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The Highways Aid Bill

THE NEED FOR GOOD ROADS.

During the first session of Parliament under the Borden Government, there was introduced a measure called the Highways Aid Bill. It is universally conceded that in many parts of Canada the roads are not what they might be, and that the efforts of the farmers, especially those who are pioneers in newly opened districts, are sadly hampered by the lack of good roads.

It is also well known that in many such places the means of the people are not sufficient to enable them to provide good roads; further, that while the Provincial legislatures have shown a commendable desire to procure improvement, they are embarrassed by inadequacy of revenues to be applied to the purpose.

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION MAKES CONTROL OF ROADS A PURELY PROVINCIAL BUSINESS.

Under the constitution of Canada, however, these roads come altogether under the jurisdiction of provincial authority, and a regard for the integrity of the arrangement under which the Provinces entered into Confederation must always defer the Parliament of the Dominion from seeking, under any pretence of good intention, from infringing upon the domain set aside for the exercise of Provincial authority.

The one safe rule of conduct, where the Dominion finds itself in position to contribute out of its resources for the benefit of the Provinces, is that which has been adopted in regard to the general Dominion subsidy, namely, to apportion the money pro rata to the population of the different Provinces, and then to leave to