

sections which have gone in for road improvement are those in which the value of farm property is increasing, while the price is even declining in localities where poor roads continue to exist.

Apart from the direct financial benefit which good roads give to the farmer, they add to other important factors of agricultural progress. They economize time and force, and reduce wear and tear on horses, harness and vehicles. The cost of placing the products of the soil upon the market is quite an important item; and the condition of the roads at this stage often decides whether a profit or loss is to be had from, it may be, the chief effort of a season.

The Statute Labor system of maintaining roads, which has been in existence throughout this province, since the time of the earliest settler, has virtually outlived its usefulness in most of the older settled townships. This is evidenced by the fact that many progressive municipalities have abandoned it, and have adopted newer methods which are giving better results. For the old system, it must be said it had a place in the early days when the country was but sparsely settled, and the value of property was comparatively low. Then outlets were desirable in the direction in which the pioneers were obliged to travel.

However, as it is practised in many townships today, too much time is undoubtedly spent for the amount of labor performed. Many rural property owners look upon the road-making season as one of physical ease. While this sentiment prevails in one section another may be blessed with a higher type of citizen who takes pleasure in keeping the highways near his home in good repair. Thus inequalities exist to rectify which is utterly impossible under such a system.

Since the introduction of improved road-making machinery into the country the agitation in favor of better roads has gained way rapidly. People, generally, are beginning to realize that road building is a public matter, and that the best interests of Canadian agriculture and the Canadian people as a whole, demand the construction of good roads, and that money wisely expended for this purpose is sure to give good returns.

As to how road construction should be managed, various suggestions have been made by those interested. The majority, however, agree that they should be under the direction of a