

## A Veteran's View On The Housing Problem

By Douglas W. Smith

Let's quit playing Alphonse and Gaston with the veterans' housing problem, roll up a few sleeves and do a little down-to-earth handling of the situation.

In the last six months I have travelled and seen the housing situation from Sydney to Victoria. I have talked with Prime Minister King and the laborer who wheels the cement up the planks to the foundations. I have yet to find one who is not in sympathy with the veterans' housing problem.

But sympathy is a poor substitute for a roof overhead. It doesn't help the situation any when you are late for work in the morning, and the kids from the room next door are holding up the communal bathroom. It doesn't improve things when you have to fork over about a third of your income to a grafting shyster each month for a bedbug infested two rooms.

Sympathy be damned. There has been far too much maudlin sentiment over the problem and not enough realistic action.

Who is to blame? I blame the federal government. Not for lack of interest but for indecision and lack of direction in handling the situation. More than three years ago they were warned about the housing conditions by the Legion and they have dillydallied offered theoretical solutions, innumerable surveys, never reached targets and a shrug the shoulder "It's beyond us" attitude.

I blame the provincial governments who seemed to have ditched the problem entirely as one not of their responsibility.

I blame the many municipalities who have refused to co-operate with the government and the veterans bodies. Maj. General Hugh Young, head of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation told me recently that there are still many municipalities where they refuse to even accept War-time houses. This in spite of the offer to veterans of four and six roomed houses for as low as \$27 a month.

A short time ago a delegation of veterans from a small Quebec town came to see us stating that they could buy from War Assets a number of abandoned Army huts which were in good condition and they could live in them.

They were having difficulty with the local mayor and his councillors who refused to cooperate. We managed to get them all together at Dominion Command to thrash the matter out. One of the senior councillors, evidently the strong character of the council, and a landowner, explained to us that the veterans could not live in this abandoned army property because it was against their civic by-laws.

We patiently pointed out how the by-law in this case could be circumvented. He was adamant and persisted in claiming that the by-laws could neither be added to nor changed. Then we realized that the character was just being plain dirty so we got tough and again showed him how the by-law could be changed.

Then he arose, took his fist in the air and shouted, "If this by-law is changed then I will have another one made to offset it."

The party broke up. We are still plugging for these vets. But it's a tough piece of meat to digest and you need sharp teeth.

I blame the contractors and private house builders who absolutely refuse to accept in part any responsibility for remedying the situation. I know of numerous cases whereby the Central Mortgage people have offered to finance the contractors and then buy the houses back from them allowing them a straight ten per cent profit cash.

The contractors refused, intimating that the ten per cent was only peanuts in comparison to what they could make on the private market. Read the classified ads, in any newspaper and the prices start at eight thousand and work up to twenty and twenty-five thousand dollars. It just means that a veteran getting re-established hasn't a chance in Hades of buying one.

I blame the manufacturers and material suppliers for encouraging a black market in nails, cement, soil pipe, lumber and other necessary supplies. For not cooperating when in spite of a government order giving veterans priority on materials, the vets just don't get them. And yet all over the land expensive houses can now be bought at any time for a price and hundreds of bowling alleys, cinemas, dance halls are springing up with no scarcity of building supplies.

I blame the labor unions for driving up the wage scale and in return not giving an honest day's work. Nobody thinks that a skilled man should not be paid well for his work. But again the buyer of the house should not be saddled with the burden of having to pay high wages for the work of a man who is entirely unskilled and never served any apprenticeship or passed a trades test.

## Finnish Resident Buried Saturday — Here 11 years

Funeral services for Erkki Jarvenpaa—Jarvi, who died in St. Mary's Hospital, Timmins, Friday morning, Aug. 1st, were conducted in the Chapel of Walker's Funeral Home on Saturday, Aug. 2nd, at 4 o'clock p.m. Rev. A. I. Heinonen officiated, conducting the services in Finnish and English in presence of friends from Timmins, Schumacher and South Porcupine.

The late Mr. Jarvenpaa—Jarvi was born at Koykkarink., Alaharmanp., Vaasa Province, Finland, May 27th, 1905. He came to Canada during 1923. In Timmins he has lived permanently during the past eleven years.

To mourn his loss he leaves in Canada his wife, Laina, in South Porcupine; two sisters and one brother at Alaharma, Finland; one sister in Minnesota, U.S.A.

The pallbearers were: Toivo Jokinen, Gust. Anderson, Erkki Kivijarvi, John Lindstrom, Andrew Syvala and Andrew Mattson.

The interment took place in the Timmins cemetery.

## Porcupines and Art Extensive Display

Even the keenest of nature lovers have a certain restraint when discussing the charms of porcupines. Dogs sorely wounded in encounters with the prickly fellows, or summer cottages damaged by them do not make happy memories; and to associate porcupines with art seems a trifle far-fetched. Yet the elaborately beaded articles which have become the most familiar phrase of Indian art, are but the modern counterpart of an earlier art when dyed porcupine quills and not the glass beads of the white man were used by the Plains Indians for decorative purposes. These quills, and more rarely those of birds, were colored with vegetable dyes, cut into bead lengths and used to beaded belts, head-dresses, moccasins, and many other articles. As shown in an extensive display at the Royal Ontario Museum, this decorative quill work was often of great beauty in both design and color. In the same collection are examples of glass bead decorations in great variety, and which occasionally reach the point where utility has been sacrificed for beauty — as when moccasins, soles and all, have been completely covered with glittering beads.

## Plowmen To Compete Hemlock Park Farms

A trip to Britain for the winner and runner-up in the "Esso Champion" tractor plowmen's class at the International Plowing Match, to be held Oct. 17th at Hemlock Park Farms near Kingston, Ont., will again be awarded by Imperial Oil Ltd. The tour will include leading British agricultural areas and the opportunity to compete in the International match in Northern Ireland and other British matches.

All winners of the "Esso Champion Tractor Special" awards at county matches in Ontario last year are already eligible and winners of similar events to be held in Ontario this year at the 70 branches of the Ontario Plowmen's Assoc. may also compete for the trip.

Plowmen from all other provinces may compete in the "Esso Champion" class at the International match without previously qualifying.

In addition to the trip the winner receives a gold medal and the runner-up a silver medal.

Last year's winners, Fred Timbers, gold medalist, and Alex. Black, silver medalist, are not eligible to compete this year. They toured agricultural areas of England, Ireland and Scotland with the Canadian team last year but did not compete because all matches in which they were scheduled were cancelled due to the extremely bad weather in the British Isles.

Neither is it deemed wise for a bricklayer to be restricted by his union for the number of bricks he can lay in a day, or a painter to be compelled to use only a certain sized brush.

I blame the people of Canada who in a free country tolerate these conditions, knowing full well that the veterans to whom they owe at least the opportunity to get re-established are suffering.

If people would refuse to buy these expensive houses which in many cases puts a mortgage anchor around their necks that they will rue in years to come; if the people who have it in their power to do so by the expression of concerted public disapproval, then I think that in little time the governments, municipalities, manufacturers, suppliers, house builders and unions whose very living and survival depends on the wishes of WE THE PEOPLE, the situation would be altered in quick time.

## Europe Beats Shortage With Crushed Rock

Europeans, forced by shortages of building materials into covering their roofs with crushed rock imbedded in peat, have nothing new on Canadians, according to Canadian contractors. "Right here in Canada," they say, "most houses are roofed in much the same way — not as a result of shortages, however, but as a preference".

In fact, during the past ten or fifteen years, they claim, mineral-imbedded shingles have become so popular in Canada that they now play the most prominent part in modern roof protection. These are the gaily-colored asphalt shingles used so extensively today.

Natural asphalt comes from huge beds strongly resembling beds of peat. In recent years scientists have discovered a method for making asphalt from the residue of petroleum. The asphalt is pressed into sheets of rag felt, after which the mineral coating is added.

As a rule the mineral rock comes in three different colors—black, brick red, and green. For the many other colors seen in asphalt shingles, ordinary rhyolite rock is ground up and coated with a pigment. Then a special process bakes the color into the mineral to give it a permanent quality.

Asphalt roofing material alone is waterproof and will give reasonable protection from the weather. But by adding the mineral surface to the asphalt coating, the roofing is given a high degree of fire-resistance when sparks of flying embers fall on the roof. Also, the mineral lends weight to the single, and if the crushed rock is light in color, it reflects the heat of the sun and keeps the house cooler in summer.

## Eastern Canadian Sawing Champions

Championship to be Held In Ottawa at Central Canada Exhibition.

The champion sawers of pulpwood and saw-logs in Eastern Canada will be decided at the Central Canada Exhibition in Ottawa during the week of August 18-23, it was announced today by the Dominion Department of Labour.

Entries from all parts of Eastern Canada are expected to enter the daily log-sawing contests, sponsored by the Department of Labour to create interest in woods work.

The daily contests, which will take place each afternoon at four o'clock in front of the main grandstand, will be divided into two events for cash prizes donated by lumber and pulpwood operators.

One event will establish a daily winner in pulpwood sawing and the other will decide the fastest two-man team cutting through 20-inch hardwood sawlogs against time with a cross-cut saw. On the final day of the contests — Friday — the winners of the previous days' events will take part in a saw-off to decide on the champions for Central Canada and the big prize money.

Teams and contestants will be entered by pulpwood and lumber operators and the winners will be eligible for the Canadian Log Sawing Contest to be announced at a later date.

Interest is already running high throughout the Ottawa district and one operator from the Upper Ottawa Valley has already entered six two-man teams in the saw-log contests.

Contestants will be allowed to use their own saws or they may use saws which will be provided.

Entries for the contest will be accepted at the Local National Employment Service Office, 263 Sparks street, up to August 16.

## Nascopie Loss Delays Comforts To Northland



Newswriters thought the old saw about selling refrigerators at the North Pole was just about extinct when the Hudson's Bay Company's ship and cargo however, means that month with real refrigerators tucked in the hold. Subsequent disaster to ship and cargo however, means that the Eskimos will have to wait a little longer for this aspect of modern comfort.

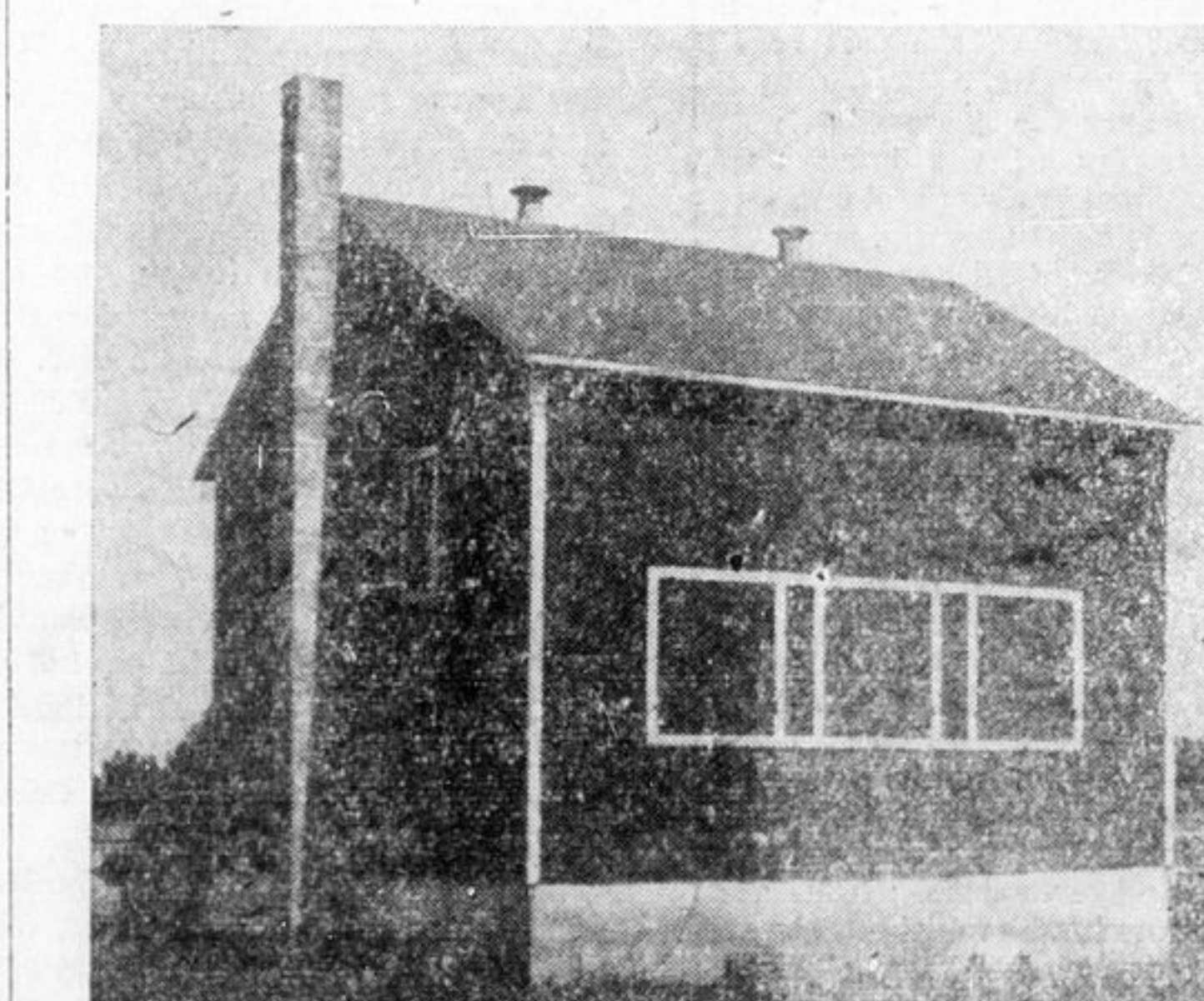
The refrigerators, however, were probably the least essential item in the cargo bound for the Arctic. Besides its usual load of food, clothing,

medicine and hospital supplies, construction materials, tools, machinery and other necessities of life in the frozen north, the "Nascopie" this year carried the first shipment of asphalt shingles (pictured above) to be sent to the Arctic, a consignment assumed to be a total loss like the rest of the supply ship's 1,100 ton cargo.

Performance of the shingles under the unusual snow and ice conditions of the north was to have been closely watched by contractors and Hudson's Bay Company men. Recently a building at Grace Harbor, Baffin Land, burned to the ground from unknown causes, and men at the little outpost were hard put to it to keep other buildings from burning when flying embers driven before a high wind fell on inflammable roofs. Two purposes were to have been served by asphalt shingles—firstly, their flexibility was expected to obviate cracking and during sudden changes of weather and, secondly, their mineral coating was to minimize the danger of roof fires, a major cause of conflagrations.

Now the Arctic dwellers will have to wait another year before they can test these qualities. And scientists too faced a bitter disappointment in the loss of the sturdy ship. New equipment which she carried was to have been tested under Arctic conditions and now the scientists too must face delay in getting their results.

## "Blind House" Not "To Let"



Hundreds of small windowless houses, dotted over the landscape of southern Ontario, have excited the curiosity of American tourists who came to Canada prepared to find a housing shortage. Blind structures with "straight-laced" chimneys, and reminiscent of tiny six-room bungalows, the houses have brightly colored asphalt shingles on the outside, but no tenants inside.

One reporter found the answer when he disclosed that the little buildings aren't houses at all, but kilns, and a very important part of Canada's ever-growing tobacco industry.

These tobacco curing kilns have sprung up around Norwich, Otterville, Delhi, Simcoe and Tillsonburg, where in recent years tobacco growing has developed into an important

agricultural industry. The tobacco has to be cured in Kilns before it can be made into cigars, cigarettes, or pipe-smoking mixtures, and the kilns are specially constructed to do this job.

They must not only be kept free from moisture, but they must also be built with the fire-proofing factor uppermost in importance. To achieve both these principles, the walls are completely covered with a mineral-surfaced asphalt roll-roofing, and the roof with mineral-surfaced asphalt shingles. The asphalt coating keeps the kilns moisture free, and the mineral surface on both siding and roof offers a high resistance to fire. The reason that some roofs are finished in gay colors is nothing more than a natural Canadian impulse on the part of some tobacco growers to exercise their individuality.

### An Opportunity!

If you live in Timmins, Schumacher, South Porcupine, Ansonville or Iroquois Falls; if you have but one or two hours spare time per day for the next two months, you can earn at least \$25.00 per week and much more doing something different; something you'll thoroughly enjoy. Just fill in coupon below and mail it immediately to the Porcupine Advance. Full particulars will be sent to you by return mail. Remember the offer lasts for 8 weeks only, and you must get started immediately.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Porcupine Advance, Timmins

### WARNING TO MOTORISTS

You Are Affected By Important Amendments To The Ontario Highway Traffic Act In Force July 1st

ENQUIRE AT  
**Simms-Hooker & Pickering**  
20 PINE STREET NORTH  
McLennan Block  
Phone 112 Timmins

78 BRUCE AVENUE  
Phone 30  
South Porcupine Ont.

### Excess Profits Tax Act Standard Profits Claims NOTICE

Recent amendments to the above Act provide that all standard profits claims must be filed with the Department of National Revenue before 1st September, 1947.

All applications are required to be in such form and contain such information as may be prescribed by the Minister and the Minister may reject an application that is not made in such form or that does not contain such information.

The prescribed forms (S.P.1) are available at all District Income Tax offices of the Dominion Government.

All pertinent information required on the form must be included or attached thereto in schedule form. Tentative or incomplete forms or those filed after 31st August, 1947, will not be accepted.

**Department of National Revenue**  
Ottawa

James J. McCann, M.D.,  
Minister of National Revenue.

### Treasurer's Sale of Lands for Arrears of Taxes

#### Township of Whitney, District of Cochrane

TO WIT:

BY VIRTUE OF A WARRANT issued by the Reeve of the Township of Whitney, bearing date the 17th day of June, 1947, and to me directed, commanding me to levy on the several lands being in the Township of Whitney, mentioned and described in the following list of arrears respectively due thereon and costs.

I hereby give notice, pursuant to the Assessment Act and amendments, that unless the said arrears of taxes and costs are sooner paid, I shall on Friday, October 10th, 1947 at the Township Hall, at Porcupine, at 10 a.m., proceed to sell by public auction so much of the said lands as may be sufficient to discharge the taxes and lawful costs incurred in and about the sale and collection of same.

The following lands are all patented.

Dated at Porcupine this 17th day of June, 1947.

W. G. GIGG,  
Treasurer, Township of Whitney

	Years In Arrears	Taxes	Com.	Costs	Total
1. South Shore Gold Mines, Limited, Toronto, Ont., N.E. ¼ N. ½ Lot 10, Con. 2	1944-5-6	92.20	2.30	3.10	97.60
2. South Shore Gold Mines, Limited, Toronto, Ont., N.W. ¼ N. ½ Lot 10, Con. 2	1944-5-6	92.20	2.30	3.10	97.60
3. South Shore Gold Mines, Limited, Toronto, Ont., S.E. ¼ N. ½ Lot 10, Con. 2	1944-5-6	92.20	2.30	3.10	97.60
4. South Shore Gold Mines, Limited, Toronto, Ont., N.E. ¼ S. ½ Lot 10, Con. 2	1944-5-6	92.19	2.30	3.10	97.59
5. South Shore Gold Mines, Limited Toronto, Ont., Nelson Young, Halleybury, Ont., S. E. Pt of the S. Pt of broken lot 10 Con. 3	1944-5-6	110.86	2.77	3.10	116.73
6. A. J. Brant, Kirkland Lake, Ont., May Bruce, Cornwall, England, Pt N.W. Pt of the S. Pt of Lot 10 Con. 3	1943-4-5-6	2.02	.25	3.10	5.37
7. William Bannerman, Porcupine, Ont., N.W. ¼ S. ½ Lot 3 Con. 4	1942-3-4-5-6	126.80	3.17	3.10	133.07
8. William Bannerman, Porcupine, Ont., S.W. ¼ S. ½ Lot 4 Con. 4	1942-3-4-5-6	126.81	3.17	3.10	133.08
9. William Bannerman, Porcupine, Ont., S.E. ¼ S. ½ Lot 4 Con. 4	1942-3-4-5-6	126.81	3.17	3.10	133.08
10. Mrs. Maude S. Hylands, Cobalt, Ont., Pt N.W. Pt of N. Pt of Lot 8 Con. 5	1943-4-5-6	49.93	1.24	3.10	54.27
11. Mrs. Maude S. Hylands, Cobalt, Ont., Pt N.W. ¼ S. ½ Lot 8 Con. 6	1943-4-5-6	49.93	1.24	3.10	54.27
12. Mrs. Maude S. Hylands, Cobalt, Ont., Pt S.W. ¼ S. ½ Lot 8 Con. 6	1943-4-5-6	52.47	1.31	3.10	56.88
13. Orville Bannerman, Porcupine, Ont., Lot 139, Plan M-8 (Sudbury)	1943-5-6	10.92	27	3.10	14.29
14. Orville Bannerman, Porcupine, Ont., Lot 140, Plan M-8 (Sudbury)	1943-5-6	10.92	27	3.10	14.29
15. George Fraser, Porcupine, Ont., S. ½ Lot 195, Plan M-8 (Sudbury)	1943-4-5-6	4.35	25	3.10	7.70
16. Mac Joyce, Gold Centre, Ont., Lot 333, Plan M-8 (Sudbury) less 2,302 sq. ft. registered for highway	1944-5-6	2.66	25	3.10	6.01
17. Albert Jorgensen, c/o Hallnor Mines, Pamour, Ont., Lot 107, Plan M-12 (Sudbury)	1943-4-5-6	14.97	36	3.10	17.83

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