

the Provincial legislatures the disposition, under the recognized parliamentary safeguards, of the money so received.

For the Dominion, because it has the money to do so, to enter upon the field of action reserved for the Provinces, would necessarily tend towards the disruption of the very basis of Confederation.

At the time the bill was introduced there was a bye-election in the riding of South Renfrew, and platform supporters of the Borden Government, under the general leadership of Hon. Mr. Cochrane, indicated to the electors in the widely separated communities which compose that riding, the prospect of handsome expenditures on the highways at the hands of the Ottawa government. **As a matter of fact, sufficient promises were made by Tory heelers in this election to spend half of the total Good Roads vote for roads in Renfrew South, provided, of course, the Tory candidate was elected.** The Liberal candidate, Hon. Geo. P. Graham, was nevertheless elected.

THE BILL IN PARLIAMENT.

In the course of the debates on the bill, the Liberal parliamentary party took a firm stand against any invasion by the Dominion Government of the Provincial field. The Borden Government, however, insisted that while the money might be divided according to the population of the Provinces, **the expenditure of it must be left under its own absolute and exclusive control.**

WHAT THE SENATE DID.

The Senate, by the action of its Liberal majority, twice affirmed its willingness to pass the measure, commending the intention to devote considerable sums to the improvement of highways, but always upon condition that the expenditure of money upon objects recognized to be within the Provincial function and outside the Dominion function should be left to the initiative and responsibility of the Provincial legislatures.

The Senate's amendments in this sense were twice refused by the Borden Government and its majority support in the House of Commons, whose object and intention plainly was that the power and patronage incidental to the performance of this purely Provincial work should be kept in their own hands.