

Mr. EDWARDS: We voted money for educational purposes when we passed the Bill to aid agricultural instruction. What is that but education?

Mr. McKENZIE: But there is to be dual jurisdiction here.

Mr. EDWARDS: Quite so, just as we have dual jurisdiction in respect of the moneys which we voted for agricultural purposes. It is quite true that the money belongs to the people, but the responsibility for voting that money devolves upon us, and we have a right to follow that responsibility up and say how that money shall be expended.

Section agreed to.

Progress reported.

GOOD ROADS.

AID TO PROVINCES FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION.

House again in Committee on a certain proposed resolution to provide for the construction and improvement of highways in Canada—Hon. Mr. Reid—Mr. Boivin in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: The resolution may be found in the Votes and Proceedings of February 20.

Mr. MAHARG: I made reference to this matter during the course of the debate on the Address. In Western Canada we are more in need of railroads at this time than of highways. Highways would be all very well if we were supplied with railroads in proportion to the mileage in the other parts of Canada, but we are not. It has been shown before the Railway Committee during this session that people out there are drawing their grain anywhere from twenty-five to fifty or sixty miles over very crude roads; the distances are so great that it is practically impossible to provide improved roads in all cases. The highways proposed to be constructed under this Bill will be automobile roads; they will not be so constructed that settlers can use them for transporting their grain and other products. They will link up the larger centres; they will not contribute to the convenience of those who have to team their heavy products long distances. For that reason I am strongly opposed to the adoption of this resolution.

Some method should be found of treating the long stretches of clay belts in the western country with a view to improving

transportation facilities. For a distance of forty, fifty or sixty miles you will find a stretch of country which is pure clay and where no sand or gravel is obtainable. Before any elaborate scheme is launched some experiment should be made with a view to seeing whether some kind of treatment cannot be applied to these clay belts with a view to increasing highway facilities, because the building of roads with gravel in those sections would cost very much more than would similar roads in other parts of the country. We have been endeavouring during this session to persuade the Minister of Railways (Mr. J. D. Reid) to extend our railroads in the Western country. He has been very good in many ways, but if he has several million dollars to contribute to our province for the improvement of our transportation facilities, that money would be much better spent in the extension of railroads into the districts which are not now adequately served. Scores of settlements are in that position, and it would be wise, at least for the time being, to vote this money for purposes which would be more beneficial to us in the West than the building of these highways would be.

Mr. J. D. REID: The hon. member is right in saying that the West is entitled to more railroads than it has, but I say to him here what I have said to him privately: That the Canadian National Railway Company are constructing all the railways in the West that they can possibly go ahead with during the present year, having regard to labour conditions and to the number of ties that can be obtained for the purpose. So that if we proceed with the construction of highways, that will not interfere in any way with the construction of railways in the West. The Canadian Pacific are also constructing lines in the West; perhaps they should be doing more than they are doing—as to that, I do not know.

In Eastern Canada, I believe, there is nothing that the people require more than good highways, but I do not agree with the hon. member that the same are not required in the West. Certainly there is nothing more important to the farmer of Eastern Canada than good highways, and I do not think it is fair for hon. members from the West to oppose this great improvement. As a member of this House and as a member of the Government I am prepared to do everything I can to bring population to the West and to provide the West with railways and good roads, and when we are doing that, I think it is unfair for my hon. friend to put forward every effort against