

materials. The materials on any of these jobs were good. I heard the minister say something about defective lime. That might have happened in an isolated instance, but in the main the materials in these houses were good. I say that an inspector, or someone else, should be held responsible for the type of thing that was permitted. If something is not done the veteran will never have confidence that he is getting a square deal.

I would now point out another type of veteran who has been deprived of doing the thing he would have liked to do. There are large numbers in this group in my area, and what I say will no doubt be applicable in other parts of Canada. I am not exaggerating when I say that in my own area there have been hundreds who have purchased small parcels of land, whether within the city limits on improved streets, having local improvements, or just outside the city limits on selected land which they have purchased and for which they have laid out their cash.

Hundreds of those young men are recently back from overseas. But today they cannot get materials. Perhaps the minister will say that certain priorities have been granted to veterans, but the priorities on government housing schemes took precedence over everything. And because there were limited supplies of materials those veterans could not obtain any materials to build their own small homes in their own way. Mark you, Mr. Speaker, they did not want assistance from anybody. They owned their lots, and had a little money. Perhaps they had friends or relatives who were willing to grub-stake them for the additional amounts they required. All they wanted were materials.

I say hundreds of homes would be produced by those veterans if steps were taken to direct materials into the proper channels. Someone may ask what I would do, or what I would suggest should be done under these circumstances. I shall make one suggestion. We have an army of men of various types running around the country doing a useless job, and it is about time they were put on the production end. I have reference to employees of the wartime prices and trade board. I say in all sincerity it is about time they were put on a production basis—and I do not care whether it is with a pick and shovel, or in what manner. They are travelling around the country today, and it is supposed they are looking for prosecutions. Mr. Speaker, most of their work is persecution—and I say that sincerely. If those men were put in the production lines

from the bush down so that they could get out some building materials they would be doing something worthwhile.

Let me give an illustration of what I discovered last week-end in connection with this great army we have. Incidentally I know the personnel of the wartime prices and trade board in about ten different offices in my part of the country. I made the statement in this house about three or four years ago that fifty per cent of these officials were derelicts. I still say that they are derelicts and I base that statement upon the type of men we find doing this work. A shoe man will be running around looking after hog inspection, and we find an insurance man or the like inspecting the building industry. That is the type of thing that is going on.

Let me give an example. Five young men took over a small packing plant in my district a year or two ago. Two of them were overseas veterans with some four years of service and they pooled their resources to purchase this small packing plant which was in operation. The former owner told me that he was fed up with the regulations and red tape he had had to put up with and was glad to get away from it. He told me he hoped the strength and numbers of these five young men would result in better success than he had had.

It took them quite a long time to have their quota set, which was the same as that of the original owner. I think they could kill only thirty-nine hogs a week, but finally they got that quota. Then, with all the restrictions and red tape, only just a week or two ago one of these brilliant inspectors came to this place of business and there was a heated discussion about some irregularities. I do not know the exact conversation, but I am told that one of these men, who now travel in twos and fours rather than singly, I suppose because they are getting short of work, said to one of these five brothers who are trying to earn an honest living, "One of the reasons why we have to come in here in this manner is that in the last six months of 1946, 50,000 hogs found their way into the black market in the six counties around the Niagara peninsula." That was the statement made by one of those inspectors. If that is true, what a reflection upon the ability of the men who are supposed to be doing a job in the Niagara peninsula! I repeat that they are derelicts.

I go one step farther. On another occasion they came into the same place of business persecuting and trying to make things as