

Every country in Europe, the United States and Mexico either has a housing policy or has initiated one.

In Canada, under the War Measures Act, in the Order in Council appropriating \$25,000,000 for home building it is stated: (Sessional Papers 53, P.C. 3067, 1918), "The Minister observes that in view of the national importance of adequate and suitable housing accommodation, which affects vitally the health, morals and general well-being of the entire community, it is desirable that the financial assistance thus provided should be utilized at the earliest possible date in the provision of the housing accommodation, contemplated by the said Order in Council."

At a National Industrial Conference at Ottawa, 1919, composed of representatives of Federal and Provincial Governments and representative employers and labour men, the following resolution was unanimously carried: "That this Conference commends the attention of the Dominion and Provincial Governments in their united efforts to improve housing conditions and to provide facilities for the proper and satisfactory housing of our people and recommends increased co-operation of, and investigation by, the Dominion and Provincial Governments to find a satisfactory solution of the problem."

The Toronto Housing Company Limited, 1912, was formed by a joint committee representing the municipality, the Board of Trade, the Manufacturers Association and the Civic Guild of the City of Toronto for the purpose of providing workmen with suitable dwellings at moderate rentals.

A brief from the National Construction Council of Canada sets forth: "Domestic building touches the lives of our people daily. There is almost prima facie evidence that housing is entitled to some guidance from the State. There is a demand that something be done in regard to raising housing standards particularly for groups of wage earners who receive the least for their service."

In the report on housing and slum clearance for Montreal, made by a joint committee of the Montreal Board of Trade and the Civic Improvement League, under the joint chairmanship of Professor Percy E. Nobbs and Mr. Guy Tombs, it is stated: "As far as Montreal is concerned a government aided program of housing is long overdue; and that this is a matter fundamentally independent of the depression though aggravated by it."

In a report on housing conditions in Toronto made by a committee under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Bruce, it is stated: "It should be urged on the Dominion Government particularly that no public works grants are so urgently needed as those for the rehousing of the poorest members of the community."

Your committee is of the opinion that the foregoing authoritative opinions are expressive of views which should guide the formulation of a housing policy for Canada.

CONSTRUCTION (NEW HOUSES)

From the evidence submitted it appears that the basic housing shortage lies in the needs of the low wage earner for whom the minimum of health and amenity should be provided on a basis of rental within his capacity to pay.

To meet this requirement, such housing must provide protection from the weather, adequate lighting and ventilation, be capable of being properly heated; be equipped with sanitary conveniences and drainage and be furnished with such facilities as make the amenities of family life sufficient, convenient and hygienic.

The minimum accommodation possible to meet such normal family requirements involves dwelling units having three bedrooms, livingroom-kitchen and bathroom, which accommodation meets the basic requirements of parents, and children of both sexes. Lesser accommodation would, of course, be ample where the family does not involve children.