

not spend any less money; so that whatever they get from the Dominion will be added to what they would otherwise spend for the building of better roads throughout the country. For these reasons I will vote for the Bill.

Hon. A. B. CROSBY: When I first noticed this Bill I confess I had some doubts whether I could support it or not, much as I favour good roads and desire them; but when I learned of the amendment made by the Premier in another place, and the combination of safeguards in the Bill, I was satisfied that we would have a fairly righteous expenditure of the money. It was surprising to hear the leader of the Opposition inquire where we were going to get the money. This Government is courageous, and is to be congratulated on its courage in borrowing money for productive purposes, and attending to that part of the country's affairs which are productive; and there is nothing in this Dominion that is going to be so productive, directly and indirectly, as the construction of good roads from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This is a producing, borrowing Bill.

The honourable member for Assiniboia (Hon. Mr. Turriff) accused the honourable member for Peel (Hon. Mr. Blain) of bringing politics into this matter, although the latter never mentioned anything that suggested politics; yet the honourable gentleman from Assiniboia got up in the other House, he tells us, and voted against the Bill—why? Because it did not do just exactly what this Bill is doing—let the provinces have some say in the expenditure of the money. And when the Bill comes into this House in just the shape he wants it, he votes against it. What is his reason for that? It is difficult to find out if it is not politics. If I were a partisan, the chances are I would oppose this Bill, because in our province we have not been in the habit of having our road-money spent just as I and others think it should be spent. In 1887 we borrowed \$600,000 to spend on our roads, but to-day in Nova Scotia we have no improvement whatever in our roads. But we have great hopes, for the Government of Nova Scotia a year or two ago formed a commission and put on it some men they called Conservatives. I do not know whether there is a Union Government in that province or not, although its Premier, very early in the formation of the Union Government wrote a letter in which he said he was perfectly in line with it; but he has not spoken about it since. I assume, however, that he has taken a step in the

right direction, and when we come to deal with the money provided under this Bill, we will look for better things than we have had.

On the question of labour, some men say the farmer can give you all the employment you want, but you have to wait a good while for your pay, even if he is making big money in wheat. Some men have said soldiers would not go on the roads; but there are going to be a good many nice jobs on those roads, and there is no man more justified in taking those good jobs than the soldier: there is nothing too good for him; and there is no one who knows better how to handle his pick and shovel, because he has been overseas for the last four years picking us out of a big trouble. In putting our gangs on the roads there will thus be men competent to fill the positions, for none could be more competent than the men who were brave enough and able to go over there and work for \$1.10 a day.

The honourable member from Portage la Prairie (Hon. Mr. Watson) said that when we got back to conditions of labour at twenty cents an hour, then would be the time to make good roads; but I would not like to wait till that day, and it would be pretty hard on the soldier who wants employment. The honourable member from Assiniboia wanted to tell us about the provinces being able to borrow money: but by this Bill we borrow the money on the credit of the nine provinces joined with the Dominion. With that combination we can borrow all we want; and when we borrow for productive purposes why should we not borrow?

The honourable gentleman who preceded me (Hon. Mr. Smith) made a good argument as to the value of good roads for tourist business; but no one in this country knows what good roads would do for Canada, because we have never had good roads. We have about fifty miles of good roads from Toronto to Hamilton, and you can hardly get on it on Sundays on account of the number of people using it for recreation and pleasure. It is the best piece of road in Canada.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: You have not been West.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: No, and I do not want to go West. There are no roads fit to travel on in the Dominion of Canada except the piece I referred to, and it is in a place where it should not be. If you are only to have fifty miles of good roads