

I thought you were an old man. Young man, I built roads in this country before you were born, and I am damned sure I am not going to sit here and listen to you talk about how to make roads." That was somewhat discouraging to me, just starting out on a campaign of such importance. I was completely overcome and for some minutes did not know whether I was discussing a question of good roads or bad roads.

In 1894 an agitation was created in the Province of Ontario, the object being the improvement of country roads and the streets in towns and cities. This agitation led to an invitation being extended by a few interested parties to Municipal Councillors, Farmers' Institutes, Dairymens' Associations and representative men from all parts of the Province to meet in the City of Toronto. About one hundred of these representative men assembled in the month of February of that year, and they formed an Association, the object being to lay down a proper system for the construction of the roads in the rural districts and the streets in the cities and towns; to create an interest among the people in road improvement generally, and in the necessity for improved roads, endeavoring as far as possible to unite all efforts, that is, the statute labor in the rural districts and the concentrated expenditure of the public moneys, of uniting these efforts of labor and money expenditure towards the betterment of our roads. At the formation of that Association an attempt was made to form local Associations in the various counties. This did not meet with very much success. As the HON. MR. TWEEDIE has stated, it was found that unless the Associations could be made alive and kept alive, it was better to have no such branch Associations at all. But the Provincial Association, composed of representative men from every part of the Province, kept up a lively campaign. This question was discussed by the members of that Association at every meeting of Farmers' Institutes, Dairymens' Associations and kindred meetings, and in fact on every public occasion where possible a member of the Association was sent to discuss the question of improved roads. In this way a very lively interest was created; the attention of the Government was attracted by this agitation and an appropriation of \$500 per year was made to defray the expenses of the Association, for sending speakers around to these various meetings, and for meetings of the different delegates when it was found necessary to consult and prepare literature, etc.