

Mr. CARDIN: No. But there are many undertakings all over Canada to which provincial governments do not contribute, although the importance of the expenditure is very strongly pressed upon us.

Mr. BENNETT: Oh yes.

Mr. CARDIN: In this case, as I have pointed out, the legislature has passed a strong resolution requesting that the expenditure be made.

Mr. HEAPS: Has the Department of Public Works undertaken an investigation of the subject-matter of this proposed expenditure?

Mr. CARDIN: Yes, we have a report from the engineers as to the cost.

Mr. HEAPS: Not the cost—the necessity.

Mr. CARDIN: As to the necessity, we have been largely governed by the representations made to the government by the legislature of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. BROOKS: Any province would urge that.

Mr. CARDIN: We have investigated the cost of the proposal, and according to information supplied to me by the departmental engineers, it will cost \$240,000 to establish the harbour at Wood Islands. I think we should give some consideration to representations based on the fact that this ferry will help very materially tourist traffic; it is going to be more convenient to reach the park, and a larger number of tourists is expected on account of the better facilities that will be provided by the new ferry. Besides, I do not think anybody can successfully deny that at the present time the farmers of the island are poorly provided with facilities to sell their produce on the mainland. The present ferry is far from being adequate; it costs them more than it should cost, and there is a long delay, so that most of them cannot advantageously visit the mainland to dispose of their products. But with this new ferry, according to representations received by the department, there will be much better facilities for the farmers of Prince Edward Island to dispose by means of their own trucks, of their produce on the mainland. In my opinion we are justified in asking parliament to vote this expenditure to meet the request made by the provincial legislature, based on these two particular considerations, namely, helping to develop a greater tourist traffic on the island, and giving greater facilities to its farmers to dispose of their products over in Nova Scotia.

Mr. MacNICOL: Would the minister tell us the tonnage of the boat that will serve as the ferry?

Mr. CARDIN: That has not been considered yet. All we have been asked for is to provide a place where the boat can dock. In this estimate we are not providing for the boat itself.

Mr. BROOKS: Do that later!

Mr. CARDIN: We are only providing a landing place for the boat. I can assure the house that the expenditure will not be undertaken unless the province or a private company undertakes seriously to establish a ferry which will be satisfactory and will meet the requirements. It is not our intention to spend this amount of money on building a wharf or landing place for a ferry without communicating with the provincial government and ascertaining that a ferry is going to be established, and that there will be a guarantee that the service will be continued for a number of years at least.

Mr. STIRLING: Supposing the legislature sends to the minister a resolution?

Mr. CARDIN: I am not bound to accept the resolution.

Mr. SPENCE: I had the pleasure of being in Charlottetown last fall at a dominion good roads convention, and I met a number of the important people of the island at the hotel.

An hon. MEMBER: Were they all there?

Mr. SPENCE: Pretty nearly all were there; there are not so many on the island. I do not know why people make so much of a place like Prince Edward Island, although it is lovely and the people very hospitable—never in my life did I meet better. But let it be understood, contrary to what my hon. friend has said, that the people did not expect to receive this service; they only hoped they might get it. I know this because I discussed it with many of them. Naturally, like the inhabitants of every other small place, they are out for everything they can get. It has been said that my honoured leader was unpopular in the island, but nothing has been said about their appreciation of what he has done. I met the most important people who were there—

An hon. MEMBER: Naturally.

Mr. SPENCE: —and we had a good time too; everybody was delighted with the fine road that was constructed while my leader was in power from Borden to Charlottetown, and from there to the sea. I can hardly believe the statement as to the number of