

structure, and there is very little need of drainage, but in other localities the soil is retentive, subject to soakage and of a spongy nature, and there under-drainage would be very beneficial. Under-drainage dries the subsoil and makes a firm foundation. It is not generally realized that the action of frost would have but very little damaging effect if it were not for the soil being previously saturated with water. It is not the soil that freezes, but the water between the particles of soil. Where the soil is naturally drained there is no heaving of frost and no trouble in the spring time; and it is possible to make any soil similar to that by a system of under draining. Tiles are cheap, and there is no doubt that in many localities there could be no more profitable investment made than in a tile drain, put down four feet below the surface, independent entirely of the surface ditches. Thus, by taking away the saturation underneath, you have a firm and good foundation for any material that is placed upon the surface.

We have with us to-day MR. CAMPBELL, Provincial Road Instructor for Ontario, who visits the different sections of that Province, giving instruction in road making and advising with the County and Town Councillors and others as to the best methods of road construction. We also have with us the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Public Works, and many other gentlemen who know much more about roads than I do, and as you would no doubt like to hear the Government's position in regard to this matter, I will now call upon the HON. H. R. EMMERSON, Chief Commissioner of Public Works for this Province.

HON. MR. EMMERSON.

I am sure I would be taking advantage of my position if I were to at any length discuss the objects of this meeting. We are all glad to have the opportunity of listening to a gentleman of the reputation of MR. CAMPBELL, and while this meeting is not a large one, that is no indication that there is not a desire throughout the Province to have better roads. Now, there is some suspicion, I fancy, throughout the Province with reference to the object in view by the Association recently formed in the City of Saint John, and in reference to the object in view in the formation, as is proposed, of a New Brunswick Good Roads Association. It would be, perhaps,