

moving all the obstructions on the road, taking out the stones of prejudice, so that there may be created a national conscience, and so that they might get into the habit of thinking constantly of other things than the place in which they live.

B. Michaud, deputy minister of highways of the province of Quebec, spoke of the part that Quebec had played in the development of the Dominion, remarking that the first trail led from Quebec. His province had spent \$26,000,000 on good roads, and they now have 3,000 miles of improved roads, of which 350 are main communication roads, and are drawing to the province millions of dollars every year. They have spent money for the benefit of the farmer even when they have been spending it for the benefit of the motorist, because they have the same interest in proper means of communication. The French of Quebec inherited from their fathers the desire of connecting with other trails, and that is why they will not rest until they have persuaded all the provinces to build roads to connect with the province of Quebec. They were knocking at the door of Ontario and of New Brunswick, and now it was the turn of Manitoba to drop a line of invitation to Saskatchewan and Ontario.

Highways to Promote Good Feeling Between Provinces

Premier Norris, of Manitoba, adding to the welcome, said that there is a great mileage of roads clamoring for improvement, and one of the purposes of the convention was to devise ways and means of economic construction of roads which would stretch far and wide and serve the whole community, not only touching the big centres that have been organized, but stretching out into the country and giving better means of transportation for the produce of the farms. Their population is so scattered that highway communication is a big problem, for all are clamoring for consideration. Highways are going to be one of the strongest aids to the development of good feeling between the provinces and also between Canada and the United States, and they are building great hopes on the Jefferson Highway, which will enable them to motor from Winnipeg to New Orleans. He had last year travelled over the highway from Montreal to Quebec and was delighted with the splendid quality of that road, and he looked forward to the time when there would be an interprovincial highway between Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Mayor Chas. F. Gray, of Winnipeg, joined in the welcome, declaring that they want roads to run in every direction, believing they are the greatest factor in the advancement of civilization. With rapid means of transportation, people and communities can get together and exchange views, and that means better civilization.

Message from Ontario

Hon. F. C. Biggs, minister of public works, Ontario, brought from Premier Drury the assurance of the heartiest co-operation of the Ontario government in the development of good roads in the Dominion, and more particularly in Ontario. When the late Ontario government went to rest in October last, he said, there was a great deal of supposition as to what was going to become of the banner province of Ontario because a farmer government had been chosen, but he believed to-day they had the fullest co-operation of every motor organization, labor union and farmers' club in the province. Previous to the last election they had 422 miles of provincial county roads and they have increased this to 1,824 miles, which they expected it would take \$175,000,000 to construct, so that they could have a complete trunk system of roads in the province which would serve every county. They are not building these roads for automobile traffic, but for the purpose of serving the basic industry of agriculture, although, of course, they expect the automobilists to take advantage of them. In a year or two every farmer is going to be an automobilist in Ontario, not only for pleasure but as the owner of trucks, because they have come to realize that for the short haul, the quickest and most dependable way to place their produce

on the market in first-class condition is by the rapid transportation of the truck.

Mr. Biggs said that the government is willing to co-operate with the other provinces, and they hope to have in the near future the connections which will make a highway from Windsor right through to Halifax, as well as other connections, including one from Kenora to Winnipeg, and so far as finances and labor permitted, they hope to provide their share of the transcontinental route. The industries of Ontario require so many workmen this year, particularly in agriculture, that they do not feel justified in competing with them for labor, but they intend to push forward with all available labor and materials. They have \$5,000,000 available for highways, plus the Dominion grant, and he hopes they will be able to show wonderful results. He hoped that the next federal grant would be a hundred millions instead of twenty millions; and, whatever the next government might be in Ottawa, that they would take this road question a little bit more seriously and help the roads in a free manner in the same way that they had subsidized the railways.

Situation in Manitoba

Hon. G. A. Grierson, minister of public works, Manitoba, said the convention was playing a very important part in the industrial and agricultural life of the Dominion. They have many problems in Manitoba, for it seems that the more fertile the soil, the more difficult it is to build a road. Some provinces have the benefit of material with which to make good roads and consequently had them, while others have wealth with which to secure the materials. When the history of road construction is written it will, he thought, be found to be in three volumes: First, that of educating the people as to the necessity of good roads, which education is nearly completed throughout Canada, for most people realized that they are a necessity. The second would describe the construction of good roads, and much has to be learned about that. They are assisting this very greatly by holding conventions at which addresses are given dealing with such matters. And the third volume would deal with the maintenance of roads, and very little, so far as their province is concerned, has been done in this connection. If they are going to construct good roads they must learn to maintain them. The convention should emphasize the importance of this, for until they had proper organizations and facilities for the maintenance of their highways, they would continue to have bad roads.

W. E. Parker, of New Orleans, chairman of the Jefferson Highway Association, spoke of the value of this high-class road, stretching from Winnipeg to New Orleans, a distance of 2,400 miles. It had seemed an enormous undertaking, but in five years they have completed 60% of the work. In the United States they are spending hundreds of millions of dollars building 365-days-in-the-year-service roads, and the highway from New Orleans to Winnipeg would, in time, give them access to the entire Canadian system of highways, with mutual advantages to everyone. Mr. Parker read messages of greeting and goodwill from the governor of Louisiana and the mayor of New Orleans.

High Ideal in Saskatchewan

Hon. S. J. Latta, minister of highways, Saskatchewan, said the convention was international in character. In Saskatchewan they have 180,000 miles of roads in the settled districts, of which they consider 24,000 miles their main market roads. They are trying to push a couple of roads to the north to tap the vast resources of that country, which is not by any means a snow-bound and outlandish land, but a fertile country. They have to contend with scarcity of material, a small population, and shortage of labor, but they have before them a high ideal, based on the immense possibilities of their country and a persistency that would not down. Their aim is to give to every settler a highway that will enable him to get his produce to market.

Hon. J. H. King, minister of public works, British Columbia, also spoke of the resources of the west. It would pay the people to build roads in order to settle and develop