

Hon. Mr. REID: The number of miles approved in each province is as follows: British Columbia, 10 roads, 140 miles; Saskatchewan, 3 roads, 104 miles; Ontario, 16 roads, 526 miles; Quebec, 10 roads, 154 miles; Prince Edward Island, 63 miles; Nova Scotia, 44 miles. This statement was made in March, and there has been a number of additions since, which I have not here.

Mr. BEST: Is it a fact that on the different provincial highways throughout Ontario, the Dominion Government is paying 40 per cent.

Hon. Mr. REID: Only on those regarding which we have signed an agreement with the Ontario Government, not on the whole plan as laid down.

Mr. BEST: The minister told us that there were no complaints about the way in which this money was spent. I have been in Parliament for twelve years, and I have never heard so much complaint regarding any government in power as I have of this one with regard to the way in which this money has been spent. Three members of this House went down to the commissioner to find out what amount had been paid to the Ontario Government by the Dominion Government. We were told distinctly by the commissioner that nothing as yet had been paid. We were also told that very few miles of road had yet been taken over. Two days later, when a communication was sent to the commissioner's office asking for a report as to how many dollars had been paid out, to whom it had been paid and what number of miles had been taken over, we found that about a quarter of a million dollars had been paid. Something must be radically wrong if the commissioner is not able to tell what amount of money has been spent. This money has been spent very foolishly in Ontario; in some instances two or three roads running parallel have been taken over while other parts of the province have not been getting any benefit from this grant.

There is a government road running right through the constituency which I have the honour to represent, and our roads are worse than they were before they were taken over. Immediately they are taken over, the municipalities decline to do a dollar's worth of work and the roads are left in a bad state. Roads in our province are 66 feet wide, and now the Ontario Government is speaking about making them 86 feet wide, whereas 66 feet is too wide. The people are finding fault and re-

belling against this proposition, and it is up to the Government, when they pay money to any Provincial Government, to see that it is properly and not foolishly spent. My contention is that moneys granted for highway purposes as well as for other purposes are spent foolishly. Farmers say that if this sort of thing is continued, they will have to abandon the farms because taxes are getting so high that it will be impossible for them to pay them. It is about time for the Government to instruct its officials, who are paid to look after the spending of this money, to make sure that it is honestly and justly spent. I was informed that the work on these roads was being done by contract. There is no such thing as contract work on roads in any part of the province; the work is done by day labour, and almost all of the halt, lame and blind in the community are on the road, mostly sitting under shade trees, drawing four or five dollars a day. I am speaking now of what occurred last year. Few people know that the Dominion Government is providing part of this expenditure, and now that people are finding that out, they are finding fault with the Dominion Government for the way in which the money is spent. Under what conditions is this money spent? Who sees if the department here is getting value for every dollar that is spent on the roads in order that the money may not be wasted?

Hon. Mr. REID: What road does the hon. member refer to?

Mr. BEST: I refer to a road in Wentworth county that I travel over, that will cost probably \$1,500,000, and I do not think there is any need in the world for such an expenditure. A high bridge is being built in connection with it, and farmers and other people are rebelling against this expenditure. I do not know whether the road from the city of Toronto to Brantford, or any part of it has been taken over, but I know that the money along there has been squandered.

Hon. Mr. REID: With reference to the expenditure in Dundas county, and in fact, in all of the counties where men are at work on roads, there is no doubt that the roads cannot be kept in good shape while the work is being carried on. The men have to excavate and dig out the roads and then put in rock and a top on that. It takes two or three years before you can get a road in good shape, so that once a road is taken over and work is commenced on it, the people travelling along that road