

the House a year or so ago, but I am beginning to get a little bit narrow. I have heard gentlemen from the West say that if we do not give them free trade they are going to get out and go somewhere else; that if we do not give them good roads they are going to get out and go somewhere else, and that if they do not get the earth and all that is on it they are going to get out. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Argue) is perfectly right in keeping up the end of his country as well as he possibly can but he tells you about the thousands of acres of land that they have under cultivation, the thousands of settlers they have and the 22 bushels of wheat that they are raising to the acre.

If we could raise 22 bushels of wheat to the acre in Ontario we would build the highways ourselves, and the railroads also. There is no doubt we want the railroads, but we want the highways as well. In Ontario we have for the last sixty years puddled through the mud and made roads as best we could. During the last ten years, however, our counties have spent a large amount of money in improving a great number of roads, and within the last year or two the Provincial Government has taken in hand the task of putting the roads in a still greater state of efficiency. I am pleased to see that the Dominion Government is going to bring in a Bill to assist in the improvement of highways. It does not make any difference which Government does it, as long as we get the improved roads. If you want to ascertain the value of a district just drive through it, and if the schools and the roads are good, undoubtedly you have a good country and a progressive people. I trust no hon. gentleman in this House will raise any obstacle to the voting of this \$20,000,000 for the improvement of our roads. As far as Ontario is concerned, we do not wish for anything more than our fair share of that expenditure. I do trust, however, that the money will be expended in the improvement of roads, and that great care will be exercised in connection with it. I think perhaps that before entering upon it, it might be well to have a conference with representatives from our province and ascertain exactly what it is proposed to do. I know that in Ontario a survey has been made with very great care, and it is a very reliable one. If that survey is carried out it will be a great benefit to the province and to the country generally. We in Ontario have never made any demands upon the Government. As the late Sir John A. Macdonald said, on one

[Mr. Boyce.]

occasion, the farmers never got anything. I suppose that was because they did not ask for it. We are very glad that we did not have to speak for this expenditure, and that the Bill to be brought in is going to assist so much in the improvement of our roads. Motor cars are now in very common use, and with the improvement of the roads this is going to greatly reduce the cost of production. With good roads and modern methods of transportation, products from the rural district will be brought more expeditiously to our cities and distributed in a far better manner than ever before. I repeat that I trust no objection will be made to the voting of this money and its expenditure in a judicious manner for the general benefit of the country.

Mr. J. D. REID: I am very glad that this discussion has taken place, and that we have had the views of a number of hon. gentlemen. As the hour is getting late I will move that the committee rise and report progress, so that we can take the matter up again at some other date.

Motion agreed to.

On the motion of Hon. J. D. Reid, the House adjourned at 11.20 p.m.

Monday, March 24, 1919.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

On the Orders of the Day:

Sir THOMAS WHITE: The member for Guysborough (Mr. J. H. Sinclair) asked me the other day when the report of the Auditor General would be available for presentation to the House. I have a letter from the Auditor General to this effect:

I am informed by the Superintendent of Printing that Volume II of the annual report of this office will be ready for presentation on Wednesday and Volume 1 on Friday of this week.

QUESTIONS.

(Questions answered orally are indicated by asterisks.)

PROVINCIAL SUBSIDY.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Antigonish and Guysborough):

What rate of provincial subsidy per head of the population was paid to each of the provinces of Canada respectively in 1918?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Subsidy payable per head of population under the British North America Act, is eighty cents.