

economically to haul his wheat to the station? At the present time it costs the average farmer more to haul his wheat to the station than it does to haul it from the station to the head of the Great Lakes.

If honourable gentlemen will refer to this afternoon's issue of the Ottawa Journal they will see it stated that there are to-day 8,000 unemployed in the city of Winnipeg alone. Before I left Winnipeg the Premier of Manitoba was proposing to build roads as soon as possible, if this Bill were passed, realizing that there was an unemployment situation which could not be met unless such undertakings were entered into. In my humble opinion there is no way in which money could be expended which would be of greater benefit to so large a proportion of our population.

Good roads mean cheaper transportation for produce, and therefore mean a reduction in the cost of living. That subject is uppermost in the minds of most of our people to-day. Good roads will bring millions upon millions of dollars of revenue to this country. Canada is growing more famous day by day and year by year among the people to the south of us, and thousands of tourists would come to Canada if we only had good roads for automobiles. A road that is good enough for automobiles is useful to the farmer.

I submit, honourable gentlemen, that instead of this being an unwise expenditure, it will result in ultimate economy. I submit that every dollar expended on good roads will bring back a return, with interest, to the state, and to the community as a whole. There is no other way in which money can be expended which will give such a good return upon the investment, and I respectfully submit that there is no good reason why this Bill should not receive the endorsement of this House. It has received the endorsement of the Commons; it has received the endorsement of the people.

I feel with my honourable friend from Acadia (Hon. Mr. Poirier) that it would be a reflection upon the good judgment of this Chamber were we to take the position that it is not desirable to spend a reasonable sum of money in improving our highways for the purpose of reducing the cost of living, and encouraging settlement on the land, encouraging tourist traffic and at the same time providing employment for a large number of men during the period of reconstruction.

May I just refer to one point concerning employment? When the war came to an end and our boys came home, trouble arose

in various industrial centres in Canada because of the fact that in our factories—and my honourable friend from Hamilton (Hon. Mr. Milne) can verify this—a large proportion of the men engaged were aliens. Our boys had been away for three or four years working for \$1.10 a day, while those aliens had been enjoying good wages in factories here. The employers throughout Canada—and I think the city of Hamilton set the pace—adopted a general policy of discharging the aliens in their service and of employing returned men to fill any positions that they were competent to fill, and that they were willing to accept. In one firm that I know of in the city to which I have just referred, they had probably 2,000 employees, of whom 71 per cent were aliens. In five weeks that was reduced to 35 per cent. Where can this class of labour go, unless to the occupations in which they were engaged prior to the war, namely, railway construction and other work of that sort. If work is not found for them, we are going to have a large army of unemployed aliens on our hands in various part of this country, and when they become hungry we will realize that we have a responsibility which we had not counted upon. They should return to the class of work in which they were engaged prior to the war. Road-building is an important and necessary thing in Canada; we are far behind other countries in that respect. If we can employ during the coming winter and during the succeeding year several thousands of men at this work, it will be a great relief to the unemployment situation; and I regard road-building as a real duty that the state owes to the citizen and particularly to the returned soldier, who perhaps may not find employment very easily during the coming winter.

I hope, honourable gentlemen, that you will realize that it is not an extravagant burden to place upon the country to ask the people to pay interest on 50 cents per head for the next five years when every citizen of the country will benefit by it. Probably no other expenditure of money which has been proposed this year can be said to be more widely distributed and of more benefit to the public generally than the expenditure which would follow this legislation.

Hon. W. B. WILLOUGHBY: I am sorry that I do not find myself in accord with this Bill. It seems to me that the arguments of the honourable gentlemen who have advocated the expenditure of this money are based upon a fallacy. They all