

will be the housing legislation passed here a year ago, I began to think that my suspicions were right. With this extraordinary report of the hon. gentleman's speech, and with "the whole history of housing legislation in England traced from 1851" we still dared to doubt, and we wrote someone who had given special attention to this subject and asked him for an opinion, and here is his statement—a statement which was not a great surprise to me. He says:—

"The most progressive housing legislation in Europe is the John Burns' Housing and Town Planning Act of England that was passed in 1909, and the intricacies of operation under it are such that only one or two towns have as yet carried a scheme to completion. Compared with it the Ontario Act is simplicity itself, and fits into the genius of our municipal legislation and our methods of municipal administration in a way that makes it as a beginning at any rate almost ideal."

And that means, sir, that our social legislation of last session compares favourably with what is admittedly the best social legislation in Europe—the bill of the Hon. John Burns passed in 1909. Now I do not wish to follow in too great detail the speech of my hon. friend with regard to our housing legislation, but there are two or three things that will perhaps stand repetition, first because they are true, and secondly because we like to read them ourselves and perhaps some hon. gentleman in this House may like to listen, and I am still quoting from the same very high authority:—

"The result is that no legislation could be better adapted to meet the present situation in Ontario than that recently passed by the Legislature."

"Most important of all, however, is the demonstration here made possible of what people may do to help themselves when the Government by wise legislation provides assistance without dispensing charity, and guidance without destroying personal initiative and public co-operation. This indeed is legislation of a high order, framed upon principles which develop public spirit and inspire public service."