

It is not as if this construction has not been promised to these people. It has been promised many times by all parties in this house and by the whole country. It is a very necessary work and some day will have to be undertaken. Notwithstanding the fact that the engineers have reported to the government that it is not a practical question at the present time, in my opinion it is one of the most practical projects there is in the Dominion of Canada to-day.

I have not much more to add. I regret very much that the government cannot find a solution of this problem, that they cannot, under the conditions in that area which I have outlined, bend their energies to providing for the construction of a western outlet for the Peace River country.

Mr. OLOF HANSON (Skeena): This is the third time, Mr. Speaker, that I have had the honour of supporting a motion in favour of this worthy undertaking. I was sorry to hear the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) say that the construction of a western outlet for the Peace River country cannot be given consideration at this time. I fully concur in the description which the hon. member for Cariboo (Mr. Fraser) has given of the population in that area, and of its possibilities and resources. Undoubtedly the work can be done, and most certainly it should be done. As the mover of the motion (Mr. Kennedy) said, I feel that the present time, when we are doling out good Canadian money to feed people who have no work to do, would be opportune to start a useful work of this kind, not by any means as a matter of charity, but to provide an asset for the Canadian nation at large. I therefore urge upon the government that most earnest consideration be given to this worthy undertaking and that if it is not possible to go ahead and complete the project at the present time, at least a start should be made and the work proceeded with as fast as possible. I know the resources of that country and its possibilities, and I do not think any part of this dominion has greater possibilities and more undeveloped natural resources than the Peace River district. We hear complaints at this time that people are rushing to the cities because they cannot find work. What we want is home builders. It has been explained by the hon. member for Peace River, and also by the hon. member for Cariboo, that many of the people there are people who met with misfortune in other parts of the country, and seeing the possibilities, established themselves in a new district, and I think every assistance

should be given them. As the hon. member for Cariboo has explained, it is not a political matter, because these promises were made by both parties. I for one, representing a constituency that is interested, say that I will support any party that will give justice to these people, who have been promised consideration not by any one political party but by the Canadian people. This whole question has been so well outlined by the former speakers that I am not going to take up any more time, but I wish to associate myself again with the mover of the motion.

Mr. WILFRED HANBURY (Vancouver-Burrard): Like my hon. friend the member for Skeena (Mr. Hanson) who wishes to have the traffic from the Peace River country diverted to his constituency, the port of Prince Rupert, I must put in a word for Vancouver, because naturally we expect great benefit if and when this road is constructed. One thing on which I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) is in having at last acquired the courage to cease his dissimulation and the dissimulation of the government on this question. It is a peculiar thing that in respect to a policy on which all the people of the country agree so completely one of the ministers says that because of some peculiar condition that exists at the present time—which we admit, but which makes this particular object especially desirable—the government have decided definitely against the project. At any rate they are not camouflaging any further. It is almost useless to refer again to the many promises that have been made to these people. We all know they have been made, not by one party but by all; not only by the present leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) when he was Prime Minister, or when he hoped to be Prime Minister again, not only by the present leader of the government (Mr. Bennett) when he was leader of the opposition and hoping to be Prime Minister, but by all.

Now the people want work, and they want that outlet. There is only one conclusion that we can come to. It is not simply that the government do not want to spend money on constructing the railway, because the expenditure can be justified; the question is whether the government wish to discourage the growing of further quantities of grain. If the government would come out openly and say that is their policy, and that they do not want more people to go into that country, we might see more reason in what they say. But, as regards construction, we