

anxious than you should be. You are representing the people the same as we are ; you ought to join forces with us and we will do all we can. My opinion is that this has been one of the most successful meetings held in connection with the Ontario Good Roads Associations. I realized this to the fullest extent yesterday when the distinction between commuting and abolishing statute labor gave rise to such enthusiastic discussion. I was pleased to find how cleverly the matter was discussed, showing that you are giving it your close attention, for as each fine point between the different systems was sprung there were men here ready to express valuable opinions upon them and, in fact who could speak on the subject for the balance of the week. My opinion is that your sessions are too short and that not enough time is devoted to the different points in order to thrash them out to an absolute conclusion so that we will go away understanding the purport of each.

"I do not believe that county councils could spend money to better advantage, or that our department could, than to have a fund created that would cover the expense of drawing people together to discuss this question. I believe that many councils would provide for the sending of delegates here at the cost of the municipality, having each delegate properly credentialled to speak for his council ; to have the whole council come if necessary, prepared to speak for their municipality ; and oblige them to come back and make a separate report, to be published and circulated throughout the county. Let us bring this information in concrete form to the people, suggestions to be made as thought fit, and in a cheap manner have the reports published and printed, so as to go into the hands of every ratepayer. (Applause.) We are not aggressive enough ; we are a little too much frightened of the opinion of the people ; we are sensitive. I have been at meetings where they would not allow me to explain myself. This was the reception I received in many quarters for years, but people will listen to me now, and yet my opinions have not altered. It is true I have not to go back and seek re-election every year, but I find this : If you take a question like this to your people and call them together at some opportune time and occasion and explain to them where they are to profit in making some changes, get their authority and sanction, and do something of substantial value for them—illustrate to them what benefit can come from these discussions and the information derived from them—you will get the loyal support of the best class of citizens, who will control the balance. What is the use of councillors if they only sit at the board and pass accounts. I would take up some issue with the people which would be of some substantial value to them, and on that stand or fall. It is no disgrace to lose an election. You gain something by awakening the people to what is in their own interest. Keep at your object and you are going to win at last, and bestow a lasting advantage to your community ; take every opportunity of going out and doing missionary work which will add a chapter in the municipal history, which each and every one of you are trying to write, to be handed down to your children. (Applause.)

"I say this Association should see fit to work in the most aggressive way and I should like to see every man who has spoken so cleverly in this meeting go out to his district and call good roads meetings, and be known as the 'Good Roads' man in that district—be a crank on the subject, if they wish to call you that, but be careful and studious ; know the position you ought to take and fight that to a finish. Good results will follow.

"I am heartily in sympathy with your Association and it would be a great mistake not to continue its good work. It would be difficult to get a more representative and better meeting than you have here. You ought to try and select active, capable and energetic men to fill the offices of the executive and I think it would be a calamity at this particular stage to allow Mr. Cowan, your present energetic, active and capable secretary, notwithstanding the immense amount of work that has been placed upon his shoulders, to withdraw from that position." (Applause.)