

Yet, if they are not for a discriminatory purpose, they are entirely unnecessary; they are redundant; they have nothing to do with the right of a soldier to get a home, surely.

Mr. HOWE: It seems to me they are questions that a man answers very frequently. I know a great many blanks which a man fills in. To become a soldier I suppose he had to fill in that exact information.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): Why should a soldier have to answer that? What has his religion to do with his right to have a home, or his nationality either?

Mr. HOWE: No reason at all, but there are certain activities in connection with Wartime Housing where it is rather important to know that. For instance, it affects the school accommodation and Wartime Housing does something in the way of assisting schools. Sometimes it has to supplement the separate schools and sometimes it has to supplement Protestant schools. It is well to know what the problem is to be. Wartime Housing also builds church accommodation.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Community churches and schools.

Mr. HOWE: It is a good idea to know just what the needs of the tenants are. My hon. friend is denouncing Wartime Housing and all its works. I only wish he could convince, say, the people of his same political faith in his city who are hounding me continually for more and more. I deny absolutely that we are building an inferior house; I deny that we are building a temporary house. I claim that we are getting better value for the money we are spending to-day than any other builder. We are the only agency to-day building houses which will range in rent from \$22 a month to \$31 a month. We can build basements, yes, but the only effect would be to raise the rent of the occupants from \$6 to \$7 a month. There is no agency that subsidizes such houses. We build them and rent them at an economic rent. We believe that there is a requirement in the field of \$22 to \$31 rents. If any man wants a better house there is nothing to stop him from going and renting a better house at the price the better house would cost. We could very easily satisfy that need by building a different type of house, but we think that can be very well left to private interests. The man who can afford to pay a higher rent can perhaps make his own arrangement. We are dealing with houses that we regard as the minimum comfortable house at this time.

My hon. friend says that there is no pride in the tenants. I wish he could see some

of the developments in Canada. I wish he could see the one at Sea Island in Vancouver, as beautiful a residential development as one could see. I should like him to see some at Windsor and Hamilton. I think he is talking without having explored the situation in any way whatever when he says there is no pride of possession in the owners of these houses. The gardens around these houses are a treat. Our housing projects are well operated. We do not really stop at being landlords. We operate community halls for each group of houses. We have a person whose duty it is to see that good conditions are maintained in each group of houses. It is his duty to see that something is done in the way of social welfare. Certainly everything is done in the way of maintaining the houses. I have read speeches from people who know very little about the houses. The surprising thing is that tenants, who should know a great deal about them, communicate with me very seldom. I never go to a city that has a group of wartime houses without dropping in on the development and dropping in at random on two or three of the tenants to ask them how conditions are, and I may say that the impression I have gained is quite different from the speech of my hon. friend who has been denouncing an institution that I think is beneficial under present circumstances.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): I shall not answer the minister's points just now, but I should like to know definitely from him whether he is going to keep these questions about nationality and religion in these forms? I do not think the answer he gave was at all convincing. If the corporation wants to know what the conditions are with respect to the building of schools, then it must put the questionnaire before the entire community in which they are building these homes. I think these questions are completely unnecessary, and I should like a definite answer from the minister.

Mr. FLEMING: There is some information I should like to obtain from the minister. The item we have before us contemplates a total expenditure for the year of \$30,000,000 on housing development. In his statement this afternoon the minister indicated, if I understood his statement correctly, that this was to provide for 7,000 houses to be built. I have some questions on the 7,000 houses. If the information is not readily available I am quite agreeable to its being brought down to-morrow. I take it from the minister's last statement that he classifies the 7,000 houses as permanent?