

IN TIME OF WAR PREPARE FOR PEACE.

At the conference on community development for the war, held in Philadelphia, February 26, by the American City Planning Institute, special emphasis was given to the importance of planning now for the reconstruction period after the war. The subject was introduced by Andrew Wright Crawford, Secretary of the Art Jury and of the City Parks Association of Philadelphia, who pointed out the fact that to make proper provision for the slack that will come immediately after the war ceases it is essential that plans for improvements and the acquisition of lands necessary for public work be begun in advance. Such processes often require more than a year, and, as Mr. Crawford showed, the preparation, approval and adoption of plans involve practically no workmen—they take no men from war industries; neither does the acquisition of land by legal procedure.

The importance of federal and local action in this matter was further emphasized by Thomas Adams, Town Planning Adviser of the Canadian Commission of Conservation, and the following resolution, introduced by Harold S. Buttenheim, Editor of "The American City," was unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, The signing of a treaty of peace will inevitably be followed by a dislocation of industry because of the discharge of millions of workers in war trades and the demobilization of soldiers; and

"Whereas, It is in the power of the national and local governments to minimize the resulting unemployment and to promote the public welfare by starting the execution of new public works immediately after the war; be it

"Resolved, That this conference recommends to the Board of Governors of the American City Planning Institute that the Institute advocate through the proper channels in Washington the immediate establishment of a Federal Commission of Reconstruction to make plans for meeting these post-war problems, and also request the President of the United States to urge the various state, county and municipal authorities to begin forthwith the preparation of well-considered plans for local public works, so that they may be undertaken promptly and without waste, or extravagance, in so far as they may be needed to provide productive temporary employment for labor after the war."

It is suggested that among the public works for which such plans might be made are the building and repairing of streets and roads, the erection of schools, county institutions and other public buildings, the reclamation and afforestation of land, the reconstruction of slum areas, the development of parks and playgrounds, the provision of more adequate water supply, sewage disposal, fire protection, street lighting and other improvements which will provide employment for labor and promote the public welfare.

WHAT RATIONING MEANS.

"The people face big things, but get worried over small ones. There has been only one successful food controller in the history of the world—the One who made five loaves and two small fishes feed a multitude. I tell you what rationing means. It means that a nation in the furnace of war is becoming more of a brotherhood." — LLOYD GEORGE.

ELECTRIC HEATING—(Continued.)

Each of these several schemes of converting electrical energy into heat and distributing it has advantages under different conditions.

It should be emphasized, however, that the conversion of electrical energy into heat energy is accomplished at 100 per cent efficiency by any of the methods outlined above when we consider the actual heat liberated. The effectiveness in heating room, however, depends, among other things, on the temperature of the heating medium and whether all the heat generated is used usefully in the rooms to be heated.

Any heating scheme or device which it is claimed converts electrical energy into heat at higher efficiency than any other method should be very carefully examined and investigated. Ridiculous claims are sometimes made for heating appliances which as explained above, cannot be more than 100 per cent efficient.

UTILIZING THE BOYS IN NATIONAL WORK.

A movement which has in it the promise of much influence on our national life, is that promoted by the Canadian National Advisory Committee for co-operation in Boys' Work. This Committee is composed of representatives of the Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, together with representatives of the National Y.M.C.A. and the Inter-provincial Sunday School Association.

The work is carried on through existing organizations such as Sunday Schools, Boys' Organizations, local Y. M. C. A.'s, and the High Schools.

It is intended to reach all boys of the 'teen age, and particularly the older boys of 15 to 20.

An outline programme of study and activities for the fourfold development of Canadian Boys has been prepared, which is known as the "Canadian Standard Efficiency Test" programme. This programme was first published October, 1912, for the use of boys of the Y.M.C.A., but recognizing to some extent the possibilities of enlarging the scope of the tests, a committee of business men in Toronto under the chairmanship of Mr. H. H. Love, carried on experiments, and gathered a considerable volume of information bearing upon the standard to which boys of various ages might be expected to attain in physical work such as swimming, running, jumping, etc., in intellectual work as evidenced by their school records, or evening studies in the case of working boys; in religious work, and in social service, which includes the study and practice of all that goes to make up good citizenship.

Mr. Taylor Statten of Toronto, has probably done more than any man to build up the C.S.E.T. idea. Mr. Statten's value to the community has been quite recently recognized by the Dominion Government, who have appointed him superintendent of the "Soldiers of the Soil" movement, which is an outgrowth of this Boys' Work, and which now has official recognition as a very important part of Government work.

During the last year upwards of 8,000 boys in Ontario alone enlisted from village, town and city for farm service, and during this year, with the much better organization, a still larger number of "Soldiers of the Soil" are expected to help in the production of food stuffs.

The Canadian C.S.E.T. programme attracted the attention of workers among boys in the United States. Mr. Taylor Statten was invited to present the Canadian plan at a meeting of the Executive of the Association of Boys' Work Secretaries, at Detroit, and later at meetings in Cleveland in 1914, with the result that standard efficiency tests after the Canadian model are now used in the United States.

The localised work in Canada is in the hands of Provincial Advisory Committees constituted as the National Committee is, of authorised representatives of the seven co-operating units. Conferences for older boys and summer training camps have been held from coast to coast. During 1917, 55 such conferences and 8 summer training camps were held, with a total attendance of nearly 10,000 boys.

BAD YEAR AHEAD IN FOREST FIRES.

Rangers ask Public to Help Them Keep Fire Out of the Woods.

The danger season for forest fires is near at hand. Rapidly drying soil has left the old grass, brush, leaves, etc. in most perilous condition for starting fires.

An effort is being made by the fire rangers in Ontario to keep down the forest losses this year to a minimum. They will succeed only if every camper carefully extinguishes his camp-fire before leaving it, if every smoker refrains from tossing away burnt matches or tobacco in or near a wood, and if settlers in the newly-opened districts guard their land-clearing fires with the utmost care. Settlers' fires continue to be the very worst source of forest conflagration, although campers and careless smokers are close competitors.

"Th fire rangers," says the Canadian Forestry Association, "want every good citizen to regard himself as a deputy ranger from now until November first."

"A Canadian forest was never worth so much as to-day, never gave so many jobs as to-day, never put money into circulation as it does this year."