

by parliament which is made without designating the time and place and conditions under which it is to be expended. I agree with what has been said by the mover and accentuated by the seconder of the address that transportation to and from the towns is of the utmost importance. My contention is this that the roads should be built from the outlying districts to the central markets, and the county council should designate where the road should be. The Bill of last year proposed to place one million dollars at the disposal of the minister and he might spend it all in one province or one county. There were no restrictions in that Bill on the sweet will and option of the minister. Parliament must assert itself. No minister can be supreme to parliament, no matter what his experience or character may be. He cannot place himself in the position of the representatives of the people and arrogate to himself the functions of the people. Charles I. did it and he did not get on very well. James II. tried the same thing and he got into a lot of trouble. English ministers have tried to take similar liberties with the British constitution and have failed, and if the hon. gentlemen opposite tried so far as this side of the House is concerned they shall fail also. We propose to co-operate with the government. I like co-operation. We have three kinds of co-operation mentioned in this address, one with the Imperial government, one with regard to highways, and the other with regard to agriculture. I would prefer myself that we gave no grants to the provinces for highways. There is danger in our assuming to do for a province what is legitimately their own work and what they have been doing for forty odd years. There is danger that we will put the provinces in the position of coming to us some time hat in hand and saying "We are hard up, we have spent all our money, we want money for highways. If you will give us a subsidy perhaps the time may come when you may need help and we can help you, for you know one good turn deserves another." One of the best stories I heard was from the present premier of Ontario on that point.

Hon. Mr. ROSS.

A friend of his was pressing very strongly for some grant and Sir James said, I cannot do that.' The reply was, 'But you see we are old friends, Sir James; do not forget me, I have been good to you.' Sir James said, "The constitution will not allow it.' 'But what is the constitution between old friends like you and me?' said his friend. That is the position the hon. gentlemen are taking—what is the constitution between aid for highways providing we can use that money between ourselves and the provinces. I warn them the constitution must be respected.

There are two or three other clauses in the address to which I should like to refer, but I will not take up the time. The last clause is as follows:

Several other Bills will be submitted, including measures providing for increased representation of the province of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in the Senate.

We are going to have some new blood from the wild and woolly west, with all the breezy optimism of the prairies, and it is coming sooner than we expected, sooner than constitutional usages will allow. I suppose it will come and we will welcome it, but what is the object? I try to read between the lines and I find two or three motives in that clause—perhaps I may not be correct. Is the object to strengthen the government in the Senate lest by some unfortunate catastrophe it may die a violent death? Six senators, and that is all can be appointed under the constitution, might help a little in some of these emergencies. That cannot be the object, surely I have made a mistake. Is the object to placate the West by giving them representation in the Senate and biding their time to give them representation in the House of Commons? Is it a lazy man's way of doing a good turn to a friend? By order in council you can appoint six senators before you could turn a corner or settle one clause in a Redistribution Bill, out to settle a Redistribution Bill requires labour and patience, and a great deal of correspondence, while to do the easy thing we will please the West and as to redistribution we will find some good excuse—the census has just been taken and we are not ready. Nova Scotia and Prince