

are bound to suffer great inconvenience until the road is completed. In fact, until then, they have to take another road if they want to have a road on which they can travel satisfactorily. As regards the road in the district in which the hon. member lives, I do not know whether that has been approved or whether an agreement has been entered into. I could not tell unless I knew the road referred to.

When this work was commenced, we had to create a special organization, first, of engineers to inspect the work as it goes along. The Provincial Government have their staff of engineers who are in charge of this work. The arrangement is that the Ontario Government, or any other provincial government, call for tenders where it is possible to let the work by tender; the work is carried on under the supervision of their engineers, and I presume that the provincial governments endeavour to get value for their 60 per cent of the expenditure. The duty of our engineers is to see that specifications are prepared and the work carried on in accordance with the agreement made for the particular road; to see that we get value; and that the expenditures are fair and reasonable. We also have our audit staff which goes and investigates the books of the Ontario Government from time to time and keeps a close watch on all expenditures. I do not know that there is much more that we could do to protect expenditures.

Mr. EULER: As regards roads being built in Ontario—I am referring more particularly to roads in western Ontario, such as the highway from Hamilton to Dundas and up to Galt and Kitchener—I should like to know whether the kind of road that is being built meets with the approval of the department. I presume they have something to say with regard to that; that they would not sign an agreement unless they were satisfied that the road was of the right type.

Hon. Mr. REID: Our engineers and staff must approve all the roads before we sign the agreements. We have not made any agreement with the Ontario Government regarding the road from Dundas to Kitchener; so of course we are not responsible for anything in connection with the construction of that road.

Mr. EULER: Is there an agreement as to the part from Hamilton to Dundas?

Hon. Mr. REID: Yes.

Mr. EULER: Is the road further to the north to be of the same kind?

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

Hon. Mr. REID: I cannot say until the agreement is submitted.

Mr. EULER: I am not an expert on roads, but I understand that there has been a great deal of dissatisfaction with regard to that particular section of the road. Of course, it may not have been well founded.

Mr. STEWART (Hamilton): There is a certain road, which I have been told is the county road, running north from the city of London. Is that portion of the road running north from the boundary line of the city a Government road?

Hon. Mr. REID: I understand it is a road that the Dominion Government have approved, and have undertaken to pay a certain portion of the cost.

Mr. STEWART (Hamilton): I have been over that road, and positively it is the worst piece of road I have seen for years. Let me give you an idea of the condition it is in. The automobiles make ruts in the road the size of the tire, and last summer I counted seven ruts in the road nearly a mile long, running from the city of London north. They told me that the road had been built only two months before. All the money spent on it has been lost—every cent. If that is one of these Government roads, I think a special committee should be appointed to go out and examine it and find out whether or not our money has been thrown away. I believe it has.

Hon. Mr. REID: I know that some roads which people think are completed are not at all completed. After a certain amount of work has been done on the roads, they must remain in that condition until the foundation settles and becomes hard enough to have the top dressing put on. I know some roads in Eastern Ontario that are in just about the same condition as the one my hon. friend has mentioned. Only the foundation is there, but after that has settled and become hard, perhaps in the fall or next year they will put the top dressing on, and it will then be a permanent road. That is the intention, and it is what the agreement provides for. All our officials have been warned that the roads will not be accepted unless they comply with the terms of the agreement, and the money is not paid until the roads are approved and taken over.

Mr. STEWART (Hamilton): The minister's answer only makes matters worse. The foundation is what we want