

is exercising his brains to find out how best to get people back on the land, and the only way in which you can accomplish this end—and I speak from an experience of a life time on the land—is to make conditions on the land and in the country better and more congenial. Now, how can you better do this than by building good roads? I am satisfied to hand the money to the provinces, and I have confidence in the provincial governments, whether Liberal or Conservative, to believe that they will expend it legitimately and honestly. If we had a good system of public highways in the country surrounding the great cities of Montreal and Toronto, it would reduce the cost of living more than anything else. With good roads, the farmer could travel forty miles to a city and take his vegetables, fruit, or any other produce to market and, indeed, right to the doors of people. Would that not represent a great economy? We would not hear so much then about middlemen and profiteers. When this matter was under discussion on a previous occasion it seemed that the East was pulling against the West, or both ends pulling against the middle, so to speak. We want railroads in the west and hope to see them built, but I say that we require good highways in order to induce young men to go on to the farms to remain there and help increase production.

Mr. ROBB: This resolution involves something more than the expenditure of money by this Government. It compels an expenditure by the provinces.

The resolution provides that the minister will contribute forty per cent of the expenditure. He allows \$80,000 to each of the provinces. So that before the province of Prince Edward Island can get a cent of this money, they must spend \$120,000. I am not rising to oppose good roads. I come from a province where we have made good progress in good roads. In one particular locality in my province for perhaps a distance of 100 miles east, south and west, there are good roads leading up to the Montreal highway. But to get into Montreal they must cross the Indian reserve of Caughnawaga, which reserve is under the supervision of this Government. The Government will not allow the province to construct that road, nor will they do it themselves, and we are in this position that there are eight miles required to be constructed to link up with the city of Montreal over which the produce of the farm can be carried, but as the Government

[Mr. Sexsmith.]

have not built these eight miles of road, we are deprived of going into the city with heavy loads. Before this Government start in to dictate to the provinces how much they should spend upon roads they should put their own house in order and make their own roads. I would like a statement from the minister as to that. This has been put up to the department. Do they propose to build that road through the Caughnawaga reserve and connect it with the provincial road? We are not merely planning about good roads in my province; we are building our good roads, and we have already a good system of building roads, probably a little bit better than will be dictated by the Government.

Mr. M. CLARK: Is it not a fact that the province of Quebec has not only good roads but is in a very sound financial position?

Mr. ROBB: I did not want to count that in too far or to introduce comparisons of that kind.

Mr. M. CLARK: I want to show that it is possible to get good roads and still follow the constitution of the country.

Mr. ROBB: My hon. friend may be, and I think is, quite right. However, I rose particularly to inquire about the position of smaller provinces like Prince Edward Island, in regard to the \$120,000 that they will have to contribute before they get anything; and also what the policy of the Government is in regard to the roads for which they are responsible across Indian reserves.

Mr. J. D. REID: I am sorry I cannot answer the hon. member in reference to the road across the Indian reserves that he mentioned. I never heard of it before, and I know nothing about it. The hon. member will have to wait until the minister is up with his Estimates and ask him the question. If I knew what the trouble was I would be very glad to answer the question. In reference to Prince Edward Island and the smaller provinces, it was felt that they should get more in proportion than the larger provinces and for that reason it was decided that we should divide the amount equally, granting \$80,000 to the several provinces and then the balance according to the last federal census. If they accept the money for good roads, they must pay 60 per cent and this Government will pay 40 per cent towards construction.