

DEFEAT OF THE BILL BY LEADERS OF MINORITY IN COMMONS.

We have hardly begun to realize the importance of good roads in Canada or to grasp thoroughly the truth that they are a necessary and vital link in any scheme of transportation. In some cases the cost to the farmer or other producer of transporting his products to the railway station is considerably greater than the freight thence by rail to the nearest available market. The amount of loss and waste through bad and inferior roads in this country is almost incalculable.

The late Government never lifted a finger to remedy this condition. Not one dollar of their boasted surpluses was ever devoted to this all-important purpose.

One would not suppose, however, that they would undertake to burk or destroy a measure so obviously in the interest of the whole people. Therefore, we might confidently have expected the cordial support of the Opposition. But, to the astonishment of the country and to the dismay of many of his friends, Sir Wilfrid Laurier attacked our bill on the second reading by a motion which, if carried, would have removed it from the order paper. He and his friends opposed the bill with great vigor, and everyone of them voted against it upon the third reading.

Through his control of a partizan majority in the Senate, the leader of the minority in the Commons was able to secure the defeat of the bill by the insertion of amendments which he knew we could not accept.

Exulting in the fact that although defeated by the people he could nevertheless defeat them and their elected representatives