

ity, by the province or by the dominion. But I also realize that there are being concentrated in the centres of our large cities thousands of employees who would be much better off if they could live outside the cities, such as half way between Toronto and Hamilton, as some have done, or away to the east of Toronto near Pickering, or up where Maclean-Hunter are spending \$6,000,000 or \$8,000,000 at a location twenty miles north of the city limits. I thank them for the wisdom they have shown in doing that. Those who have established large industries in the centres of our cities are doing something which is not for the general advantage of those communities, because they are encouraging people to live in slum areas.

A word with regard to materials. It is unfortunate in my opinion that this administration in its wisdom has seen fit to allow double depreciation. Any way you look at it, these companies have sufficient reserves. I direct the attention of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) to the fact that many of them are able to plan building expansion programs. If I could make a plea to these people today it would be to ask them to slow down their expenditures on new construction until such time as house building could catch up with the demand. They are using up supplies of all kinds. I do not know, but I would hazard a guess from my own observation that for every dollar spent in the construction of dwellings, close to \$2 is being spent by these industrial organizations. If there were some method of putting the brakes on industrial expansion until private enterprise could overtake the slack in housing requirements, it would be a good thing for Canada. If for a few years we do not expand our industrial and factory buildings of all kinds far beyond our requirements but rather extend house building and house ownership among our people, two or three decades hence these industries will be able to expend their reserves in industrial expansion. In this event the workers, instead of being discouraged and disheartened and anxious to join with others to squeeze the last possible dollar out of their employers, will be anxious to devote all the money they can save to building a house for themselves. If we speed up home ownership we shall be doing something for the general advantage of Canada.

In 1939, seventy per cent of the people in my community owned or were on the way to owning their homes. I challenge this administration to say that that is so today; I do not

know myself, but I have an idea that that percentage does not now prevail. The trend is the other way. My people are solid citizens, but if they do not own the houses in which they live, or if they are not imbued with the idea of doing so, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, where will their progeny be two or three decades from now?

With regard to supplies, they are not being distributed in proper proportions. Let us have more supplies for the building of houses, even if it is necessary to cut down on industrial expansion. I was glad to hear the minister say yesterday that barbed wire production is to be suspended for two months so that the steel wire may be used in the production of nails. Personally I think that the man who first produced barbed wire should have been hanged with it, because it has done more damage to livestock than any other single thing. Let us make more nails, so that there will no longer be that excuse for the lack of housing. I am willing to let the eighty-five cents of the dollar be spent to help construction, but I do not feel disposed to go all out for the amendment which has been proposed to this bill and which would establish practically the public ownership of homes and houses. One of the great virtues of the Canadian people is the ambition in their hearts and minds which makes them ready to work hard and for long hours to own something for themselves. There are not enough people in this civilized world who have that inspiration and that ambition. Let us not in this chamber be a party to anything which might impair that virtue of the strong men of the north, namely, the ambition to go out and build a house for themselves and rear a family in that home.

The bill provides for slum clearance. The city of Toronto may be said to have given some leadership in slum clearance. They have talked about it now for four years, and every public man there is buttonholed by persons who want to know when the public bodies charged with responsibility for slum clearance are going to set to work. Let this administration take an inventory of all the slum clearance projects in Canada and then get down to business and make a start by clearing Regent's Park. If we have any responsibility here for that, and I think the minister will agree that we have, he will find not only the city of Toronto but even the Ontario government willing and anxious to co-operate in the fullest measure on slum clearance. The minister will not deny that. Then let us make a start and show that we can do something somewhere, even if that somewhere happens to be in the