

# The Canadian Engineer

A weekly paper for Canadian civil engineers and contractors

## FOURTH ANNUAL DOMINION GOOD ROADS CONGRESS

REPORT OF SESSIONS HELD IN OTTAWA LAST WEEK—CONGRESS OPENED BY GOVERNOR-GENERAL, ACTING PREMIER SIR GEORGE FOSTER AND SIR WILFRID LAURIER—STATESMEN PROMISE GOVERNMENT'S HELP IN THE GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT

MANY men prominent in road building in Canada and the United States, gathered in Ottawa last week for the Fourth Canadian and International Good Roads Congress and Exhibition.

The exhibits were attractively arranged on the main floor of the Horticultural Building, Lansdowne Exhibition Park, while the meetings were held in a hall which seated about 300, on the second floor of the same building.

The exhibitors were the Canada Cement Co., Canadian Fairbanks-Morse Co., *The Canadian Engineer*, Commission of Conservation, General Supply Co., Imperial Oil Co., T. S. Kirby & Co., Ottawa Valley Motor Car Association, McLaughlin Automobile Co., Paterson Mfg. Co., Sawyer-Massey Co., Trussed Concrete Steel Co., U.S. Steel Products Co. and Warren Bituminous Paving Co.

The features of the exhibits were the very complete outfit of "Case" and "Wettlaufer" road-making machinery shown by the Canadian Fairbanks-Morse Co., Limited, who had no less than twelve large machines of various kinds on view; the pictures and plans exhibited by the town-planning department of the Commission of Conservation; the model bituminous street shown by the Imperial Oil Co.; the power flusher exhibited by the General Supply Co.; the model road sections built for the Province of Ontario; the illuminated photographs by the Paterson Mfg. Co.; the section of concrete roadway built jointly by the Trussed Concrete Steel Co., the Canada Cement Co. and the U.S. Steel Products Co., showing the use of Canada cement, of U.S. steel mesh reinforcement, and of Truscon curb bars, road mesh and armor plates; and the sections of pavements, experiments showing result of filling the voids, and magnified road sections shown by the Warren Bituminous Paving Co.

### The Governor-General Opens Congress.

The congress was called to order Tuesday afternoon, April 10th, by the president of the Dominion Good Roads Association, J. Duchastel de Montrouge, city engineer of Outremont, P.Q., who introduced His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire, Governor-General of Canada.

"I have not had very much opportunity to see many roads in Canada," said the Duke of Devonshire, "but those I have seen have filled me with admiration,—not for the roads, but for the skill of the driver and the strength of the vehicle." He looked forward to the time when Canada would be well supplied with good roads as a result of the policy that was being adopted by the provinces from coast to coast.

Reference was made by the Governor-General to the fact that he had presided over a committee, for the discussion of road questions, which had been formed from both houses of the British parliament. He had always been greatly interested in roads and a strong advocate for

the extension of good roads in England. He called attention to the permanent beneficial effect which good roads had had upon England, and how they had helped to solve the housing problems of the larger cities. With the improvement of the streets and roads he thought that the trackless trolley would no doubt appear in this country, and he laid stress on the importance of giving due consideration to this method of transportation in the future.

### Sir George Foster Represents the Government.

Sir George E. Foster, who is acting as premier during Sir Robert Borden's visit to England, attended on behalf of the Dominion Government. Sir George reviewed the history of the good roads movement from the haphazard methods of half a century ago to the specialized construction of the present day, declaring that the future history of the country would be bound up in its road development. "Good roads are a reflection of the nation's character and the progress it has attained," said Sir George. There was no need to convince him, as an old politician, of the importance of good roads. Sir George gave his assurance that the government would further the cause of good roads to the best of its ability.

To show that there is no politics in the good roads movement, Sir Wilfrid Laurier sat with Sir George Foster on the platform, and followed Sir George with an earnest address advocating better roads. When he was a boy, said Sir Wilfrid, the only road master in Quebec province was the sun. When the sun shone, there were good roads; when it disappeared for the winter, there were no roads; and when it disappeared behind the clouds in the summer on account of rain, there were practically no roads. The people are only beginning to realize that the wealth of the country lies in its good roads.

That good roads throughout the Dominion would have considerable bearing on the economic, industrial and social problems of the country was the opinion expressed by His Lordship Bishop Roper, of Ottawa. He referred to the old Roman roads and the highway by the Euphrates and the Black Sea to Constantinople, and said that roads had always formed a great part in military and international history.

Mayor Harold Fisher, of Ottawa, officially welcomed the delegates to his city, outlining what had been accomplished in Ottawa in the last five years in road-making. He said that more permanent roadways had been laid in and around Ottawa in the last five years than in all previous time in the city's history.

W. A. McLean, C.E., Deputy Minister of Highways of the Province of Ontario, referred to the gratification that it gives to good roads enthusiasts to know that every province in the Dominion has created special departments to deal with the questions incidental to construction of public highways.