

out any enterprise? I am at a loss to appreciate the condition of mind, into which my hon. friends have worked themselves on this particular question. It is well known that some legislatures, legislatures in sympathy with the Liberal party, have been so violent on this question that they have deliberately sought to legislate upon it, in order to prevent the Dominion Government assisting their own provinces, from having better highways, through accepting the generosity shown by this Government, in the distribution of this fund. Is it unreasonable to say that this Government, having placed this money in the Estimates, and having said that it would be distributed, among the provinces of the Dominion pro rata—

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—In the Bill?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—In the estimates—should not be permitted to carry out this legislation? When the House of Commons votes money of its own volition and motion it will do it on its own terms.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—The amendments made in this House to that Bill would not prevent the Government from spending that money exactly as they said they would spend it.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—When the Government said they would give the money in that particular way, they were not going to accept different terms from the Senate as to how that money should be spent. The function above all functions of the House of Commons is to vote supplies. When that House votes supplies, then it is to be expected when that House pronounces how those supplies shall be expended the Senate shall not intervene, and say they shall be expended differently.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Then why introduce a Bill?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—There was no necessity for introducing a Bill. The Government last session and the session before could have put the amount in the Estimates. But for the purpose of further assuring the provinces they were willing to put it in a Bill, and so give assurance as to how the money would be distributed.

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS (Middlesex)—You could not attach conditions in the estimate unless you brought in the Bill.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I would say in answer to that, that if the Government desired to apply the fund in a questionable

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way, they would have put it in the Estimates, and not brought down a Bill. The very objection taken by my hon. friend establishes the good intentions of the Government—namely, that that money should be expended for the advantages of the provinces, and not for the advantage of the government.

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS (Middlesex)—My hon. friend knows that if it went in the Estimates it must be spent by the local governments, but when put in the Bill it would have to be spent according to the wish of the government in power.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Was it unreasonable that the Government of the day in voting a substantial sum to the different provinces of Canada, a sum which the government was not called upon by the British North America Act to vote, a sum which the government voted out of their own generosity, should not exercise some supervision over the money and should not have the opportunity of preventing a province from attempting to destroy the government by the use of that fund? I am not casting a reflection upon the provincial powers, when I say that in the provinces of Canada, irrespective of the political complexion of the governments in power, questionable methods are resorted to in the expenditure of road funds. This Government did not propose to expend that sum themselves: not a dollar of it could be expended without the co-operation of the provinces; not a dollar of it could be used without a mutual and co-operative scheme being arranged between the two governments.

Hon. Sir GEORGE ROSS (Middlesex)—Upon conditions laid down in the Bill?

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The condition was, generally, that it should be subject to the executive of the province as well as to this government.

Hon. Mr. KERR—There was no condition that it should be uniform in the various provinces.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED:—One province might not appreciate the conditions of the other provinces.

Hon. Mr. KERR—They might refuse the money to one province, and give it to another.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—In the two preceding sessions this money was voted by