

sixty miles. The townships further north have no county roads, but each year the county gives a grant to them to help them maintain their roads and bridges. The maintenance of the roads in the summer has become with us an easier proposition than the getting rid of the snow in the winter. Last winter it was terribly expensive ; it cost us over \$3,000 last winter to break the roads and keep our system of county roads open."

Delegate—" You want the wide sleighs ?"

Mr Aylsworth—" Yes, I am in favor of wide sleighs. The horses crowd too much on roads where the narrow sleigh is used, and I think this convention will do good in this regard. I am glad you are going to Kingston next year. Frontenac requires assistance to get rid of their toll-gates ; they have one road sixteen miles long with no less than four toll-gates, and it is in very bad condition at that."

Delegate—" How much have your county roads cost ?"

Answer—" When they hought the roads and removed the toll-gates they incurred a county liability of over \$200,000. By an agreement with the town of Belleville the county was to have a certain privilege on the market for having taken off the tolls. And since then we have spent a million on them."

Question—" What is your debt in consequence of purchasing them ?"

Answer—" We were free from debt until last year or last spring, when the freshets on the rivers running through the county were so great that they carried away an iron hridge which cost us \$11,000 to replace, and we were making provisions last year as well for a house of refuge. We were free of county debt until we over-drew the bank account, but we had enough money coming from local municipalities to make up for that."

Question—" Outside of these bridges built last year your county has no debt in consequence of making and maintaining the county roads ?"

Answer—" None whatever."

Question—" You say you have spent a million on them ?"

Answer—" We have."

Question—" Why is the county town the objective point for making roads to ?"

Answer—" That was the case forty-six years ago ; it is not the case now."

Question—" It was the case for how many miles of your system ?"

Answer—" For forty miles ; the people drew grain for thirty miles to Belleville. I have seen lines of rigs over a mile long, extending from the harbor clear to the upper bridges in the city. That is all gone now. When the county roads system was established Belleville was the market town for the whole county. We have a railway bonused by the city and county ; bonused in order to improve things ; but that very railway has taken away the trade."

Question—" Since these changed conditions have you extended your system ?"

Answer—" Yes, extended into other places so as to make a complete net work over the front fifty miles."

Question—" Are any floors on the bridges covered with concrete ?"

Answer—" Yes ; we put on one two years ago and one this spring, and both are in good condition. We expect to use concrete for all our culverts and bridges."

Question—" For the flooring ?"

Answer—" Yes ; thirty years ago we put on cedar, but we got it for \$8 a thousand feet then ; now we cannot get good cedar and when we do get cedar at all we have to pay \$22 a thousand for it."

Question—" Had you the opinion of an engineer on any of those bridges covered with concrete ?"

Answer—" Yes, I am an engineer myself."