

describes as highly satisfactory having regard to all the circumstances. The average sized holding is 60 acres and costs \$600 for each returned man, carrying a rebate of \$500. This scheme was carried out at Creston where the holdings comprised 20 acres. At Merville there is a settlement comprising 126 allotments with 55 miles of roads, 30 miles of fences and 27 wells. There are 157 children in the area.

The Department had also obtained reports on 200,000 acres of land in the northern part of the province. Altogether the department reports about 121,000 acres as being included in the settlement schemes.

Criticism of the soldiers settlement schemes of the Government by opposition members of Parliament has brought out evidence of some dissatisfaction on the part of the settlers. What is stated, however, is not that there has been a failure in adopting the right kind of methods, but that there has been unbusinesslike administration.

At Lister, in the Creston area, dissatisfaction is expressed with unnecessary expenditures incurred in sinking wells where there is no water, and in the alleged breaking of agreements by the Government. This question of management will always be a matter for serious consideration in connection with such schemes.

Mr. J. D. Wells, Director of the Kitsellas Copper Company, in a letter to the Commission of Conservation, advocates the formation of community land settlements in British Columbia, and instances the failure of the schemes to settle South African veterans who were granted individual farms and mostly gave up their land for speculation.

The failure of the colony at Kapuskasing developed by the Ontario Government has been dealt with in the report of a commission of inquiry. I will only allude to it as further evidence of the care that needs to be taken in the planning and management of such schemes.

In a communication received from a United States Government specialist in colonization, the following statement is made with regard to Kapuskasing:—

To my mind town planning should be based on a true land classification. I do not see how town planning can begin until, so to speak, land classification ends.

This investigator's point was that each community should be planned as a settlement with a view to securing proper social conditions and healthy community life in the form advocated in the resolution submitted to the House.

One unfortunate result of such schemes as Kapuskasing is that it creates a prejudice against any movement for getting the right kind of model settlement.

#### *Brief Review of Proposals made to Parliament*

In the resolution submitted to the House on March 24, 1919, Mr. Mowat advocated the erection of villages in the neighbourhood of cities. In this, he recognized the need for providing some of the returned men with opportunities to engage in some form of manufacturing production and intensive culture of small farms or market gardens under satisfactory living conditions, as distinct from the Government schemes for settling men in purely agricultural colonies.

My experience in England, confirmed by recent inquiries, shows that the only really successful community developments that have taken place, have been those which have been largely industrial in character and comparatively near to large centres of population. As carried out in such places as Letchworth, Port Sunlight, and Bournville, the matter has not yet been approached in Canada except by such private enterprises as Kipawa on lake Timiskaming, and the Brantford Housing Development. The G.W.V.A. and other organizations have pressed for action by the Government in giving support to community settlements and industrial housing for returned soldiers. At the same time it has to be recognized that Letchworth, Bournville, Port Sunlight and such schemes are private enterprises.