

terior. There are certain Dominion lands which are valuable, and for the purpose of enabling settlers to reach these lands it is necessary to construct these roads. Our information is that the settlers are going in at a very rapid rate, but the country is very sparsely settled at present. In so far as this vote is concerned we are departing to that extent from the general policy of allowing the roads to be built by the Council of the Northwest Territories. The lands are Dominion lands and the Northwest Council do not care to assume these particular expenditures. This government consider it to be in the interest of the country that these roads should be built so as to open up lands which are owned by the Dominion.

Mr. BOYD. It seems to me that as far as Manitoba is concerned the hon. minister has made the explanation very nicely. It is a rather unusual departure on the part of the government to commence building colonization roads in a province such as Manitoba and I think the government are establishing a dangerous precedent when they begin colonization roads through an organized province. The information that has been given to me is that in three cases each one of these amounts is to be expended in a way that is going to be a benefit to the candidates of the government who are now in the field.

Mr. HYMAN. In the absence of my colleague the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) I am going to ask that the matter stand.

Mr. BOYD. The information I have is that there is a certain foreign vote in the localities which are to be traversed by these roads and that the object of spending the money is for the reason I have given. It is a most extraordinary departure to undertake to spend the money of this government in that way and we ask that if you are going to spend money spend it in some proper way.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Give it to the Manitoba government.

Mr. BOYD. Give it to the Manitoba government and give it to the territorial government. If you spend it there, why should you not be called upon to do the same thing in every part of Manitoba, or in Ontario, or in any part of Canada? I do not know any person who could have placed it before the House in a nicer way, but it does not alter the case as I have stated it to the committee.

Mr. INGRAM. I do not view this item with very much favour and I do not believe that the people of the organized provinces of this Dominion will look upon it with very much favour.

Mr. BOYD. We know well enough what they are doing it for.

Mr. HYMAN.

Mr. INGRAM. We know what the idea is, but we know it is a thing that should not be encouraged. We have organized provinces in the Dominion who look after their roads and bridges; and we pay a sum of money to the government of the Northwest Territories to administer the Northwest Territories. If they want \$25,000 for building roads, this government should let them expend that as they expend the other money voted to them. If this system is allowed, the government will not hear the last of it. Our sessions are long enough now, but if matters of this kind are introduced they will be extended. I am anxious to close the session, but I will stay here to prevent this kind of thing. If this money goes to the Northwest Territories' government I have no objection.

Mr. SCOTT. So far as the Territories are concerned, this is not a precedent, because money was voted for this very road by this parliament five or six years ago.

Mr. SPROULE. Which road?

Mr. SCOTT. One of the roads mentioned by the minister.

Mr. HYMAN. Athabasca river to Slave lake.

Mr. SPROULE. Who spent the money?

Mr. SCOTT. I think the money was put in the hands of the Northwest Public Works Department.

Mr. SPROULE. Yes.

Mr. SCOTT. And the vote was made in this way. There is nothing to prevent the system being followed.

Mr. SPROULE. We have voted money every year for this purpose, and the vote was introduced by the Minister of the Interior, but the money went to the Northwest assembly and the work done under their control, but now we are taking it out of their control.

Mr. HYMAN. I simply asked the vote to stand in the absence of the Minister of the Interior. I said the department had no policy in the matter.

Mr. INGRAM. You said the Public Works Department was going to expend it.

Mr. HYMAN. I think you will find in 'Hansard' that I merely said I presumed so.

Mr. INGRAM. I will apologize if the minister did not say that his department would expend this money.

Mr. HYMAN. I did not intend to say so, and I think you will find that I did not make the statement. There will be a full explanation if you allow the item to stand until the Minister of the Interior, at whose request it was introduced, is here.