

ment, not earmarked for roads or schools or any particular purpose but by way of an increase in the provincial subsidy in order that every province should have full control of the money handed to it. According to the British North America Act each province has full jurisdiction within its borders, while the federal government has jurisdiction only when a matter affects two or more provinces. That principle of law is well known not only to every lawyer but to any man who has made some study of constitutional matters. If we have a trans-Canada highway in which the federal government is interested, it should be built by the federal government alone. But, on the other hand, if the federal government is not interested, then each province should build its own share of the highway. At the present time most of the provinces have their own road policy, and I believe that each province should have complete control of its roads. I do not see how the federal government can give money to the provinces for the building of roads. If the provinces require money for some purpose or other and the provincial subsidy is not enough, the federal government should come to the rescue of the province and increase the subsidy, and if the subsidy of one province is increased, the subsidy of all provinces should be increased in proportion. May I ask the minister to be kind enough to let me know if he will consider the suggestion that I made this afternoon with regard to a complete inventory of the unemployed?

Mr. NICHOLSON: The attacks made by my hon. friend from Temiscouata on the trans-Canada highway, and particularly that section in the district from which I come were of such a character that I feel they cannot be allowed to pass without some remarks from a representative of that part of the country.

In the first place I would say that no contribution could be made by the dominion and the provinces of Canada that would tend to so great an extent to knit all the provinces together and to develop the whole country as a contribution to the trans-Canada highway. It will be a means by which the citizens of Prince Edward Island in the east can motor across Canada on Canadian soil all the way to the west coast, and vice versa.

Frankly I was amazed at the parochialism of my hon. friend in his references not only to the trans-Canada highway but also to a part of this country about which he apparently knows nothing whatever. If his remarks had not been made in the House of Commons one would not have paid any attention to them,

[Mr. Pouliot.]

but going out to the people of this country and to the world outside of Canada as uttered by a member of the House of Commons, they are deserving of some consideration.

With reference to that section of the trans-Canada highway where a very considerable amount of construction work will be necessary to build the road, that is that section in northern Ontario, that part of Canada lying between the Ottawa river and the boundary line of Manitoba, the manifest lack of knowledge of that country that my hon. friend discloses is such that one can scarcely imagine a man in public life anywhere would go out of his way to the extent my hon. friend has done to belittle a part of Canada in which you could lose the settled portions of Ontario and of Quebec combined. Lying north of the height of land in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, in my hon. friend's province and in the province in which I happen to live, there is more arable land than is now under cultivation in the whole of the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. There are today more farmers in the district of Nipissing, represented by my hon. friend from Sudbury (Mr. Hurtubise) than there are in the county of Temiscouata. There are more farmers in South Timiskaming, represented by the hon. Minister of Labour, than there are in the county of Temiscouata. There are more farmers in East Algoma or in West Algoma than there are in the county of Temiscouata, and these farmers, many of them, are of my hon. friend's own race, a happy, contented people, helping to develop this country. Ultimately the tens of thousands of farmers who will yet go into that country will make it a greater farming area than the settled portions of Quebec and Ontario combined.

It is true that there are rocks in northern Ontario; it is true that there are lakes in northern Ontario; it is true that there are mines in northern Ontario. But I would point out to my hon. friend that northern Ontario produced more new wealth in the past ten years than all the rest of the province of Ontario, to say nothing of the province of Quebec—new wealth in the form of minerals, agricultural produce, timber, pulp and paper, and the baser metals.

With regard to the work that has been done on the trans-Canada highway, my hon. friend referred to the fact that there had been blasting of rocks on the north shore of lake Superior. It might surprise my hon. friend to know that there has not been one dollar spent on the north shore of lake Superior. Where blasting was done was on the stretch