

Mr. MACKENZIE: That is correct.

Mr. ADAMSON: May I ask one question about the building of ships, arising from the fact that the Canadian Pacific contracted for four new 10,000-ton Beaver ships, being built in England. The Canadian Pacific should know something about shipping. Was there any tender for those ships to be made in Canada?

Mr. HOWE: No. The reason the ships were built in the United Kingdom is simple. The Beaver ships were British vessels built in the United Kingdom and operated under British register and were insured in the United Kingdom. The ships were sunk and the insurance was paid in sterling that was not convertible into Canadian dollars. It was paid in block sterling which had to be spent in that country, and it was logical for the Canadian Pacific to replace their ships where the insurance money was located.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Golding): Do hon. members wish to have this item stand, or is it carried?

Mr. BRACKEN: If the minister would say that on questions he has not been able to answer to-night we may have some brief discussion when he does answer them, the items would be passed more readily.

Mr. HOWE: That has been understood. Questions are answered and, if there is any comment, it can be made.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Golding): Is the item carried on that understanding?

Item agreed to.

Housing development, \$30,000,000.

Mr. STEWART (Winnipeg North): I wish to talk about wartime housing for a few minutes. I do not like Wartime Housing Corporation or what it has done. It has been most dictatorial and dogmatic in its approach to the municipalities. I can speak with some authority in respect of one municipality and that is the city of Winnipeg. A tremendous storm gathered at the idea of these potential slums being built in Winnipeg and objections were made not only to the corporation but, I am informed, even to the minister; yet nothing came of them. These dwellings were put up, some in my constituency and some in other constituencies in the city of Winnipeg. By and large they are a waste of money. In the Elmwood district we are spending \$300 thousand on wartime housing, and these homes, as I said, are potential slums. Men are coming

back from the war and they will go into these houses. They will not regard them as homes but merely as places of shelter which they will leave as rapidly as possible. There are no basements in these dwellings. Representations were made to the corporation that basements are needed in Winnipeg. We have been told by Wartime Housing that dwellings no longer have basements. There are none in the modern type of building, but I would point out that buildings of that type cost \$10,000 and not \$3,000. The fact that they have no basements is serious. In the first place, those who will occupy these houses will be young couples. They will have children, and usually babies play on the floor. The floors in these houses will be appreciably colder than the area two or three feet further up. Therefore the children will be subject to chills and colds and possibly pneumonia.

When we objected we were told that the specifications were the same all across Canada. I wrote a letter on July 2 to the minister in which I said that the specifications in Winnipeg are not the same as for Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, and other areas, so that apparently there is no uniformity of design by Wartime Housing Limited. I received from the department the answer that "the statement that the houses being constructed in Winnipeg differ from those being built in Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and other points is not according to fact." In other words, they denied what I had stated. "I am assured by the officials of Wartime Housing," the letter said, "that they are exactly the same as those built in other municipalities in the west. The fact of the matter is that the houses are uniform, and the by-laws and regulations of the various municipalities differ widely. Wartime Housing units are being built to conform to a national building code, and the only deviation from the code is where we have had to substitute materials which are unobtainable or in short supply." I asked the department a question which was answered on page 607 of *Hansard*. It seems to me that there must be a good deal of confusion in the department in view of the conflicting answers given. I suppose that the Minister of Reconstruction sometimes answers half a question and the Minister of Munitions the other half, because they do not tally. I asked the question:

Are building specifications for these houses the same in each of the cities mentioned?

The answer was a categorical and very short no. I should like to know what the situation is. I see no reason why basements