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Commission Control Of Provincial Roads Is Suggested Plan

Group Similar to Hydro Commission Would Build and Govern High- ways if Far-Reaching Proposal Accepted

MINISTER RECEIVES COUNTY DEPUTATION

A proposed Provincial Commission, like the Ontario Hydro Commission, to govern the highways and roads of Ontario was suggested to the Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Minister of Highways, at a conference of County Wardens and Chairmen of County Road Committees in the Parliament Buildings yesterday, when they heard from the Hon. Mr. Macaulay the Government's proposed expenditures for the different counties under the \$5,000,000 "sane, sound and sensible" road program for 1932.

The proposed Highway Commission would abolish municipal autonomy in road-building, would take over all present county debentures, and would be empowered to tax traffic for the necessary finances, declared Dr. R. E. Wodehouse, Warden of Carleton County, in making the suggestion, the first of a long list of subjects on highway problems, which brought together about 150 county road executives, and took until 6 o'clock in the evening to discuss.

The county's interest in Provincial highway expenditures, and the Province's interest in county road expenditures, were prominent discussions occupying the afternoon session, and the conference closed with R. M. Smith, Deputy Minister of Highways, receiving from the representative Wardens and delegates their individual opinions on the proposed expenditures for their territories to be undertaken by the Government. Each delegate was given the opportunity to tell the Minister of Highways just how his constituency was ready to oppose or favor any program of road building.

Work Must Go On.

The tentative program proposed by the Department of Highways for 1932 would cost \$5,000,000, less than half of what was spent last year, Hon. Mr. Macaulay told them, but he did not believe that "the Wardens wanted the department to stop altogether," or

that road programs be abolished entirely, "for that would only add to distress and confusion of this period of depression."

"Counties have been postponing consideration of programs for a time," he said. "But there are some who can step in now, who are in good financial condition. I understand there are ten counties who have no debenture debt. Those are the ones who should be doing something for themselves and the Government if they are to engage in a moderate program."

In proposing a Provincial Highway Commission, Dr. Wodehouse suggested that "such a central administration should be non-political and of a similar nature and possessing similar powers to the successfully operating Hydro Commission."

"All present county debentures should be taken over by the Commission," he said. "The total cost of maintenance, administration and even construction, will be materially reduced on account of elimination of duplicate equipment and overhead of personnel. In this way inequalities necessitated by key cities such as Niagara Falls, Hamilton, Windsor, To-

ronto and Ottawa, where so many trunk lines converge and are necessary, would be given a proper Provincial spread as to levy being imposed on the traffic, on the basis of gas, engine power and traffic licenses."

"An Eastern Ontario engineer's office," he said further, "could carry out all the requirements of nine to twelve counties under an Ontario Provincial Commission, having a ten-year program and free of local patronage and interference. The townships, villages, towns and cities could do what they like inside their own boundaries with any remaining roads not included in the Provincial Highway Commission's designated system."

"Too many people have been building roads in the same jurisdiction," Dr. Wodehouse declared. "Some one has said the municipalities must have autonomy. The less autonomy we have in administration by small groups of inexperienced laymen on a part-time basis of elective memberships to Councils and committees, the better."

Premier Henry, in an address opening the afternoon session, suggested a "pay-as-you-go policy of highway development," and declared that, although the Government did not want to interfere with county road development, "I have to put the brakes on once in a while." "We must not mortgage the future too much," he said, and added that he agreed with the counties that their road-building projects are to be "sane and moderate."

Hon. Mr. Macaulay also stressed "a sane and sensible program" in his closing address to the conference. "Knowing what we are facing, we should be permitted to develop a sound, sane and sensible program for 1932," he declared.

SUMMER COURSES ARE CURTAILED

However, Usual August Examinations Will Be Held

Premier George S. Henry, as Minister of Education, announced yesterday that, in the interests of economy, there has been a curtailment in the number of summer courses being offered this year. If a sufficient number apply for admission, the following courses leading to certificates will be given:

1. Agriculture, at Guelph: (a) Elementary; (b) Intermediate; (c) Specialist; (d) Farm Mechanics. At Kemptville, for the Elementary Certificate only.
2. Art, at the College of Art, Toronto: (a) Elementary; (b) Supervisor; (c) Specialist. At London, for the Elementary Certificate only.
3. Commercial, at the University of Toronto Schools, Toronto.
4. High School Assistant's, at the Ontario College of Education, Toronto.
5. Vocational School Teachers', at the Ontario Training College for Technical Teachers, Hamilton. Applications for summer courses should be forwarded not later than June 16.

While the usual summer courses in upper school subjects will not be provided this year, there will be the usual August examinations in these subjects at the following centres: Fort William, Kingston, London, North Bay, Ottawa, Toronto, and Windsor. Those eligible to try these examinations are: (a) Teachers who hold professional certificates qualifying them to teach in the schools of Ontario; (b) teachers-in-training at the Provincial Normal Schools.

Those who desire to try the August examinations should write to the Deputy Minister of Education, early in July, for forms of application and copies of the timetable. Applicants should forward their applications to the Deputy Minister not later than July 25.