

"In the institute we had, as first librarian, Professor Geddes, whose collection of town planning material was sunk by one of the German raiders on its way to India. He had collected material costing \$12,500, which was all lost. The institute immediately set to work to collect duplicates as far as possible and these were sent out to him in India. Professor Geddes is not an architect or a surveyor, but has high academic qualifications as a regional planner. He has done great work in India and has published several large volumes on town planning in India through the Indian Government.

#### United States Town Planners

"The development of the town planner in England has proceeded rapidly. The beginning in the United States was not so satisfactory from a scientific point of view. It came about in a different way. In Britain, we started to promote a school of town planning with a view to creating a trained class of professional men. In the United States there has been no deliberate objective of that kind, until very recently.

"The National Conference on City Planning in the United States was first held twelve years ago. The chairman is F. L. Olmsted, who is an able landscape architect, and a man whose name is widely honored. He has been chairman for twelve years. That itself has been a weakness. I do not think a chairman should hold an office more than one year. The organization is weak in its architectural and engineering membership. There has been a tendency, probably quite unconscious, rather to confine town planning to landscape architects and there is now a good deal of leeway to make up in order to interest the engineer and the architect. Two years ago I suggested that a city planning institute be formed. This year a step has been taken to separate professional functions from propaganda. But the council of the institute is the same as the council of the conference which is engaged in what may be termed propaganda. I do not approve of that combination.

"In Canada, I think we have started out in the right way. The chief question I have to deal with to-night is what prospect is there for those of us who are interested professionally in the subject that there will be sufficient scope for using our knowledge of town planning? We have the great difficulty of planning for a small population in an immense area. Great Britain has about 50,000,000, America over 100,000,000. We have our 8,000,000 scattered over a larger territory than the United States. We shall have to be content to grow slowly as a profession. A small population means a smaller number of practitioners. There will be the difficulty of getting sufficient reward for professional work in Canada to make it practical for men to train for the profession. But while we are a small country, we are a growing country and a town planner has to deal with growth, and our government has promoted the best housing scheme of all the governments. In Great Britain they are spoon-feeding the population with their housing schemes. It has dangers and it is not so sound economically as ours. I have had letters from two sources sustaining this claim. Mr. Campbell, a member of the Town Planning Institute and city engineer of Edinburgh, has just written to me, to say that he is satisfied that the Canadian scheme is based on sounder economic principles than the Scotch scheme which had been made for Scotland by the English Government. Mr. Taylor, of the firm of Mann and MacNeille, of New York, says in a letter:—

#### Compliments for Housing Scheme

"We wish to express our unqualified admiration for the completeness, practicability and simplicity of the administration methods outlined in the data received from you. We believe this to be the most practicable step toward the provision of good housing by Federal co-operation which has yet been taken in any country."

"We have opportunities here because we are beginning at an early stage in the development of the country. On the other hand we have the disadvantage of a smaller population and lack of appreciation of professional capacity.

"The other day I was going over the deep cut being laid between the Rapids and Queenston by the Hydro-Electric Commission and was informed by the engineer that some-

body had applied to him for a job. He had said to him, 'Well, I could give you \$80 a month.' The young fellow had looked rather glum. 'Well, if you think that is not enough, that is the best I can do. Is there anything else you can do?' 'I have been accustomed to boring,' said the applicant. He was referred to the engineer in charge of the boring. Later the engineer met him and said: 'Have you got something?' 'Yes,' was the reply. 'I am boring at \$130 a month.' There was a man with a university training. He had to take the work of a skilled laborer in order to get a decent salary. What encouragement is there for a youth to go to the university and learn a profession? Railway men are earning up to \$3,000 a year. Many of the engineers have to be content with \$2,000. If a man is to be a town planner he has to take his four years' course in architecture and engineering, and then a post-graduate course of a year in town planning. You get a man to take a five years' course and then you meet this difficulty of having his services valued as a skilled laborer who can learn his job in a few months.

"But there is no question town planning will come to be appreciated.

#### Specialists Needed in Future

"There are some hopeful signs of this fact. First, we have the surveyors who almost to a man are now recognizing that they have to take up the question of topographical survey in a more extended way. Then we have also, to consider that regional planning is a thing that has come to stay in England and the United States and that it is one of the things that is very much needed in this country. Many industries are spreading over areas that have no reference to municipal boundaries at all. You cannot town plan even Ottawa with 100,000 inhabitants, unless you take in about half a dozen municipalities. If you wish to zone Ottawa, or to insist upon proper building by-laws, it cannot be done unless Westboro and Eastview have the same restrictions; otherwise people would skip the boundaries and build as they like. In the regional planning, which I hope we may take up as a subject of special study, we require a surveyor and an engineer to prepare the regional survey as the basis for the regional plan. The surveyor should become our chief man in the regional survey. You cannot town plan unless you know what the existing conditions are. You have to find out what is the basis on which you wish to build your town planning. The engineer comes in to assist the surveyor with the collection of data concerning roads, railway transportation, sewage disposal and water supply. For this we need a regional survey in which we shall need specialists in the future. We need the regional survey to present us with the exact data we require to prepare our plan.

#### Survey Made at Niagara

"We had a survey made in the Niagara district. We wanted the facts, and there was need to obtain correct information, and the surveyor and engineer supplied us with such information. We have information collected regarding railways, waterways, highways, sewage disposal, power, etc. One municipality may have its sewage disposal on higher level than another, and become a watershed sending down polluted sewage to the other. When you have finished with your survey, you must bring in the landscape architect. The engineer and the landscape architect present us with the regional plan as the basis for general development. The landscape architect will deal with the park system in a general way. The Niagara district should have a parkway from Buffalo right down to Lake Ontario. Along the Niagara River, it touches five or six municipalities.

"When the regional plan is prepared, then town planning commissions have to be appointed for the municipal areas within the region. The different towns will each have their own local engineer to fit in his plan with the regional plan. He will know where the other plan touches his. Then the architect will finish the job commenced by the others, fix residential areas, group buildings, arrange the minor street system, and bring to a climax a definite scheme, when the lawyer also will appear and an Act of Parliament will follow.