

Suggestions for Community Associations and Centres

ORGANIZATION FOR COMMUNITY WORK

It is not necessary to point out the importance of definite organization to meet community needs. This necessity has been long recognized and acted upon in municipal and school matters. Township, village, town or city councils and their corresponding School Boards or Boards of Education are the expression of community co-operation as evolved through long experience in self-government. In other fields, however, schemes of organization have been carried out usually on a more or less exclusive basis, and consequently in a measure they prevent the development of an all-pervading *community spirit*.

In order to make the best possible progress toward the New Era for which we are striving, it is necessary that all sorts of communities should work out for themselves co-operative schemes in social welfare. The suggestions made in this pamphlet are aimed to promote such self-development. They are only suggestions and not rules and regulations.

COMMUNITY WORK

The Social Service Council of Ontario suggests that communities should, after a careful survey of their social needs, consider the advisability of forming co-operative Community Associations. The nature of such organizations naturally will vary widely in accordance with the size of the communities and the interests of their citizens. The rural community will not require the extensive organization of the town of 8,000, nor will the small village located in a strictly agricultural area follow the same plans as the industrial town of 3,000. A Community Association should develop as an expression of a neighbourhood's needs and shape itself as it grows. Its aim should be to bring about the participation of all the people in wholesome, constructive, social activities mutually benefiting the entire community. The leaders in its undertakings should represent all groups and organizations that carry on distinct services in all phases of social, moral and religious welfare. It should encourage progress in constructive, recreational and educational measures. It should be pre-eminently democratic, co-operative, and non-exclusive. It should develop a healthy community consciousness and self-respect, induce self-reliance, abolish the sense of helplessness and make for community satisfaction, contentment and pride.