

In the newspapers of Manitoba within the last few days there has been talk even of the secession of the town of Flin Flon, in Churchill riding, from the boundaries of that province. There have been meetings, not of four or five agitators but of as many as a thousand and fifteen hundred citizens, who have been discussing what they consider to be a grievance, which has assumed such proportions that I feel justified, as I am sure the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Moore) will feel justified, in bringing it to the attention of this house. Their quarrel or grievance is this. The town of Flin Flon is an important mining centre. It has a population generally admitted to be at least ten thousand, though there was some disagreement between the people who carried out the census and the officials of the town. However I believe that is the population. Flin Flon is the entrance to an important mining area in the north. They go into that area by railroad, but they have no highway into it. They feel they are entitled to a road, and I think almost everyone who lives in Manitoba agrees with the citizens of that town in their argument.

The province of Manitoba has a problem in this connection. They have a story to tell; they have a defence to the charge made by the citizens of Flin Flon, but notwithstanding any defence the province may have the citizens of that town have a real grievance. I believe the road should be built. The answer of the province is this. The Garson government say they do not know what it will cost. I do not think any government could be asked to build a road without the cost first being ascertained. They suggest also that they cannot get contractors to undertake this job or even surveyors to make the preliminary surveys in order to ascertain the cost. If there is really talk of secession—and I hope it is only talk because I cannot believe the people of Flin Flon really want that—the matter would, of necessity, come before this house because it would require an amendment to the Manitoba act in order to change the boundaries of that province.

If the province of Manitoba cannot get surveyors to make a survey of this desired road I think the federal government should undertake the work, whether or not the provincial authorities ask them to do so. If the provincial authorities do ask them, then I think the dominion government should agree to lend the provincial authorities the necessary engineers and surveyors to complete a preliminary survey. I suggest that the federal government should volunteer assistance in the construction of this road or at least study the situation to see whether the road could be

built either under joint arrangement between the dominion and the province or solely by the dominion. It might be said that the dominion does not have to build this road because it is a provincial problem. Normally that is true, but in this country and in Manitoba the dominion government has assumed the responsibility for building roads into mining areas, and this is one of the richest mining areas in the whole dominion.

This mining area has no road at all and it is entitled to one. Roads have been built to mines, and I submit that the people of Flin Flon are justified in complaining that some government has not seen their plight and come to their rescue. I am pleading for the town of Flin Flon in the constituency of Churchill, Manitoba, because I maintain that one of the richest industries in our province is being affected by lack of road transportation into and out of Flin Flon.

The building of the road could be justified on the ground of its being an attraction to the tourist trade. We have heard of the great value to this country of the tourist trade and I ask hon. members, what would bring United States tourists and United States dollars into this country in greater numbers than a good tourist road into that vast untouched northwestern part of this country? I will leave that and I hope other hon. members from my province will take it up in their speech.

There is one matter in connection with income tax that I wish to mention tonight and I do not intend to do so in any critical way. I want to refer to a situation which has developed in the western provinces as a result of the disclosures made by the figures referred to by the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Burton). Whether they are right or wrong does not matter; that is what the people believe. If that belief is erroneous, it should be corrected immediately. There is scarcely a farmer in Manitoba—and I venture the same is true of the farmers in Saskatchewan—who does not feel that he is being discriminated against as compared with farmers in other provinces in the collection of income tax. I can scarcely believe that there is any such discrimination, but the rumour exists and it is causing ill-feeling among the farmers of the west. That rumour should be contradicted immediately by the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann) or the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott), whoever should make the correction.

I am not arguing whether it is true or whether it is false, but our farmers believe that there are at least seven income tax assessors in the city of Winnipeg working