

many fine houses there are in our cities, but how few poor, unsanitary and unworthy ones. Indeed, the problem is not confined to our cities, one may find living conditions in our country districts comparable with city slums. Slums produce inefficiency—inefficiency begets poverty and poverty of this character means disease and degradation. This is not a sensational statement; it is cold fact. Simply as a matter of common sense, we should wipe out our slums and prevent their growth.

In a country as generally prosperous as Canada, the ownership of his own home should not be an unreality for a working man of steady habits. As Sir Oliver Lodge has recently said: "Our conceptions of the possible need training and widening." No measure will so tend to the realization of this vision as to have our cities intelligently planned with residential areas, factory districts and transportation facilities link ~~ed~~ ^{ed} up in some reasonably co-ordinated plan. One-half of the housing problem is a problem of transportation.

A year ago I could not have spoken so strongly but circumstances have since brought to my notice the almost incredible housing conditions that exist throughout Canada. A remedy is possible or our social organization is merely a veneer. I do not believe that it is, but it is possible that we are in danger of being overwhelmed by an accumulation of material interests and are denied to higher things their proper place.

CITY PLANNING IN TORONTO

A few years ago, a movement was inaugurated in Toronto, having for its object, among other things, the establishment of play-grounds, so that city boys and girls might have a desirable substitute for the immeasurably superior advantages enjoyed by those fortunate enough to have been born in the country. Through the effort of a few