

The Address—Mr. Skey

son, in October of 1948 the dollar would buy only 32 cents worth of goods. I have here a table showing the purchasing power of the Canadian dollar. It has been prepared by the very reliable firm of George A. Touche and Company, the auditors for the Canadian National Railways. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, and with the permission of the house I should like to place this table on Hansard.

**Mr. Speaker:** Has the hon. member unanimous consent to put this document on Hansard?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Skey:** The table is as follows:

Table illustrating the purchasing power of the Canadian dollar in terms of index of wholesale prices for the period 1901 to late 1948.

Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics index of wholesale prices.

Adjusted to Base—1901=100

	Purchasing power of the dollar
1901 .....	\$1.00
1902 .....	0.96
1903 .....	0.94
1904 .....	0.93
1905 .....	0.91
1906 .....	0.90
1907 .....	0.83
1908 .....	0.84
1909 .....	0.82
1910 .....	0.81
1911 .....	0.79
1912 .....	0.75
1913 .....	0.76
1914 .....	0.75
1915 .....	0.69
1916 .....	0.58
1917 .....	0.43
1918 .....	0.38
1919 .....	0.36
1920 .....	0.31
1921 .....	0.44
1922 .....	0.50
1923 .....	0.50
1924 .....	0.49
1925 .....	0.48
1926 .....	0.49
1927 .....	0.50
1928 .....	0.51
1929 .....	0.51
1930 .....	0.56
1931 .....	0.68
1932 .....	0.73
1933 .....	0.73
1934 .....	0.68
1935 .....	0.68
1936 .....	0.66
1937 .....	0.58
1938 .....	0.62
1939 .....	0.65
1940 .....	0.59
1941 .....	0.54
1942 .....	0.51
1943 .....	0.49
1944 .....	0.48
1945 .....	0.47
1946 .....	0.45
1947 .....	0.38
1948 to October .....	0.32

Since at the moment I am directing my remarks to the government I think I could not do better than to read what they said in 1945 when they appealed to the Canadian electorate. Plank No. 12 in the Liberal platform of 1945 stated:

The Liberal government will gradually reduce taxation, now the European war is over. Taxes will come down to free spending power and to give Canadians every opportunity for prosperity, employment and freedom.

That was a fine plank all hon. members will admit. My only wish is that they had stuck to it; because now we have a Minister of Finance who talks about "draining off purchasing power" and who regrets that he cannot "allow private spending to increase." All these things are happening today, while this very creditable promise is forgotten.

Up to this point I have tried to set forth the general problem of housing. I should like now to go a step further and refer hon. members to a document prepared by the community planning association of Canada. This document is entitled What is Government Doing About Housing? The covering letter is signed by Mr. Alan H. Armstrong and is dated January 1, 1949. I believe the house will admit, therefore, that it is up to date.

The federal government, which had the full control of this problem at the end of the war, saw fit to hand it back to the municipalities. However, the municipalities were not equipped to deal with it as completely as I know they would have wished to. What was the result? The result was that—if I may use the word—the two most urbanized provinces of Ontario and Quebec have been driven into the field of housing legislation.

At page 9 of this pamphlet mention is made of provincial housing legislation in Quebec. It is pointed out that the Quebec legislature has had to pass four separate bills, the first of which was to provide a commission of inquiry; the second to empower private employers to make loans to men in their industries in order that they may build homes for themselves; the third to help municipalities by permitting them to provide free lots and free local improvements, half rate taxation and other concessions; and the fourth was a bill sanctioning thirty-year loans by credit unions and lending institutions up to 100 per cent of the appraised value of low-cost homes, and to provide for payment by the provinces of any interest above two per cent on such loans.

That is what the province of Quebec has been forced to do in this problem. I turn now to page 17 of the pamphlet which deals with the province of Ontario. We find that Ontario, too, has had to go into this field. I know the