

a portion of it has been declared by the province of Ontario, moneys have been expended and the work is proceeding to completion. There is no doubt in my mind that work on roads in northern Ontario will be continued as the exchequer of the province will permit. The resolution before the committee contemplates advances being made to the provinces for general relief. If any of the provinces present plans to which we are called upon to subscribe, then we will inquire to see, in so far as we are charged with that responsibility, that the money is expended in such a way as to give the greatest possible relief to the greatest number.

Mr. HEENAN: I agree that relief must be granted, but an opportunity is presented which, if taken advantage of, will prove to be an asset to the country. I do not think these highways can be built under the plans suggested by the Ontario Minister of Lands and Forests. It would have been better for the country and better for the unemployed had this work been commenced last summer and continued through last winter and the coming summer and fall. The men would have been able to work in greater comfort, and the country would have derived a greater benefit. The Minister of Justice has told us not to take press reports too seriously, and I shall not do so when considering the reported announcement of the provincial minister. The Minister of Labour, who has some knowledge of conditions in northern Ontario, must realize that it is not proper or profitable to commence building highways in the middle of winter and then shut down for the summer time. I hope he will take this matter into consideration, because the Prime Minister said he was looking for suggestions before framing the bill so that it could be framed in accordance with the expressed wish of hon. members. I hope the Prime Minister will see that these different pieces of highway now constructed will be linked up to provide continuous communication in northern Ontario.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I should like to support the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan) in his plea for the continuance of work on highways already commenced. I do not intend to deal with any specific highway or discuss a route for the trans-Canada highway, or anything of that character. I know something of the work which has been started, and I know something of what has been accomplished. There are large sections of highway in northern Ontario which I take for granted will be incorporated into the trans-Canada highway when it is

finally put through. Camps have been constructed, equipment has been purchased, large amounts have been expended, and this highway work could be continued to provide relief for the unemployed. However, I disagree with my hon. friend when he states that the country did not get a return for the money expended. I know that there was much accomplished during the winter months and without any suffering on the part of the men engaged in the work. It is not an uncommon thing for men in northern Ontario to be working out in the woods, on highways or elsewhere during the winter; they are accustomed to that kind of work. It is just like carrying on railroad construction work during the winter. The men had comfortable camps, good beds and food, and everything that was required. The camps are still there, and I urge as strongly as possible that the unemployed be allowed to carry on at least with the work already commenced. I cannot conceive of any other way by which greater relief would be provided. I agree with my hon. friend in his comments on the newspaper report about putting men in the camps at five dollars per month with board. It would be not only an absurd, but a dangerous thing to do. If you attempted to put a number of men into those camps at five dollars a month, you would receive no return in the way of work. It is amazing the spirit that the workmen in that section of the country have displayed all through the recent trying period; they are ready to carry on under relief conditions, and wherever that situation exists we should give work instead of direct relief. It is work the men want, if it is possible to provide it and at the same time perform a useful service. I agree fully with what my hon. friend has said; I know of no contribution we can make to the development of this country that will give a greater return than the construction of highways that induce tourists to traverse all parts of Canada that can be opened up for them.

Mr. POULIOT: I agree with some parts of what the hon. member for East Algoma has said. It is better to give work to the unemployed than to give them direct relief. As to that we are in accord, and we are also in accord that it is a good thing to provide work for the unemployed in northern Ontario. I do not blame the minister for the child left on his doorstep by his predecessor, but the building of a trans-Canada highway was one of those silly promises made during the last election. It is absurd because that highway is competing with our railways. On the one