

to provide the other 60 per cent. so that the province in its own financial interest is not going to be extravagant beyond what it is able to pay. I do not propose to vote for the amendment to this Bill. I think that the expenditure on good roads is required almost as much as any expenditure in this country, and under the Bill all the expenditure must be made by tender and contract. Presumably that will be done in a fair and square way; we have no reason to take for granted that it will not be done in a fair and equitable way.

Hon. R. A. MULHOLLAND: I heartily support this Bill. I understand that it was introduced primarily for the purpose of providing employment for returned soldiers. I may inform honourable gentlemen that in the district in which I live many returned soldiers are at present employed in road building under the direction of the Good Roads and Highways Department of the Ontario Government.

We know that good roads will be of great benefit by our farmers especially and to the people of Canada generally. They will enable the farmers to take their products to market with much greater facility, in much better condition, and in a much shorter time than at present; and everybody knows that much heavier loads can be hauled on good roads than on poor ones. In other ways good roads will be of great advantage to the farmers. They will give them easy communication with the towns for many purposes. In the evenings they can take their families to the theatres, picture shows, or other entertainments, and these things tend to brighten life on the farm. In these and other ways good roads will furnish incentives to young men to remain on the farm.

I congratulate the Dominion Government on having undertaken to extend the important work of road-building over the whole country by increasing the amounts appropriated for the purpose to the various provinces. In Ontario, where our roads are now being built in a scientific manner, the provincial government will be enabled by this measure to carry forward on a much larger scale than hitherto the work of road improvement that will be a credit to the province.

Hon. JOHN MILNE: Good roads we should have, but is this an opportune time to make these roads? We have expended more money than we possess, and all the money that we are going to collect will not pay our debt. I would like to see good roads built if we have the money to make

them, but I think we have not the money at present to spend on good roads. Twenty millions is a whole lot of money.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: It is spread over five years.

Hon. Mr. MILNE: Yes, but it is a lot of money, and you do not know exactly where labour is to be had. I have listened to a good deal of conversation, and you will pardon me if I say a few words that may seem out of place; but I say that the Government of Canada, as far as I know, do not look to the interest of Canada as they should. No doubt we have a rich country; we have everything to make a great country; but do we do anything for it? No, we do not. Take natural gas; our American friends control that. Take our copper; the Americans control that. Take the nickel, and until lately everything went to the States. The American people, American workers, and American capital get all the money from our country, and we do not look after that at all; but we say to our people, "Speed up your factory." Do you know the impossibility of speeding up? A man is a fool who goes into any manufacturing industry in Canada to-day. I say we must support the Government, but the Government are in a bad position to have to please the West; they have to try to do something for them. This is not the time to reduce the tariff, when we are asking for more money. I am willing to do everything I can to promote the welfare of the country, and I say the Government—probably they are not to blame in this—ought to receive our support. I am only drawing the attention of the leader of the Government to the fact that we do not look after the natural resources that lie within our boundaries, but allow the American people to come over here and take advantage of them and to employ their own labour.

Hon. P. POIRIER: Honourable gentlemen, this is the second time to my knowledge that a proposal to better the roads in the Dominion has raised a racket in this House, if I may use that term. Some years ago the Government proposed to give \$1,000,000 annually towards the betterment of roads. The Bill containing that proposal was rejected by this House in a manner and because of motives that did not do honour to the Senate. At that time we prevented the Government from doing what was acknowledged, and needs must be acknowledged by all, to be in the interest of the country; and it was done, I think, for political and party purposes.