

subject to the terms of the agreement that will be entered into with the province if this resolution and the bill to be founded upon it pass the house.

Mr. HEENAN: We started to connect up through northern Ontario various stretches of highway that had been constructed, and we established camps for that purpose. Very many of the existing pieces of highways we did not connect up. I have news from New Ontario to the effect that some of the camps have been carried on the basis of fifty-fifty between Ontario and the federal government. It is with regard to that part that I should like information. Is it the intention to carry on, or has it been definitely decided by the Ontario government to close them down in part this summer?

Mr. GORDON: Many of the camps that were continued throughout the winter have undoubtedly lost some of their population by reason of the men having obtained work elsewhere. So far as I know the work will be carried on this summer. The exact terms of the arrangement between this government and the province will be the subject matter of the agreement to which I have referred.

Mr. HEENAN: Newspaper items, the Minister of Justice told the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, should not be taken very seriously; but from reports we have, the Ontario government contemplates leaving it optional; that is to say, men who desire to go into these camps to be taken care of will obtain work at five dollars a month in addition to their board. I trust that the minister does not intend to be a party to any such arrangement. The Prime Minister said the other day, as he has frequently said, that the highways are an asset to the country. He said that they were one of the greatest factors in stabilizing what he termed the invisible balance of trade. Large numbers of tourists are coming into this country and therefore the highways are, as he says, an asset, so that this is not merely work that is gone on with for the purpose of providing employment for men. There are now many disjointed pieces of highway that could be linked up very profitably during the summer. For instance, in the riding I have the honour to represent, it would take only twenty-six more miles to connect up a point called Ignace with the town of Dymont to the west. This would give the people almost one hundred miles of highway, and it is only just to the inhabitants of that country that the work should be proceeded with. Then we have a stretch of highway that has been under construction for a

[Mr. Gordon.]

number of years connecting the Canadian National on the north, that is, the old Grand Trunk Pacific, with the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dignorwic. This piece of highway is forty-five miles and a stretch of twenty-nine miles more is required. That is all that is needed to complete that highway. Surely the Ontario government and this government, now that it has undertaken the obligation of contributing to that type of work, especially when such work would be highly profitable, will not discontinue operations. Then there is the highway from Kenora to Rainy River which connects two districts, one on the north side of the lake of the Woods and the other on the south side. About sixty miles of highway would give connections to over 30,000 square miles, and this would be a worth while undertaking. The Minister of Lands and Forests of Ontario is reported in the press as having announced that he is willing to allow any of the unemployed who are desirous to go up to the camps to work eight hours a day and be paid \$5 a month with board. Surely the minister must acknowledge that good work could not be expected from men working under those conditions. Is this linking up of the different provincial highways to constitute the trans-Canada highway which the Prime Minister announced that he would have completed if elected, or does he intend to build another highway separate and distinct from the provincial highways?

Mr. GORDON: Where is the road located to which my hon. friend refers?

Mr. HEENAN: The Prime Minister is reported in the London Free Press of June 25 as having made the following announcement at Cobourg on June 24:

A national highway for Canadians. A highway in Canada not through some other country. A highway on which you can leave Cape Breton and arrive in Vancouver without going into a foreign land. Mr. Bennett declared the undertaking must be accomplished by the hands of the federal government.

Is this linking up of the provincial highways to constitute the trans-Canada highway announced at Cobourg by the Prime Minister, or does he intend to construct a national highway out of the federal exchequer?

Mr. GORDON: I have not gone into the matter with the Prime Minister. I consider that to make use of portions of standard highways already constructed is a very commendable course to follow. I do not think that the location of what will be called the trans-Canada highway has been declared in certain sections of northern Ontario, or if it has been, I have no knowledge of it. I understand that