

National Housing Act

is my information. A dominion land surveyor certificate is a high attainment in the surveying field in Canada, and many people naturally aspire to that qualification. It enables them to go into private practice. It is the highest standard they can reach in that particular line. Many people start in our surveys in the summer time and work as part-time employees to earn money to continue their courses in universities. Right on the ground they learn the elementary principles and become interested and decide to carry on and get their certificates. I think that is the main inducement.

Mr. Green: Can a dominion land surveyor practise in any of the provinces without obtaining qualification as a provincial land surveyor also?

Mr. Prudham: No; he has to take out his provincial certificate also.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Prudham thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 254, to amend the Canada Lands Surveys Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

HOUSING

PROVISION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUNICIPALITIES, HOME LOANS, HOUSING RESEARCH, ETC.

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Public Works) moved the second reading of Bill No. 215, to amend the National Housing Act, 1954.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill before the House is to effect several important amendments to the National Housing Act, 1954. Before dealing with the principles of these amendments it might be helpful if I first made some remarks which would put these legislative changes into the broad perspective of the whole housing situation in Canada.

Governments at all levels are inescapably involved in housing because of its social implications and because housing is an integral part of our whole economic growth. The government of Canada has played an active part in housing affairs since the introduction of the Dominion Housing Act in 1935 and particularly since the introduction of the National Housing Act of 1944 and the establishment of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in 1946. In aiding the production of housing we have been guided by the principle that it is appropriate for the government to stimulate housebuilding and to fill certain needs that could not be met in the ordinary housing market, but that government should

[Mr. Prudham.]

not assume responsibilities which could effectively be borne by private enterprise. We have also had in mind that there are certain aspects of housing affairs which are properly the concern of the national government while other matters are constitutionally the responsibility of other governments.

The aid offered by the federal government has been essentially of two kinds. Indirect aid to enlarge the housing market has been achieved by the government's sharing in mortgage loans up to 1954 and subsequently by insuring mortgage loans offered by lending institutions and banks. Direct governmental aid has taken several forms, for example housing was built for the families of veterans during the post-war emergency and, in the present period, low rental housing is constructed by the federal government in partnership with provincial governments. At the present time about half of all the housing being built in Canada is aided by the national government, either directly or indirectly.

In the last ten years Canada has accomplished a gigantic task in housing its expanding population and in reducing the pressures on our housing accommodation. This year we will celebrate the building of the millionth post-war house. From one end of the country to the other, every city and town has been transformed by the growth of new suburbs on their fringes. Nearly three million Canadians live in these new suburbs with their new shopping centres and schools and churches.

Before the war housebuilding had proceeded at the rate of about 38,000 units annually. Now more than 100,000 families are moving into new homes each year. In 1955 housing production reached the new record of 127,000 completions. This great acceleration of building has been accomplished through the enterprise of housebuilders and through the productive capacity of the industries which supply building materials. More than 300,000 workers are now employed upon the production of building materials and on the building of houses. In these past ten years more than \$8 billions has been invested in housebuilding by Canadian financial institutions, our insurance companies, banks, loan and trust companies, together with the personal savings of a multitude of individual home owners.

While many different kinds of housing have been built, both for sale and for rent, the Canadian people have shown an unmistakable preference for the single detached house as a place in which to spend leisure time and to raise a family. We are fortunate that the earning power and the productive capacity of the nation have enabled so many to realize