

at a time when you cannot afford to throw away one dollar.

One of the strong points that was brought forward some time ago when this Bill was first mentioned was the idea of finding work for the soldiers. That has already been discussed, and I will only refer to it briefly. There were many persons who entertained that idea as being a good one. It was hoped that by this means work would be found for the returned soldiers. But we know now, what very few persons in this country knew twelve or eighteen months ago, that the returned soldiers are not going to work on the highways. If you start in to make this expenditure, there is one thing that will happen. The returned soldiers will not take up the work. Where will you get your labour? The wages will be not less than \$3 a day for a man, and it will probably be at least \$6 for a man and a pair of horses. These rates of pay will have to be offered to everybody, and in the Maritime Provinces, so long as work is being done on the highways at these rates, there will not be a farmer in those provinces working on his farm, because on the farm he cannot make half as much. All the farmers will be working on the highways. If you provide this money for expenditure, you will make it practically impossible to obtain farm labour.

I agree with the proposition that a case has not been made out for this Bill. The imposing upon the Dominion of Canada of an expenditure of \$20,000,000 is not justified. We are becoming a little too reckless about millions. There was a time when \$20,000 meant something and probably caused a bigger row than do the \$20,000,000 to-day. But there is a different time coming, and it is not very far away. People are feeling the pinch now. The taxes are increasing, as they must increase, every year and for years to come. It is all very well to say: "Well, this is only one grant of \$20,000,000." But that is a good argument for further grants of as many more millions as you can count, and it would be wise, I think, for this House to declare that, as this is a Bill for the expenditure of a large sum of money, it should be deferred to some other day. For these reasons I am prepared to support the motion for the six-months hoist.

Hon. R. BLAIN: I am in accord with the Bill that is now before the House for discussion. I have always believed, and I believe now, that there is no money which this Government could expend that would be more in the interest of the people, par-

ticularly the agricultural population, than an appropriation to be expended in a proper way upon good roads. The road question, in the province of Ontario particularly, has been one of importance for many years. In the early history of the province there were complaints in respect to the expenditure of money on roads by the Provincial Government, especially in the northern part of the province. It was stated that the money was not well expended. Happily for the province of Ontario, those dark days have passed away. There is now a distinct understanding, among all the people of the province of Ontario at least, that money expended upon good roads makes it easier for the farmer to go to and from market and is money expended in the best interests of the agricultural population. I have great respect for the statements which have been made by my colleagues on the floor of this House, and it may be that in their provinces this sentiment does not prevail. If it does not, may I suggest that the dark days in those provinces will pass away. I do not think it is a strong enough argument to say that this money may not be well expended because other moneys expended upon good roads in those provinces have not been properly expended. That argument should not be sufficient to induce this House to oppose the wise expenditure of money for good roads in all the provinces of Canada. May I read section 3 of the Bill?

(1) For the purpose of constructing and improving highways in Canada the Governor in Council may authorize the payment out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada of the sum of twenty million dollars during the period of five years from the first day of April, one thousand, nine hundred and nineteen.

(2) Subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned, such sum shall be allotted and paid as follows:—

(a) Eighty thousand dollars shall be paid each year to the government of each province;

(b) The remainder of such sum shall be allotted and paid to the governments of the respective provinces in proportion to the populations of the said provinces respectively, as determined by the latest Federal census of each province.

There is fairness about this which ought to appeal to the people of this country, and in my humble opinion it does appeal, and the measure will in my opinion receive the support of the people. I think some of the objections that have been raised are met in this part of the Bill:

The said payments shall be made subject to the following conditions:

(a) Any highway for which aid is granted shall be constructed or improved, as the case may be, in accordance with the terms of an agreement to be made by the minister with the