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ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN THE ISLANDS DIVISION

Completion of Most Extensive Programme Ever Carried Out
in Single Season—A Very Creditable Record—Great
Deal of Repair Work Was Attended to.

The "Daily Colonist" of Sunday, November 16th, contained the following synopsis of the work accomplished this summer on the roads of this constituency: "The withdrawal of the last road gang from the Islands division marks the completion of the most extensive programme of road construction ever carried out in a single season in that section of the Province. The total appropriation for new road work in this district amounts to \$55,000, and of this sum there remains only \$4,914 unexpended, this sum being reserved for repair work during the coming winter.

At the beginning of the season a comprehensive programme was prepared by engineers of the Department of Public Works and approved by Hon Thomas Taylor, Minister of the department. The constituency was divided into twelve separate districts and the total appropriation was evenly distributed among these units on a basis of population and in accordance with the needs of the residents.

These districts were divided as follows: North Saanich, North Salt Spring, South Salt Spring, North Pender West, North Pender East, South Pender, Saturna, Mayne, South Galiano, North Galiano, Gabriola, Thetis and Kuper.

The largest appropriation was made for North Saanich and according to a summary of expenditure, prepared yesterday by the department, \$14,621.30 has been spent in this district, while a balance of \$3,498.70 remains in the treasury for winter repairs.

The most important piece of road construction in this district is the improvement of the main road between Saanich and Sidney. The development of Sidney and Deep Cove, which has rapidly progressed during the year, has caused a heavy increase in the motor traffic along this road, and the Victoria Automobile Club has bought property in Sidney and established a clubhouse there.

ROADS GREATLY IMPROVED

Motor cars have also been a factor in the improvement of the roads on Salt Spring Island, and, while the car is a newcomer to Salt Spring, there are today more than twenty of these vehicles in daily use. The main road that extends from end to end of the Island and connects Ganges Harbor with Fulford Harbor has been greatly improved, large sections of this important highway having been completely re-surfaced during the summer. Several branch roads have been built from this main trunk, the most important being the Rainbow road, which will prove a boon to a growing number of settlers in the district which it serves. The total amount expended on this Island is approximately \$11,000.

On Gabriola Island, the Northend main road has been continued for a considerable distance and a new bridge 200 feet in length has been completed over the river, which empties into the sea at the wharf. On Pender Island a sum of \$6,900 has been expended on the roads, much of the activity of the department being concentrated on the road between Otter Bay and Fort Washington, which has been improved. On Mayne Island a new road has been built from the Dominion wharf to the brickyards, while on Galiano Island a new road has been completed from Retreat Cove to the extreme end of the Island.

MUCH REPAIR WORK

The Lawrence road, on Thetis Island, has been considerably extended and some of the older sections repaired at a cost of about \$2,000 to the government. A large amount of repair work has been undertaken throughout the Islands and further gangs will probably be set to work during the coming winter as need for them develops and according to the prevailing climatic conditions.

The wharves built in this division are handled by the Dominion and Provincial

governments jointly. The most important work in this connection has been the construction of the wharf at Sidney, in Robert's Bay. This wharf is over 900 feet in length and is the largest wharf ever constructed in the district. The settlement which it serves is a rapidly growing one and the residents have, until recently, been forced to land at Deep Cove and walk a distance of more than half a mile to Robert's Bay. A new wharf has also been built at Deep Bay and repairs have also been made to several other wharves and landing stages.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor, Sidney Review.

Dear Sir,—As one who has his home in the district and has a considerable financial interest in it, I have for several years been watching with disgust the personal private feuds and petty jealousies that have been keeping the community a back number. Were it not for this we should long ago have been a thriving municipality instead of a mere rural district.

The present nomination of Mr. W. W. Foster would seem to be a heaven-sent opportunity for all progressive men, Liberals and Conservatives alike, to get together and stamp out the detrimental elements. We want a good strong man for our member, who has no previous connections to bind him and who has an open hand and is not afraid to use it to discountenance all the pettiness that is holding us back; one who will fearlessly and impartially work for the good of his constituency as an integral part of the brightest gem of the Dominion of Canada, the Province of British Columbia.

The whole constituency needs better markets, better roads and more of them; the Islands want piers and quicker, better and cheaper transportation; Sidney wants incorporation. We want sewers, more sidewalks, and above all more fire protection. Surely these wants open up great possibilities for an aspiring politician.

Mr. Foster's record is in his favor and we cannot do better for ourselves than give him the opportunity between now and the next general election to prove what he is made of and to make good his professions during his recent canvass for nomination.

The district of North Saanich and the Islands is far too important and has far too great a future before it as the most beautiful locality and climate in Canada for progressive and thinking men to allow these petty discords to hold us down as back numbers. I say, therefore, let us take the present opportunity to pull together and stamp out this disgrace forever.

Yours truly,
Sidney, Nov. 17. SPECTATOR.

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