

smaller sections outside St. John's, with the idea of a transinsular highway. I disagree with the defeatest ideas of Mr. Hollett. I am convinced we have to have a cross-country road. Whatever the cost it will be well spent. We know the cost to maintain it will be high, but while we will not have it open in winter, we will have a road across the country in summer when produce would be made available throughout the country, and when people would be able to move more freely.

I notice Governor Macdonald in his year-end talk, spoke of the transinsular highway. The plans have been delayed too long. If it is going to take from the railway, then that is just too bad. The only way a country can be developed is by roads. As far as St. John's is concerned, we do not apologise for the money spent; our population is greater and the roads were here before the rest of the country was heard of. I recommend to any future form of government that roads, and particularly transinsular roads, should have a very prominent part in their programme.

Mr. Smallwood What has surprised me most is the complete silence of members who do not come from the Avalon Peninsula. There is one paragraph of three lines:¹ "Included in this is an amount of \$529,464.61 spent in the past two years on the 9.2 miles between St. John's and Topsail, to reconstruct, recondition and pave the Conception Bay highroad." Perhaps the districts the other members represent have not got conditions such as they have in the parts I represent. In Gambo, the cemetery is a mile from the settlement. I have walked over that mile — it is bog to your ankles. There are places where you have to leave the road altogether. I wonder what the people of Gambo will think when they hear that in the past two years \$500,000 has been spent from St. John's to Woodstock?² What for? I do not know a great deal about the area, but my guess is that that was done for a few people who have country houses out around Topsail, so that they can get in their cars and get out there easier. I cannot imagine what other reason there could be. And the rest of the country is up to its shins in bog. I am thinking of the islands down there also

— Silver Hare Island³ — where there is a cove on one side where there is a school, and in order to get to that school the children have to climb over a cliff of some 30 to 40 feet in height because the road is broken. There was a bridge there and it gave way. Yet the government spends \$500,000 to recondition and pave nine miles of road from here to Woodstock, \$60,000 a mile. And in the future they intend to spend "in Conception Bay, to re-pave a section of the highroad west of Topsail," \$420,000. When they have spent that \$420,000, plus \$529,000, that is \$1 million to re-pave roughly 15 miles of road.

Mr. Hollett That is what I meant by waste.

Mr. Smallwood A certain proportion is wasted, but it is surprising to me — this report is full of dynamite, and we are passing it over talking about details. Does the House agree with the Committee's report?

Mr. Roberts Before any of the St. John's members reply, I would like to refer to page 9 in connection with the transinsular highway, a nice scheme, providing we have the money to build it. I am very disappointed that no money is to be spent on the Northern Peninsula. For 40 years we have been wanting roads. We are very isolated. Instead of a transinsular road they should link up the isolated places. In the Bonne Bay area we have fared fairly well. During the past ten years we have been linked up with Deer Lake and Corner Brook. The distance from Bonne Bay north is 125 miles, and 75 miles of that is without a harbour. I sent freight out of St. John's the first week in November and where is it? At Corner Brook. In Clarendville there is a lot of freight for that part of the northeast coast. What are the people going to do this winter? We are 40 years asking for a road. Do they want the people to starve? I have been asked, "What have you got there?" We have some of the best salmon rivers. I was interested in the tourist trade. One tourist came down to Lomond⁴ to do some fishing and had to wait a day to get to the rivers. He was paying \$25 a day besides other expenses. We have some of the best lobster fishing grounds on that coast, but there is no way of getting out to it.

¹Volume II:89.

²A small community near Topsail, Conception Bay.

³Bonavista Bay.

⁴A logging settlement in Bonne Bay.