

be dealt with by the provinces. We all realize that when this Government undertook to regulate certain matters in connection with the sale of stocks and bonds in Canada in times of great pressure and stress, they were promptly brought to task by the provincial governments throughout the country. Those governments would not stand any infringement of provincial rights; they would not allow you to cross the threshold one single step. While personally I am in favour of assisting the provinces in this great work if we can do so, I feel that there are so many undertakings to be carried out by the Dominion Government at the present time that we could not have launched a policy of assisting them in road-work at a most inopportune moment than we have done.

It has been suggested by my hon. friend from Swift Current (Mr. Argue) that this money had better be spent on branch lines of railway, and I agree with him. I think that if we used that money to provide the settlers in the West with the railways that they so much need, we would render a better service to the country than we will be by expending it on road work. I would call your attention to another matter in connection with the expenditure of this road money. What is the position of the province of Alberta?—and the same applies to some extent to the province of Saskatchewan. If, in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, we had control of the natural resources which justly belong to those two western provinces, we would not be asking this Government for assistance in the construction of our roads.

But we have valuable lands held by the Canadian Pacific Railway which are exempt from taxation; we have vast areas of unplanted land held by the Dominion Government which do not contribute one cent to our revenue; we have vast areas in the school sections which do not contribute anything to our revenue. Instead of voting one million dollars a year to the province of Ontario, eight hundred thousand dollars a year to the province of Quebec, and an equal amount to the province of Nova Scotia—which is only one-tenth of our size—as to the province of Alberta, we say you should distribute that money so there will be a quid pro quo to the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan for those resources which are withheld from us and against which we cannot levy one cent of taxation for the construction of our provincial roads.

There is another matter which affects the West and has affected it right along. We have heard discussions in the House

[Msrs. Tweedie.]

and in the corridors in regard to the position which has been taken by Western Canada in regard to the tariff. I have been a protectionist, but I want to see some concessions given to the farmers of Western Canada, and when they tell us they cannot give us any concessions on account of the great needs of the country, my answer is that we should not embark upon provincial works and expect to pay for them out of revenues which are derived from the tariff. I would be much better satisfied if the tariff were reduced by \$4,000,000, and keep the \$280,000 which they hope to give us from this measure of road construction in the province.

Mr. J. W. EDWARDS (Frontenac): The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Tweedie) has spoken loyally for one of the Western Provinces. His idea is that the money would be more fairly distributed if based on road mileage than on population. After all, I presume roads are built for the use of the people, and if you have not any people in a certain section of the country there is not much use building roads there. We happen to have a greater population down here in Ontario and the eastern provinces. But the western provinces are not the only ones interested in agriculture by any means. May I be permitted to tell my hon. friend that the province of Ontario produces a greater agricultural wealth every year than all the western provinces put together. And when it comes to a question of having a say in the tariff or how the tariff revenue should be expended, it might be pertinent to ask what part of the Dominion of Canada produces that revenue, where is the most of it raised? There again, I say, the province of Ontario comes in for special consideration. This is the province which not only produces more in agricultural wealth than all the western provinces put together, but this is the province where most of the tariff revenue is raised, and this is the province which contributed more than all the rest of Canada put together when it came to raising money for Victory Loans and other war purposes. We are entitled to some consideration, therefore, it seems to me. If you want to build a standard road out to every outlying settler on the fringe of civilization in the provinces of Saskatchewan or Alberta, your money will not go very far. And the hon. the Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Calder) has told us that the same class of roads we require in Eastern Canada would not do out in Western Canada. He says there they