

Jubilee of Confederation

It would seem more than coincidence that the jubilee of Confederation should fall on this year of 1917, when Canada is in the throes of a mighty struggle to preserve that autonomy and freedom secured fifty years ago; a struggle against a foe, who, if victorious, would consider any act that conferred freedom on the people as so much waste paper. The story of confederation is the story of big men sinking their differences for a common cause; of great party leaders influencing, by the intensity of their mission, their lesser colleagues to forget their political and personal jealousies, and combine their energies to win the great struggle against suspicion and selfishness. And out of the labour pains of this great combination—this working together of intellect and determination—the scattered communities of a great continent were confederated together, and the Dominion of Canada was born—a healthy and virile infant, strong enough to withstand all the political nostrums spooned to it in its childhood and youth, and now grown to manhood, is taking a man's part in the fight of free nations against bureaucracy. At least four hundred thousand citizens are taking the part, and it depends on the rest of Canada if that part is to be sustained.

Fifty years is a short space in history, but during that time Canada has made history by great leaps and bounds, so much so that instead of being measured by centuries, or even generations, she must be measured by decades; each decade marking an epoch in achievement. And in no part of her na-

tional life has Canada achieved so much as in the building of her cities and her towns. Not only have her people built a Winnipeg out of the stores of a trading post, a Vancouver out of a few huts, and many handsome cities out of nothing but nerve and confidence, but they have built up a civic life that will compare favourably with that of any other country. It must be remembered that most other countries have been centuries building up their civic life, and all that it means—Canada, but fifty years.

What the next fifty years will bring to Canada depends not so much on her immigration or the material development of her vast resources—both are assured—but rather on the public spirit of her people. In an age of materialism, when success is measured by wealth, and selfishness predominates to a large extent, it was perhaps a wise dispensation of Providence that each nation should be tried, as in the present war, when every man and woman must search his or her conscience as to his or her duty to the state. Fifty years ago the fathers of Confederation gave of their best to the state, but they lived in an age of public duty, and no doubt from out of this mighty struggle, which all the nations are now going through, will come a renewed sense of public responsibility on the part of the individual to the State, and the question that is uppermost in the minds of thinking citizens is how Canada is to prepare to meet this new thought. The story of Confederation will help to solve the problem, if taken to heart.

The Town Planner in France

The Town Planner is to have his opportunity when the war is over. In the rebuilding of Belgium and that part of France devastated by the war the authorities are evidently determined that hygiene, sanitation, etc., shall have their proper place. The French government has already sent out regulations requiring every municipality in France to conform to some scientific readjustment of its city or town, though the new law does not insist on uniformity in the replanning schemes, provided the fundamentals are adhered to, thus leaving full play for that individuality in European, and particularly French, architecture and design which we on this continent so much admire, and often copy—with painful results. Quite a number of books and articles have been written on the subject by French sanitary engineers, architects and artists which no doubt largely influenced the passing of the city planning law. How far the town planner in this work of reconstruction will succeed, remains to be seen. He certainly will have tremendous scope for his imagination in the varied characteristics of the French people, and which are shown so much in their dwellings, their streets and their towns and cities. The word imagination might be taken literally, for, alas, so many of the towns and villages

have been left with hardly a building standing—wiped out—so that there is only the imagination with the aid of photographs to aid the planner in his work of rebuilding.

Mr. Geo. G. Ford, the City Planning expert, who gives his impressions of a visit to France in this issue of the Journal, has returned with the Industrial Commission sent to Europe by the United States to study the rebuilding of the devastating regions, and how best our American Allies can aid in the work.

THE CITY OF WELLAND.

The progressive community of Welland (Ont.), has reached to over the necessary 20,000 mark in population, and consequently becomes a city. Celebrations in honour of the event took place on Dominion Day, when the Lieut.-Governor participated. Possibly no other community in Canada has progressed along saner lines than the new city of Welland. Centrally situated, industry after industry has been created, all indigenous to the district, and the local authorities have kept in line with the industrial growth in the adequate building of public works, so that to-day the city has every attraction for the workers, and prosperity reigns.