as the good features of the measure become more widely known.

TOWNSHIPS CONTROL EXPENDITURE.

It provides that the municipal council of the township—and here again is where organization is useful—shall, before the first day of November in each year, pass a by-law setting forth how much it can raise to build necessary roads. To this sum the Government will add dollar for dollar, or in case of special need, two dollars to one.

This money is then expended, not by the Government, but by the municipal council, which, having raised part of the money and being directly concerned, has an interest in seeing that the appropriation is wisely expended and value received for the expenditure.

In other words, the Act puts the making of the roads of the new country out of politics and makes it impossible to penalize a township for political reasons. It has its rights assured by Act of the Legislature. The only point at which the Department is concerned is to see that the road is properly built, and for that reason stipulates that the work must be completed in such a manner as to warrant the approval of the road inspector for the district.