

Mr. J. D. REID: There has been no trouble in getting ties in Eastern Canada. The hon. member knows it would not be possible to buy ties in Quebec or Ontario and take them to Alberta or Saskatchewan because the freight would be too high. The ties are therefore secured in those districts. I have no doubt you could get ties in Western Canada in winter, but at present it would not be possible.

Mr. GREEN: There is a West other than Middle West. If the Middle West wants railways, the Far West wants wagon roads and highways. British Columbia is just as much in need of highways as the Middle West is in need of railways. I am not particularly enamoured of the method in which the money provided under this resolution is to be expended. For myself, I would prefer to see the Government build a national highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Mr. BUREAU: That is quite an undertaking.

Mr. GREEN: It would be a large undertaking, it is true, but a great part of that highway is already built, and all that would be needed would be connecting links. In that way, the Government would not only furnish the money but would have control of the expenditure. The people as a whole are furnishing the money, and this Government is responsible for its expenditure. I will not say that if I cannot get the Government to see eye to eye with me as to the method in which to deal with this matter, I am going to oppose the resolution, because I believe that the Government are perfectly right in undertaking to furnish a large sum of money for the building of highways in Canada, East and West. I trust that the Bill itself will contain a provision for the Government to undertake the building of that highway themselves under their own officials and with the money of the people.

Mr. M. CLARKE: How much money does the minister propose to spend?

Mr. REID: The Bill will ask for an amount not exceeding \$20,000,000 in five years.

Mr. M. CLARK: Where is the money to come from? Has the minister any idea? You heard the Budget statement of the Finance Minister, Mr. Chairman. It is all well enough for my friend from British Columbia (Mr. Green) to talk in favour of a road from the Atlantic to the Pacific. If one

had a sufficient lack of sense of responsibility he might propose a road from here to Mars. But where is the money to come from? There is nothing that both sides of the House will have to attend to more carefully in the next few years than the practice of economy in regard to public funds. That is possibly more urgent than the tariff, although the tariff is probably in a sense more important, because if the people have to contribute money directly they will look more closely to the spending of it. It is because the Government gets money by indirect means that it does not care what schemes it proposes for the spending of it. We have been told that there is a Middle West and a Far West, and that there is an East. Well, there is also a British North America Act which has to do with the manner in which laws are carried out in Canada. I speak subject to correction by legal gentlemen and others who have a longer acquaintance with public life in Canada, but I understand that highways are a matter that is relegated to the provinces under the British North America Act, which is the constitution of the country. Is that so?

Mr. BUREAU: It is so.

Mr. M. CLARK: My opinion is confirmed by lawyers of repute. If that is the case, in the face of the statement of the Minister of Finance given to this country last week, and the fact that we are going around hawking for the pence of the proletariat to carry on the ordinary expenses of the country, is this a time when the Dominion Government should do work which by the British North America Act is defined as being within the purview of the provinces? I would like the minister to tell me where he expects to get this money from.

Mr. SEXSMITH: I do not care to speak on this subject from a provincial standpoint and will not inquire from the minister where he is going to get the money from. I am sorry to disagree with my friend from Red Deer (Mr. Clark). I do not believe that in the interests of Canada as a nation, money can be better spent by the federal government than for the building of good roads. There is a howl from one end of the country to the other about the high cost of living, and in the name of High Heaven, how will you bring it down unless you increase production? We are voting tremendous sums of money to get the returned men back on the land, and nothing could be more admirable. Every responsible man in the country