

resolution preceding this bill; I have not that with me at the present time but I have sent for it. I asked how many dollars had been voted last year in connection with this fund. It was largely a civic problem. In 1936 an act similar to this one was introduced, under which the province was to contribute one-third, the federal government one-third and the municipalities one-third, to provide employment, and under that act in the province of Quebec, Three Rivers got a court house, gaols and roadways, while the city of Montreal got parks and public driveways, and many other municipalities got educational buildings of all kinds. But Ontario, under the leadership of a popular premier of that day did not get one cent of assistance for its municipalities. If we are to have this form of assistance let us have equality of treatment for all the provinces. This legislation is to assist the municipalities with what might broadly be called local improvements, such as waterworks systems and many other forms of municipal ownership, necessary and useful works which the municipalities cannot finance themselves. I believe the time is coming when there will have to be liberal treatment for the municipalities, and particularly there should be equality of treatment.

I had a return brought down to show what was done under the previous act and I found that, while various municipalities in Quebec and other provinces got assistance, municipalities in Ontario got nothing. I could not find one dollar of assistance for Ontario in the return I got ten days ago. I do not say that municipalities out west should not have received assistance; far from it; I am glad that they got assistance, but we ought to have equality of treatment for all the provinces. The time is coming when there will have to be further aid to municipalities. It was always understood at confederation that the principle underlying the giving of these grants under the British North America Act to the provinces was that the provinces should help to maintain the municipal institutions. Oliver Mowat once said that the provinces are only glorified city councils. But when the provinces get these subsidy grants under the British North America Act they do not give the municipalities anything. They just go ahead and spend the money themselves and the municipalities get nothing.

Here is a return that was brought down, under the act now before us, in reply to this question which I asked during this session:

What loans, listed by provinces, have been made to municipalities in Canada by the government towards the cost of self-liquidating

municipal works and projects under R.S.C. 1938, Chapter 33, "An Act to assist municipalities in making self-liquidating improvements?"

I find that Greater Vancouver water district got \$750,000; Vancouver city \$390,000; Saanich, \$40,000; Prince George, \$25,000; Nanaimo, \$200,000, Grand Forks, \$11,000; or a total for British Columbia, \$1,416,635.

I come now to Alberta. Edmonton got \$150,000; and two other amounts of \$7,000 and \$36,000; Lethbridge got \$100,000. I believe that politics was mixed up in some of these cases. In fact everything voted in this house has politics in it because politics is the science of government. Municipalities which feel that they cannot get along come to Ottawa for assistance. I was saying a moment ago that in the province of my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works they had court houses and schools and roads built.

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): Does the hon. member mean under this legislation?

Mr. CHURCH: Yes; it is the same principle under the act passed a few years ago.

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): I wish to tell my hon. friend that in the province of Quebec we do not build court houses or roads with federal money.

Mr. CHURCH: With all due respect, I think I know something about this thing.

Mr. FOURNIER (Hull): Not as much as I do.

Mr. CHURCH: I got a return of unemployment relief projects in 1938-1939. Quebec got millions, Ontario nothing, of works built by federal aid. You got court houses and roads and parks and all that kind of thing under the former act. For the benefit of the minister I will continue reading about the assistance given to Alberta under the act now before us. Medicine Hat received \$26,000; Calgary, \$21,000, \$8,000, \$37,000, \$82,000 and \$46,000; Grande Prairie, \$50,000; Wetaskiwin, \$26,000. Alberta received a total of \$591,318.73.

I come now to Saskatchewan. Regina received \$60,000; Prince Albert, \$75,000; Moose Jaw, \$200,000; Melfort, \$40,000; Saskatoon, \$13,000; Yorkton, \$24,000; Canora, \$3,000; Pelley, \$6,000; Melville, \$4,300; Regina, \$140,000. We have municipalities in Ontario that would like a hand-out like this. But the Ontario taxpayer has to pay for it all. Under this act there should be equality of treatment, because this money is paid out of direct taxation and the two provinces contributing most to pay for these improvements are the two central provinces. Saskatchewan received a total of \$566,200.