

present opposition as one of their projects, a project that has been accepted by the people of Canada as a whole. I had expected that some reference would be made to it in the budget, or that certain amounts of money would be placed in the estimates for carrying out such an undertaking, and on account of the unemployment situation, particularly in Ontario, I was very much disappointed that there was no provision for it in the estimates and no mention of it in the budget, although in the speech from the throne an allusion was made to the project and the intimation given that aid would be granted to highways.

When, in the early part of this session, I was speaking in the debate in reply to the speech from the throne I was interrupted by the hon. member for West Algoma (Mr. Simpson) and asked why last year I voted against certain resolutions dealing with the construction of the trans-Canada highway. I wish to say to the house that in northern Ontario particularly a peculiar situation exists. There is no highway commission functioning in that section of the province and any money voted by this parliament, unless specially ear-marked for special purposes, would not be used for highway construction. I am not going to criticize the provincial authorities because I believe the department which has control of the roads in northern Ontario has been doing a practical work in that section of the province. I repeat that any money voted by parliament under what is known as the Kellner resolution would never have found its way into northern Ontario for highway purposes. I make allusion to the fact that although this parliament voted millions of dollars during the 1919 session to relieve unemployment not a single dollar of the money found its way to northern Ontario. Orders were sent to the effect that not one dollar would be spent north of the Severn river. I make that statement to the house so that hon. members will fully realize the situation as it exists in the section of the country I have the honour to represent.

To make my point clearer to hon. members, may I state that in northern Ontario for the last fifteen years we have been discussing the question of the trans-Canada highway. On several occasions I acted on municipal boards, and in that capacity attended many good roads conventions. On one occasion I was sent to the city of Toronto to discuss that all-important question. The question of a trans-Canada highway was again brought forward very forcibly during the confederation

anniversary year, and I believe it was a citizen from the province of Nova Scotia who wanted to call the road the Confederation highway.

Again referring to the Kellner resolution, I want to say to the house that it did not deal directly or indirectly with any moneys to be voted for the construction of the trans-Canada highway. At this time I shall refer to the words of the mover of the resolution, the then member for Athabaska (Mr. Kellner). On page 424 of Hansard, 1930, I find the following resolution moved by that gentleman:

Whereas the need for establishment of highways is greater than in 1919;

And whereas in that year the dominion government recognized its responsibility in this matter by a substantial grant, which grant is now exhausted;

Therefore be it resolved, that, in the opinion of this house, the government should consider the advisability that a further substantial grant be made to cover the next five years' development of highway construction.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, there is not a single allusion, not one word concerning the allocation of moneys towards the construction of a trans-Canada highway. No matter what meaning we may wish to read into that resolution there is no expression to the effect that moneys shall be paid for the construction of such a highway. At this time I shall quote some of the statements by the mover of the resolution. He said:

Mr. Speaker, when this resolution was introduced last year, considerable criticism was offered to the wording of it, and an amendment was introduced providing that the federal government should proceed to construct a transcontinental highway. After due consideration I have decided to leave the wording of the resolution in the same form as it was last year. It is my opinion that under that resolution federal aid could be given to the provincial governments for building roads, or a transcontinental highway could be built, whichever the house decided was more advisable.

I repeat my previous statement that there is not a single allusion to a trans-Canada highway in the Kellner resolution. The mover of the resolution proceeded to say:

Probably the first question in connection with the resolution is whether it is good business to engage or to assist in the construction of highways in Canada.

At this time I wish to read from Hansard of March 10, 1930, page 449, a question by the then hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. McKenzie) and the reply thereto by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner):

Mr. McKenzie: Then the hon. gentleman agrees that this does mean a trans-Canada highway?