

ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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BULLETIN (SPECIAL.)

THE MAKING OF ROADS.

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UNDER INSTRUCTION FROM THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

During the past decade there has been a marked improvement in our railways, municipal buildings, country residences and farm buildings, but the question of improving our country roads has not received the attention that its great importance demands. One reason for this is, that attention has been directed principally to the securing of lines of railway throughout the different municipalities. Having now secured the advantage of railways for the shipment of farm produce and the bringing in of farm supplies, it is of the greatest importance that the roads leading to these railways be placed in first-class condition. The benefits to be derived from having good roads to the markets are so numerous and so apparent that little need be said in advocating them. Good roads enable the farmer to market his produce at all times, to take advantage of changes in market prices, and to utilize time that cannot be given to other farm work; they enable him to market his produce and secure his supplies at less expense for hauling, with less wear and tear to vehicles, and with less injury to animals. The improvement of roads results in bringing more closely together the members of the agricultural community, and thereby increases the social intercourse of farmers. In a word, the construction of better roads brings the farmers closer to their markets and closer to one another, the financial, social and moral advantages of which are well understood by all.

The question of how to provide the funds for improving our roads will not be dealt with here; nor will that of the much discussed question of statute labor. These questions must be settled by each.