

# TO COMPLETE BANFF- WINDERMERE ROAD

## Bill to Grant Dominion Govern- ment Strip of Land Passed by Legislature.

(World's Special Service.)

VICTORIA, B. C., May 30.—A bill to grant to the Dominion government the strip of land necessary for the construction of the Banff-Windermere highway was introduced in the legislature by Hon. W. R. Ross on a message from the lieutenant-governor. By suspension of the rules the second reading was moved at once, and Mr. Ross explained that the uncompleted strip of 40 miles would cost about \$200,000, and that the Dominion government had agreed to complete and maintain the road. The grant was of no value to the province as the land in question was nearly all rock.

Parker Williams adjourned the debate and in the evening said there was no necessity for the road, which was a typical example of the government's prodigal extravagance.

The Premier said that the bargain was a good one for the province, as it escaped the heavy cost of maintenance of the road in return for the land, which was of little value except as scenery. The road would bring the tourists from Banff into the Columbia Valley, with the usual advantages to British Columbia.

H. E. Forester, M. A. Macdonald, and H. C. Brewster also spoke. Mr. Brewster disliked voting until he knew whether the land to be given away was valuable or not. Mr. Ernest Miller replied that he had been assured the land was not worth very much except as a game preserve and national park.

At the request of Mr. Ross, the bill was taken up in committee at the evening session and was given third reading before the House rose.