

*Exit Permits*

- (a) to refuse to issue a permit for the erection, alteration or repair of any building or structure; and
- (b) to revoke, cancel or suspend any permit which may have been issued for the erection, alteration or repair of any building or structure.

The order in council further provides that—

Where, in any place, a permit from a municipal body or any officer, employee or agent thereof is required by law for the erection, alteration or repair of any building or structure, no person shall erect, alter or repair any building or structure in such place unless such permit shall have been issued therefor and is in full force and effect.

Effective means have been instituted to bring about a fair distribution of building material in all parts of Canada. Steps will be taken to maintain the same equitable distribution. It will then be the duty of each municipality to determine whether its quota of material should properly be used for housing, for industrial projects or otherwise. Should the municipality decide to use its building materials to build motion picture theatres or other places of amusement, that municipality can hardly complain if a shortage develops in materials for construction of houses. I feel certain that every municipality will be impressed with the necessity to provide adequate housing for its population, even if this involves deferring projects that would otherwise be desirable. Therefore I am confident that the right to control issuance of building permits will provide an effective means of building control.

There is still a need for low-rental housing for veterans and, therefore, Wartime Housing Limited is prepared to consider applications for veterans' houses for rent, provided they are received from the municipalities not later than June 1st. I suggest that each municipality should arrive at an early decision as to whether or not wartime houses are desirable under the standard conditions that govern such construction. During 1945 the Wartime Housing building programme was not undertaken until July, and, in the case of certain municipalities, not until late in the autumn, with the result that practically all the building extended over the winter months. It is to avoid this that the deadline of June 1st has been established for applications during 1946.

Mr. FLEMING: Would the Minister of Reconstruction permit a question arising out of the statement he has read. He indicates that an attempt will be made to effect an equitable distribution of building materials among the municipalities. Will he indicate to the house the basis upon which that distribution will be

[Mr. Howe.]

made? Will it be on the basis of population, or are steps being taken to ascertain the needs of the particular municipalities?

Mr. HOWE: The pattern of distribution for the past two or three years will be taken as the pattern for the following year; that is the shortage of building materials in the locality will govern the distribution in 1946.

## EXIT PERMITS

## CONDITIONS AFFECTING TRAVEL TO GREAT BRITAIN AND RETURN TO CANADA

Hon. J. A. GLEN (Minister of Mines and Resources): On Friday last the hon. member for Peterborough West (Mr. Fraser) asked the following question of the Prime Minister, as reported on page 394 of *Hansard*:

Women proceeding to Great Britain have to have exit permits, on which they must state that they are going to reside in Great Britain either permanently, or for at least one or two years. However, in the event of something happening in Canada before the expiration of that time, those persons have to apply in Great Britain to the high commissioner for transportation back to Canada. On such occasions they are treated not as Canadians, but rather as immigrants, and must take their chances on the quota. What is the present situation?

The regulations provide that all women and children under the age of sixteen years proceeding to destinations outside the western hemisphere must have exit permits as a condition of departure from Canada. The issuance of permits is restricted to certain classes, as provided by P.C. 1841. Women and children proceeding overseas for permanent residence come within these classes. All applicants are required to state the purpose for which they desire to leave Canada.

Persons other than those of Canadian birth who have not become aliens, upon leaving Canada for permanent residence abroad, relinquish Canadian domicile, and any who may subsequently apply for readmission to Canada must be dealt with as immigrants as required by the provisions of the Immigration Act. As immigrants are not entitled to priority rating for steamship accommodation, there is no possibility of such persons securing passage to Canada for many months owing to the acute shortage of westbound transatlantic passenger space.

For some time steamship companies required all passengers to sign a statement to the effect that they—the passengers—understood return transportation would not be available for two years; this was later reduced to one year. No doubt the purpose of this procedure was to impress upon travellers the fact that there was no possibility of an early return to Canada.