

*Unemployment Continuance Act*

To show what people think of our section of the country may I say that during last summer, while at a point beyond Kapuskasing, I met a party of four cars from the city of Toronto. May I add that we have very few tourist parties from Toronto, and very few business men from the southern section of the province. I asked them what they thought of the north country. They had visited Hearst, Kapuskasing and Haileybury, Cochrane, Timmins, and Iroquois Falls. All the members in the party told me that they were astonished at what they had seen, and at the potential wealth and possible future of the country, which was a revelation to them. They promised to become missionaries among their friends, and to recommend vacationing in the north section of the country.

While in North Bay I was approached and told that I should not go into the north section of the country because the roads were not good. My answer is that the Ferguson highway is as good a gravel road as there is in Canada. If any tourist will visit the north section of the province of Ontario they will be well satisfied with the road. No doubt a road along the shore of lake Superior would have wonderful scenic attractions but not more so than in the northern section. We know that its cost would be prohibitive. Ten to fifteen years would be required for construction. On that score alone the people in my district should be given the consideration they deserve. It may be that the premier of the province of Ontario has decided on a certain route which he thinks would give satisfaction to the majority of the people of northern Ontario. Unfortunately I have very little accurate information before me about the actual routing of the road. I do know however that millions of dollars have been spent on the trans-Canada highway in all sections but the one from which I come, and I believe it is my duty at this time to ask the present administration to let me know the exact situation in the matter.

It is not my intention to take up further the time of the committee. I could carry on for a long time, and give reasons why the highway should be constructed along the northern section of the province. I must say that I believe the newspapers have been fair, and have given both sides of the question. I take this opportunity of appealing to the Prime Minister, and to the Minister of Labour, who has boasted, and rightly so, of his love for the north country, to take the part of our section of the country, and see that we receive from the federal and provincial authorities that to which we are en-

[Mr. Bradette.]

titled. We have no quarrel with any section or area in northern Ontario; we want all sections to profit. We are of the opinion, however, that any government, whether it be provincial or federal, should not forget a section of the country which in the future will support ten times its present population. The truth is that at the present time we have not the representation enjoyed by other sections of the dominion, but with the increased population we are sure to have we must necessarily be heard.

During the last session of parliament a statement appeared in the Northern Tribune to the effect that Hon. Mr. Finlayson, speaking at the town of Kapuskasing, had said that in conjunction with federal authorities three parties of surveyors were looking after the routing of the highway. I was voted down when I tried to get information from this government in that connection. I believe our case should be heard before either provincial or federal authorities. I know the present Minister of Labour made the building of the trans-Canada highway one of his political platforms, and I did the same. We are all one, so far as the building of the highway through northern Ontario is concerned. Our section of the country must not be forgotten; it cannot be left out. It is a new section, and the northern route offers the shortest way of crossing the northern part of Ontario. Moreover, a road through that north country would be a revelation to the people who would have the good fortune of travelling over it. Is it too much to ask for a definite answer on this matter from the government.

Mr. REID: Mr. Chairman, I had not intended at this time to enter into a discussion regarding the affairs of Burnaby. However, the Prime Minister has made statements which I cannot allow to remain unchallenged. Either those statements must have been made because of the ignorance of the Prime Minister, or on the other hand, previous statements made by the Minister of Labour are grossly untrue. On February 10 the matter to which I am about to refer was brought before the house, and for the benefit of hon. members and the special benefit of the Prime Minister I shall read the statement made by the Minister of Labour on that occasion as to why municipalities could not receive their money. I think before I have finished I will prove to the committee that I had nothing whatever to do with the stopping of payments. The