

province is not able to submit a satisfactory scheme, the Federal Government would be prepared to formulate one for such province's assent.

When at Confederation the Dominion Government took over the main sources of revenue from the provinces it was deemed right to pay the provinces such cash subsidies as would fairly enable them to carry on their internal administration in respect to education, construction of roads and other matters of local concern. These subsidies have, as the House knows, been increased in recent years and their expenditure has been left entirely to the provinces. In this case we propose a further step, and, while observing a proper constitutional relationship, we propose to exercise a reasonable Dominion supervision over the expenditures which are made possible by a grant voted by Parliament through this Bill. There will be a careful consideration of the agreements to be entered into, and inspection of the work done, and a full report made to Parliament of the whole matter.

Annual Conference with Provinces.

We have in mind a general conference each year with representatives from the provinces in order that the work may be co-ordinated, and so avoid duplication between federal and provincial departments. We have in mind also development of a publications office by means of which the people of Canada will be kept continually informed as to agricultural work in progress in all parts of the country. In these ways something like a real co-operation between the Dominion and the provinces will be achieved, provincial rights will be safeguarded and sufficient control will be exercised by this Government over the federal grants. As we earnestly desire to treat this whole matter from an economic and national standpoint, eliminating party politics and party advantage, so also we look to the governments of the provinces to take the same stand and to work with the same ends in view. It is obvious that the success of the whole scheme is dependent on the spirit in which it is approached and operated.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, although the sum provided for under this Bill may at first seem large—and perhaps is sufficiently large for the initiation of the work, it is none too large for the work to be done. If the provinces co-operate with us, as we have every reason to expect, it is my conviction that, considering the magnitude of the task, its nature, and considering also the growth of this country, it will be found in a few years that this appropriation will be unequal to the demand. While that may be left for future consideration, I would like to state clearly at this time that I believe this House will, in the not far distant future, be prepared to supplement this appropriation by still larger amounts, and that when that time comes the House will consider it from the same standpoint that I ask you now to consider it, viz., that by such a measure we are providing funds for effective and lasting development along right lines of our greatest national asset.

Symbols of National Strength.

On this side of the House and on that are many men who either know by experience the farm life of the country, or whose fathers or forefathers have toiled on the land. It is well for all to keep in vision that solitary figure in the distant furrow, that stooped form tending the hearth of the isolated home—symbols and types of our national necessities, our national virtues and our national strength. Here between these four walls we sit year by year making the laws of our country. We do it, amidst much strife, sometimes ill, sometimes well, too often attaching importance and permanence to that which is neither permanent nor important. Our laws would be better—there would be less bitterness in our strife—if we were oftener moved by a sincere desire to lighten the work and brighten the lives of those who, in the silence and solitude of the fields and woods, are doing the foundation work of our common country.