

vincial Exhibition, clearly indicate the agricultural capabilities of the Muskoka District, which, with other extensive areas of fertile land in the course of being opened up to settlement in this Province, would afford homes of peace and plenty to thousands of industrious families in the mother country, that are now struggling with disappointment and want.

"Respectfully submitted,

"JOHN CARLING,

"*Commissioner.*

"TORONTO, January, 1871."

ROADS.

The prosperity of a country very much depends on the state of the roads, and speed and cheapness in travelling have a great deal to do with commercial success. This fact has been long recognized, and many improvements have been made in order to secure this most desirable end. Half a century ago, Macadam introduced his system which formed a new era in road making; and, while we cannot boast of having advanced so far as to have much macadamized road, still we are highly favored beyond many settlers of former days. By the introduction of ditching along the sides of the roads and elevating the centres, vast improvements have been made; and the settlers have no cause to complain, as the Government have done nobly in this respect.

The road from Washago to Muskoka Falls was commenced in 1858; again in 1864 the Government expended a large sum of money in doing repairs, when detours were made at Hock-rock and Golden Creek, which not only improved the road but added very much to the comfort of the settlers. In 1866, repairs were made on the Peterson Road (running through Draper) under the efficient superintendence of Mr. Oliver, whose engineering ability was ably manifested in the improvements which he introduced.

In 1866 the Parry Sound Road was completed, thereby connecting Lake Couchiching with the Georgian Bay at Parry Sound Harbor—a distance of 80 miles; since then the Government have pushed road-making through with vigor. A good plank and gravel road has been built between Washago and Gravenhurst, which is a great boon to the settlers. The Stevenson Road has also been extended and bridges built, thereby opening up a large section of good country. The Nipissing Road has also been opened up to the Maganetawan, and rapid improvements are still going on.