

else can the representatives of the people voice their statements except in this chamber? I would urge that people should not be too critical when we voice our opinions about these different matters. We know the roads are the arteries which carry the products of industry, and realise also we should have a good sound grant as regards our system of transportation. These roads help to open up the country and connect settlements with each other. The amount of money which this country can justifiably expend annually on roads and bridges is a matter for great consideration. I would like to have fixed in my mind what is the right percentage of our revenue that we can annually expend on roads and bridges.... It seems to me also that the transinsular road may be a good idea. Anyway, from Port-aux-Basques to Humber there should be a good road. I believe there are a large number of Americans and Canadians — monied men — who are prepared to come with their wives and families and spend some of that money in Newfoundland, and I think it would be a good idea to have that section so that these people can come in with their cars and use our roads down to the Humber where they can go fishing. Another section which should be completed is from Gander to Lewisporte. The Canadian government spent a large sum on that road, but it is not completed.... Speaking of Lewisporte, I would like to take up the matter of placing Lewisporte on the main line of railway. Whoever heard of a terminal not on the main line? There are nine miles of railroad and there should be a spur line. I advocated that 20 years ago.... I feel very strongly on this Lewisporte matter because this year I had to leave the express at Notre Dame Junction, and had to stay there overnight to go that nine miles. It would not be tolerated in a good many countries, and I hope the Commission of Government will consider the amount of traffic that goes through Lewisporte. It is a big terminus — the Imperial Oil Co. and the Shell Oil Co. have tanks there; there are a lot of boats; and now that the railway is to be converted from coal to oil, they would save money. They should make a detour and put Lewisporte on the main line....

I would like to know how many miles this money was spent on as regards local roads — how many miles of road were covered by this small expenditure of money?

Mr. Smallwood We have not got that information. We could easily get it. No doubt the returns are in the department.

Mr. Ashbourne That information would be helpful. I am a firm believer in town councils and self-help as regards local roads. People are interested in their own communities, and prepared to give free labour or pay an amount of taxes, and in the spring of the year when people are not so busily engaged they will put in a few hours of work on the roads....

Mr. Ballam I concur entirely with the remarks of Mr. Fudge, my colleague here. It is not necessary for me to go further into the details of the road conditions in the Humber district. We are well aware of them, and you have been told a good deal about them by Mr. Fudge, and I want to go on record as supporting him heartily.

Mr. Smallwood Yesterday it was Mr. Jackman, I think, who wanted to have some information as to the rates of pay of workers on highroads work.... The department tells me that their policy in employing men on the highroads for labour is to pay whatever rate of wages is prevailing in each area where any road work is done. They have a minimum of 40 cents an hour, but in St. John's they pay 55 cents an hour. Out on the west coast they pay 58 cents, because that is the prevailing rate out there. In the Grand Falls area, where I understand the prevailing rate for common labour is 70 cents an hour, I assume the rate paid common labour by the highroads division is the same....

Mr. Jackman The prevailing rate on Bell Island unless it has changed during the past six or eight weeks, is 68 cents an hour, and the prevailing rate for highroads employees is 40 cents an hour.... That rate has been paid for the past five years. The union rate has been between 58 cents and 60 cents, and the highroads rate has been 40 cents an hour up to September month anyway.

Mr. Ballam The rate of 58 cents an hour paid the highroads workers in the Humber area is not the rate in the paper mills where it is 72.5 cents per hour....

Mr. Smallwood It is 4.25 pm, and we appear not to have completed roads. I was hoping we could get on today to posts and telegraphs, and perhaps complete the report this week.... I don't know if it is the pleasure of the House to do that.

If I were a newspaper reporter, expected today