

houses on which construction has started has increased by 8,000, while the number of housing units with respect to which loans were extended under the National Housing Act has increased by 12,000.

Such figures testify to the real efficiency of the 1944 act. From the very first year, the results obtained were equal to the hopes it had inspired.

May I be permitted, honourable senators, as a citizen of the good old province of Quebec, to express regret at the costly indifference of the authorities of my province towards the advantages offered all provinces under the National Housing Act of 1944, and more particularly under section 35 thereof. As you know, the said section provides, and I quote:

35 (1) The Corporation may, pursuant to agreements made between the Government of Canada and the government of any province, undertake jointly with the government of the province or any agency thereof projects for the acquisition and development of land for housing purposes and for the construction of houses for sale or for rent.

(2) An agreement referred to in subsection (1) shall provide that the capital cost of the project and the profits or losses thereon shall be shared seventy-five per centum by the Corporation

(which means the federal Government)

and twenty-five per centum by the Government of the province or an agency thereof.

Seven provinces, Ontario especially, have derived great benefits from this Act and have taken advantage of its provisions to do away with slums. Toronto alone, as a result of agreements concluded with the federal Government, has received for that purpose from the Canadian Government an amount of \$1,362,000.

In that city, whole wards have been cleared away of their filthy slums and good, sanitary and bright homes have been built to house human beings created "in the image and likeness of God", who used to live in abject conditions and who now live in conditions where their physical and moral health is not threatened any more. Unfortunately, certain of our large cities in the province of Quebec are faced with the problems arising from slums, which are perhaps the worst social evil of our times. We express the wish that all people of good will unite in an effort to remove them.

Canada is a young, vigorous and rich country. She is endowed with a healthy and enterprising population. She is blessed with natural resources of which we have found but a small proportion. The pace of our growth is such that for the first time in history it has exceeded that of the United States. To give only one example of this, our Prime Minister said recently that our annual production of steel increased from

2 and a quarter million tons in 1946 to 4 million tons, and other Canadian industries have expanded as rapidly.

Since 1946, our gross national product has doubled, passing from 12 billion to 24 billion dollars.

In northern Quebec and in Labrador, rich deposits of iron ore are being developed. Already a railroad has been built for that purpose from Knob Lake to Seven Islands on the St. Lawrence, which is a greater distance than that from Montreal to Toronto. More than one million tons of rich ore have already been transported to Seven Islands and put on board ships or piled up near the shore. The St. Lawrence Seaway will permit the 10 million tons or so annually produced at Knob Lake to be transported quickly and cheaply as far as the plants located around the Great Lakes.

The marked increase in orders of wheat coming from foreign lands during these last weeks is another encouraging sign.

In the field of international trade, everybody knows and admires the unceasing efforts that our tireless and dynamic Minister of Trade and Commerce makes to bring Western nations and more particularly our great and sympathetic neighbour to lift the obstacles that hinder freer trade. Our trade being in the hands of a man of such stature and ability as Mr. Howe, we certainly can look upon the future with a good deal of optimism. The speech which President Eisenhower delivered recently before the American Congress on the subject of tariffs constitutes for us a ray of hope. We are deeply convinced that other friendly nations will undoubtedly follow such a commendable example in the best interests of all.

Many other questions, such as the coming into force of the Disabled Persons Act which was passed at the last session and from which all provinces, ours "like the others", whatever one may say about it, will benefit through agreements concluded with the federal Government; the amendment to the Blind Persons Act in order to lower the age of eligibility and raise the maximum permissible incomes; many other beneficial measures that were mentioned in the Speech from the Throne deserve more than a passing reference, but we shall have other opportunities to deal with them. Therefore, as I have already abused your patience, I beg of you, honourable senators, to excuse me for omitting them.