

**THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S HOUSING POLICY.**

The appointment of Sir Auckland Geddes (at one time of McGill University) as President of the Local Government Board has aroused hope that at last the housing problem will be treated boldly and with vigor. One of the first actions of the new President was to circularize the local authorities throughout the country urging upon them the necessity for taking immediate steps to prepare housing schemes and to submit them without delay to the Board. He put a series of questions to them, and went on to say: "It is essential that the President should be in a position to advise the Government as to whether the local authorities can be relied upon to provide the necessary houses or whether other measures must be taken to ensure their provision." Speaking at Basingstoke, on November 23rd, Sir Auckland declared that the country must undertake a colossal housing scheme. The figure of 1,000,000 houses had been mentioned, but he feared more than that would be required, and the cost would be so great that a considerable proportion of it must be borne by State funds. The new President will have a solid backing from all housing reformers in the country if he will tackle the problem in a large spirit. Hitherto we have had much talking, but the time has gone for talking: generations of politicians and reformers have declared that the housing of the people was a disgrace to it. The manifestos issued before the recent General Election merely repeated the commonplaces of the Victorian Age; they added nothing to our knowledge and little to our hope that the Government really means business. Everybody knows by this time that houses are urgently needed; what we do not know is exactly what the Government intends to do to get the houses built, how the money, labor and material are to be found, and how land is to be made available. It is true that committees are reporting on all (or nearly all) these matters; but the best report ever written will not house the homeless. There is on important point upon which not even a report has been prepared, and that is the principle upon which the distribution of the enormous number of houses required is to be controlled. That effective control must be exercised is certain, unless economic considerations are to be entirely ignored. A million subsidized houses built throughout the country subject to no intelligent system of distribution will mean unthinkable waste. Upon these, as upon other matters, a well thought out policy is the only alternative to the financial, social and other evils that the feverish scramble for building that will otherwise take place will inevitably produce.—Garden Cities Magazine.

**"WAR LOANS, RESOURCES AND PROGRESS OF CANADA."**

Messrs. A. E. Ames and Co., has just published a very instructive little book under the comprehensive title of "War Loans, Resources and Progress of Canada," by Mr. M. Williams, one of the members of the staff.

The book has been prepared in order to answer the numberless inquiries which are being received about Canada's War Loans, when they were offered and numberless other questions.

\$1,400,000,000 is the total investment by Canadians in their war issues, upon which there is annually distributed in interest to the holders \$78,000,000.

The booklet points out the vast extent of the security behind Canada's bonds, the wonderful natural resources, the progress and healthy development Canada is making in all fundamental directions. The table of contents shows what a mass of interesting information can be compacted in a little book, including charts and comparative tables about Canada's Loans, her national wealth and income, investments of the United States and Great Britain in Canada, the record achievement in the matter of loans, war debts of belligerents, the effect of the income tax, how to handle your investments, etc., etc.

This is not the first informative publication by Messrs. A. E. Ames. Commissioner T. Bradshaw, of Toronto, when a member of the firm wrote a number of valuable treatises dealing with municipal finance and Mr. T. Howard, the Montreal manager of the firm recently prepared an instructive symposium in sinking funds specially for the Province of Quebec.

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