

that the only way to do it was to use such facilities as were already available. Obviously the use of the recreational movement is one of these. We want that survey badly, but while we are busy doing other things we cannot do the work ourselves.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I understand that Mr. Cormier of Montreal can give us some information.

Mr. CORMIER: No, I cannot add much to that, but I think in Quebec where we have the two languages it would be very desirable to have these centres. For instance, in the French villages we could provide English plays. This would be a great help toward unity and would promote a better knowledge of the two races. The same thing applies with regard to arts and crafts. Exhibitions coming from other parts of the Dominion could be exhibited in Quebec and those from Quebec could be exhibited in other provinces. That would be a great help. As to the starting of these community centres in Quebec, I do not know of any, but I think they are very desirable.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Is there anyone present who can give us a report on what the RA of Ottawa has been able to do. I understand that in the past they have achieved some astonishing results in this kind of thing.

Mr. J. R. BAXTER: I am sorry that I have not anything prepared, but I can give you a brief resumé of what the RA has done. It has been going on for six years in a small way. Its aim fundamentally is to give the maximum amount of recreation to the largest number of people at the lowest possible cost. To bring about that end, a year ago we presented a brief to the government and asked that they allow us to deduct voluntarily 25 cents from the salary cheques of Ottawa civil servants. The need of recreation, both cultural and physical, was evidenced by the amazing response. Inside of a month we had 5,000 members. That was the number required by the government to put our plan into effect. Inside of two and a half months we had 10,000 members, and the number now stands around 12,000. There has been only one membership campaign. It is handled solely through voluntary effort by working civil servants. Its purpose is to develop all the cultural arts and all the physical arts. During the last year we have brought into being in Ottawa some forty activities which have been engaged in by thousands of Ottawa civil servants. We propose to expand that particular program within the next year and to bring about an over-all program. We are very young; we do not know much about this. We have gone into arts, handicrafts, music and drama. We have put on plays such as have been mentioned here which have been quite successful. We have brought in some outside symphonies and ballets, and we have sponsored band concerts. Next Sunday we are opening a summer centre at Fairy lake with an outdoor operetta and choral singers, and we hope to have a symphony concert and also a demonstration of boxing and fencing, together with regular facilities for baseball and horseshoe pitching, and perhaps swimming if we can arrange the area. We anticipate, from the response so far, that there will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1,000 or 2,000 people out next Sunday. We are now working on a plan for the summer for an outdoor theatre back of Major Hill Park, and that territory has been offered to us. We propose to have outdoor drama and opera singing and films at night, and we may develop the idea for the noon hour. Those plans are being developed in cooperation with the civic authorities, because it is a development outside of the RA proper.

With regard to the survey that has been made I did not hear all the reports—the emphasis seems to be on cultural matters. I believe from my short experience in this particular work that to make the true Canadian, a proper Canadian, the healthy Canadian, we have to cover the whole field—both cultural and physical. Some statement has been made about mass recreation. That I think is a mistake. Mass recreation is the sort of thing—more of the physical—that has developed in Germany and some other countries; it is a form