

Joint Town-Planning Conference at Ottawa

American City Planning Institute and Town-Planning Institute of Canada Discuss Zoning, Cost of Public Utilities and Street Improvements, Proper Widths for Streets and Other Fundamental Considerations of City and Town Planning

WITH the co-operation of the Commission of Conservation of Canada, a joint conference of the Town Planning Institute of Canada and the American City Planning Institute was held last Friday and Saturday at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Ont.

The conference opened at 2 p.m. Friday. The sessions Friday afternoon, Friday evening and Saturday morning were arranged by the American City Planning Institute. The Saturday evening session was arranged by the Town Planning Institute of Canada. Saturday afternoon was reserved for drives and a visit to the Parliament Building.

After addresses of welcome by Hon. N. W. Rowell, president of the Privy Council, and Mayor Fisher, of Ottawa, reports were submitted by F. L. Olmsted (see next column) and B. A. Haldeman (see page 409 of this issue).

E. H. Bassett's report (see page 410 of this issue) was the chief topic for discussion on Friday evening.

The Saturday morning session was devoted to discussion of A. C. Comey's report, which will appear in the next issue of *The Canadian Engineer*, and Morris Knowles' report (see page 404 of this issue).

Address by Ottawa Planners

At noon Saturday the members were the guests at luncheon of the Canadian Club of Ottawa, and in the evening they were the guests at dinner of the Commission of Conservation and the city council of Ottawa.

Addresses by Thos. Adams and Noulan Cauchon, both of Ottawa, were the features of the final session, Saturday evening.

There was a very representative attendance of some of the leading town planners of Canada and the United States and all were enthusiastic regarding the benefits that will ensue as a result of this international conference.

In the addresses of welcome by Hon. Mr. Rowell and Mayor Fisher, both speakers laid stress on the advantages of international conferences of this nature, especially in the newer centres where development is rapid and the opportunity is great for housing more nearly approaching the ideal.

The committee reports relating to fundamental town planning principles, which comprised the greater portion of the program, were concise statements of about 1,000 words each, but the chairman of each committee elaborated upon his report when reading it.

While meeting in the main with the approval of the conference, these reports were not definitely adopted by the American City Planning Institute and are to be further considered.

Interesting discussion followed each report, especially in regard to the exact definition of terms used. To decide what the term "city planning" includes, and whether some other term might be preferable, was one of the matters left to a joint committee of the two institutes.

Zoning in Canadian Acts

In regarding to zoning it was pointed out that in Canada most of the provinces have in force town planning acts which incidentally provide for zoning amongst other features dealing with the amenities of the areas affected.

At the Canadian Club luncheon there were not only the members of the American and Canadian planning institutes, but also many other engineers. Dean Mitchell, of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, University of Toronto, who was the speaker and guest of honor, discussed the aesthetics of the war and the lessons to be drawn therefrom. He announced that civics and town planning are to be included in the science courses at the University of Toronto.

One of the features of the conference that aroused very favorable comment was the exhibit of housing and town planning schemes and data. The exhibit was entirely of Canadian material and was supplied by the office of the Dominion Housing and Town Planning Adviser and other federal and provincial government offices, individual Canadian engineers and architects also having made contributions to the exhibit.

The importance of housing was frequently referred to throughout the conference. In his address of welcome, Hon. Mr. Rowell described housing conditions and the environment in which thousands are compelled to live in the larger cities of the American continent, as the great crime of the past. He urged the members to strive during the present reconstruction period to bring about a new and better social order.

The members of the institutes visited the sites of two housing projects of the Ottawa Housing Commission, and at "Lindenlea," Thomas Adams explained briefly the salient features of that project.

The progress of housing in the United States and in some of the provinces of Canada was commented upon by various authorities conversant with the subject, and last Saturday evening Thos. Adams showed moving pictures of housing projects carried out in England and Canada.

"The Planning of Ottawa" was treated by Noulan Cauchon, chairman of the Ottawa Branch of the Town Planning Institute of Canada, in a broad and entertaining manner. Mr. Cauchon's address ended what was unanimously declared to, have been a very successful conference.

Following are the committee reports presented by Messrs. Olmsted, Knowles, Haldeman and Bassett:—

FUNDAMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS OF CITY PLANNING

BY F. L. OLMSTED

Chief Town Planner for the U. S. Department of Labor

THE purpose of this statement is to set forth certain fundamental considerations of city planning as an explanatory introduction to any specific conclusions which the American City Planning Institute may see fit to adopt in relation to special and limited questions within its field; largely to avoid the danger that such specific conclusions standing alone might give a mistaken impression of the scope of the subject and the attitude of the institute.

City planning, which in this statement is used broadly to cover the entire subject-matter, designated also by such terms as town planning and regional planning, is concerned with the territory occupied or to be occupied by any community and with prospective physical alterations in that territory and the objects upon it, in so far as such alterations can wisely be controlled or influenced by concerted action in the interest of the community as a social unit.

In theory no prospective physical alteration is so small, so localized, or so specialized in technique as to be excluded merely for that reason from the scope of city planning, provided it can wisely and effectively be controlled in the common interest. A problem of city planning may be wholly within the field of one of the many well-established specialized technical professions having to do with the physical surroundings of community life, or may concern several such fields, or may lie in a sort of no man's land, inadequately covered by any one of these professions.

The field is so wide and so complex that on the one hand effective progress in mastering it requires specializa-