

province. Then the owner himself was assessed in a way which must have been more or less fair. He had to contribute so many days for every yoke of cattle he had, so many days for every horse he had and so many days for this that and the other that he had on his farm. That is, the man who was using the road the most, had the most teams and most cattle contributed a larger share towards road maintenance than the man who had nothing of that sort. It seems, perhaps, a more equitable way at getting at what a man should contribute towards road construction than under the present system by which he has to contribute a per cent rate on the real estate valuation which does not represent the value of the property in any degree whatever.

In contradistinction to what was required of a man a hundred years ago we find now a man who is assessed at \$150, and there are great numbers of them in this province, hundreds and thousands of well-to-do people in this province who are assessed at only \$150 for road tax, upon which they pay 60 cents per head, scarcely enough to pay for feed of oats for a good team of horses at their mid day meal. And I want to ask what tax does a man pay in this country that he gets more return for than the road tax of 60c. which he is obliged to pay into the province of Nova Scotia. He is taxed \$150 on his farm on which he makes a comfortable living, he has been able to bring up his family and give them an education such as the common school affords and for sixty cents that man and his family and his man servant and his maid servant and his horse and all the other things that go with them have access to every mile of the public roads of the province and every bridge in Nova Scotia. What expenditure that a man is called upon to make gives him more benefit than he gets from the small road tax he is called upon to pay towards road and bridge construction in the province.

Early Progress.

Mr. Speaker, after the settlement of Halifax, and after the establishment of a more or less stable government in this pro-although it was not responsible government as we know it at the present day, we find the early Governors of the province year after year in their remarks in the Speech from the Throne perhaps we would call it, at the opening of the legislature, complaining about the condition of the roads and asking for substantial grants from the public treasury towards their construction and maintenance. We find from year to year, in addition to the statute labour of which I have spoken, the pro-