

government of the province. Such agreement must be approved by the Governor in Council and shall contain such provisions as to location, cost, description, specifications, time and method of construction, supervision and other necessary particulars as are essential to protect the public interest. Except for reasons set forth in such Order in Council and except with the consent of both governments, all expenditure under this Act shall be by tender and contract;

This is a new feature in the Bill, and in this respect the Bill removes altogether the complaint, criticism, or opposition that was made against the Good Roads Bill which was before Parliament prior to the war.

This is not a war-time measure. Of course, it is important for the Government to see to it that in so far as it may be in the public interest money shall be expended for the purpose of affording employment to returned soldiers. But a good roads measure was introduced in the House of Commons long before the beginning of the war. It was, if my memory serves me, defeated in this House.

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON: No; it was only amended. It was not defeated.

Hon. Mr. BLAIN: Yes, amended in this House.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: Just as it is now.

Hon. Mr. BLAIN: It was amended almost as it is now presented to the House; I thank my honourable friend for the correction. I think nearly all the objections that were taken in this House in opposition to that Bill are now removed, and I do not think the Senate should make any particular objection to the appropriation of this money. It is carefully provided that the policy of public competition shall be followed. That is a policy which is clearly defined and well understood in respect to the expenditure of most public moneys, particularly in municipalities. It may be said, of course, that governments are so designing that they can see to it that their friends receive the contracts. That may be, but I hope that in none of the provinces would the people so far forget themselves as to allow any dishonesty to be practised in the methods of letting contracts for the construction of roads.

Section 5 provides:

The Governor in Council may make such regulations, to be published in the Canada Gazette, as are deemed advisable or giving effect to the objects and purposes of this Act.

Therefore I say that this money will be expended in the best interest of the people of this country. If I stopped long enough

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to make comparisons, I could point out to this House that there is no money expended by a Federal or a Provincial Government in Canada that is more in the interest of the agricultural population than the money which is here provided for the construction of good roads. It allows the members of the family who have remained at home for years because of the condition of the roads to get out and see their neighbours and go to market, church and other places. I think this policy is altogether designed to keep the agricultural population on the farm. There has been a good deal of talk and writing about the policy of inviting farmers' sons and other citizens to leave centres of population and go back to the farms. It is a fine policy to talk about; every Government talks about it, and everybody tries to aid it; but it nearly always ends in mere statements. In my humble opinion the only way to build up the agricultural population of this country is to keep the boys and girls on the farm. If the boys and girls ever drift away from the farm, I do not know and never have heard of any policy that would be effective to bring them back from the centres of population. It is, therefore, important that public men in all branches of legislatures shall give whatever aid they can to keep the agricultural population upon the farms, and direct their attention to agricultural development, which is a policy that I think will commend itself to the people of this country.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: No, it does not commend itself to me.

Hon. Mr. BLAIN: I respectfully differ with my honourable friend.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: When I reply I will give you the reasons why it does not commend itself to me.

Hon. Mr. BLAIN: I am always respectful enough to admit that everybody may not agree with me; but I believe that is the proper policy for this country, and I hope this Senate will support the measure, which has been endorsed by the different Provincial Governments of this country, and is designed to help the people of Canada, and will be approved, I believe, by the people of every province in this country.

Hon. Mr. BOURQUE: I would like to ask the honourable leader of the Government how the Dominion Government will have any control over the expenditure of this money, or whether it will be left entirely to