

# PROVINCE SHOULD DIRECT AID

**Dominion Should Not Build  
Roadways Alone.**

**UNIFORM SYSTEM NEEDED.**

**Government Will Not Insist on  
Provincial Autonomy.**

**Hon. Mr. Hearst's Amendment Kills  
Mr. Rowell's Good Roads Resolu-  
tion—Expresses Thanks for Fed-  
eral Grant—Vote 78 to 20.**

Mr. Rowell's resolution for good roads received only partial endorsement in the Legislature yesterday. There was little difference of opinion regarding the advantage of a thorough system of good roads in the Province. Gratification was expressed over the progress so far made under the highway improvement act, but the Government would not accept the clause representing to the Dominion Government that the Federal grant should be upon a fixed basis with a view of preventing political "log-rolling," and insisting that as the title to the highways was vested in the Province, the Province should disburse any appropriation made by the Dominion.

The vote stood seventy-eight to twenty, Mr. Allan Studholme voting with the Government. Messrs. Matheson and MacKay, Anderson and Proudfoot were paired. The amendment moved by Hon. W. H. Hearst expressed satisfaction with the policy of the Dominion Government and full confidence that such a policy would be carried out in the interest of the people. A further amendment to include the paragraph stricken out by Mr. Hearst's motion was lost by the same division.

### The Apostle of Good Roads.

Mr. Rowell began by recalling the work of the late Mr. Andrew Pattullo, whom he styled as the "apostle of good roads in Ontario," which had been followed by the appointment of Mr. A. W. Campbell. There were about 50,000 miles of highway roads in old Ontario, only 4,000 of which were in a good state of repair. People were regretting the depopulation of rural Ontario. "If there is any way in which we can make people stay on the farm it is by making it more attractive and more remunerative." This must be done if young men were expected to remain on the land. Good roads facilitated and cheapened the cost of transportation. Those who travelled through the country during the autumn and spring realized the difference between improved roads and township roads.

### Have Spent \$40,000,000.

The municipalities of the Province, Mr. Rowell pointed out, during the past twenty years had expended \$19,000,000 on highways, while during the same period 22,000,000 days of road work had been put into the highways. This latter at the value of one dollar per day would represent an expenditure of over \$40,000,000 upon the highways of the Province during the last two decades. In the face of

all that, the time had come when the Government might move forward and adopt a more comprehensive policy than at present.

The Opposition leader suggested that a scheme might be promulgated whereby the Dominion grant would amount to one-half the amount to be spent on highways, the Province contributing one-quarter and the municipalities the remaining quarter. "I venture to think that practically all the municipalities of this Province would gladly come into such a scheme. It may be the proportion cannot be worked out as I have suggested, but some such plan would enable the development of a highly important policy which would give a remarkable impulse to the roads of this Province."

### Highway Engineers.

Another important consideration was the securing of properly trained highway engineers. In Europe a man had to be a graduate of a highway engineering school before he was charged with road construction. It was well known that motor-cars because of their weight were hard on highways. It would therefore be fair to all to make the motorists pay a special highway tax, which they were willing to do. The cities should contribute to county roads, as the cities enjoyed the facilities which good roads provided.

### Province to Spend Money.

Mr. Rowell warned against a division of the work. The grant from the Dominion should be disbursed by the Province. Two systems of development would result in confusion and loss of money. The money should be paid into the Provincial Treasury and expended for this common purpose. "No more serious departure can be made than consenting to the Dominion Government coming in and taking jurisdiction over our highways, even to the extent of improving them." The roads were vested in the Province and controlled by the municipalities, and they should insist on controlling and maintaining them in the interest of the people. "If the Dominion is allowed to come in and spend money on good roads of its own motion, where it chooses, I venture to think the result will be just as we have in many cases in our own colonization roads: the money will be spent for political purposes and political effect, and we will not get good roads throughout the Province, and it is the duty of this Government to insist that no such policy should be entered upon."

Concluding, Mr. Rowell pointed out that it was essential in the harmonious working together of the Provinces that the expenditure should be distributed on a fair basis. Rival claims would promote jealousy and conflict.

The part of Mr. Rowell's motion that stood was:

"(1) That this House is of the opinion that a thorough system of good roads in this Province would increase the value of farm lands, lessen the cost of transportation, improve marketing facilities, increase the comfort and convenience of farm life, and greatly promote the general progress and prosperity of the Province.

"(2) That this House is gratified at the progress so far made in road improvement under the highway improvement act passed in 1901, but this House is of the opinion that the time has come for a more comprehensive and adequate policy to promote the construction of good roads throughout the Province, particularly roads leading to market towns."

### Ontario's Interests Guarded.

Hon. Mr. Hearst said with reference to the manner in which the money was to be given to the Province, that it was not intended that the Dominion Government should expend it without the co-operation and authority of the Legislature. The Government of Ontario would take good care that the interests of the Province were safeguarded.

Mr. Hearst moved an amendment to Mr. Rowell's resolution expressing satisfaction with and approval of the policy of the Dominion Government, and full confidence that the policy would be carried out in the best in-