

Rural Credit

Emergency
legislation

DEBATES,
House of Commons,
1923, Volume 3, page 2338.

CANADA HIGHWAYS ACT:

Honorable GEORGE P. GRAHAM (Minister of Railways) moved that the House go into committee to consider the following resolution:

Resolved, that it is expedient to bring in a measure to provide that the time within which the various provinces of Canada may earn and be paid the sums allotted to the said provinces under the provisions of the Canada Highways Act, chapter fifty-four of the statutes of 1919 be extended for a further period of two years.

Motion agreed to and House went into committee, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

MR. STEVENS: -Would the minister kindly give the reasons for this legislation, also a statement as to what has been expended and how much the various provinces have taken up of their respective quotas?

MR. GRAHAM: -In 1919 an act was passed by the Federal House providing for the payment to the various provinces of \$20,000,000. to aid in the construction of roads. The grant was for a period of five years, which term expires in 1924. It will be necessary, however, for the provinces that are dependent on federal aid to know at this session what aid they can expect in arranging their plans for the years succeeding 1924. Several of the provinces have used up, or will have used up by the end of 1924, the various amounts to which they were entitled under the legislation of 1919. On the other hand, a number of them will not have expended the amounts to which they were entitled. The bill to be based on this resolution will extend the act of 1919 for two years to give those provinces that will not have used up the amount to which they were entitled by the end of 1924 an opportunity, during the next two years, to earn that amount. The amounts practically appropriated for the various provinces under the act of 1919 were as follows:

ALBERTA.....	\$1,477,810.00
BRITISH COLUMBIA.....	1,251,955.00
MANITOBA.....	1,602,265.00
NOVA SCOTIA.....	1,468,720.00
NEW BRUNSWICK.....	1,163,845.00
ONTARIO.....	5,877,275.00
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.....	603,455.00
QUEBEC.....	4,748,420.00
SASKATCHEWAN.....	1,806,255.00

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MR. GRAHAM: -To put it briefly, this resolution is the answer of the government. After full deliberation considering the vast obligations of the Dominion it was thought advisable, and quite just and fair that this act should not be extended further than to allow those provinces which will not have been able to earn their apportionment by the expiration of 1924 to have ample opportunity to earn that portion of

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