

Mr. NICHOLSON: I thought either the hon. member or the minister would place them on the record to support the minister's statement yesterday regarding Saskatchewan rates.

Mr. McILRAITH: I have not rents here at all. In fact, I have very few notes. They are much more sketchy than I would have wished if I had had more opportunity.

It is interesting to recall here exactly what number of houses was provided by the dominion government through direct efforts last year. The figures are: Wartime Housing Limited, 5,421; emergency shelter, 3,751; housing enterprises, 2,847; and by army, air force, navy and transport department, about 1,000, making a total of 13,019 houses provided directly by the dominion government last year.

Mr. HACKETT: What was the total?

Mr. McILRAITH: I am coming to that. In addition to that, and the other houses built last year, the dominion government, through the low-cost housing veterans priorities, provided direct assistance in getting materials for an additional 16,896 houses. As to the total number of houses built, the figure in Canada in 1945 was 48,000; in 1946 it was 67,000, and in 1947 it was 79,000. Hon. members will notice that the figure I have given for 1947 is different from any previously given. The revised figure from the bureau of statistics is 79,000 houses for last year. The preliminary figure used in most of the discussion and debate has been 77,000. The explanation of the difference is simply that they have completed the revision of their work.

Mr. HACKETT: Would the hon. gentleman care to give the breakdown by provinces for 1947?

Mr. McILRAITH: I could get it, but I am afraid I do not have it here; I am sorry.

It seems to me that the whole trend of the debate has been to belittle what has been done in Canada. I rather take the position that the effort in Canada has been quite good; but in taking that position I want to make it clear that I am fully aware of the shortage of housing and the urgent need for more housing. Yesterday we heard so much about all the rest of the world in relation to housing, and it was certainly a great picture, I began to wonder why I was born in Canada. I always had the naive feeling that it was rather a fine place in which to be born, and that I owed a great deal to my ancestors for having come to this country. I took the trouble to get some statistics as to housing in other countries for 1946 and 1947, and I have them here. They show the number of completions in those

years, the population, and the number of completions per thousand of population, which I think is the fairest method of comparison.

	Completions	Population	Completions per thousand
Canada			
1946 . . . . .	67,194	12,283,000	5.47
1947 . . . . .	79,000	12,582,000	6.29
Australia			
1946 . . . . .	25,300	7,449,000	3.40
1947 . . . . .	36,500	7,581,000	4.81
New Zealand			
1946 . . . . .	9,500	1,761,000	5.39
1947 . . . . .	11,000	1,803,000	6.10
United Kingdom			
1946 . . . . .	243,851	47,175,000	5.17
1947 . . . . .	237,000	49,748,000	4.76
United States			
1946 . . . . .	476,400	141,229,000	3.37
1947 . . . . .	900,000	144,002,000	6.25
South Africa			
1946 . . . . .	7,219	2,363,000	3.06
1947 . . . . .	8,705	2,397,000	3.63
Sweden			
1946 . . . . .	40,800	6,719,000	6.07
1947 . . . . .	40,000	6,785,000	5.90

From an analysis of these figures it will be seen that Canada has provided more housing on a per capita basis than any other of these countries. As I say, I do not want to be misunderstood on that. I appreciate that there are problems in Great Britain, where there was great destruction of plant; and I also appreciate that there is a housing shortage. I am not trying to minimize it; I am merely making the point that in comparing our own construction effort with that of any of the other countries—and I have tried to select the ones I thought would be comparable—our effort appears to be and is, I believe, better than that of any other country.

Mr. BENTLEY: Have they as many trees in Britain as we have?

Mr. McILRAITH: No; but they do not have the frost in the wintertime, either.

Mr. GRAYDON: In order that the statement may be complete, would the hon. gentleman also put on record—I fancy he may have them on his file—the promises made by government speakers during the 1945 campaign, as to the number of houses they would build?

Mr. McILRAITH: If the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) will take those promises and forecasts of housebuilding in this country he will find it extraordinary how they have been lived up to, notwithstanding the remarks—

Mr. JACKMAN: Why should it be so extraordinary?