

SYSTEM OF HIGHWAYS TO CROSS ONTARIO

Minister of Public Works Announces the Legislation for Project From Michigan Border to Quebec — Sir William Hearst Again De- clares Voice of Toronto People Must Prevail as to the Annual Election of Trustees

Hon. Finlay Macdunnachie, Minister of Public Works and Highways, in the Legislature yesterday introduced the Provincial highways bill. The outstanding feature of the measure, as the Minister stated, is a system of highways extending from the southwest boundary of Ontario to the boundary line between Ontario and Quebec, connecting centres of population or other important terminal points.

The bill provides that roads assumed by the Province shall be under the control of the Department of Public Highways, and shall be known as Provincial highways.

The roads assumed are to be first designated by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, after which the Minister of Public Works and Highways may deposit a plan in the proper registry office, and give notice of the date upon which the roads will pass to the control of the department; the department thereafter having authority to maintain, construct, deviate and widen any highway so assumed.

Distribution of Cost.

The general principle underlying the distribution of cost is that each township or local municipality should pay for a road sufficient for its local requirements, the additional cost to be borne by the Province, with a special assessment upon cities for roads adjacent to them. The local municipalities through which the roads are assumed will be required to repay to the Province thirty per cent. of the expenditure made by the department within such municipality, and each city shall repay to the Province a like proportion of the expenditure made upon roads designated as "Provincial suburban," adjacent to the city.

In effect, the Province thus pays 40 per cent. of the cost of constructing and maintaining roads within the suburban area adjacent to each city, the city and township each being required to contribute 30 per cent. Outside of suburban districts the Province takes up the share levied upon the city, and contributes 70 per cent. of the cost, the township paying 30 per cent.

The department will transmit annually to each municipality a statement showing the expenditure and the amount due by each municipality to the Province, which shall be payable to the Province within six months from the date of notification. The cost of surveys, machinery, plant and equipment, and general overhead and staff expenses, will be borne entirely by the Province. In certain cases where the work is continuous between municipalities, or is on the boundary line, the expenditure may be apportioned by the engineer of the department.

Building of Bridges.

In the case of bridges having a clear span of twenty feet or more, the municipality will be required to pay