

left our country through export channels in the first eight months of the current year. That did not all go to the devastated countries of Europe. Hon. gentlemen to my right are pleading that the miserable two per cent which the government has seen fit to buy from the producers is to be taken away from the government, is to be taken away from the veterans. I take second place to no one over here—

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. FERGUSON: You are not the only veteran in this place.

Mr. PROBE: We are just as loyal on behalf of our citizens as any flag waver we have over here. The only thing I ask is that the Minister of Munitions and Supply and the Minister of Veterans Affairs get busy and corral some of the lumber being produced in this country, and go to work and build houses on a national basis. To use only 80 million miserable feet of lumber when we produce 4,000 million feet is a shame.

Mr. TUSTIN: I am surprised at how much certain people do not know about the building of houses. For several days now the minister has been telling the committee how the government is trying to provide houses for the veterans of this country. All power to him for doing that, but I direct his attention to the fact that while he is trying to provide accommodation for thirty-three or thirty-five per cent of our veterans, he is discriminating against sixty-three to sixty-five per cent of them. My reason for saying that is this: There is not one Wartime Housing project in any small area or rural centre in Canada.

Mr. MACKENZIE: That is not correct.

Mr. TUSTIN: I said Wartime Housing project.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): He was not speaking of Vancouver; he was speaking of a larger place.

Mr. MACKENZIE: That is a pretty good place to speak of.

Mr. TUSTIN: The constituency I have the honour to represent sent more or as many men per capita as any riding in Canada, but as far as I know not a single house has been built by any government organization. There are many veterans in my constituency who want to build homes for themselves without the assistance of the government, but they are not able to do so. Whenever they apply to dealers for materials they are advised that

the materials cannot be furnished because of the priority granted to Wartime Housing. I have a letter here from a manufacturer to a builder in my constituency stating that the ability of the firm to supply the trade is now further restricted by the order in council giving official priority to Wartime Housing Limited and soldier settlement housing for door and sash requirements. I have many such letters here, but I do not think it is necessary for me to quote them at this late hour because my purpose in rising was to say that veterans, wherever they may be in this country, should have an equal chance to build a home for themselves, particularly the man who is going to put his own money into it. I should like to quote a paragraph from another letter that I received from a dealer a short time ago. He says:

We have veterans in our office every day to buy building materials and door, sash, and so forth for homes they wish to build with their own funds.

That is not under the Veterans Land Act. These soldiers wish to build their homes with their own funds, and I say that these men deserve consideration. I know full well the difficulties in getting building materials today, but I would urge upon the minister that some arrangement be made, if at all possible, whereby the returned men will be given the preference in getting materials to build a home.

Mr. HOWE: I am quite aware of the fact that this debate arises because I am so niggardly that I will not pay retail prices for lumber and supplies.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, no.

Mr. HOWE: These letters are part of an organized drive by the dealers. They are having a meeting in the Chateau Laurier to-day.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. HOWE: Hon. members say, no, but do they think I do not get these letters too? Do they think these men never come in to see me? It is a grand organized drive, and every man across the way is lending his support to it.

Mr. HOMUTH: I rise to a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. HOMUTH: Mr. Chairman, I would draw your attention to the fact that in the last few weeks a new element has entered this house that reminds one of the sounds one hears in a barnyard. Let me say to you, sir, and I am quite in order in saying it,