

40 per cent, 60 per cent having to be supplied by the provincial government, the province was forced to build a road that was not warranted at our stage of development. I for one did not accept that grant, but after I came to Ottawa the money was spent by the provincial government at a later stage in the development of the province. I say that the principle is wrong. Education is a matter within the control of the provinces and I do not think the federal government should interfere with matters of education within the provinces. Highways are directly under control of the provincial governments, and to my mind the federal government should not step into these fields and, as I have pointed out, frequently involve the provinces in expenditures that they are not in a position to meet. We ought to hold to the fields of responsibility which were designed for us. I am thoroughly in accord with the view of my leader that if we are to take over some of the responsibilities of the provinces we should take them over in their entirety, administer them, use the revenue and pay everything. Any such proposal, however, should be very carefully considered before definite action is taken.

Another vicious principle has been adopted by various parties requiring public support. They try to outdo each other in order to gain public support by offering baits to the provinces to secure the necessary votes to place them in office. That is my chief complaint in respect to this matter. If the taking over of the old age pensions is a responsibility of the federal government, all well and good. I believe that the present government have stated that they intend to pay practically 100 per cent of old age pensions. Undoubtedly this government cannot continuously pass to the provinces this money for expenditure when they intend to meet practically to the extent of 100 per cent the cost of old age pensions. In connection with the building of a national highway I think the words of Hon. Mr. Dunning were eminently fair last session when he stated that, in view of the responsibilities which have been saddled upon a federal government with respect to transportation in the operation of canals, railways, air mail services and new services developed throughout Canada, we should wait for a time before embarking upon a national highway system, particularly in view of the fact that the provinces are in receipt of revenues from gasoline taxes which they are applying to highway construction.

I think we would do well, Mr. Speaker, to keep to our own field, and to control every

dollar of taxation we raise. If in their wisdom the federal government decide to construct a national highway, then it should take over the project and make some arrangement with the provinces to pay for wear and tear which will develop. I wish to reiterate that the holding out of the prospect of such grants as this, often results in serious embarrassment to the provinces, which may be forced to move faster than they otherwise would. For that reason I think that the principle of making grants without serious consideration is one which should not be continued.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I ask permission of the house to place on Hansard in the form of a table the various figures to which I have referred. I think it would be convenient for hon. members to have the table before them. Also may I give the correct figures concerning subsidies to provinces, which I now have:

Subsidies to Provinces		
Subsidies	1920-1921	1930-1931
(1931 estimated)		\$140,472,652
Special subsidies to maritime provinces (including 1931)		6,440,000
Total		\$146,912,652

Motion (Mr. Guthrie) agreed to and the house went into committee of supply, Mr. MacDonald (Cape Breton South) in the chair.

SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

For investigation of mineral resources and deposits; of the mining and metallurgical industries, and of mineral technology; wages, expenses of testing and research laboratories, investigations by Dominion Fuel Board, including salaries and all other expenses, \$300,000.

For publications, English and French, purchase of books, laboratory supplies, instruments, miscellaneous assistance and contingencies, \$50,000.

To compensate J. H. Fortune for quarters, fuel, light and water supplied him as resident caretaker of the Mines branch building, Sussex street, vacated because of the necessity of utilizing the caretaker's quarters for storage and laboratory space, \$100.—Total, \$350,100.

Mr. COOTE: I should like to know where the work involved in this item is carried on.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Mines): This is to provide for work carried on by the Mines branch in the city of Ottawa. They carry on very wide investigations into mining in all its branches. In fact from my experience I very much doubt if there are any better equipped laboratories of their size on