

HOW TORIES STRANGLLED THE HIGHWAYS BILL.

In introducing the first bill in 1912, Hon. Frank Cochrane said voluntarily that it provided "that a certain amount of money should be granted to the different Provinces to build and improve highways."

Pressed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier for a more definite statement, Mr. Cochrane said "the money will be divided the same as our subsidies for the different Provinces."

It was this provision—this and nothing more—that was put into the bill by the Senate in 1912 and again in 1913. But, as this would be a stumbling block in the way of the Government using the money for vote getting instead of road building, it was rejected, every Tory in the House voting to kill the Highways Bill rather than have the money expended legitimately by the Provinces.

The Government bills, as printed, did not contain this provision, and Mr. Cochrane even argued for Dominion control of the spending of the money.

Finally, the bona fides of the government professions was tested. On June 5, 1913, the day the Government for the second time refused the Senate amendment, Mr. Carvell, M.P., moved, the House being in Supply, that the sum of \$1,500,000 provided for in the defunct bill be made an ordinary subsidy to the various Provinces for construction or improvement of Highways, so that the money could be given to the Provinces that year.

The motion was wrongly ruled out of order by the Tory chairman and the challenge of Mr. Carvell against that unheard of ruling resulted in a Government majority vote of 4 to 21, killing the Liberal proposal to give the money to the Provinces.

Thus did the Tory majority refuse in the most direct and emphatic manner to allow this money to be voted for good roads in the various Provinces.

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