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Garden Cities for Soldiers

In our October issue we referred to the splendid fight that Mr. H. M. Mowat, M.P., has made, and is making both in the House of Commons and before the special parliamentary committee on soldiers' civil re-establishment, for homes for soldiers. Mr. Mowat represents a city constituency of about 100,000 people, which contains many returned soldiers and their families. These men have never been trained to the farm and consequently cannot take advantage of the government inducement of the \$2,500 loan to go on the land, which loan has aggregated up to the present about \$35,000,000.

There is no doubt but that the soldiers' land scheme will prove a good investment for the country and there is no reason why the garden city scheme for soldiers as advocated by Mr. Mowat should not be equally successful as an investment. But outside the economic phase of the question there is the moral responsibility of Canada to her returned fighting men which does not begin and end with the soldier farmer but should extend to the city soldier who wants an opportunity to own his home, but under the present housing scheme of the government, he has little chance to secure any kind of home, because in most cases he has not the money to make the first instalment.

Mr. Mowat's scheme is that communities of 150 houses each on the garden city plan should be established for returned soldiers and their families near but not in our industrial centres. That the work should be undertaken by the Federal government at an approximate cost of \$600,000 for each community—the occupants having the opportunity of buying their own home on the instalment plan. To start the plan it is suggested that four communities should be established at once near Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, at a total cost of \$2,400,000 for 600 houses. Should these communities prove successful, as undoubtedly they would, then the scheme can be extended.

In our many talks with returned men on the subject of housing we have been told that having the opportunity to ultimately own a little cottage and garden appealed to them more than any further gratuity. If such is the case every encouragement should be given to the garden city scheme as expounded by Mr. Mowat, for it would not only carry out practically the wishes of the returned soldiers themselves, but would create an ambition in their minds to attain to the best class of citizenship so necessary in the building up of Canada—namely, home builders.

Sir Adam Beck and Hydro-Electric

Whatever may be the attitude of the new Farmer-Labor Government towards civic administration the municipal councils of Ontario are determined to have Sir Adam Beck remain head of the Hydro-Electric Commission. At a meeting of municipal executives of the Province, held in City Hall of Toronto on Oct. 30th, the appended resolution was unanimously adopted, as well as a second one expressing confidence in the Hydro-Electric leader.

Municipal Ontario is to be congratulated on its stand towards the Commission and in particular its encouragement to Sir Adam, who not only made possible public ownership of the electric energy of the Province of Ontario, but has brought the system to such a high state of efficiency as to confound those who for private gain have never lost an opportunity to condemn the public ownership of public utilities.