

taken. I think the present time is inopportune for this legislation, and I think the money could be better spent in the building of railways and other works that are undertaken by the Federal Government.

We in Manitoba do not imagine that this money comes from heaven, rained down like manna. We know that we have to provide our share of it. This is simply handing back what we contribute to the treasury. It is no gift for us at all. Every dollar that is voted in the Estimates by the Federal Parliament is collected from the people, and we in Manitoba and the West know that in the present customs tariff we contribute more per capita than do the people of the East. Consequently we are paying a larger proportion than they are of the moneys voted for good roads.

For these reasons I claim that we should not at the present time pass this legislation. I am in favour of good roads. They are very important and very essential, and in this respect I support the Government of my province, who have a first-class road policy and are building hundreds of miles of roadway every year, in conjunction with the municipalities. There are no politics in that. The Provincial Government pay, I think, fifty per cent and the municipalities the other fifty. The work is done by contract and it is laid out by competent engineers. I believe that it is inopportune at this time to take labour off the farm, because it is with farm labour that your roads will be built. You cannot get the people of the cities to go out and build them. So long as farm labourers are in a position to earn \$60 or \$70 a month working on the farm, they should not be offered further inducements, which will raise the price of farm labour. We should endeavour at present to lower farm wages and increase production, and that can be done only by keeping on the farm. The building of a highway will permit a farmer to carry a few more bushels on his wagon to market, there is no question about that; but what we want the Federal Government to do is to attend to Federal matters; and what we want also to do is to encourage as far as possible lower wages for the help on the farm, and increase production, in order to lessen the cost of living. I will cheerfully support the amendment.

Hon. L. McMEANS: I think I may congratulate the Senate on becoming more devoted to the public business. It was yesterday or the day before that we passed

a vote of \$10,000,000 in about five minutes. Now it has taken by the clock about two hours to discuss a question of \$20,000,000. If we continue, we shall probably wind up by refusing to make any more grants without very careful consideration.

The honourable gentleman from Portage la Prairie (Hon. Mr. Watson) has made the statement that we have in Manitoba a good roads policy. He is quite correct in that, and, as far as my knowledge goes, the difficulty in the province of Manitoba is not in the building of the roads, but in the short season in which the work can be done.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: In getting the labour.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: In getting the work done. The policy of the Government of Manitoba is this. If a municipality expresses its desire to build a road, the Government will pay as high as 66 per cent of the cost of construction, on condition that the municipality will pay the balance. It is a matter of common knowledge that the building of a road will greatly improve the value of all the land through which the road passes or in the surrounding district, and it is only fair to expect that those who receive great benefit from the expenditure of the money will pay at least a small proportion of the cost. I must confess that I do not know how this Bill would apply in a case of that kind. The municipalities in Manitoba petition the Government; they have to pay a small proportion of the cost; and then, if they build the road in accordance with the specifications laid down by the Government, the Government pays the balance. There is a big policy of road-building in the province of Manitoba, and, as I said before, it is limited only by the short season. I would have liked to ask the Minister of Labour, when he stated that this \$20,000,000 was to be expended for the purpose of providing employment in this country, how much labour is used, or how much money is expended, on road-building during the winter season? It is during the summer when the farmers of the district are crying out for labour and looking for it from other provinces that this roadwork goes on. There was nothing truer than the statement of the honourable member for Moosejaw (Hon. Mr. Willoughby) that any municipality that put through the policy of road-building in the West would take the labour away from where it was most required, and that was