

Mr. McISAAC: We have a ferry, but even with the ferry we could not have a continuous highway from ocean to ocean.

An hon. MEMBER: You could use aeroplanes.

Mr. McISAAC: Well, that would not be a highway either; that would be flying in the air. The Government of the province from which I come are satisfied to enter into an arrangement with the Federal Government under which, as is provided in this proposition, they shall receive forty per cent of this money to spend upon their highways and upon the improvement of their roads. They wish to improve the trunk roads leading to important centres; they desire to build or improve roads reaching the villages and towns, so that the farmers may have the advantage of good roads over which to haul their products. Certainly this is a proper and laudable arrangement in the matter of road-making. I am quite prepared to support this resolution in order that the province from which I come may have the benefit of obtaining, from the Federal Government, that percentage of the expenditure upon roads which the Federal Government are prepared to grant.

Mr. CAHILL: What kind of agreement does the minister expect to make with the provinces? I want to know, for instance, whether a township in my constituency, provided they can get a grant from the Provincial Government for the construction or improvements of roads, say, in the back sections of the country, can participate in this grant.

Mr. J. D. REID: I cannot tell the hon. member whether any particular township would benefit from this legislation; it will be up to the provinces to suggest what kind of roads they want and where they wish to lay them out. The suggestion referred to by the hon. member for King's, P.E.I. (Mr. McIsaac) that it is the intention to build a highway from ocean to ocean is, of course, out of the question; there never was any such intention on the part of the Dominion Government. If this Bill passes, representatives from the provinces will be called together and asked to produce plans showing what roads they intend to construct, and an agreement will be entered into under which the Dominion Government will pay forty per cent of the amount expended. It might not be advisable that a straight road be built through a province at a cost of \$10,000 a mile; the province might want to

build cheaper roads with a view to getting greater benefit from the expenditure. But if Ontario decided to build roads costing \$10,000 a mile, it would be for the province and the Dominion Government to agree on the location, and we would pay forty per cent of the cost. As to the province of Quebec, I do not think there will be any difficulty in agreeing with the Provincial Government as to where this money should be expended. The Provincial Governments are to expend the money, but we want inspectors to see that the roads are built in accordance with the specifications set out in the agreement between the Minister of Railways and the Government of the province.

The object of this Bill is to provide good roads and to give better transportation facilities. In my opinion good roads will benefit the rural population more than any other class of the community. It will benefit the city dwellers, of course, by bringing the rural population into closer contact with them. Any one who has travelled throughout the United States and seen their good roads must have realized what a great benefit they were to the people of that country. The Government at Washington stands in the same position to the state legislature as we do to the provincial governments in regard to highways, but nevertheless, the federal government at Washington is aiding very largely in the construction and improvement of highways throughout the country, for the reason, first, that the construction of roads throughout the country involves such a tremendous cost, and second as they are considered to be for the general advantage of the country, it is felt that the central government should assist. That is the way I look at this matter; I believe it will be of great advantage to the Dominion as a whole to have these roads constructed at the earliest possible date.

Mr. CAHILL: What is the objection to this Government simply handing this money over to the provinces on the understanding that they get their per capita share in proportion to what they spend?

Mr. J. D. REID: That is exactly what we are doing. All we ask is that the work shall be carried out in accordance with the agreement that we make. Money is being granted to the provinces for other purposes, and an agreement is made in every case. Surely there should be no objection to our seeing that the money is properly expended. We are not asking to have anything to do with the construction of the road, or the