

ROOM FOR FARMERS

ON HAMILTON HIGHWAY

Controller Foster Advises Them to Buy Motor Trucks

ROADMAKING IN FRANCE

Minister of Public Works Says Good Roads Have Direct Influence on Cost of Living—No Motor License Fees to Municipalities.

Roads, ancient and modern, roads of peace and roads of war—all these came within the purview of the Ontario Good Roads' Association at its annual meeting in York County Buildings yesterday. Controller Foster gave the Association the benefit of his observations while travelling in Great Britain and Europe, and commended the durability of the old Roman roads. Major T. L. Kennedy gave an interesting account of the process of road-making behind the lines in France and Flanders. Hon. F. G. Diarmid, Minister of Public Works and Highways, reviewed the past, present and future of road building in Ontario.

Influence Cost of Living.

"Good roads have a direct influence upon the cost of living," declared Hon. F. G. MacDiarmid. "Good roads enable the farmer to place his produce in the market in a better condition, because it has not to pass through so many hands. Four counties have come into the highways system, but twelve or fourteen have yet to come in. I believe that a system of Provincial highways is a development of the future, and the Government will be prepared to assume a substantial portion of the cost. The revenue from auto taxation for 1916 amounted to \$650,000, and will be \$750,000 for the present year; in a few years' time the revenue from this source will be over a million dollars. There is a feeling in some quarters that auto fees should go to the separate municipalities; I want to say that such a proposal would imperil the whole good roads movement in Ontario."

Hamilton Highway Disappoints Foster

Controller Foster expressed regret that the Toronto-Hamilton highway, which had cost the city so much, had not been utilized by the farmers in bringing their produce into the market to the extent that was anticipated. He suggested that the farmers should club together to provide heavy motor trucks for the transportation of their produce to the city market.

Warden J. G. Cornell said the reason why the produce of York county had been so small, was because a great deal of the land had been subdivided for building purposes and lay uncultivated; while on the other hand farmers had gone in more for dairy produce.

Roads Behind Lines.

Major T. L. Kennedy, of the 22nd French-Canadian Battalion, said the chief thing that struck him in connection with the roads in England was that they were the King's highway, and did not belong to John Smith or Bill Jones, and consequently there were not the jealousies which hinder the solution of the problem in Ontario. The farmer pays 60 per cent. in road taxes and does not grumble. He thought the Ontario Government did not give the assistance to the movement for good roads that they should give.

A deputation of eastern members of the Association will wait upon Premier Hearst this morning to present a petition urging the necessity of building a Provincial highway along the northern shore of Lake Ontario to Montreal.