

could be bought cheaper under the housing scheme, than if they were rented.

He was strongly in favor of the scheme, as it encouraged thrift, and allowed families to be brought up in good sanitary homes, and he hoped that private houses built in the future will follow the plans and ideals of municipally-built houses under the housing scheme.

Several delegates took part in the ensuing discussion, J. P. Geoffrey, Galt, maintaining that the provincial fund would soon be exhausted, and not meet the situation during the next five or six years. He maintained that the only solution was the duplication in Ontario of the building and loan system in operation in Philadelphia, where there are 160 building associations.

He declared that recreation grounds and play-grounds were essential for contented young manhood, and said that 10% of the land in Galt is devoted to parks and play-grounds.

Thomas Adams expressed his satisfaction that it had been possible to obtain a special act allowing a city to manage itself as it wishes. Some of the causes of dissatisfaction in civic government were the numerous spending bodies. He considered it democratic that citizens should elect a council, who would in turn elect their own mayor, and favored a continuity of government, giving as an example, 18 aldermen in office for three years, six retiring each year. This system would assist in eliminating commissions, would centralize administrative power in one body, and give executive power to the city officials, who should draw salaries commensurate with their responsibilities.

Advocates Civic Research Bureaux

Dr. Brittain was invited by the chairman to make proposals as to action by the conference in general in carrying out suggestions made in his address earlier in the afternoon. Dr. Brittain suggested that cities of over 30,000, establish local bureaux, and co-operate with the Dominion Bureau of Research. By so doing, the Dominion bureau could retain the services of specialists such as engineers and auditors, who would visit the civic bureaux when required, and give expert advice.

Speaking at the evening session to a representative gathering of citizens, civic officials, members of the Board of Trade, and delegates, J. A. Ellis maintained that every municipality should have the right to govern itself, and should any municipality have a plan or scheme requiring legislation to make it effective, his personal opinion was that such legislation should be given. No government would refuse a popular demand, but it was essential to know definitely what was wanted.

The two addresses of the evening were given by Thomas Adams, town planning expert, and Noulan Cauchon, consulting engineer, Ottawa. Both addresses are printed in full upon other pages of this issue.

Will Interview Ontario Cabinet

Following Mr. Adams' address, delegates from London, the Border cities, Brantford and Chatham, expressed their approval of the suggestions made in the address, and the meeting, by a unanimous standing vote, supported Mr. Coppley's resolution: "That this conference approves of the town planning scheme, and resolves that the chairman appoint a deputation representative of all municipalities to see the government with reference to the new legislation, and amendments as suggested by Thomas Adams."

Friday morning's session commenced with reading of the reports of the honorary and corresponding secretaries, and the consideration of resolutions recommended by the executive committee. The following is an extract from the report of the corresponding secretary:—

"The last town planning conference of southwestern Ontario was held in October, 1916. Remarkable developments have taken place since then along many lines, but provincial town planning has not developed with the times. Standing to-day and looking back three years since last we met, we see with a clearer vision than before the great need and the great importance of planning our cities, towns and rural communities, but we seem to be no nearer the accomplish-

ment of our ends than at the last convention. Notwithstanding appearances, however, much foundation work has been accomplished during the last three years, and many towns have appointed town planning boards. I believe we are now on the eve of greater accomplishments.

New Legislation Needed

"Lack of adequate legislation has also interfered seriously with local town planning progress. The Planning and Development Act of 1918, while a recognition of the importance of planning highways, urban zoning, organization of town planning boards, etc., has been found defective. When we came to apply the act in Hamilton, the city council was alarmed at the wide-open door to large expenditures, and refused to appoint a commission under the act.

"The Hamilton council refused to proceed under the act, and they were justified in their course of action. The Hamilton town planning board is not appointed under the act because the taxpayers are not sufficiently safeguarded, and consequently the board's hands are tied and we are in a large measure marking time. The town planning board in Hamilton is simply a committee of the council, without sufficient appropriation to carry on its work.

Object of Conference

"One object of this conference is to educate the public and the municipal councils along town planning lines, to create public sentiment and bring it to bear upon the provincial parliament. We cannot magnify the importance of town planning too much, and in order to accomplish our ends we need the help of the women of this convention.

"Each municipality has its own peculiar problems, but in order to solve them, a comprehensive city or town plan should be secured, adopted, approved by a provincial board and registered. In Hamilton we are after such a city plan, which shall co-ordinate various very ambitious individual projects in the course of development. For example:—

"1. The harbor board is working on a vast harbor scheme preparing for a future seaboard town.

"2. The housing commission is building scores of up-to-date dwellings for workmen, having all the conveniences.

"3. The parks board have hundreds of potential acres to develop for future generations.

"4. New railway plans have been projected by Messrs. Tye and Cauchon; these have been adopted by the city council, and stand ready to be worked out.

"5. Several millions of dollars have been voted as collateral security in connection with Hydro-radial lines, terminals, freight yards, etc.

"6. A highway commission has been appointed to lay out roadways which shall make Hamilton the hub of southwestern Ontario.

"7. A proposition is now before the city council, having in view the beautifying of the Mountain Face park, which is five miles long, and a most unique natural asset belonging to the city, which is awaiting development.

"There are narrow streets to widen, boulevards to build, slum conditions on the outskirts of the city to clean up, factory, commercial and residential districts to restrict. A city plan is absolutely necessary to remedy defects and to facilitate improvements, and yet up to date so many hindrances obstruct the forward movement that apparently we are no nearer attainment of a city plan than three years ago, when we met at our last convention.

Considerable discussion took place during the consideration of the resolutions, and the objection was raised that the conference was attempting to cover too wide a scope of municipal affairs.

A resolution was passed urging the department of education to provide for the education of children in the duties of citizenship. The convention also endorsed a suggestion that fire chiefs be instructed to address school children in fire prevention.

It was resolved that the town planning convention considers it imperative that no factories emitting smoke and noxious fumes be allowed to locate on the side of the municipality from which the prevailing wind blows, and demands the adoption of a by-law preventing the improper location of such factories.