

making of contracts or anything of that kind; that is all left to the local government.

Mr. PROULX: When speaking on the Budget I urged the Government to go on with this project which I strongly approve. I believe that nothing is more likely to induce people to go back to the land and to stay on the land than good roads. Some hon. members object to this legislation on constitutional grounds. I might say to my hon. friend from Kamouraska (Mr. Lapointe) that some of these roads are becoming interprovincial in character, and I do not see why this Government cannot assist in its construction of highways on the ground that it is for the general advantage of Canada just as much as it has assisted in the past, by way of subsidy, in the building of railroads in the provinces on the same grounds. In sections of the country traffic which was formerly carried by the railways is now carried over the highways by motor trucks, especially in districts close to market centres. So the construction of highways, as my hon. friend from Peterborough has said, will be of benefit not only to the farmers but to city dwellers as well, because they will be brought into closer contact with the producers. In this way good roads may be a factor in reducing the cost of living, and of getting the products of the farm to the consumer in a more satisfactory way. A few years ago this Government voted money and provided for its distribution to the provinces to aid in promoting agriculture. Now good roads are connected with agriculture, and I see no more objection to giving money to the provinces to help in the building of roads than to help in the promoting of agriculture. Only to-night we passed a Bill respecting technical education. We may say that technical education is a provincial matter, but nevertheless this Government intends to spend large sums of money to encourage technical education throughout the country. So I can see no objection on constitutional grounds to the voting of this money providing this Government is reasonable with the provinces, and does not impose conditions which they would not care to accept. The Government can very well trust the provinces. I would impose as one condition that the provinces must spend some money. That, I see, has been provided for; the provinces have to spend at least 60 per cent to get the other 40 per cent. I do not think that this money should be spent only on main trunk roads. The province of Ontario, for instance, is build-

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

ing a road from the eastern limit of the province to the western, to be called a provincial road. It will have two branches, one from Ottawa to Prescott, and the other from Niagara to Toronto or Hamilton. Another road which I think should be subsidized is the road from Ottawa to Montreal, which is an interprovincial road. I think that all roads connecting important towns should come under this grant, and then the money would be more conveniently distributed and a larger proportion of the population would benefit. However, we shall have an opportunity to discuss the details when the Bill is in Committee, so I will now only say that I approve of the principle of spending this \$20,000,000 on highways within five years. I should like to ask the minister if he intends to distribute this \$20,000,000 at the rate of \$4,000,000 a year or more?

Mr. J. D. REID: The money will be distributed as fast as the provinces construct the roads.

Mr. ARGUE: Will the provinces have the privilege of locating these roads where they choose?

Mr. J. D. REID: That is a matter for agreement. The provinces will prepare their plans for the roads, and I do not anticipate any difficulty between the provinces and the Dominion over the location. What the Dominion Government is concerned about is seeing that the money is expended in accordance with the agreement made. All that we ask is that the contract be carried out and the road built, whether it is to cost \$2,000 or \$5,000 or \$10,000, in accordance with the specifications. There might be a disagreement in the matter of the location of roads but as the provinces will have a better idea as to the best course to adopt in this respect, no doubt in nine cases out of ten their suggestions will be acted upon.

Mr. ARGUE: Will the provinces have the privilege of using this money in districts other than those along the main highway? Or is the money provided for the main highway only?

Mr. J. D. REID: An agreement must be entered into between the provincial government and the Dominion Government. I take it that the hon. member's question is: Will the Dominion Government dictate as to where the roads shall be? No; neither will the provincial government dictate.