

giving work to the unemployed, and that work is to be carried on during the coming year. I think also that Quebec is undertaking a good roads system, and Manitoba also; I have no doubt but that the various other provinces will undertake similar outlays, and perhaps to a larger extent, which, coupled with the outlay proposed by the Dominion authorities, will result in a very large expenditure. While the province of Ontario is undertaking to expend upon roads the large amount mentioned, we have had in that province some experience of road and highway building which has not been altogether satisfactory. I have some figures with me, and contrasting the original estimate with the total expenditure for carrying out the work, there still remains a good deal to be learned in the matter of road building. Furthermore, from what I have heard with respect to the construction of the Toronto-Hamilton highway, a great deal of money expended on that enterprise was virtually wasted. I do not consider that we got full value for the money expended on that highway, nor do I believe the quality of the highway is what it should have been, and it lacks the width that is demanded in a stretch of roadway where tremendous traffic is developing for pleasure and for commercial purposes, and where the amount of tonnage transported will be very large indeed. So great indeed is the traffic which passes over this highway that I venture to say, from the nature of its construction in a very short time this roadway will have so deteriorated that it will perhaps have to be rebuilt in a more substantial way, and with greater width. The mileage is thirty-seven, and the original estimate of the cost for a roadway of sixteen feet width was some \$340,000. The estimate for a roadway at eighteen feet width was \$400,000. That is, after having decided to build a sixteen foot roadway the authorities discovered that it was entirely too narrow and too dangerous, and they enlarged the width to eighteen feet, which means an expenditure of approximately \$400,000. The total cost of the highway, exclusive of the bridges, will be about \$1,190,000. The total cost including the bridges will be \$1,251,000. But I saw a few days ago where the chairman of the commission having charge of the work stated that the total expenditure when the highway is completed would be \$1,480,000. So that although the original estimate for this work was \$340,000, to entirely complete it will mean an outlay of a million and a half of

dollars. Now there has been a great deal of complaint in connection with this work, and grievances have arisen. When the original estimate of cost was advanced to \$400,000, and then exceeded, various municipalities complained. They objected to the further increased expenditure, but the commission applied for the necessary sanction to the Provincial Legislature. I may say that a member of the Legislature is chairman of the commission, and after the highway was started he insisted that the work should be completed at any cost. This gentleman forced upon the various interested municipalities that increased expenditure, and yet, notwithstanding that augmented outlay we have not got value for such large expenditure, neither is the road a suitable one for a thoroughfare with such heavy traffic. Therefore, when this Government proposes to hand over to the various provinces the sum of \$20,000,000, I do not think it is showing good judgment. Nevertheless we appreciate the object in undertaking the expenditure of such a large sum in a worthy cause. We know that at this time there are many returned soldiers in Canada, and many other unemployed persons throughout Canada, and I congratulate the Government on undertaking this expenditure to provide work for those who now need it.

I do not think it is good judgment to hand to the various provinces this \$20,000,000 that is to be expended in the next five years. This Government should lay down a policy of building a great transcontinental highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, costing possibly a couple of hundred million dollars and adopt and carry out its own system of building it. What does the handing over of this large expenditure to the various provinces mean? The patronage system still prevails in the provinces, and there is danger that we shall not get good value for the amount which is to be expended. Then, if the roads are constructed by the various provinces, the responsibility for anything which may be faulty or subject to criticism will rest upon this Government, which is furnishing \$20,000,000 for this purpose, and, I suppose, will continue to furnish further sums. I do not think we should place on one engineer the responsibility of representing this Government on the various commissions appointed by the provinces in connection with the construction of these highways. I doubt whether that one person could cope with the situation in the various provinces and with the influences that may be brought to bear upon