

tion. I am one of those who thought it was bad enough to have a royal commission investigate, but when this committee mentioned by the minister is checking up I want it to look carefully over what we call the Louth street development on the outskirts of the city of St. Catharines, because I should like this house to be given a full and detailed report of the findings of that committee. I made three inspections there last Saturday afternoon. The first home was a small building, fairly well constructed, which had been sold for about \$5,000. The occupant thought the amount was \$5,100, and then corrected himself and said he thought it was \$5,000. The next was of poorer construction, and it had been sold for just under \$6,000. The third house I inspected was terrible, and when I say "terrible" I mean just that. Having spent twenty-five or thirty years in the builders' supply business, I believe I know what terrible construction is. When I got into this last house I could not leave it, I was so shocked. It was a four-room house, on which the veteran who owns it told me he had paid the sum of \$5,960, as he recalled.

In a vague sort of way this afternoon the minister tried to say that the price quoted for these houses included everything. I tried to get the meaning of what the minister gave us in connection with the prices he placed on record. But this veteran tells me that because of his having purchased one of these homes at, I believe, \$5,960, he surrendered certain other benefits which would have accrued to him.

I believe that there is a conflict of opinion in this matter, and that it should be cleared up definitely in the house. The veteran about whom I have spoken last had a four-room house for which he paid the amount I have mentioned. There were no sidewalks, and on the land only rough grading has been done. I wish the committee could check what I have said and get the opinions of neighbours as to the type of places on which these poor, unfortunate veterans have been planted in that area, and in that particular development.

The front door of the house I have mentioned is an inch out of plumb at both the bottom and the top. There is no storm door, and the wind howls and whistles through the front door. Believe me, the wind was whistling the day I was there. Mark you, this is only a four-room house, but there were plaster cracks between two of the rooms into which I could lay my hand. I should very much like the committee to see those things themselves.

[Mr. Lockhart.]

The shingles on one side of the house were completely blown up on end. I asked the veteran what he was doing about it, and he said, that he had climbed up on the roof and had nailed many of them down, and that he was going to surface-nail them. Well, if there is anyone in the house who knows anything about construction he must know what is bound to happen from surface-nailing asphalt shingles. A year from now that man will think a sprinkling can is being held over his head. The nails loosen in the asphalt base of the shingles, with the result that there is a constant drip, drip, drip. That is what this veteran is up against.

So I say, here is a good chance for the government to take action. I will give them much more information if they will undertake to go into that district and look things over. This veteran paid about \$600 down; I believe he said the exact amount was \$596 he thought. He asked for my candid opinion as to whether he ought to throw up the whole deal. It was at that time he mentioned that he had made certain financial sacrifices in order to obtain the contract at \$5,960. He paid his deposit, and he had his four-roomed house. As the minister said today, probably it was necessary to take the action he did if he was to have a roof over his head.

I am glad to see the minister has returned to the chamber, because I do not hold him entirely responsible. Much of this was begun long before he had a hand in it.

Mr. JOHNSTON: And a lot of it after, too.

Mr. LOCKHART: And, as the hon. member says, there was a lot of it after too. I hope the minister will read what I have put on record today, and have the committee go to the area in question and consider carefully the situation, particularly with respect to this one development.

Then, this poor fellow paid down his ten per cent. He is wondering whether he should surrender his contract; that is, if he can do it, or is not held in some way. His wife has taken work trying to earn a little bit of money. She has taken a part-time job, to see if they cannot see it through.

What kind of security is that, for the man who has gone into the very jaws of death, in your interests and mine, and who comes back to receive all the lip-service given him, and then is given this kind of deal?

During the last two or three years, construction materials, or a large percentage of them, have been channeled into this type of construction. Today I asked the minister about inspection. I have never seen such wilful waste of