

Questions

6. When offered for sale, are these homes advertised as being built under National Housing Act specifications?

7. Is a careful inspection made before the mortgage moneys are advanced by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation?

8. Have there been any instances where mortgage moneys have been withheld because of faulty workmanship?

9. If so, from what contractor or contractors has payment been withheld?

Mr. McIlraith: Stand.

Mr. Lockhart: I understand that this information is available. We are sorry that the minister has been called out of the city, but could I not have this question answered before next week?

Mr. Speaker: Question stands.

HEALTH AND WELFARE—EXPENDITURES UNDER HEALTH SCHEME, BY PROVINCES

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North):

How much has been expended in each province to date under the federal government's health scheme?

Mr. Reid: No figures available before end of fiscal year, when provinces will submit statements of expenditures made for reimbursement.

METAL CURRENCY—ACQUISITION BY BANK OF CANADA OF GOLD PRODUCTION

Mr. Low:

1. What was the total face value of all coins minted at the Canadian mint, during 1948, for use in Canada?

2. What was the total value of recoinced metal currency produced by the Canadian mint during 1948?

3. What government department, board, or agency placed the orders with the Royal Canadian Mint for the coins minted during 1948?

4. To whom, and for whose credit, were the coins minted for use during 1948, delivered?

5. By what detailed procedure does the Bank of Canada acquire the gold production of Canada?

Mr. Belzile:

1. Silver, \$2,829,956; bronze, \$708,300; nickel, \$615,500.

2. Silver, \$47,191.10; bronze, \$42,428.21.

3 and 4. Subsidiary coins are produced in response to public demand. As the public desire more coins of various denominations, they obtain them at various branches of the chartered banks throughout Canada either by cashing cheques or by exchanging Bank of Canada notes for coins. The banks, as a result of this public demand, apply to the Bank of Canada for the coins which they require or which they estimate they will require. The Bank of Canada then orders appropriate amounts of the varying denominations of coins to fill the orders that have been given by the chartered banks and to maintain a small reserve to meet urgent demands. The coins are delivered to the

agents of the Bank of Canada at Calgary, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Regina, Saint John, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg. From these agencies of the Bank of Canada they are delivered to the main offices of the chartered banks at agency points and then distributed by such main offices to other branch offices in the area as required.

5. The bank does not acquire the gold production of Canada—it does not now buy any gold for its own account but acts as a depository for gold held on account of the government and performs certain services in connection with gold transactions.

Nearly all gold newly mined in Canada is sold by the mines to the crown at the Royal Canadian Mint. The mint refines the gold and pays for it out of the consolidated revenue fund. The refined gold (except for a small amount sold for ordinary industrial or commercial purposes in Canada) is then transferred to the exchange fund account, which is a special statutory account maintained by the Minister of Finance under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Control Act. The gold is transported from the mint to the vaults of the Bank of Canada where it is held in safekeeping for the exchange fund account. The exchange fund account reimburses the consolidated revenue fund for the value of the gold. Gold in the exchange fund account is part of Canada's exchange reserves. It may be sold by the account on instructions of the Minister of Finance, in which case the foreign exchange received in payment replaces it as part of the exchange fund account.

A small part of Canada's gold production which cannot be economically treated in Canada is exported to the United States under licence issued by the Minister of Finance. It is refined in the United States and sold there. The United States dollar proceeds must, in accordance with the foreign exchange control board regulations, be sold to the board and thus become part of the exchange fund account.

IMMIGRATION—DISPLACED PERSONS

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North):

1. How many displaced persons were brought into Canada in 1948 under the jurisdiction of the Department of Labour?

2. How many displaced persons were brought into Canada during 1948 by individual employers?

3. How many displaced persons were brought into Canada in 1948 by individuals who are not employers?

Mr. MacKinnon:

1. The Department of Labour co-operated with the immigration branch in arranging for the entry of 21,012 persons for whom employment was found in Canada.

2. and 3. Information is not compiled in such a way as to permit of a precise answer