

So we have three leaders, the right hon. gentleman at present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and two former prime ministers, in office before him, all of whom distinctly pledged themselves to the settlers of the Peace River empire, that they would definitely build an outlet from that area to the sea. I have no hesitation, even at the risk of wounding the susceptibilities of my prairie friends, in submitting to the Minister of Railways that, so far as a national asset is concerned, so far as the upbuilding and development of the dominion is concerned, the development of that Peace River empire is of far greater value, a far greater and more abiding asset to the dominion, than the Hudson Bay terminal. I want to remind my hon. friend that last year I made a very constructive suggestion to the administration. I suggested that they might divert in considerable proportion of the moneys available under the Unemployment Relief Act, used in building useless highways in the province of British Columbia, towards the construction, in cooperation with the government of that province, of an outlet from the Peace River territory to the sea. Subsequent to the termination of last session I believe that the provincial government of British Columbia made overtures to the federal administration, and I believe that the very same Mr. Crysedale who is a signatory to this report prepared a report which was tabled in the provincial assembly of British Columbia the other day in which he stated that you could build a line up to Finlay Forks at the prevailing prices of labour and material for a total sum of \$6,000,000. That would bring the railway to the very edge of a marvellous territory, tremendously rich in resources, with a fertile soil capable of producing in a way which would delight the mixed farmer and the grain farmer. Such a soil I believe is not known in any other portion of this dominion, and had my hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) adopted my suggestion of last year, then instead of the unfortunate consequences with which the administration is confronted in the maladministration of our unemployment funds in the province of British Columbia, instead of the tremendous wastage we have had there in the futile attempt to build useless and hopeless roads, and my hon. friends opposite know this as well as I, if the extension of the Pacific Great Eastern railway had been embarked upon, fulfilling the obligations made to that railway to attach it to the old Grand Trunk system, to-day you would have something concrete, something constructive, something real to show to the people of British

[Mr. I. A. Mackenzie.]

Columbia and to the Dominion of Canada as a whole. I am appealing, Mr. Speaker, to the minister even at this session to proceed with the construction of that outlet, if not on a national basis, and it is abundantly justified on a national basis—just as much as the St. Lawrence seaway or the Hudson Bay terminal, then on the ground that it is the last great undeveloped portion of this dominion, that splendid northland in the northern part of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, with the development of which territory with its magnificent resources is closely linked the future of Canada. I appeal to the administration to proceed this year with the construction and early completion of an outlet from the Peace river to the sea both on the ground of doing something constructive to help the thousands of unemployed in British Columbia and the prairie provinces and to develop for this dominion what is in very essence and very truth a valuable and a veritable empire in itself.

Mr. J. A. FRASER (Cariboo): I should like to offer a few remarks on the resolution before the house. I must first with other hon. gentlemen congratulate the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Kennedy) on the very fair and reasonable presentation he has made of this subject. I have listened on several occasions to the hon. gentleman making a similar presentation on behalf of the people in the Peace River and the opening up of that district, and on each and every occasion he has always been very fair and very reasonable in his presentation.

Before I proceed I wish to take strong exception to one remark that was made just a few minutes ago by the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie), when he said that it would have been better if this government had assisted the government of British Columbia in constructing a railway line from Vancouver to Finlay Forks instead of proceeding with a lot of the hopeless and useless roads which they had under way in the province. I take strong exception to that statement. The British Columbia government has undertaken no roads that are either hopeless or useless. I would ask the hon. gentleman what he has to say about the construction of the trans-Canada highway in British Columbia? Is that a useless and hopeless piece of road? What about the road which I suppose my hon. friend himself as well as the rest of us has advocated from Hope to Penticton? Does he call that a hopeless and useless piece of road? What about the road up the North Thompson? Does he call that a useless and hopeless piece of road? What