

Revenue (Mr. Euler) when he suggests that this money should be expended in the more thickly populated part of Ontario, because I believe this highway is very necessary. Most people of northern Ontario are practically hemmed in and have no communication by highways with the outside world. Of the \$20,000,000 which was last voted by this government for the purpose of constructing highways I believe the province of Ontario received something in the neighbourhood of \$6,000,000, but not one penny of that amount was expended in northern Ontario; it was all used in the vicinity of the constituency of my hon. friend the ex-Minister of National Revenue.

Mr. McGIBBON: May I ask a question? Does the hon. gentleman not know that in northern Ontario the government paid all the cost of the roads, while in the southern part of the province the counties paid a portion of the cost?

Mr. HEENAN: In the first place that is not a question, and in the second place I did not hear the hon. member. Now, Mr. Chairman, for the information of my colleague the ex-Minister of National Revenue, let me say that this highway through northern Ontario has been promised for nine years. I have here a document which was presented by an organization known as the Central Canada Colonization Association, the president of which was a Conservative candidate in the election of 1919.

Mr. BENNETT: The provincial election?

Mr. HEENAN: Yes. This document was prepared by a very representative body of men from east of the head of the lakes to and including Manitoba, and was presented by this organization to the Drury government in 1921. Not one word was mentioned in that whole petition with respect to any federal assistance. The highway was promised us, Mr. Chairman, and I have here the report of the engineer who surveyed the route which was to be followed. Then I have in my hand a statement by the provincial Minister of Lands and Forests which appeared in the Fort William Times-Journal of May 30, 1924, in which he makes the following statement:

The policy of the government is to open up northern Ontario roads as speedily as possible. The highway through to the Manitoba boundary will be a direct line from Fort William north of Rainy river and Fort Frances and will be completed within three years. The road eastward towards the Soo will be undertaken at once, and will be completed within the next seven years.

[Mr. Heenan.]

Many other definite promises were made by the minister at that time, but I do not need to read them all. I have another statement by the engineer who was in charge of the work, saying that these roads would be completed in a very short time. That was in 1924. I also have a recent statement by the Minister of Lands and Forests to the effect that this highway could not be expected to be completed unless aid was received from the federal government, so in view of the fact that the Prime Minister has now stated he is willing to cooperate with the provinces in any undertaking of this nature, and in view of the fact that the Minister of Lands and Forests has stated that his government is prepared to start work at once provided some reasonable assurance can be given by the federal government, I sincerely hope this measure will pass without further delay so that the Prime Minister can assure the provincial Minister of Lands and Forests that aid will be forthcoming in order that the work in northern Ontario may be started at once. I believe the work should be done in northern Ontario instead of in old Ontario, where they have so many highways at present.

Mr. HEAPS: I presume the success of this measure will depend a great deal upon the way it is administered, but the answers given by the Prime Minister this afternoon have left me rather confused as to how it will work out. I am rather interested in the question whether the municipalities are going to get any benefit from this \$20,000,000. At one time during the discussion the Prime Minister stated that he would deal only through the provinces, but at another time he stated that he would deal directly with the municipalities. I want to be quite clear on that one point. I understand that a municipality which desires to undertake a public work of its own first of all must submit its plans to the provincial government. The provincial government must approve of those plans, which then I presume would be forwarded to the federal authorities, who also would have to approve them. I can conceive of instances where the provincial government would not approve of such a plan for relief work, and I suppose in those circumstances that work would be turned down. I want to know from the Prime Minister whether in such a case, where the provincial government is not in agreement with the municipality but where the municipality is prepared to go ahead with the work, the federal government would come to the assistance of the municipality.