

PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT

have been met could satisfy their consciences by the condemnation of men who have spared neither pains nor effort to give them just as advanced and progressive an agricultural policy as can be found upon this continent. (Cheers.)

What have our opponents to say to our policy of Technical Education? What part did any of them play in our efforts to place Nova Scotia in the forefront in respect to this valuable educational system. It is freely admitted by all advocates of technical education in Canada that Nova Scotia easily leads. We have a system founded on a principle which responds well to the ambitions of all classes of our people. When our opponents talk of non-progressive government in this Province the facts completely answer them. As a Province we are forward in progressive legislation along all lines. There is no phase of administration with which we have not dealt intelligently.

THE GOOD ROADS POLICY.

Now Mr. Chairman, I can hardly condense this address without making a reference to a problem which is of the utmost importance to all classes of our people. No question in this Province, and I think I might say, no question in any country comes more directly home to the people than the subject of good roads. For many years this has been a subject of discussion; it has been a question of great controversy. In fact every politician in this country, and nearly everybody else, has had at some time or other the feeling that he could solve the question of giving our people good roads. We have passed much legislation, all of it in recent years, I believe, in a direction which meant much for their improvement. Whatever may be said to the contrary, we have been making improvement in our roads, and while today in many sections of the country they are not in a desirable condition, yet advance is noticeable in almost every section of the Province. Our splendid bridge system is near completion; our smaller bridges are in good condition, and I think it can be said that our bridge system has gone beyond the point of political criticism.

A STEADY ADVANCE.

The Liberal Party cannot stand still on any great public question.

For that party no question can be finally settled until it is settled right. It should be our desire and will be our duty to advance step by step until we have mastered the Road Problem. We may be for years reaching an ideal situation; We may not be able for lack of means and climatic conditions to attain to the advanced position of other countries. This Road question cannot be settled until the people of this Province have roads which have been constructed scientifically and until these roads can be regarded as a credit and a pride by our people who are anxious to have them permanent in character and constructed of material that will give more lasting results.

THE PRELIMINARY STEP.

Towards this end we made an appropriation at the last session to have a careful study made into the best and most practical method of road construction and repair; into the location, quantity, quality and availability of road making material, together with the cost and methods of transportation; into the most effective method of providing an organization for the construction and maintenance of roads; into the character, effectiveness and amount required of road-making machinery, and into the classification of the different highways of the Province with regard to locality, amount of traffic and other conditions.

THE PARAMOUNT POLICY.

This programme provides that the Commission may, if it is found necessary, inquire into and make a careful study of methods employed in other countries. In my judgment it was only the part of wisdom, before any large expenditure should be entered upon, to have this done, and the remedy proposed for these conditions submitted to Parliament. It is my opinion whenever our Government are satisfied that road expenditure means permanent highways properly cared for and preserved, that public opinion will be so developed by reason of the economic advantages which will accrue, that our leaders in every walk of life in this Province, the members of our town and municipal councils and of our Legislature will not hesitate to make this policy a paramount feature in our future advancement. We will all reach the conclusion that expenditure upon our public highways will be on