

improvement of public highways. It is a very laudable and necessary thing to do. I admit that it might, under proper and prudent guidance, be a blessing to the Dominion to devote a portion of our surplus to improving the public highways, but in a manner different to the one proposed. Last year the government, in the inception of the scheme, outlined the course that was to be taken and clearly intimated that the money should be spent per capita and in conjunction with the local authorities who should be asked to join the Minister of Public Works in carrying out the project. These terms we were fairly well prepared to accept, but when the Bill came down it completely committed the expenditure of the money to the Minister of Public Works of Canada. If the money should be expended that way we will have two, or possibly three, classes of road builders in Canada. Who is going to take care of these roads after they are built? Will it be the Dominion, or the municipalities, or the provinces? If an accident should occur through the destruction of a bridge on one of these Dominion roads who will be responsible for damages? Will it be the county where the accident occurred? They will not be responsible. They did not build the road or control it. Will it be the province? They have nothing to do with it. They were not consulted about the building of the line and would naturally claim that they could not be held responsible. Will the Dominion have to assume the responsibility? No doubt a large amount of repairing will be necessary from year to year. Within seven miles of the town where I live, no less than six or seven bridges were swept away last spring by floods, some on county roads and some on municipal highways. Now if these roads and bridges were under the control of the Dominion, having been built by them, the Dominion would have to take charge of the re-building of those bridges. Who is going to do all this? Would it not be much better to hand over the money to the provinces, distributing it per capita, and let them expend it as they think best for the good and convenience of the people and let them be responsible for any necessary repairs.

I notice in the Premier's remarks regarding the course of the Senate on the question of this Bill, he said he hoped the Senate would keep their unholy hands off the Bill this session. It would have been better had the Premier kept these words to himself. There is no desire, as far as I know, to do anything unreasonable, unjust or unholy with any Bill that is sent for our consideration, and I think with all the wisdom with which he is blessed—and he has shown it since he has become Premier—he should have avoided making use of such an expression.

With regard to naval aid, I shall keep an open mind upon the whole question until the Bill comes down. I am one of those who are thoroughly British. I appreciate my connection with the British Empire and am willing to do anything to encourage the hearts and hold up the hands of that empire. I want to recognize with a feeling of gratitude the kindness that she has shown us and the treatment we have received at her hands and to meet with any reasonable request that she might make. I admire her course, as I have endeavoured to outline in my humble effort before this House for many years, and I hope that we will continue to be under the protection of that noble flag, the Union Jack, that carries harmony and protection into every corner of the empire. It has been a blessing to the world, and a decided advantage to us.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—What about sacrificing all our territorial rights?

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—I am not in a condition of health to be worried even by a man of the hon. gentleman's stamp and decline to answer. While we are considering the question of aid to England, there are some very important territorial questions that we should consider at the same time with the establishment of a navy. We have a great deal of undeveloped territory. I am glad that the Hudson Bay road is under construction, and I hope it will be continued until we reach that immense body of water that lies to the north of us, which certainly should be turned to some good account. It is no less than eighteen times as large as Lake Superior, containing 540,000 square miles.