

In conclusion, I shall make a contrast between the part of Ontario that I happen to know well,—the part of Ontario where the representatives from all parts of the Dominion are now gathered,—and the state of New York immediately over the St. Lawrence river. Infinitely better in the character of its soil, with a people fully as intelligent, fully as skilful, fully as industrious, and with climatic conditions equally as good, eastern Ontario, because of its lack of good roads, is leagues behind the state of New York, which, because of the fact that it has good roads and magnificent transportation facilities for vehicles, far surpasses us in productivity and general agricultural development.

I think that the only objection to this Bill is the method by which the money will be distributed. It involves the old principle of patronage; and I am of the opinion that if this Bill is wrecked, it will be wrecked upon the rock of politics, and not on the rock of principle. The Bill proposes to hand over certain amounts of money to the provinces, to be spent by the provinces. The Governments of the provinces must have the confidence of the people; they will be responsible for the money that they expend under this Bill if it passes the House. Surely, we can trust the people; and these governments are responsible to the people. Furthermore, while this Bill proposes to hand over money to the provinces, the money will be paid only after the work is completed; it will be paid only on those roads approved of by the Good Roads Department. Now there has been placed at the head of this department a man who knows roads and road building perhaps better than any other man in Canada, a man who has earned the name "Good Roads Campbell," a man who has given his life to the study of this work. Surely such a man can be trusted to see that the money will not be spent for political purposes, but in a way to give to the people what the people in Ontario and Quebec are clamouring for—good roads. There will be no difficulty in the province of Ontario. We have a Conservative Government in Ontario. There will be no difficulty in the province of Quebec; and Quebec, of all provinces of the Dominion, has gone further in this work and has spent more money to build good roads—and spent it judiciously, as the roads in that province will show—than any other province in Canada. And I, for one, Mr. Chairman, knowing the history of road building in the province of Quebec, am quite content to trust what

[Mr. Casselman.]

ever government may be in power in that province to spend to the best advantage the money that may be given it under the terms of this Bill.

Mr. EDWARDS: What about Nova Scotia?

Mr. CASSELMAN: I do not know anything about Nova Scotia. But the government of Nova Scotia, like that of every other province, is responsible to the people; and I have sufficient confidence in the intelligence and honesty of the people of Nova Scotia to believe that if the government there spent the money for political purposes, the people would immediately set about turning that government out and establishing in its place one that would spend the money honestly, wisely and well. However, the people of the Dominion must have good roads. They are looking to this government to contribute liberally towards providing them, and I hope that this resolution will be passed and that the Bill that is to be brought down, founded on this resolution, will meet with the approval of the House.

Mr. T. M. M. TWEEDIE (Calgary West): I have listened with great interest to the remarks of the hon. member for Dundas (Mr. Casselman) in which he has expressed such profound admiration for this resolution on which is to be based the Highway Bill which will be introduced into the House. I found the cause of his joy to be practically in the fact that he came from the province of Ontario, and I will endeavour to point out to the House later just what the cause of that joy is. I agree with everything that has been said in connection with this matter, in regard to good roads throughout Canada. But this is a measure which involves the expenditure of \$20,000,000 of the revenue of this country, and my first objection to the resolution, and the Bill which will be founded upon it is the method of distribution of the money. The first clause in the resolution provides that each province in the Dominion shall receive a grant of \$80,000 each year, and after that the balance remaining to be expended in any one year shall be based upon the population of the various provinces. I think that this principle, to begin with, is very unfair so far as the Western provinces are concerned, and more particularly the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. I cannot see any underlying principle why there should be a fixed amount of \$80,000 for the province of Prince Edward Island, Alberta, Ontario, or any other province.