

What happened in regard to that recommendation?—A. To my knowledge there has been no new hardwood flooring purchased, principally because it is extremely scarce; and I just doubt at the present time whether we could undertake to replace any softwood flooring used in upstairs houses throughout the dominion.

Mr. WARREN: I wonder if I might be permitted to interject one question. I would like to ask Mr. Murchison, does he know anything that is wrong with dry basswood flooring or dry pine flooring, as compared to hardwood flooring? My experience is that if you put in hardwood flooring—

Mr. FLEMING: Is this a question, Mr. Chariman?

Mr. FRASER: There is a great difference between hardwood flooring and that kind of stuff.

Mr. WARREN: I would like an answer; does he know anything that is wrong with good pine or basswood flooring used in these houses?

The CHAIRMAN: Let the witness answer.

The WITNESS: I do not know anything wrong with it for upstairs flooring if it is dry material that is properly laid.

Mr. WARREN: Many of us have been raised on worse than that.

The WITNESS: I agree to that.

Mr. WARREN: Is there anything wrong with it being used downstairs in place of hardwood; is there anything better than good pine or basswood? What is wrong with it?

The WITNESS: It is not a question of what is wrong with it, it is in the specifications, that we would use hardwood flooring downstairs, and we were unable to secure hardwood flooring for upstairs use on account of the orders of the timber controller of Canada.

*By Mr. Cleaver:*

Q. If Mr. Warren will wait for one or two more questions I think I will have cleared it up. Is it not true, Mr. Murchison, that the reason Colonel Parrish made that recommendation in regard to softwood flooring upstairs was because he found that much of it was so green when it was laid that you could put a cigarette quite handily into the cracks in the flooring?—A. There was some question of that kind.

Q. I take it that that is what Colonel Parrish refers to when he recommends a replacement. You see, you have a floor that was laid so green that the cracks are so wide you could do that, you could not even cover them properly with linoleum if you laid it over the top of the floor possibly even if you were to sand it, the linoleum would wear away on the ridges and cracks. I will concede at once that you could get nothing nicer than a good white pine floor; but, can anyone tell me where to go to get good white pine flooring to-day?—A. We will have to re-lay some of the more unsatisfactory softwood floors in the upstairs.

Q. Yes; now, what is your plan—I concede at once that hardwood flooring is not available; now, what are your plans as to giving a firm undertaking to the veteran specifying what will be done in regard to this flooring, because you will want them to sign contracts, and you cannot very well ask them to do that until some sort of a satisfactory adjustment has been made. Have you considered giving them a letter saying you would put the new flooring in when you were able to get it?—A. Our proposal is that we re-lay these floors where there has been serious shrinkage by using dry material of the same type; tightening up these floors and finishing them in a satisfactory way.

*By Mr. Probe:*

Q. Whether there were contracts or not is that floor question being considered whether the veteran has signed his contract or not.—A. Oh yes.