

Mr. Thomas Adams, the Town-improvement Advisor to the Commission of Conservation. In Mr. Adams we have a valuable asset to Canada. He was the secretary, I think, of the town—now the city of Letchworth in England—built on these lines, to enable the suburbanite to reach London, his industrial centre, within a few minutes. This town increased to such an extent that while it cost in the neighbourhood of \$1,200,000 to build, in the course of only four years there was an increment of \$800,000 in the value of the properties by reason of the demand for those comfortable houses built amid such pleasant surroundings.

Now, if there is to be that increment in the value of the villages which we propose to erect in Canada—at least, I hope we will erect them—it seems to me that all that increment should go to the men themselves who take upon themselves the chance at the beginning, either by way of reduced rentals or reduced purchase money, and that those who come later and enjoy the enterprise of the pioneers should help pay for that enterprise. The responsibility of running each village must be left to the inhabitants themselves. I think that responsibility is going to be accepted by the returned soldiers. The men who captured town after town in France and Belgium are not going to be behindhand in running towns of their own when they come back to Canada. We will find just as much municipal ability, just as much foresight, and just as much thrift among the returned soldiers who may be the inhabitants of these villages as we will find anywhere else in the Dominion.

Will these communities be permanent, or is this only a fancy idea that we have, and will it be worth while trying? In my opinion it will be worth while trying and these communities will be permanent, because the domestic motive behind the scheme will keep the men attached to the homes which they are going to establish, especially as they will not be the ordinary hum-drum homes of the conventional city or town, but they will be something entirely new, something which will appeal to the aesthetic side of a man's nature and make him proud of his home and loath to leave the community, because it is going to be his own handiwork.

In addition to what I have said as to building, we are going to make the women so well satisfied with this kind of community that they are going to be an anchorage there. As it is now in cities the women are in a constant state of anxiety about the motor car menace to their children. There are no yards or gardens for the children to

play in and naturally they go and play on the streets. In the city of Toronto I venture to say that once a week there is a poor little tot of four or five years of age run down by a motor car, no matter how careful the driver may be. The consequence is that women are in a constant state of anxiety while their children are out. But here we can construct all these homes facing on public squares where the children can go and play free from any vehicular menace, for there will be no necessity for roads at all through these villages. In every plan I have seen there is a landscape arrangement by which there are only one or two, or at most three, public highways, which need not be used at all by the people for foot travel, but are confined to vehicles. The consequence of this arrangement is that the motor car menace is abolished and the contentment of the mothers is assured.

This subject has interested me for some years and I have read a good many books relating to it, and if any hon. member wishes to have a reference to these in order to go into it more fully, I would recommend him to read the books of Mr. Sennitt, an English author, who is a principal writer on the subject, and Professor H. W. Mawson's work entitled "An Imperial Obligation;" that is, the duty of the State to partially disabled soldiers. The book was published last year and the preface to it is well worth reading, because it is by Sir Douglas Haig, and he says: Sir Douglas Haig, right in the middle of the war, had time to write this preface:

The amelioration of the lot of those of our countrymen on whom the war has placed the dreadful burden of life-long disablement is not only the most worthy to which it is possible to bend our energies, but one which should receive our immediate attention if we are to be ready for the emergency before it becomes overwhelming.

Professor Mawson, in furthering the idea which I have tried to set forth in a sketchy way, says this on page 22:

There should be a central collecting and distributing and buying and selling centre where materials can be procured wholesale and the finished goods marketed under expert management.

To some of the suggested industries and activities which he mentioned, he would add agriculture and shop-keeping, market-gardening and flower culture, clock repairing, job printing, shoe repairing, tailoring, telephone operating, typing, model dairy, laundry, village square, post office, bank, insurance office, amusement and public hall, moving picture house, community house for

[Mr. Mowat.]