

**Commission of Conservation
CANADA**

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**PUBLIC CO-OPERATION
IN TOWN PLANNING**

A city must, first of all, be a place where its inhabitants pursue their gain-getting activities; it is the sphere of their daily labours, whereby they earn the means to live. But, if it is nothing more than this—and some manufacturing towns, unfortunately, are little else—it fails to fulfil the functions of a city; it is nothing but a sort of permanent camp lacking the true qualities of a home. Men desire not only to live, but to live in bodily health, to have wholesome recreation, to improve their minds and characters, to strive upwards after beauty, truth, and goodness. The city must be a place where the best yearnings of the human soul are not warped or tainted, but where they find a nourishing and congenial soil. A city that provides the right environment for the social and spiritual needs of its citizens wins their sentimental attachment, it becomes their "home," of which they are justly proud and for which they conceive a strong municipal patriotism.

City planning is, then, the expression of a complex idea, an expression which cannot be the work of one man nor of the men of one profession, but which must be participated in by all the citizens. The city planner supplies the basis on which the community, all and severally, must rear the superstructure. City planning may improve the facilities for business, but cannot make that business successful; it may install the most up-to-date sanitary systems, but cannot make persons cleanly in their habits; it may provide safeguards against accident, but cannot give people caution; it may lay out beautiful parks and well-equipped playgrounds, but cannot instil an appreciation of the beauties of nature nor teach the art of rational recreation; it may reserve splendid situations for imposing public buildings, but cannot ensure that government will be honest, efficient and wise. City planning deals only with externals; the moving spirit must come from the citizens.

It is true, of course, that organized planning is impossible in a city that has not already reached a certain degree of public virtue, and it is also true that an improve-

ment in environment, once its value is demonstrated, may make more easy the exercise of that virtue. Yet it must not be supposed that city planning is going to work wonders without perseverance and self-control, a conscientious, sustained and general effort to secure improvement; its good results cannot be achieved by simply calling in a board of experts and setting them to work, but require the loyal co-operation of every member of the community.—P. M. B.

**DUPLICATE REGISTER
OF VITAL STATISTICS**

In the report of the Registrar-General of Jamaica for the year 1918 occurs the following interesting item:

"The number of the registers of marriages, births, and deaths in the General Register Office on the 31st December, 1918 (apart from Civil Status Records of marriages prior to 1880 and baptisms and burials prior to 1878) amounted to 1,919,469. These registers are in duplicate, the duplicates being deposited for safe keeping in another building in which are also kept many original Church of England registers of marriages, baptisms and burials dating back to 1664."

Herein lurks a valuable suggestion for Canadian officials. Would it not be well to have duplicate copies of the records of all our Provincial Registrars General filed at Ottawa? These records are yearly becoming more valuable and their destruction by fire would be an immense and irreparable loss.

Similarly, copies should be kept of all church records—no matter of what creed—of marriages, baptisms and burials.—C. A. H.

RENEWING FORESTS

The problem of supplies does not merely concern the amount and character of timber now standing, it concerns, as well, the production, of new crops of timber by growth. I would have little concern about the amount of timber used if we were growing new stands in place of the old. We have enough non-agricultural land to produce for all time lumber in abundance for ourselves and for export. But this would require keeping our forests in a productive state after lumbering. We are not doing that. Our forests are steadily deteriorating under cutting and fire. No effort is made for replacement after cutting. Fire protection is confined to old timber. Young growth and cut-over lands are not being protected. Accidental stands following cutting and fire are generally poor in quality and species and of low prospective yield. We are still drawing for the most part on original sources of supply. Failing to replace these, we are steadily losing ground. We are actually using up our forests, just as we would use up a deposit of coal, when we might have been renewing them.—H. S. Graves, Chief, United States Forest Service.

**PROMISING ONTARIO
LINEN INDUSTRY**

With the installation of modern web-spinning machinery completed, a firm at Guelph, Ontario, is now turning out web-spun linen yarns from flax grown in that province. A flax spinning mill, operating in conjunction with the linen mill, makes this industry a self-contained one, able to turn out linen fabrics, including the finer grades, from raw flax to finished goods. During the war the plant was running on cotton and union goods, because of the difficulty of getting linen yarn, but with a steady supply of Canadian spun-linen yarns now assured, it is turning out a full line of all the finer linen goods, as well as the coarse towellings, butchers' linen, etc.

The development of flax spinning will have a stimulating effect on the growing of flax by Ontario farmers. Ontario flax has in the past been found acceptable by Irish linen manufacturers in the production of the famous Irish linens. A newly invented Canadian machine to harvest the flax, which, for purposes of spinning, must be pulled, not cut, is expected to reduce labour costs greatly.

The elimination of the tithe crop in Russia, which formerly placed Russian flax on the world market almost as cheaply as cotton, gives Canada an added advantage. There seems little reason why flax production and spinning, with the complementary industry of linen weaving, should not become one of Canada's important industries. In view of this, Ontario's leadership in the enterprise of a self-contained linen industry is especially interesting.—U. S. Consular Report.

VALUE OF INCINERATORS

In the army, every camp, no matter how small, had its incinerator. Fatigue parties were told off, and every scrap of litter was collected and burned. All cans also were put in the fire to remove particles of food that would attract flies. Many of these incinerators were of quite inexpensive and improvised construction; others were specially manufactured. The splendid freedom of the army from typhoid fever attests their efficiency. Moreover, in this manner the camps were kept decent and tidy.

Compare this with the disgraceful method employed by many civilian communities of dumping garbage in huge, evil-smelling, unsightly heaps. Worst of all, such dumps are actually used for filling hollows on which houses are to be built.

If mere temporary communities, such as military camps, can efficiently and decently dispose of their garbage, how absurd to say that villages and towns cannot do it.

In this respect, if in no other, let us take a leaf out of the army's book and profit by the lessons learned during the war.

**Children, Beware
of Standing Trains**

Boy Going to Pick Blueberries
Crawled under Cars and met
Horrible Death

"Moncton, August 10.—Han Mains, a twelve-year-old boy, was the victim of a fatality at Springhill Junction Saturday morning. The boy was starting out to pick blueberries and had to cross the tracks. A train blocked the way, and he was crawling beneath the cars when the train started, with the result that he was caught and had both legs cut off close to the body. He died soon afterwards in the hospital."—Daily paper.

"Poor lad! One can imagine him thinking, 'I can't wait till this train moves; it may be here for an hour. And as for going round it, why, I'll bet there's forty cars on it.' Besides, his mother wants those blueberries this morning to make that pie she promised us. There's no sign of this train moving. I've crawled under the cars before, so here goes again."

But just then the train did move. How was the engineer to know that if he had waited a moment a boy's life would have been spared?

Boys, that train may start at any moment. Don't take chances.

**Garden Suburbs in
Canadian Capital**

(Continued from page 35)

available, and there is practical assurance that the site of the Parkdale estate will all be allotted within a very short time. The estates contain many beautiful trees which have all been planted, and most of them will be preserved for the adornment of the new settlements. On the Lindenlea property a winding boulevard has been planned to intersect the grounds, which will command many beautiful views. Provision has been made for tennis courts, bowling green, children's playground and wading pool, a community hall and public garage, and the residential streets have been planned to discourage through traffic, so as to ensure additional safety for children and preserve quiet and home-like amenities for the householders. No lot will have less than a thirty-foot frontage, and in these cases semi-detached houses will be encouraged to economize space for garden purposes. The houses will be arranged under Mr. Adams' supervision, with a view to architectural harmony and to agreeable aspect and prospect, and much will be done to encourage a civilized community spirit in the social organization of the estates.

The development of the garden suburb in the capital city will have the obvious advantage that representatives from the cities of the Dominion who have frequent occasions to visit Ottawa will be able to study the movement on the spot, and thus Lindenlea and Parkdale may serve as object lessons that will lead to extension of the garden suburb movement over the whole of Canada.—A. B.