

year ever experienced, greater demand for their products, more men employed, better wages paid, large increase in foreign and export trade, and there are all the features that indicate healthy and permanent growth. (Applause).

The Growth of Ontario's Railroads.

While there are many other interests that ought to be mentioned time will only permit a reference to one more, namely the railways of the Province. And perhaps from the record of railway construction we will gain, in a very practical form, a better appreciation of the marvellous growth of our Province. In 1867, at Confederation, there were 1,275 miles of railway track in this Province. At the close of this year the total mileage is a little over 7,000 miles. (Applause). In 1881 there were only 12 miles of railway in what is now known as New Ontario. Now there are 1,854 miles, distributed, approximately, as follows :

Muskoka and Parry Sound.....	184	miles
Algoma.....	537	"
Thunder Bay and Rainy River.....	923	"
Nipissing.....	210	"

And railway construction is rapidly progressing. The road, the completion of which this meeting celebrates, passes through about 263 miles of this Province. The Manitoulin and North Shore road is under construction, about 15 miles being already completed from Sudbury west. Of the Algoma Central 50 miles is already built and about two thousand men are busily engaged on the construction of the balance of the line, some 130 or 140 miles. I had the pleasure of a trip over the completed part of this road several weeks ago and can speak with confidence of the excellent character of the construction. (Applause). Then there is the Government road from North Bay into the Temiscamingue district, which has been under survey during this year, and to construct which it is expected a bill will be introduced at the coming session. But, notwithstanding all that has been done in the past, and what is being done at present in the direction of railway construction, when we consider the enormous area of New Ontario still undeveloped, (from 80,000 to 100,000 square miles), it will be easily seen how important it is that other railways should be projected, as rapidly as circumstances will permit, into this vast new territory, in order that our immense resources of raw material and agricultural land should be utilized to the advantage of the Province as a whole. And I may add that the Government realizes the responsibility resting upon it to be as active in the development of this district as the financial ability of the Province will permit.