

being spent wisely, economically and carefully and in the best interests of the people.

Mr. CLARK (Red Deer): Does my hon. friend not think that that sort of thing will arise inevitably from the dual authority? It is the mixing of Dominion and provincial authority which leads to trouble.

Mr. STEELE: I was just going to say that those of us who some years ago approved the original plan of the Government that the expenditure should be made directly by the Federal authority now see that we were not very far astray, and when the Government acceded to the suggestion that that plan be changed and that the money be handed over to the Provincial Governments for expenditure, it is possible that a very great mistake was made. I would just point out to the member for Westmoreland that his friends on that side almost unanimously, I think, supported that method of making the expenditure.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Does this money have to be handed over by the Dominion Government whether the roads are properly constructed or not?

Hon. Mr. REID: The work must be done in accordance with the agreement entered into; the road must be completed and in first-class shape.

Mr. STEELE: When we realize that every dollar of the money is expended by, and every day's work done under the supervision of, the Provincial Government's officers, we see how difficult it is for the Federal Government or the Federal officers to know that every dollar is being wisely spent. I do not agree with what some of my friends over here have said with regard to expenditures on good roads and the inadvisability of building so many roads. I am in favour of good roads throughout Ontario; I do not think we can have too many of them. But I think the minister should impress upon his officials the necessity for seeing that every dollar which is spent on roads in Ontario, by the present Government at least, be spent on what will turn out to be permanent roads. It would be a crime against the people of this country, particularly against the people of Ontario, if millions and tens of millions of dollars are spent during the next few years on roads that will have to be rebuilt in the course of another ten or twelve years. That is what the result has been in connection with the money spent under the county system during the last fifteen years;

long before the debentures are paid off the roads have to be rebuilt, and I fear that too much the same system is being followed under this present highway scheme. I have no lack of confidence in the Dominion officials, but I do think they should be very alert and exercise every precaution to see that nothing is put over them by the officials of the Provincial Government; for I can say that there is a very strong suspicion in the minds of a large section of the community, including many who are practical road builders, that the country is not going to receive for this expenditure the value which it should receive.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Whose fault is it that the value is not received?

Mr. STEELE: The fault of the men who are directly responsible for the supervision of the road. They are the officials of the Ontario Government.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Who is directly responsible for handing over the money from the Dominion Government?

Hon. Mr. REID: An agreement is entered into and a road constructed under the direction of the officials of the local government. We have our engineer who inspects the work as it is in progress, and he must or should see that the road is constructed in accordance with the specifications. When that is done, the accounts of the Ontario Government are audited by our special auditors for this work. When the Ontario Government prove and we are satisfied that they have spent a certain amount, after we have examined the work and audited the books, we hand over to the Ontario Government 40 per cent of the expenditure in accordance with the agreement.

Mr. CAMPBELL: Do I understand that money is paid over by the Dominion Government only on the result of a report from the inspector?

Hon. Mr. REID: Yes, our inspector.

Mr. CAMPBELL: From the federal inspector. Then if money is paid over by the Dominion Government for work that is unsatisfactory the responsibility lies with the Dominion Government.

Hon. Mr. REID: The engineers of the local governments must approve expenditures on behalf of their governments; but our engineers see that the work is carried on in accordance with the agreement, and