

.. The Good Roads Convention ..

The Good Roads Convention, held in Ottawa on the 13th and 14th of March, under the auspices of the Eastern Ontario Good Roads Association, was a marked success. The attendance was large and representative, made up principally of prominent municipal councillors from every part of Ontario, and experts who have made a life-long study of road-making and its various branches.

The proceedings and addresses were inspiring and instructive, of a character that will lend impetus and new life to the good roads movement in this Province and through Canada. Noteworthy features of the convention were the addresses of the Hon. Martin Dodge, Director of the United States office of Road Inquiries at Washington, and Col. W. H. Moore, President of the United States National Good Roads Association, both of whom presented the good roads problem in a manner that stirred the enthusiasm of their audience. The convention had the patronage of their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Countess of Minto, who attended on Friday afternoon. The Countess of Minto has, on other occasions, expressed a deep interest in the movement for good roads, and the remarks of the Governor-General at the convention, though brief, were strongly favorable. An extremely large extent of country was represented. Not only were prominent men present from every county in Eastern Ontario, but delegates were also in attendance from counties situated as far as 250 and 300 miles from Ottawa.

Among the leading people who attended were the following: Their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Minto; Hon. Sidney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture; Mr. R. L. Borden, M. P., Leader of the Conservative Opposition; Hon. Senator Dodge, Director of Bureau, Public Roads Inquiry, Washington, D. C.; Col. W. H. Moore, President National Good Roads Association of the United States; Mr. A. W. Campbell, C. E., Toronto, Assistant Commissioner Public Works, Ontario; F. J. Deane, M. P. P., Kamloops, B. C., President British Columbia Good Roads Association; Mr. Andrew Pattullo, M. P. P., Woodstock, President Ontario Good Roads Association; Mr. A. F. Wood, ex-M. P. P., ex-warden Hastings County; Warden R. Cummings, Carleton County; Warden L. Charbonneau, United Counties Prescott and Russell; Warden J. Brennan, Renfrew County; Warden W. J. Anderson, Lanark County; Warden H. McMillan, United Counties Dundas, Stormont, Glengarry; Warden Spoor, Frontenac County; Warden Gerow, Ontario County; ex-Warden Graham, Victoria County; County Councillors Rogers, Perth; W. H. Anderson, Kemptville; Jas.

McEwan, Dayton; ex-Warden J. E. Campbell, Colelake; County Clerk Dr. Edwards, Frontenac County; ex-Warden, J. C. Bradley, Carleton County; County Councillor Geo. Boyce; County Councillor B. Rothwell, and County Councillor D. H. McLean; Major Shepherd, Queenston; Reeve Allan, of North Grimsby township; Reeve F. E. Caldwell, Gloucester; County Councillor Chas. Mohr, Galetta; County Councillor J. M. Rogers, Perth; County Councillor W. D. McLeod, Kirk Hill, Glengarry; Mr. David Moir, Almonte; Mr. C. Lapierre of the Canadian Portland Cement Company, Montreal; County Councillor John Edwards, Algonquin; Prof. Shutt, Experimental Farm; John Brown, Beachburg; P. S. Vanvleet, Toronto; John Dow, Kenmore; County Councillor H. H. Hughes, Heckston; T. L. Boyd, Eastman's Springs; T. D. McCormick, Picton; Jno. Young, Brockville; John Brennan, Stittsville; Reeve S. Mann, Stittsville; T. L. Barclay and J. W. Willis, Whitby; W. L. Smith, Toronto; John Leggo, Ottawa; J. W. McLean, Westmeath; ex-Warden Wm. Thompson, Labelle County; County Councillor M. T. Buchanan, Ingersoll; John Young, Brookdale; County Councillor M. Avery, Frontenac; County Councillors Josiah Hallman, F. Walter, Waterloo; C. O. Wood, Carleton; J. J. Smith, Carleton; J. C. Cox, Montague; J. P. Brady, L'Ange Gardien; County Councillor W. N. Rogers, F. Britton, Gananoque; Mayor A. M. Ross, Whitby; County Councillor George Geron, Claremont; T. L. Barclay, Whitby; County Councillor S. McClure, Jas. Shaw, township clerk A. Murphy, and C. W. Butler, Fitzroy; Mayor A. Lefebvre, Labelle; G. G. Shane, Plantagenet; A. G. Argue, Stittsville; County Councillor Dr. Stacey, South Mountain; J. Greene, Diamond; R. McRitchie, Shawville; Thomas McDowell, Clarendon; W. J. McGregor Lancaster; County Clerk E. Abbott Johnson, L'Orignal; John Bright, Myrtle; John Vipond, Brooklyn; Thomas Hodgins, Carp; Reeve F. McNaughton, Finch, Charles Fairbairn, Vittoria; J. E. Farrell, Whitby; Jas. Henderson, Ottawa; township clerk, H. B. Billings, Billings' Bridge; W. J. Devitt, Greenwood; A. C. Campbell, Ottawa; Dr. T. A. Brisson, Montreal; M. Mackey, Fallowfield; A. McCracken and Dr. Mahoney, Cornwall; D. Stewart, Hull; County Councillor E. Chatrand, Cumberland; County Councillor D. Dunning, Cumberland; J. C. Bradley, Hazeldean; J. Nesbitt, Merivale; F. Walter, Waterloo; township Councillor James B. Sully, Osgoode; H. Welbanks, Ottawa; County Councillor D. McDirmid, Avonmore; township Councillor Robert Fraser, Winchester; County

Councillor Dr. Stark, Berwick, W. A. Sheriff, Fitzroy Harbor, and others.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Thursday morning's session was opened by the president of the association, ex-Warden J. C. Bradley, who extended a cordial welcome to the delegates assembled. He referred to the work of the association, more especially the good roads train, which is proving a revelation to those who have seen the grader shaping the travelled roadway, the crusher breaking stone, the attached elevator's rotary screen for grading the stone, the bins for holding the stone, and the spreading wagon coming along to spread it on the road at any depth required by means of a lever from the driver's seat.

The railways furnished free transportation for the machinery and experts, the Sawyer-Massey Company, of Hamilton, gave the free use of their machinery and expert road builders, and the Canadian Portland Cement Company furnished the cement for the culverts. The Ontario government also gave the benefit of the services of Road Commissioner Campbell.

The report of the secretary, Mr. H. B. Cowan, gave an account of the work done by the association during the past year. The good roads train started out last year in June. Mr. W. J. Devitt, a road expert, was engaged to superintend the building of the concrete culverts required.

Sample stretches were laid, two in Leeds county, one near Gananoque and one near Lansdowne; Grenville, one at Kemptville; Dundas, old military road leading into Iroquois; Stormont, one near Newington; Glengarry, one at Alexandria; Prescott, one near the village of Plantagenet; Carleton, one at the village of Carp; Lanark, one a mile and a half from Almonte; South Renfrew, one near Egansville; North Renfrew, one at Pembroke.

Each county council conscientiously did its best to select the worst possible stretch of road. A grant of \$100 was asked from the county councils for each stretch of road built.

As planned at present, the work for this year will be completed in the following order: Carp, Egansville, Pembroke, Almonte and Kemptville.

COMMUTING STATUTE LABOR.

The question of commuting statute labor was introduced by Reeve T. W. Allan, of North Grimsby.

"One advantage of the new method is," said Mr. Allan, "that it reduces the work of the township clerk by from fifteen to twenty per cent. It does this by obviating the necessity of issuing the statute labor rolls, receiving the declaration of office by pathmasters and returning the rolls."

"The new system does not impose any hardship on the poorest taxpayer, because a man who has not the money to pay the tax can go on the road and earn the amount necessary in less time than it