

increase in these twelve metropolitan areas was from 521,000 in 1939 to 826,000 in 1942, an increase of 305,000.

The instructions to the committee were issued in January, 1943. Here we are in the first week of July, 1944. We have this excellent report, but we have no machinery at Ottawa or in the provinces to start the real task of building houses when materials are available after the war. I think the time is long past when the administration should have announced in detail its housing plans. While some criticism might be made of this report I want to urge the administration to implement it, making whatever changes in it they think desirable, but without further delay to announce its plans for housing to the house and have some of the suggestions contained in this report carried out.

It is imperative that the federal administration should make known its plans with respect to town planning. Since the start of the war there has been a very large movement of population to cities like Hamilton, Windsor, Halifax, and the people of these cities naturally wonder whether this influx of people is to be permanent or whether the people will be returning to the prairies or some other part of Canada. It is pointed out in this report that at the time of confederation Canada did not have any large metropolitan areas. Winnipeg, one of the largest cities in the west to-day, at that time had a population of about 200; Moncton, now a busy city, had a population of only 500. There were three fairly large centres at that time: Montreal with a population of 130,000, Quebec with 59,000 and Toronto with 59,000. Ottawa at that time had a population of about 20,000. While Halifax has a very long history, it had then a relatively small population. At the time of confederation those wise fathers of confederation did not anticipate that Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal would in the course of seventy-five years grow to the very large centres they have become, and accordingly did not provide for dividing the responsibility between the dominion and the provinces in regard to town planning and housing. We have not yet determined whether an extensive housing programme should be the responsibility of the federal government, provincial governments or municipal governments. The question has been a convenient football to be kicked around from one administration to another on the ground that the British North America Act did not clearly define the responsibility.

Therefore I suggest that without further delay a conference of the nine provinces with the dominion should be called, with repre-

sentatives also from the cities and rural municipal organizations across Canada, to discuss the one, single problem of housing with a view to reaching an agreement for the setting up of machinery after the war to relieve the housing situation, so that men now engaged in the construction industry building factories and war plants will be available to go into high gear building homes for our people.

One interesting section of this report deals with farm housing. Again I am grateful that at last a department of government has recognized that people on the farms in this country deserve better houses than they have hitherto had. I find, according to one of the bulletins issued by the bureau of census on farm dwellings in Canada, that in Saskatchewan where I live only one farm house out of 100 has running water; in Manitoba, two out of 100; Alberta, three; Prince Edward Island, nine; Nova Scotia, fourteen; New Brunswick, eighteen; Quebec, twenty-five; Ontario, fourteen; and British Columbia has the largest proportion, with thirty-four out of 100.

The situation with respect to electric lighting is similar. Saskatchewan has the worst record in that respect, with only five homes out of 100 having electric lighting. British Columbia has the best record, with thirty-six out of 100. In Saskatchewan, where we have plenty of frost in the winter time and people should be able to store up some ice for summer use, owing to depressed conditions over many years only seven farms in every 100 have mechanical and ice refrigeration.

In connection with the value of farm dwellings, I find that in Saskatchewan the value of the average farm house is \$950. New Brunswick, however, has the poorest record in this connection. It has produced very large quantities of lumber, and it should have been possible to acquire some paint there, but the average value of dwellings in that province is only \$861. Values in the other provinces are: Prince Edward Island, \$1,049; Nova Scotia, \$953; Quebec, \$1,019; Ontario, \$1,421; Manitoba, \$966; Alberta, \$999; British Columbia, \$1,173. Hon. members will be interested in knowing that in the cities in these different provinces people have much better houses. For example, in Halifax ninety-eight per cent of the houses have running water; in Quebec city, 100 per cent; in Regina, eighty-four per cent; Saskatoon, seventy-six per cent. As regards houses equipped with baths or showers, the proportion per hundred in Halifax is seventy-three; in Saint John, New Brunswick, sixty-three; in Regina, sixty-four; in Saskatoon, fifty-eight.