

scheme must first be initiated by the local authority, which when it makes an application to the Government must make out a *prima facie* case for its scheme, when the Governor-in-Council may authorize the municipality to adopt or modify any scheme submitted. While no specific reference is made to any provision for the municipality purchasing land for selling or leasing to individuals or companies for building purposes, yet the Act provides for the local authority appointing commissioners, to be approved by the Government, to whom it is to be delegated all the powers conferred under the Act upon the municipality, it is evident that a determined effort has been made to deal with the problem.

The Nova Scotia Act, while good, is not so ample or specific in its provisions as that of New Brunswick, but is nevertheless superior to that of Ontario, which, strangely, is made applicable only to cities over 50,000, it being quite forgotten that the time to plan, whether a house or a city, is when its foundations are being laid. I can conceive of nothing wherein an expert Government Board, whether Federal or Provincial, could do more toward the sanitary, economic or æsthetic future of our Canadian people than in having submitted to it the plans of any town at the stage when it begins erecting permanent structures, whether of stone, brick or cement.

As to the urgent demands which the figures given would seem to make upon the people of Ottawa for providing houses for its poorer people, it seems peculiarly appropriate that at the moment when the Federal Government has appointed a Town Planning Commission to study its æsthetic future, some committee of large-minded and large-hearted citizens should meet to not only discuss, but also to act in the matter of urging and insuring the purchase by the municipality as well as by private initiative of land whereon to begin construction, either by individuals or companies, of houses for the working people. Nowhere that I know of in Canada is there more wealth, directly the accumulation of the labor of working people, nowhere where employers come more closely into touch with their employees, and no where, I am sure, judging from our splendid charities, where there will be a more ready response if organized efforts to this end are made by a resolution requesting the Mayor to call a public meeting, at which the facts I have collected and many others can be made yet more public by selected speakers, with the hope that what has been discussed shall take an organized form, and Ottawa, if not leading, may at least be prominent in all which will make for the welfare of all her people and the glory of our capital city.