

plated work on this road, and I am sure that an agreement in respect of it has been submitted to the department. Already work has been commenced on that highway, many miles having been completed. I am informed that last year the work was carried on with the understanding that the Federal Government would contribute its share of 40 per cent. Operations have now been suspended, to the great disadvantage of the municipalities concerned. My impression is that this highway has been approved by the Dominion Government also. Is that correct, and is it the intention to proceed as quickly as possible with the work during the coming summer? Many municipalities, especially in the county of Labelle, have passed by-laws in regard to the road, in the belief that the federal grant would be given. They will be greatly disappointed if they do not receive an assurance this year that the federal grant will be given them.

Hon. Mr. REID: An agreement has been entered into in regard to a portion of the road between Hull and Montreal for about six miles. This road is on the general plan of the province of Quebec, but the Provincial Government has not yet made application to the Dominion Government for an agreement under the Act in regard to the whole road. Until they do make application and an agreement has been entered into, no action can or will be taken by this Government.

Mr. FORTIER: Has any action been taken by the Provincial Government.

Hon. Mr. REID: They must first take action. They must decide what roads they want to come under the Act, and then make application to the Dominion Government. We will then send our engineers to report whether we would be justified in entering into the agreement with the province in regard to those roads. But until the province itself moves in the matter we will do nothing.

Mr. FOURNIER: How much has been expended in the province of Quebec under this Act, to date?

Hon. Mr. REID: I gave a statement this afternoon on that question, but I will repeat it. On April 12, I gave an answer in the House to a question, and stated that \$56,374.19 had been paid to the province of Quebec to date. The accounts are now being adjusted with a view to further payments, but the last time I looked into the matter, a week or so ago, the amount was \$109,000.

[Mr. Fortier.]

Mr. FOURNIER: I have some criticism to offer on this question. I have no fault to find with the Commissioner of Highways, whom we properly call "Good Roads" Campbell. But in the Act there is a provision that everything must be done by contract. Now I may say offhand, and I think I am right, that in the province of Quebec we have built roads without calling for tenders, and have got satisfaction. We have been able to build them cheaper and with better results. If the work is given to contractors they will absorb about 35 per cent, and we will get, in the province of Quebec, only 5 per cent benefit out of the grant. Quebec has been paid, so far, according to the minister's statement, only \$56,000, and if that province has not taken advantage of the scheme to any greater extent, it is because we can build roads cheaper and to better advantage, and do not think we should have the Government pay 40 per cent, the great bulk of which would only go to contractors, the province benefiting to the extent of only 5 per cent. I put this to the minister as a fair matter for discussion.

Hon. Mr. REID: When the Act was passed the House agreed, and a clause was inserted so providing, that wherever possible, in the public interest, tenders should be called for; and where this has been done it has been as a result of agreement between the Provincial Governments and the Dominion Government. Of course, there are some cases in which you could not call for tenders because the work could not be done by contract. In such cases an agreement is entered into to have the work done by day work. As I said a while ago, the province of Quebec has entered into an agreement under which, so far, we shall have to pay them at least \$1,500,000; and judging by the agreements that are now being submitted, there is no doubt that at the end of five years they will have taken the total amount allotted.

Mr. MARCIL (Bonaventure): What roads are about to be built in Quebec this year?

Hon. Mr. REID: The roads are: Montreal-Sherbrooke highway; Orford, Magog, Bolton, Shefford, St. Cesaire, St. Marie de Monmoir. Montreal-Quebec highway, 48.13 miles. Levis-St. Lambert highway: St. David, St. Telesphore, St. Romuald, St. Nicholas, Deschaillons, Contrecoeur, Boucherville, Longueuil, Beauce Jct. Sherbrooke highway; Levis-Rivière du Loup-