

from the minister that about \$70,000 is still to be expended. I think everybody agrees that it is an extraordinarily fine piece of road. It was largely under the supervision of the gentleman who is now the deputy minister; that remark is not intended by way of compliment, but that is the fact with respect to that piece of road.

Mr. CRERAR: The Boat Encampment is the apex of the road.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. It was west of that where the province was to do the work. I think the minister must have in his files the original agreement made between British Columbia and the dominion.

Mr. STIRLING: Four or five years ago.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, four or five years ago.

Mr. CRERAR: Made by Hon. Charles Stewart, I think, in 1929.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so; and, I think, the government of Mr. Tolmie. At any rate this is the fact, that the province recognized there was a certain obligation outside the park area altogether. The minister realizes that this has to do with areas outside the park; that we are doing the park side of it on the east end. What is the last town that is the boundary of the park? Is it Revelstoke?

Mr. CRERAR: The East leg ends at Canoe River.

Mr. BENNETT: That is right. From Canoe River west the obligation rested upon the provincial authorities.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): That is correct.

Mr. BENNETT: Their inability to finance led us to the view that, inasmuch as the work had to be completed if it was to be of any value, we should take over their position under the agreement. I think it was suggested that, inasmuch as we had been building the road under contract up to Canoe River, we might as well continue the work; but it was never agreed that the expense of the work should be borne by the dominion, if that is what the minister has in mind, and I was going to ask him to what extent this contemplates the completion from Canoe River west of the road so as to make it available for traffic.

Mr. CRERAR: As I understand the history of this undertaking, the government that was in office prior to 1930 reached an agreement, through Hon. Charles Stewart, who [Mr. Bennett.]

was then Minister of the Interior, to construct the east leg of the Big Bend highway, carrying it from Donald to the apex of the bend, which is known as Boat Encampment. That work has been very far advanced towards completion, and it is estimated that \$70,000 will complete it entirely. A good portion of the money is required for a bridge over the Columbia river at the apex. So far as the west leg is concerned the arrangement perhaps may be as stated by the leader of the opposition.

Mr. BENNETT: I am speaking only from memory. I have not seen the agreement for a long time.

Mr. CRERAR: Well, I think that may be correct. The British Columbia government, according to my understanding, were to construct the west leg, but in 1935, by arrangements between the provincial government and the then federal government, the dominion assumed the responsibility of proceeding with the west leg. That will involve an expenditure altogether of about \$2,000,000; I think \$1,950,000 is the estimated amount required.

Mr. BENNETT: But there is no settlement of the question of financial responsibility.

Mr. CRERAR: My understanding is that that was to be done at the expense of the federal government. Am I correct in that impression?

Mr. BENNETT: Part of it was undertaken in connection with relief work. That part of it was charged against relief. But my memory is that no conclusion was arrived at with respect to the relieving of the province of its obligation to complete the west leg.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Oh, yes, there was.

Mr. BENNETT: There was, clearly, with respect to what was done under relief; we assumed all responsibility for that, but it was a question of whether or not we were to bear the cost of completing it.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): There certainly was an exchange of telegrams and correspondence to indicate that that was the understanding.

Mr. BENNETT: I remember the discussion, but as I say—

Mr. CRERAR: The statement of the Minister of National Defence is correct. I think a reading of the communications exchanged