

own province which I know most about, I have had some experience of the building of roads by the provincial Government, and I know the province is doing everything it can to improve the roads, but the province has not the means to meet one-tenth of the demands. Any assistance that is given by the federal Government in this direction will be most welcome. In my opinion every dollar of this money ought to be expended under the supervision of the Dominion Government; to my mind there is no question about that. If you hand the money over to a province the money may be spent on improving roads or it may not, and some guarantee ought to be held by Parliament as to its proper expenditure. The late Liberal Government created a precedent in my own province for building roads, and why do these gentlemen opposite now object to this Government helping the settlers in the same way? I cannot understand the action of the Opposition. I may say frankly that I thought so much of the policy of the present Government and of the precedent set by hon. gentlemen opposite when in power, that I made application a year ago to the Government to build some roads in the northern part of my county, between lake Winnipeg and lake Manitoba, which district is rapidly being settled. The Manitoba Government is not able to cope with the condition of affairs there at the present time. The settlers have come miles and miles through the bush or over water to get to the settlements and I asked this Government a year ago to provide money to build colonization roads, just as the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) when he was Prime Minister, built similar roads. One of the most popular moves this Government could make is to give facilities to the poor settlers going into that country to bring their produce to markets over decent roads. I most strenuously object to the argument of hon. gentlemen on the other side that this money should be allocated according to population. I hold that every dollar of this money should be spent where it is needed most. In the newer provinces we need more money spent on our roads than they do in the older provinces, and I believe we should get the major portion of this grant.

Mr. GUTHRIE: There is some misapprehension as to the manner in which this money is to be expended. I was under the impression until the Minister of Railways spoke a moment ago that the intention was to expend the money largely in the unorganized portions of the Dominion, so as to afford greater facilities to the agricultural population than they have heretofore enjoyed. In that view, I do not know that I would have very great opposition to offer

Mr. BRADBURY.

to the measure. I would inform my hon. friend from Selkirk (Mr. Bradbury) that he entirely misapprehends the attitude of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House upon the question. We are not opposed to the measure, we are trying to improve the measure; we are trying to make it workable and more equitable as between the provinces. But when the Minister of Railways announced that he thought this money might be expended on a trunk road from Windsor to Quebec it rather shocked me because that means an automobile road purely and simply.

Mr. COCHRANE: I did not say it would be expended on such a road; I said it might be.

Mr. GUTHRIE: That must have been what the minister had in his mind or he would not have said so, and that being the case the money is not going to be expended in giving facilities to the settlers in the more remote portions of the country. I have all along thought that that might be the method of expenditure, because there is an outcry in the older and more settled and richer portions of Canada for automobile roads. People who have automobiles want good roads and for that worthy and influential class of our citizens a trunk line from Windsor to the city of Quebec would be a splendid thing. I think the minister should let us distinctly understand whether it is his intention to spend the money that way or to spend it in colonization and development in giving settlers in the more remote sections of the country access to our towns and markets as was originally intended.

Mr. COCHRANE: That would be one object.

Mr. GUTHRIE: My hon. friend from Selkirk thinks this is going to be spent in the northern portion of his riding. I thought that some of it would be spent in the northern portions of Ontario which today are not well served with roads, and so in the case of the other provinces. The minister should make it clear that his intention is not to build trunk lines for automobilists throughout the older and more settled portions of the Dominion. I am not opposed to the expenditure of the money, provided it is put on a proper basis. If it is given to the provinces as subsidies, ear-marked for expenditure on highways and bridges, all well and good. If it is given on any other basis, it is simply a gold brick to the province of Ontario. We have in population the largest province. Ontario pays more taxes in proportion to its population than any other province. I worked the figures out a year ago, I think it was in connection with the Manitoba Boundary Bill. If you do not distribute the money pro rata