

# JOURNAL

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL  
INSTITUTE OF CANADA



VOL. 22 TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1945 NO. 2

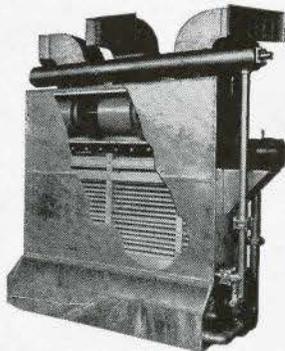
***For heaven's sake let me breathe! . . .***



Yes! — it's a fact that fruit in storage must be allowed to "breathe" if prime quality is to be maintained. For it continues to take in oxygen and give off carbon dioxide.

"Dead" air condition and low humidity in fruit storage rooms had to be corrected. And Cimco-York engineers, using modern methods of refrigeration and air conditioning, have definitely overcome this problem.

If you have a refrigeration or air conditioning problem of any type, you can be sure our engineers will find the solution. Why not write us!



*Large and small Cimco-York cooling units of the Dry Coil or Spray Types are available.*



# **CIMCO-YORK**

**REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES**

CANADIAN ICE MACHINE COMPANY, LTD., TORONTO



BRANCH OFFICES: HALIFAX, MONTREAL, WINNIPEG, CALGARY, VANCOUVER

**ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES:** air fittings and filters; ammonia; alum; brine testing sets; calcium; can covers; charging connections (ammonia and Freon-12); cold storage doors; cork pipe covering; corkboard; Freon-12; gas masks; gaskets; gauges; hydrometers; ice cans; chutes; handling equipment; scoring machinery; liquid level indicators; mercury columns; oils; packing; purge drums; quartz; thermometers; tube cleaners; valves and fittings; valve stem shields; V-belts.

# JOURNAL

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Serial No. 234

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1945

Vol. No. 22, No. 2

## CONTENTS

Editorial . . . . .	20
Community Centres in Canada, by Marcus Adeney . . . . .	21
Some Facts about Community Centres, by Lionel Scott . . . . .	24
Brief to the Committee on Reconstruction . . . . .	31
Community Centres of the Future, by Gwen Fife . . . . .	32
Community Centres in United States War Housing Projects, by William H. Conrad . . . . .	33
Presentation to Sir Ian MacAlister . . . . .	35
Provincial Page . . . . .	37
Contributors to this issue . . . . .	39
Programme for the R. A. I. C. Annual Meeting . . . . .	40

## PLATES

Community Centre for Ontario of Five to Ten Thousand Population . . . . .	28
Community War Housing Project, Berea, Ohio, U. S. A. . . . .	27
Norwayne Schools, Community-Building and Day Care, Wayne, Michigan, U. S. A. . . . .	28
Community-Hall, Newcastle, Ontario . . . . .	30
Forest Hill Village Municipal Building, Toronto, Ontario . . . . .	31

THE INSTITUTE DOES NOT HOLD ITSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS

## OFFICERS

President.....	FORSEY PAGE (F)		
First Vice-President.....	MILTON S. OSBORNE (F)	Second Vice-President.....	ROBERT MORTON
Honorary Secretary.....	J. ROXBURGH SMITH (F)	Honorary Treasurer.....	CHARLES DAVID (F)
Secretary.....	CONSTANCE GRIFFITH, 74 King Street East, Toronto 1, Ontario		

## COUNCIL

JOHN MARTLAND PETER L. RULE Alberta Association of Architects	J. K. GILLIES H. CLAIRE MOTT (F) Architects Association of New Brunswick	O. BEAULE CHARLES DAVID (F) EUGENE LAROSE HAROLD LAWSON (F) MAURICE PAYETTE GORDON McL. PITTS (F) J. ROXBURGH SMITH (F) Province of Quebec Association of Architects
G. NORRIS EVANS WILLIAM FREDK. GARDINER JOS. F. WATSON Architectural Institute of British Columbia	LESLIE R. FAIRN (F) ROBERT MORTON Nova Scotia Association of Architects	L. GORDON BRIDGMAN MURRAY BROWN (F) A. J. HAZELGROVE (F) A. S. MATHERS (F) R. SCHOFIELD MORRIS (F) FORSEY PAGE (F) W. B. RIDDELL (F) BRUCE H. WRIGHT (F) Ontario Association of Architects
ROBT. E. MOORE E. FITZ MUNN MILTON S. OSBORNE (F) Manitoba Association of Architects	E. J. GILBERT W. G. VanEGMOND Saskatchewan Association of Architects	

## EDITORIAL BOARD

FORSEY PAGE (F), Chairman

GORDON S. ADAMSON, Toronto HARRY BARRATT, Vancouver O. BEAULE, Quebec JOHN BLAND, Montreal S. BRASSARD, Quebec F. BRUCE BROWN, Toronto MURRAY BROWN (F), Toronto CECIL S. BURGESS (F), Edmonton RAYMOND W. G. CARD, Toronto	ALFRED CHAPMAN (F), Toronto ROBT. F. DUKE, Saskatoon GLADSTONE EVANS, Toronto LESLIE R. FAIRN (F), Wolfville GORDON FOWLER, Toronto HAROLD LAWSON (F), Montreal A. S. MATHERS (F), Toronto HARRY D. MARTIN, Toronto EARLE C. MORGAN, Toronto	H. CLAIRE MOTT (F), Saint John MILTON S. OSBORNE (F), Winnipeg MARCEL PARIZEAU, Montreal JOHN B. PARKIN, Toronto JOHN S. PORTER, Vancouver J. ROXBURGH SMITH (F), Montreal EMILE VENNE, Montreal ROBT. M. WILKINSON, Toronto BRUCE H. WRIGHT (F), Toronto
---	--	---

ERIC R. ARTHUR, EDITOR

Editorial and Advertising Offices - - - - - 57 Queen Street West, Toronto 1

J. F. SULLIVAN, PUBLISHER

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Canada and Newfoundland—Three Dollars per year. Great Britain, British Possessions, United States and Mexico—Five Dollars per year. All Other Countries—Six Dollars per year. Single Copies—Canada 50 Cents; Other Countries 75 Cents.

**A**S we write, the Russians are thirty-five miles from Berlin, and the other allies are pressing on to German soil. It seems possible, at last, to hazard a guess that the war will be over in Europe by mid-summer, even if the coup de grâce is not delivered till autumn. If these armchair forecasts be correct, we can be quite certain that we shall see, within the next nine months, the demobilization of troops, and the discharge of vast numbers of civilian workers, not all of whom will be absorbed by peace time industry. We were under the impression that it was for this great moment that the Committee on Reconstruction was formed, and that a dozen committees spent months in preparing reports. Most of the committees have had the literary and intellectual satisfaction of seeing their reports in print, but it was not for that that they laboured. A Minister of Reconstruction has been appointed, but the government's programme for the post-war period, or even for the lag between wartime industry and peacetime activity, is shrouded in mystery. Australia and New Zealand have announced their programmes, and, in both countries, the building industry plays a major part. In Great Britain, The Uthwatt, Barlow, and Scott Reports have been widely discussed and debated in the Press and in the House, and while no Government action has been taken on them, an atmosphere, so tense, has been created, that a bill, either paltry or piecemeal, would be received as a national disaster. The United States has been fairly silent, but one feels that a country with such a record of housing, conservation and highway planning, may be relied upon to astonish the world. One has only to remember that T.V.A. was a peacetime programme, in a particular area, to guess at a post-war national scheme of Reconstruction.

**T**HE general public shows very little curiosity, let alone anxiety, about our post-war plans, although it is the chief topic of conversation among troops. We know, in a vague sort of way, that the St. Lawrence Waterway is the number one project, and, in our own municipalities, we hear of schemes of fair magnitude like the Toronto Transportation System Subway in Toronto. It is true that we have a Housing Act (based on an economic rent) but the Minister has never mentioned a target at which the industry is to shoot, and the means of setting a housing programme in motion is left largely to private enterprise. Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain have targets. In those countries, the problem is considered so vast, and so serious, that plans are already prepared for the rationing of houses and materials in the immediate post-war years. The average Canadian is not aware that we, too, will have a problem more acute than today, and he blandly dismisses the planning of Australia and New Zealand as the idealistic programme of socialist governments. It is curious that for many people in this Dominion, planning and socialism have become synonymous terms. It has nothing to do with socialism or any other ism that we need 600,000 houses by 1955 (Committee on Reconstruction) or 1,000,000 (The Minister of Labour).

**T**HE troops overseas have indicated that they do not wish to return to those dirt moving projects that typified government lack of planning in the depression. The building industry offers the greatest variety of jobs from the mines and forests to the job itself that any industry can show. Employment is more important than houses, and a lag of even six months may prove disastrous. It is possible, of course, that the United States programme may be of such magnitude that we shall be able to pitch in and help. It has happened before, but it was not for a policy of emigration from Canada that Canadian Universities have been kept at peak capacity during the war, or that trade schools have been conducted under military supervision and control.

**T**HIS year the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada meets in February in Toronto. We look forward to seeing the delegates on the eve of an era that is pregnant with possibility for the betterment of every Canadian and fraught, at the same time, with the dangers not less than those of war.

# COMMUNITY CENTRES IN CANADA

By MARCUS ADENEY

*"Thou hast a handful of seed, and this is a fine country."*

There is a lot of talk about Community Centres in Canada today. Some of it may be off the beam but a great deal is practical, the expression of social needs at a time when changes are expected by everyone and can reasonably be looked for. Community Centres already exist and work well within the limits of their resources. To the people who keep them going, perform the multiple services, provide the nursery schools, adult education, 'teen-age dances, art and music and craft facilities (I have in mind Miss Jennison of the Dale Centre, Hamilton) there can be no question as to what is required. Wherever Canadian families live, there the full resources of civilization are needed. Men, women and children develop taste, appreciation, skill, according to their experience and contacts. "The cruellest thing in the world," said Lyman Bryson, "is to say that people do not want the best. Men always live on the highest level of enjoyment they have known."

When representatives from the National Arts Organizations went to Ottawa last June they made it plain that social services must be greatly expanded after the war. The arts and crafts, they maintained, are a neglected part of our heritage. Only a few Canadians are able to share the advantages provided by the great cities, for these are far apart. The best things—and a chance to know and appreciate them early in life—must come to all our people, even to those who live in remote areas. This means that a Federal Ministry or Board should be set up to co-ordinate and extend cultural activities. But first we must have a survey of Canadian needs and resources, in the recreation, arts and crafts and adult education fields. For this, \$25,000 was asked. Community Centres should be backed by at least \$10,000,000 "from which any community, no matter what its size, would be entitled to a grant to assist in building." Programmes would reflect the needs of the whole community. It is this accent on wholeness, this acceptance of the individual Canadian, with his special interests as basic to progress that makes Community Centre planning so modern and exciting. Looked at this way the project calls for the full support of people and agencies experienced in community work.

The recreation people were interested in these plans. Y.M.C.A. services, for instance, are flexible and can be adapted to neighbourhood needs, local wishes. The development of arts and crafts on a national scale with subsidies, would certainly improve programmes and widen their appeal. The Welfare Council also approved—with reservations because it has jurisdiction over an enormous, difficult-to-define field. Labour was practical about the whole thing, supporting local ventures and pressing for services. Educationists saw in the Lighted Schoolhouse a step toward the full development of personality. (Without re-educating the parents, said one school inspector, you cannot really educate the young.) Government on every level is naturally concerned about a movement which would integrate local groups and local interests. If a practical way is found to finance Community Centres we can reasonably expect Federal and Provincial aid.

## Looking Backward

People have asked for Community Centres before. After the first World War there was a widespread interest not only in reconstruction but in what Lorne Pierce called the Organized Community. He wrote a remarkable little book about it in 1925, describing the purpose and scope of the Community Centre. His present views as expressed in letters and conversation are so much to the point I shall quote from them as we go along.

Characteristically, Woodrow Wilson was also concerned about these things. He declared: "A vision of the meaning of democracy opens before us when we conceive of citizens going to school to one another in the common school houses to understand and to answer public questions, as hitherto, only representatives of the citizens have gone to school to one another in the buildings provided for them." Then, as now, plans for a centre led naturally to plans for the neighbourhood. Collaboration and organization were needed to carry them out. Dr. Pierce prepared a constitution for his citizen group and challenged the future with these fine words (italics his own): "*The organized community is the next step in the process of the evolution of modern society; and furthermore it is inevitable. This demands nothing less than a radical reorganization of the very base of social life.*"

Looking back on the enthusiasm, the patient study and effort which went into the shaping of a community programme in the early twenties, we should pause and consider. Why did nothing permanent, nothing in the main line of social progress come of these excellent ventures? The opportunism of the third decade, the depression of the fourth, the catastrophe of the fifth, reveal a tendency in the very structure of things which it would be folly to disregard. What is this thing we call a Community Centre in terms of Canada and the twentieth century? If the need for recreational and cultural services is really there, if the impact of imaginative works, new ideas and ideals is so great, where is the evidence? Let us consider an Ontario town, its development along these lines since 1910.

Paris, Ontario, I remember, had a Gothic town hall which was then perhaps seventy-five years old. The seats were uncomfortable, everything was dirty, cobwebbed and worn. The stage was used only when travelling players—Uncle Tom's Cabin, a minstrel show or ventriloquist—came to town. For larger productions we went to the Grand Opera House in Brantford, an hour's ride on the electric railway. Concert music was provided by local talent; church organ and choir allowed for self-expression. Visiting lecturers, characteristic of an earlier day and the Mechanics' Institute, were rare. Looking back, I can see that our interests and enthusiasms fitted the frame exactly. We reflected all that we had seen and known. When a movie palace opened, the Town Hall shut down and dances were held in a room over the Fire Hall. The Y.M.C.A. opened its doors and a skating rink was built. I think it could be shown that the limited cultural and recreational resources available to the people of that small town were one hundred per cent. effective, but they were inadequate. The dominant forces were social and economic but community leaders were not in a position to admit this. Consequently our imaginative need was obscured by the pretence that it had already been satisfied.

## The Organized Community

This, I think, partly explains why the Organized Community and the Community Centre got nowhere after the last war. Lorne Pierce was thinking mainly of rural areas and took for granted that the church would be the natural centre. His work was issued by *The Methodist Book and Publishing House*. Those who saw the community then as we, presumably, see it now—as a composite structure made up of typical living forms and social stresses—were faced with the general acceptance of another mode of thought. Lorne Pierce's own projects, logically worked out and complete, could not break the shell of institu-

tional forms. That shell is still with us but the shock of world calamity has cracked it wide open. This time, I believe, the community may be organized, the Community Centre establish a unified base for Canadian life.

Who, then, would organize the community or would it organize itself? The church, which in its various denominations has built solidly and well, rarely represents or even hopes to represent everybody. There is one people but there are many churches. The agencies (such as the Y.M.C.A.) employ men who are trained to satisfy certain people, provide for special needs. True, they are now broadening their aims; but the institutional structure and the personnel, speaking generally, remain. A cultural community centre, with other ramifications would not be at home under such auspices. Minority groups have their own social halls, their ritual and romance. These people can be brought into a general picture, given a share in and a love for things characteristically Canadian—but only so long as they are free to preserve their own. Citizen committees are active just now, and the field of their endeavour is wonderfully wide. But they now depend for financial backing on specific groups within the community, such as service clubs, or upon civic authorities. The situation seems most hopeful because such citizen groups could without fear or prejudice create a Community Council representing all the forces effective in a neighbourhood.

"The Community Council is here to stay," wrote Dr. C. H. Stearn in a memorandum prepared for the Ottawa conference of the C.A.A.E. last Fall. "It is a movement which bids fair to become Dominion wide; indeed, it is already becoming so." The Canadian Association for Adult Education, with its Citizen and Farm Forums, pamphlets, books and lecture resources, finds in the Community Council a local organization which would make citizen groups effective, first in the recreation and cultural fields and, secondly, in social and political life as a whole. And if, as Mr. Dana Porter has pointed out, we must now accept the principle of regional planning—consider areas as communal units rather than as private parcels of land—then both persons and institutions within a neighbourhood will have to be represented on such a Council. The relation of Adult Education to Community Councils is clearly indicated by a text at the head of an article by Watson Thomson in *Food for Thought*: "Adult Education today must be social in outlook, leading people into action on our urgent problems."

It may be that the Canadian Welfare Council, an immensely promising and influential body, will come out of the institutional frame confining most of its members and tackle the community problem; which is, of course, that of Canada as a whole. Everyone lives in a community and, as a rule, is just as good a citizen as circumstances allow. Anonymous, as Lorne Pierce pointed out, he is a tricky fellow. Named and active among his peers he is a pillar of the state. A place and administrative function must be found for every man. There is also the prospect of civic government extending its services as funds are made available, research is undertaken, authority is given to responsible officials. We note that political clubs have become a feature of Canadian life. Many of the services of Community Centres have been approximated by C.C.F. groups; but given a two (or more) party system, these clubs could hope to unite only those who have kindred economic interests and live in a limited area. The service clubs have taken a strong Community Centre lead in many localities. But the men who belong to service clubs are apt to think of recreation in terms of the sports arena, of the fine arts as unimportant. A Community Centre must represent, even if it cannot quite attain, the deep impulse of every man toward a rounded life experience. Nothing is too rare and precious, no art too high-brow, no sport too simple or craft too humble, for the interests we must cater to.

## Who Will Support Community Centres?

The real question—now that we have stopped talking about a Community Spirit and begun to consider needs, material resources, actual lines of force—comes down to this: who will sponsor the Community Centre and how is it to be financed? Who will administer its affairs, and what must be done about personnel and all the specialized services that will be needed? It is no use giving a fine Community Hall to unprepared and unassisted people. The town hall at Newcastle (Ontario) has been an embarrassment to everyone. Only now are its possibilities being realized.

Some people think that the Community Centre Movement should have its own national organization with self-contained programmes and services. But they admit the importance of the rural school and the rural church and gratefully acknowledge the interest of principals and teachers everywhere, the positive moves already made by Provincial Departments of Education toward the Lighted Schoolhouse. It is evident that a plan which involves the fine arts and Adult Education must be based in part on the experience of the universities (extension courses), Arts Organizations, Public, High and Technical School Authorities, and the C.A.A.E. Autonomy for the Community Centre Movement would demand a broad administrative base and a contributory financial plan. This brings us back to the Community Council within which Citizen Committees, now a feature of Canadian life from coast to coast, may become effective. These committees are undertaking projects all of which in one way or another point to the Community Centre, but do not know what if anything is broadly in prospect. It is most important that the recommendations contained in the Sixteen Arts Briefs be acted upon soon.

In Toronto (for instance) the Beaches Community Centre Committee, which originated in a local dramatic group and has its home in the library, started with a series of five concerts, branched out into junior programmes and films, now proposes to join other local groups in forming a Community Council. President Sidney Smith officially represents this group on the Toronto Community Centre Council, a body called into being at a mass meeting of persons directly concerned with such developments. This Toronto Council, it now appears, has two functions to perform; the first to bring local groups into contact, explore the field of common action, the second to establish a regional organization. There may be a plan here for co-ordinating citizen groups all over Canada. On the other hand, as has been already suggested, the Canadian Welfare Council might become the broad organizational base upon which to build a superstructure of Community Services.

Something should be said in favour of the citizens' group, or Community Council as an immediate undertaking. Writes Lorne Pierce, "There are agencies marvellously prepared to assist this new community cell in growing up in its own way: agricultural colleges, experimental farms, university extensions and a thousand others. They will present plans for buildings, lay out parks and even supply shrubberies and trees." The Community Centre, and with it the Community Council, cannot become a great new integrating force in Canadian Life without programmes, services and personnel assistance from a central source. On the other hand, facilities are for those who can use them. Communities, like individuals, must acquire skill to employ new tools. Organization on a broadly social rather than a class, religious or institutional level is now required; and this in turn pre-supposes active citizen co-operation in the affairs of the community. It is one thing to be on the mailing list of a mining corporation, another to be called upon to head a responsible committee. "There should be a library of work outlines," says Lorne Pierce, "available for the chairman of each committee." This practical suggestion points two ways: to the school which will be required to train adults for co-opera-

tive rather than competitive modes of thought and daily practices, and to the community organizations which have hitherto striven each for spheres of influence among other organizations.

### Everyone Comes into the Picture

What do we want from the Community Centre? What interests shall it really serve? Answers to these questions will fall generally into two categories. The people who want everything to go on much as it was before the war are prepared to make a public investment in rehabilitation and welfare. In general they see the Community Centre as serving the underprivileged. People who are dissatisfied with things as they are look to the Community Centre and the Community Council for leadership and the evolving of cultural and social services on a large scale. Individuals everywhere find in the need for social security—international, national, communal and personal—a challenge and a hope. To be avoided at all costs is a procedure which gives leadership and authority to the stand-patters while enlisting the people's support on behalf of a progressive programme sponsored by idealists. To put it another way, the Community Centre must be socially active, with programmes and resources always a little ahead of the average citizen's wishes and requirements, or it becomes one more instrument for blocking initiative. For this reason business interests should not contribute most of the money to Community Centre projects. Nor should financial men head other than financial committees. It can soon be demonstrated that "practical men who can get things done" are not predominantly members of one occupational group. It is plain that you cannot have a Community Centre without a physical base; it cannot be supported without the participating effort and goodwill of local people; its services will be inadequate without educational and cultural services provided by public organization. To turn any part of this over to private enterprise would be unfortunate, not because of profit-taking but because in the nature of things business cannot take a long term view. Its agents must follow and not lead public opinion.

We should observe here that the Community Centre, properly designed for all its uses and beautifully situated, would be a dignified War Memorial, fitting expression of that will toward a saner world which alone could justify the sacrifices of war. A Gallup Poll report for Canada stated that 90 per cent. of the people favoured "useful" memorials (in Australia the figure was 96, in Britain 91). Surely the question was wrongly put: "After the war, should memorials be mainly in the form of monuments or in the form of playing grounds, schools, hospitals and so on?" No mention was made of the Community Centre, either as a useful project or as a social symbol. But when we think of the arts and crafts, community planning, growth of mind and body for every citizen—all this nobly expressed in a building or group of buildings erected to the memory of the Fallen—we can draw no distinction between the useful and the monumental. Indeed, a Community Centre, designed by one equal to his task, would be the most splendid of cenotaphs. An explanatory talk, given at the time the poll was taken, would probably have resulted in a 99 per cent. vote in favour of "useful" memorials.

Community Centres must serve all classes, races, types and functional bodies or they will have failed. "Non-party, non-sectarian, non-uplift clubs", is the way a writer in the *Daily Mail*, London, describes them. In England the inclusion of a bar is being considered; at this stage in Canada we should keep an open mind about such matters. (The makers of soft drinks would favour their exclusive use—although medical opinion inclines against carbonated beverages. Veterans' organizations would probably like beer but hesitate over hard liquor. Church groups might suggest a milk bar and be lenient about indigestible sweets. For once this matter of refreshment is likely to be threshed out in the open). Community Centres must provide facilities for health, for recreation, for education, for cultural

participation—above all they should care for every social need known to be unsatisfied in a neighbourhood. Places like Toronto, we know very well, can be a desolation for the unattached person, the visitor, the worker with time on his hands. Not only on week days but on Sundays; not only down town but in suburban areas our cities have need of a place for friendly contacts, rest, refreshment and the pursuit of special interests. In rural areas, the situation is even more pressing. Without such overall consideration of community requirements and an adequate Community Centre plan, rehabilitation will be severely handicapped from the start.

### Challenge to Planners and Architects

Obviously, new buildings will be required, and the adapting of countless old ones. Schools must be transformed, their equipment extended. Libraries, where the building is suitable, will enlarge their scope to become film centres, repositories of records of music appreciation groups, the natural home of people who want to know their world, discover its meaning, affect its destiny. Forward looking librarians like Richard Crouch in London, Anne Hume in Windsor, Freda Waldon in Hamilton, Louise Boothe in Toronto, must be given every possible help and encouragement. They have the experience needed to chart a course. Every locality, I suggest, will have to find some solution to this problem of building, equipment, integration of purpose within some institutional frame and with reference to leading personalities.

It is likely that a set of patterns will be evolved giving the local committee a definite range of choice between one set-up and another. (Quite extensive publication will be required because no source material for the organized community and its centre as yet exists). In any case the architect faces a demand which will range from the Civic Centre—combining local administrative offices with the complete recreation centre—to the adapting of a country school house for circuit plays, music and art exhibitions, with local dances and handicrafts. Prospects of building in terms of the whole community lie before the architect, a challenge which has not been made since the Middle Ages. Professional people have hidden their lights under acts of necessity and a steady income. What if we should suddenly be called upon to do our level best—in terms of lasting beauty and physical fitness?

### How Far Have We Got? An English Plan

How far advanced are plans for Community Centres in Canada? The answer should be, I think, not far enough. A recent estimate, admittedly incomplete, gave 3.6 millions as the total of public funds already earmarked for Community Centres or similar projects. This, it should be realized, is only a fraction of the money needed, and asked for, by those concerned with slum clearance, housing, civic, rural and parks development. It has nothing to do with staff requirements or services, or with increased school grants. If our new, enormously expanded nation is to fulfil all the conditions of industrial growth a financial scheme is urgently required. The wealth, actual as well as potential, is here now. What we do about paying Peter with Paul's money is important only to the degree that our coinage actually reflects production-consumption activities. Canadians need new cities and know it. They must have institutions which bind together the practical purposes of every citizen, a complete Community Centre plan.

Dr. Leonard Marsh, appointed to U.N.R.R.A. in England, finds that the Ministry of Education there has a plan which is being actively put forward by the press. From a budget of clippings just received the following may be of interest: "Every village of more than 400 ought to have a Community Centre. In a town of 10,000 to 20,000 they think of a building to seat at least 500, with stage and dressing rooms, gymnasium, common room and kitchen, two big craft rooms, games room, three rooms for quiet,

(Continued on page 39)

# SOME FACTS ABOUT COMMUNITY CENTRES

By LIONEL SCOTT

We hear a great deal about slum clearance and housing plans with as yet little evidence of any recognition that slums are the result of a way of life and not of building design, or density of population.

A slum condition can exist where there is only one house to an acre and be absent in a neighbourhood which supports a high population incidence.

It is time we focussed our attention on slum-prevention, particularly if we are to see vast new housing schemes and slum-clearance programmes. Otherwise we are merely embarking on a new building era, devoid of any constructive contribution to Canadian society as a whole.

In this respect the experience of Wartime Housing has been valuable. Despite many hopeful prophecies of horrible conditions, gloomy warnings of decrepit areas and down at heel neighbourhoods, the result has been quite the contrary. In most neighbourhoods, local opinion has been radically changed, and the new developments regarded as a useful and acceptable addition to the district. This has been achieved despite the necessity for speed, the ever-present urgency of demand and the serious restrictions resulting from war conditions in material, labour and transportation.

Why? What has made this possible? In what way has this emergency housing plan differed from other mass housing experiments in the past?

One thing of course is good management, conscientious supervision and high maintenance standards. But these alone would not have done the job.

They, by themselves, would not have ensured the acceptance on the part of the mass of the people of a way of life, radically changing the traditional attitude of tenants toward rented property.

From the beginning of the Company's existence, a carefully planned community organization programme was adopted, under a division of the Company known as the Department of Tenant Relations.

The validity of the work done by this department has been established beyond cavil. Its focus has been the Community Centre.

We hear today the words "community centre" bandied around and used indiscriminately to cover a multitude of narrow purposes. There is talk of building Community Centres instead of monuments for war memorials. This can be good; it may be tragic. According to the interests of those sponsoring this idea the resulting buildings may be anything from a super stage to a natatorium, from a gymnasium to a glorified orchestra pit.

This is not a community centre. To build a real community centre we have first to recognize that a community is an aggregation of people, not of institutions or buildings. We need a social vision and a social philosophy. We need to know the existing resources of the neighbourhood in question, both human and material, the size of the community, its life patterns and interests, and the climate and geography, the history of the environment and above all, what the people want who presumably will be expected to use the building. What they want will vary very greatly in different parts of the country and even in the same parts.

There are nevertheless certain national denominators of need. An examination of the activities which the people themselves want in their Community Centres will be invaluable.

Such information is available based on the experience of Wartime Housing Limited for over three years, in over thirty centres from coast to coast in all types and sizes of communities. This information, moreover, has an added value in that the activities encouraged by trained Community Counselors, are not superimposed, but spring from the needs and desires of those who take an active part in the work, and whose efforts and in many cases, whose money, ensures the success of the programme, namely, the people themselves.

I use Wartime Housing as an example, because I can speak with authority when I describe what has been accomplished, since it was my job to guide this programme; also because it presents the only reference to this work with National scope. It represents also a new phase of social engineering and one which is demonstrably successful in that the operation of the buildings insofar as the activities and operation is concerned rests with the Community Council. These Councils are enlisted from among those taking part in activities and again rest with the people themselves. Therefore buildings erected to meet the needs of programmes sponsored under these auspices may be expected to have lasting worth and to be used to the full with constructive results. It would indeed be lamentable to erect as war memorials structures which turned out to be social mausoleums.

First, then, the programmes which have national acceptance and those which have a regional appeal.

From the beginning, certain needs made themselves felt; tabulating these needs and classifying them the following facts emerge:

Babies, Children, Young People .....	32.2%
Health and Welfare .....	16.0%
Community Service and War Work .....	12.7%
Sports .....	12.0%
Miscellaneous Adult Activities .....	11.6%
Education and Study Groups .....	9.0%
Social .....	6.5%
	<hr/>
	100.0%

Over one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of activities take place in the various centres across the country. To carry out these programmes, literally hundreds of volunteer leaders have come forward both tenants of war houses and others in the community, and more than sixty different established professional and lay agencies have contributed their help in material, leadership, resources or facilities.

The activities range from pre-natal clinics, well baby centres, supervised play schools and kindergartens to garden clubs, craft groups, sports associations and teams. They include everything from post war planning sessions to credit unions, and red cross committees to community councils, choirs, orchestras, and social committees; chess clubs to jitterbug contests.

The Community Centre, to justify its name, must make available space, equipment and accommodation and provide the necessary leadership of highly skilled and thoroughly trained Counsellors to meet the needs of people of all ages and both sexes.

When new neighbourhoods are planned, the focus should be around the Community Centre, where the benefits of neighbourliness can be developed. The great lack in our society today consists of a detachment from the democratic processes which alone can revive that sense of responsibility, and without which



Agency Co-operation—Hamilton Public Library operates a branch in the East Hamilton wartime house used as a Community Centre.

our system fails miserably. Lack of a sense of belonging reduces people to mere population statistics, induces social discontent, and unravels the pattern of our social fabric.

### BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Out of the wealth of experience and experiment the following data may be tabulated as basic requirements for most centres catering to groups of people in communities in over one hundred homes. Restrictions due to war conditions, limitation of materials, labour and money have made it impossible to include all of these desirable and essential features in any one building as yet. These are the specifications which must be met to satisfy adequately any balanced, worthwhile community centre programme.

**Position.** The building should be adjacent to a play area, sports field or park, near to a well-paved road and lighted area. According to local needs, based on individual surveys of existing facilities and resources, all or most of the following are imperative:

### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**Large Hall** for dances, shows, fairs, etc. It would be desirable to design the large hall so that it would accommodate badminton court, basket-ball and such activities and be solid enough to contain gymnasium equipment.

**Craft Shops** and Games Rooms should be designed with accommodation for tools and craft materials in closets and cupboards not over two feet deep, and preferably with removable shelves. In many cases the people themselves install these and such participation should be encouraged.

**Pre-natal Clinic and Well Baby Centre** with small dressing-rooms and office. It is a decided advantage to have a separate entrance.

**Nursery or Play School**, if possible should have separate children's cloak-room and washroom adjacent and either a separate room for rest periods or folding doors or screens if one room only is to be used.

**Library.** In many cases a library will be included in the Community Centre and, if possible, a separate entrance for this is desirable though not imperative.

**Office for Community Counsellor.** The Counsellor's office should have access to the lobby and overlook the junior play area adjoining the building.

**Various Rooms.** Larger rooms for group activities such as scouts, lectures or classes. Medium sized rooms for committees. Kitchen: size based upon people in district. Storage space for equipment. Cloak rooms and dressing rooms.

**Toilets** should be provided leading off the main lobby. Possible attendance will determine the amount of toilet accommodation which should be of sturdy and fool-proof type of plumbing.

**The Boiler Room** should be provided with adequate space for fuel, with access to the street by separate entrance. This is good when planned to be next to the kitchen so that supplies can be brought in by the same entrance. A janitor's sink is necessary and is best placed in a service closet or near to the furnace room.

**Northern Exposure** is most satisfactory for craft shops and the kitchen, hobby shops, etc., but should be avoided for all ordinary rooms.

**Floors** should be of easily cleaned material, such as concrete, wood or linoleum. Concrete should be avoided for general meeting rooms but is suitable for craft shops. Kitchens and rooms for children's play may be heavy linoleum or asphalt tile, but hardwood is acceptable.

**Walls** should be durable and washable, and a wainscoting or chair rail reduces damage and redecorating costs. Livable colours in a washable paint should be used. Sound-deadening material is most desirable on ceilings especially; particularly in the hall and children's rooms.

**Windows.** Protected windows should be installed in places where they may be broken easily. Wire glass panels above the lock rail should be provided on outside doors. Unless the glass panel is needed for extra light, inside doors are best solid. Windows in pre-school play rooms should be about 18 inches above the floor.

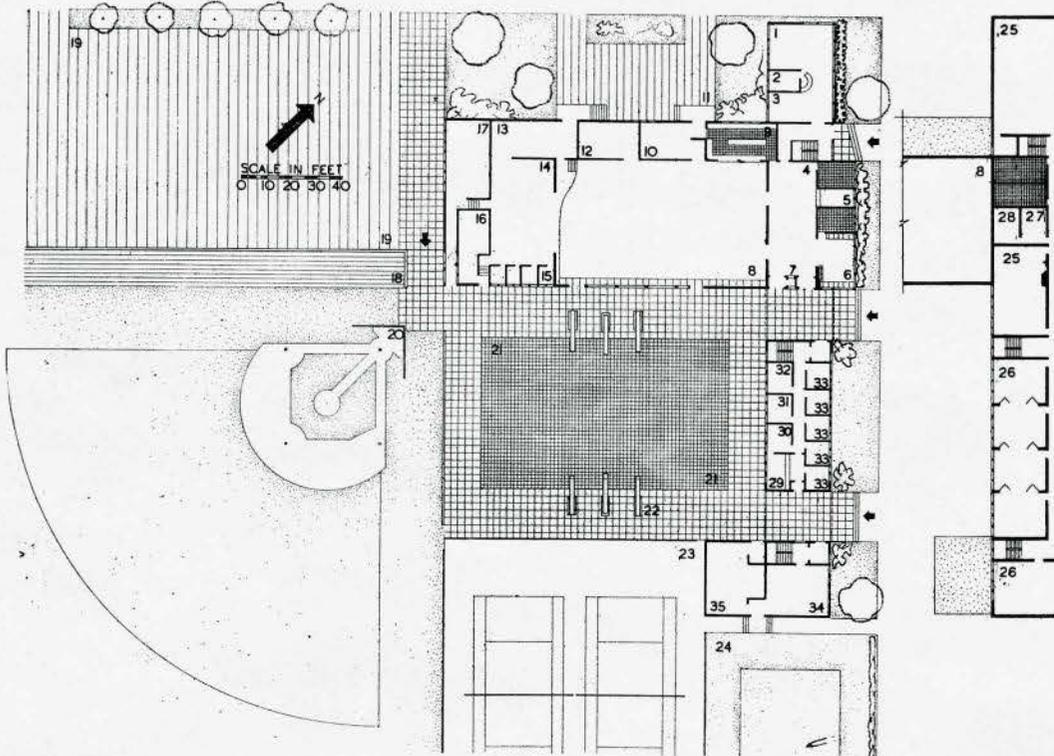
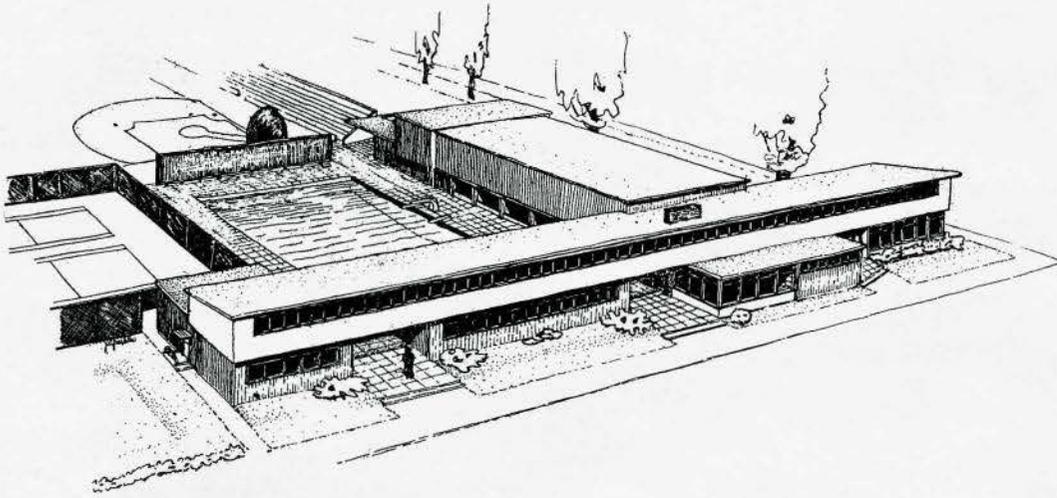
**Fireproof** construction and fire-retardent materials are necessities where large groups of young people congregate, and fire restriction facilities should be especially provided in the furnace or boiler room.

All these matters could be amplified. All will be modified by the location and environment, the tastes and needs, of the people whom these community centres are built to serve. No one design will be acceptable everywhere, not even one series of designs. There will be special, local needs to be considered.

This confirms and emphasizes, if there still be those who need more convincing, that no community centre or community organization programme will be adequate unless proper plant and facilities are included as an integral part of the total planning before the scheme is put into effect and not tacked on as a fad or trimming too late to be properly accommodated and designed.



A Counsellor's Office—Young people and teenagers discuss programs and make plans for future activities.



COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR ONTARIO OF FIVE TO TEN THOUSAND POPULATION

JOHN PARKIN, ARCHITECT

**I.—CULTURAL AND ACTIVITIES**

*Library*

- 1. Adults' reading room
- 2. Librarian and control desk
- 3. Children's alcove

*Auditorium—Gymnasium*

- 4. Lobby
- 5. Coatroom
- 6. Lounge
- 7. Tickets
- 8. Gymnasium—Auditorium
- 9. Kitchen
- 10. Chair storage
- 11. Service yard

- 12. Gym equipment
- 13. Stage workshop
- 14. Stage
- 15. Dressing rooms
- 16. Women's lockers and showers
- 17. Men's lockers and showers
- 18. Bleachers
- 19. Parking
- 20. Softball
- 21. Swimming pool
- 22. Spring boards
- 23. Tennis courts
- 24. Bowling green
- 25. Craftroom
- 26. Clubrooms
- 27. Rewind room
- 28. Projection room

**II.—ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICES**

*Administration*

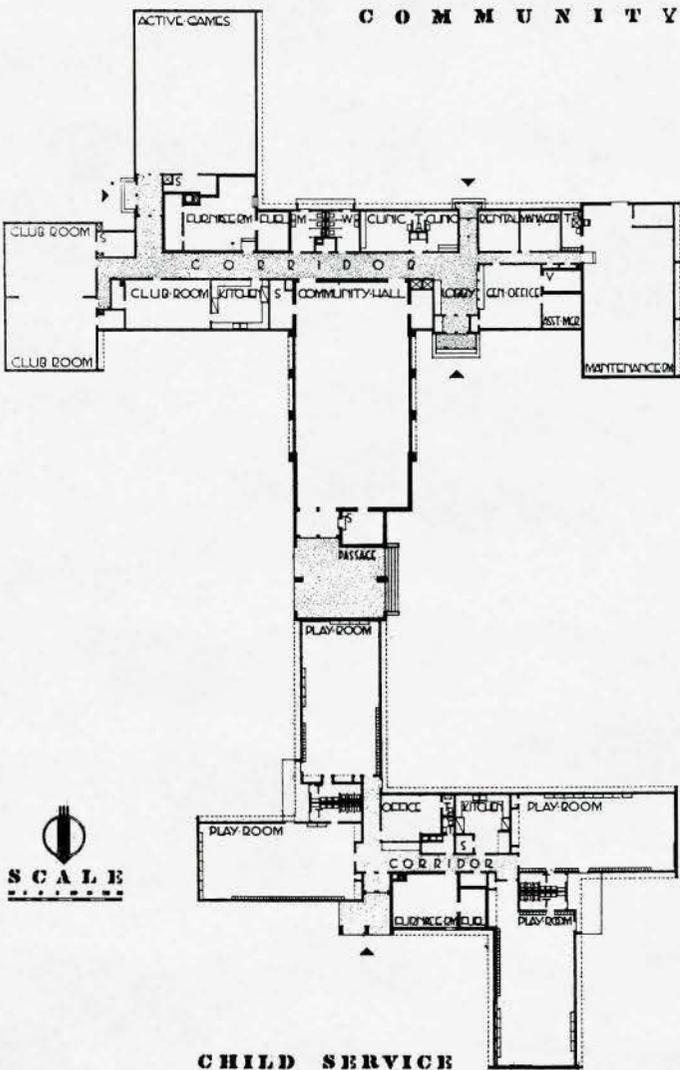
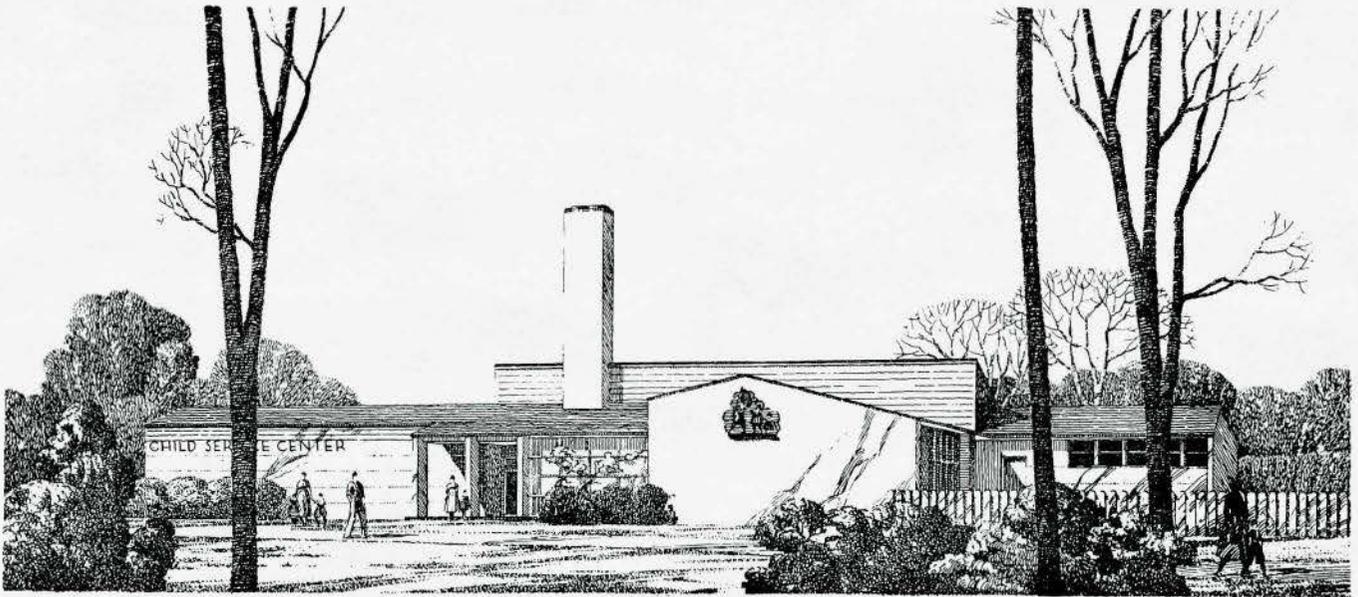
- 29. General offices
- 30. Private offices

*Community Offices*

- 31. Garden club
- 32. Red Cross
- 33. Other club offices

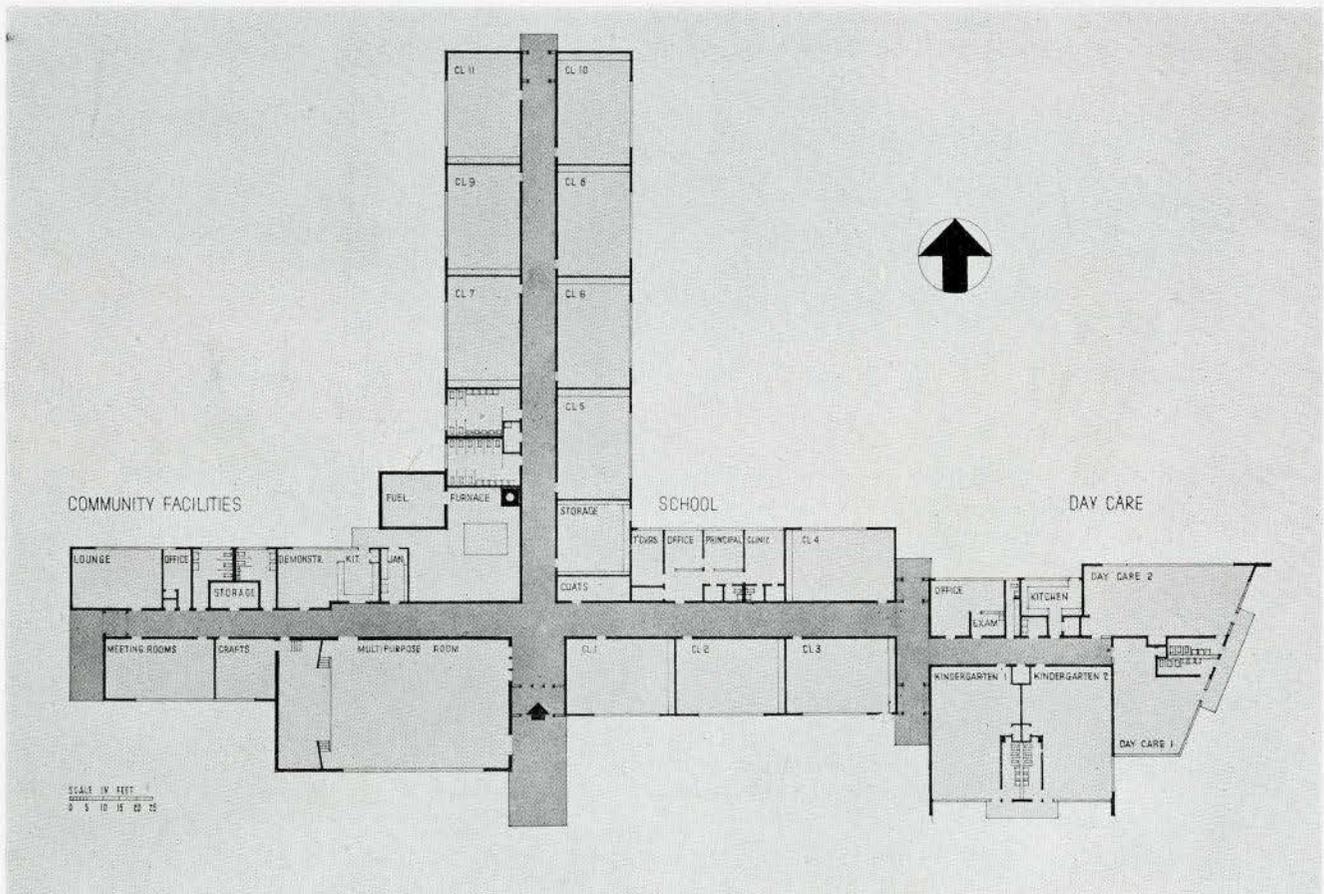
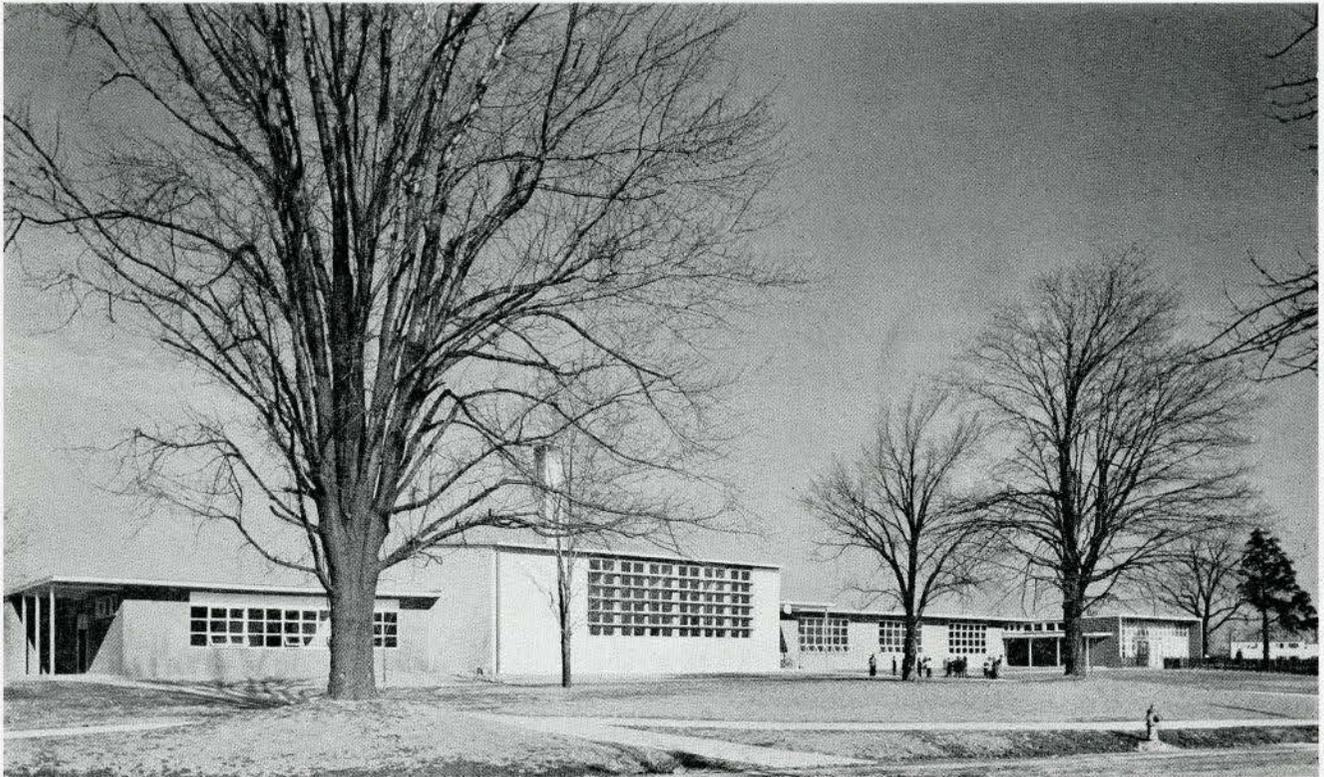
**III.—CO-OPERATIVE FOOD CENTRE**

- 34. Community cannery
- 35. Frozen food lockers

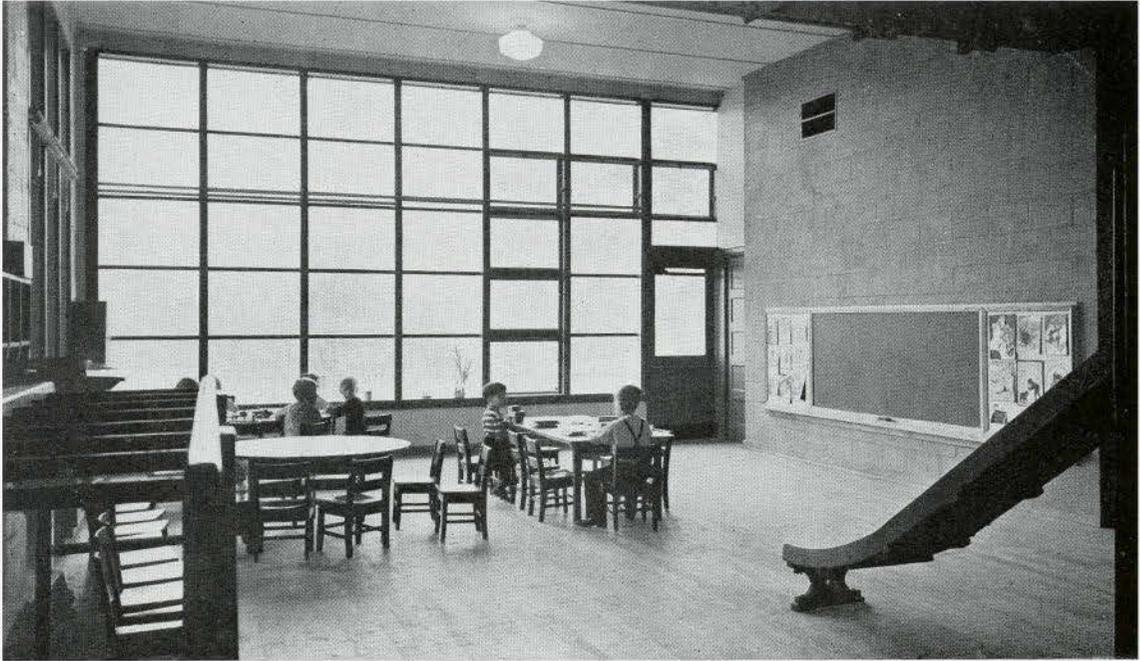


COMMUNITY WAR HOUSING PROJECT  
BEREA, OHIO, U.S.A.

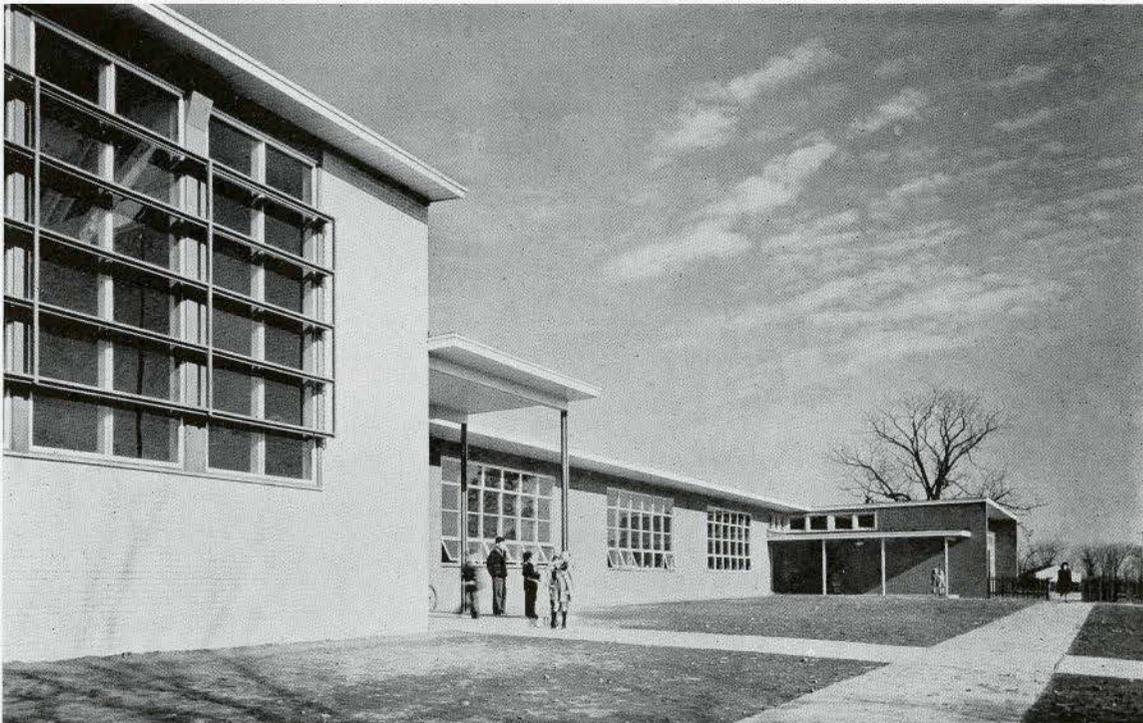
J. BYERS HAYS, WILBUR WATSON  
AND ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS



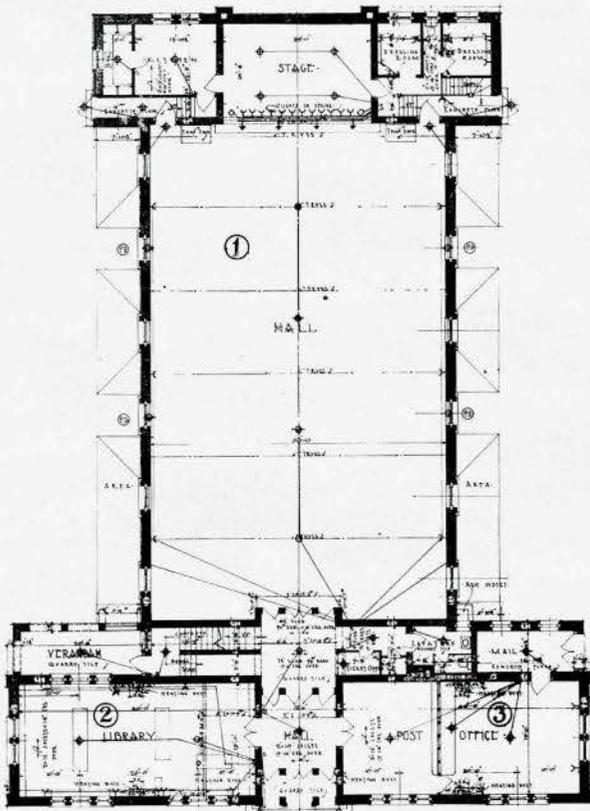
NORWAYNE SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY-BUILDING AND DAY CARE, WAYNE, MICHIGAN, U.S.A.  
 O'DELL, HEWLETT AND LUCKENBACH, ARCHITECTS



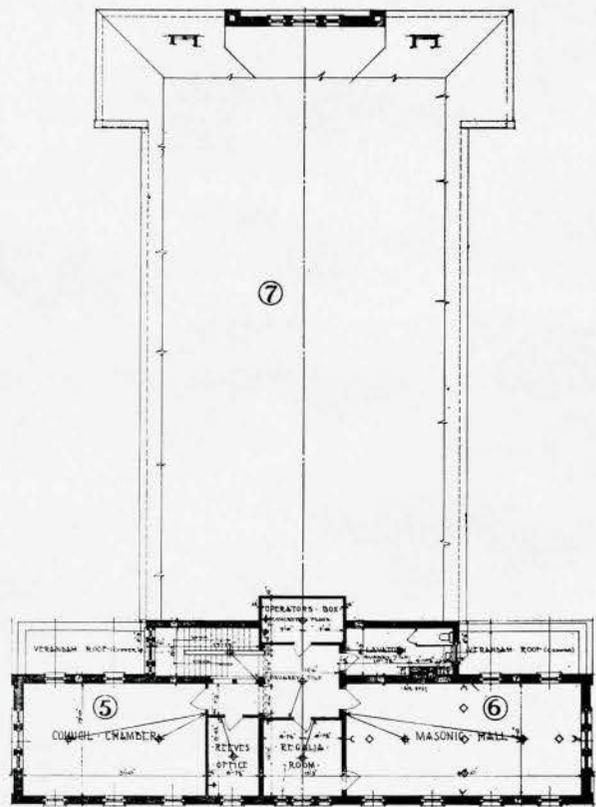
INTERIOR OF ONE OF THE KINDERGARTENS



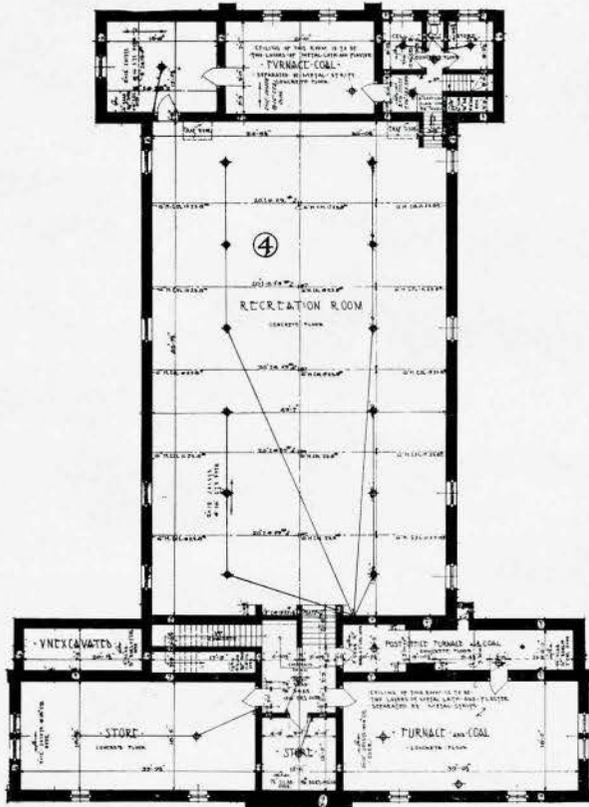
STREET ELEVATION LOOKING TO THE KINDERGARTEN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

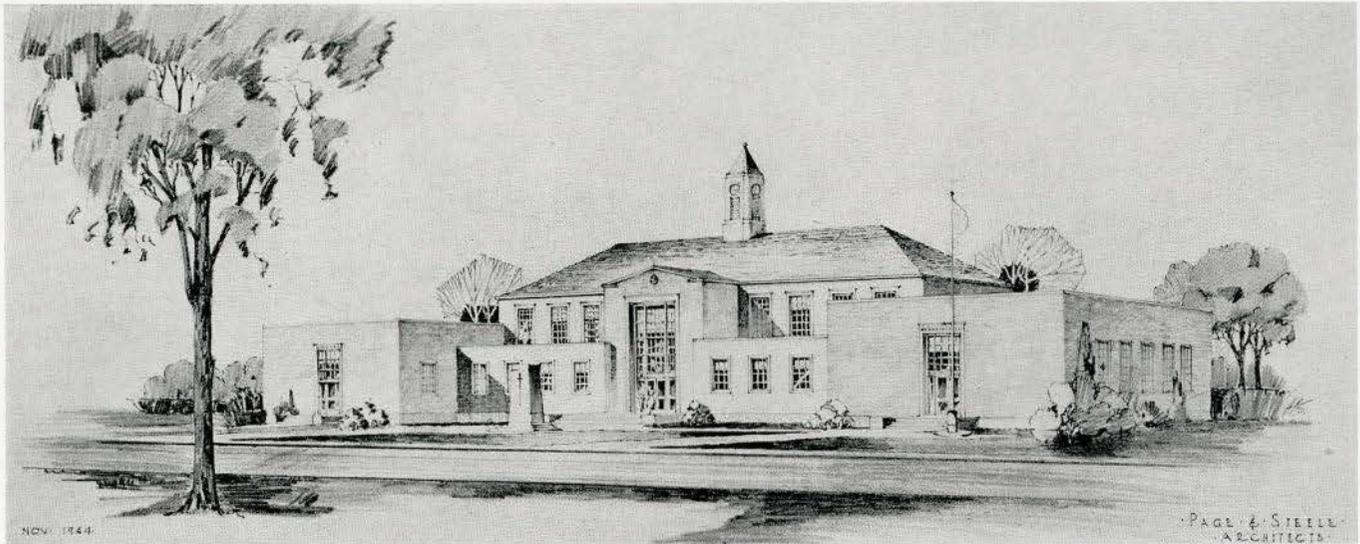


BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

A COMMUNITY HALL BUILT IN ONTARIO IN 1922

1. AUDITORIUM
2. LIBRARY
3. POST OFFICE
4. RECREATION ROOM
5. COUNCIL CHAMBER
6. MASONIC HALL
7. UPPER PART OF AUDITORIUM

COMMUNITY-HALL, NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO  
 SPROATT AND ROLPH, ARCHITECTS



FOREST HILL VILLAGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, TORONTO, ONTARIO  
PAGE AND STEELE, ARCHITECTS



**A digest of a Brief presented on June 21st, 1944, to the Special Committee on Reconstruction and Re-establishment in Ottawa, by sixteen representatives of Cultural Societies in Canada.**

The argument of the Brief may be summed up in the following sentences:

1. That the creative Arts stand in a key position in the economy of the whole nation.
2. That the influence stems from the fine Arts, extends into commercial works, and has ramifications throughout the trades and services.
3. That Canada has not yet taken cognizance of the cultural aspects of its place in world affairs and that before the world and before history no country can afford to ignore its cultural prestige.
4. That the lack of consideration given to artistic matters in Canada can be cured by deliberate intention and action.

The action urged upon the Government by the sponsors of the Brief comes in three parts. First: The setting up of a governmental body for the supervision of all cultural activities. This could be in the form of a Ministry of Fine Arts, or a Commission of Fine Arts. Such a body would be concerned with the furtherance of Architecture, Music, Drama, Literature, Painting and Crafts as well as with everyday artistic values pertaining to the public.

The second part sets forth the value of community centres throughout the Dominion as providing an opportunity for Canadian unity through practice and participation in the Arts by the people. The Arts being universal, transcend racial, political and economic differences, class interests and sectional prejudices.

Social benefits resulting from such centres would be, a better understanding between the different parts of Canada, between urban and rural areas by a directed programme for citizens' forums and adult education groups, and especially by travelling plays, music, films, and art exhibits.

The Federal Government is asked to set aside the sum of Ten Million Dollars, (\$10,000,000) for providing the initiative in building these centres.

From this sum, any community, large or small, would be entitled to a grant to assist in the building of such a centre provided that the community and the Province are prepared

to contribute on an established pro-rata basis. These centres would serve the cultural life of the community beyond that of the Provincial Educational system.

The National Gallery, the National Film Board and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation are three existing national services which would function through all of these centres. Grants-in-aid would have to be made to assist in the maintenance and operation of community centres.

The third part of the Brief, under the heading of "The Arts in National Life" deals with nationally-owned parks, children's playgrounds, botanical gardens, housing and home-planning, a State Theatre, a National Library, extensions to the present National Gallery, the National Archives, the King's Printer, the National Film Board—Industrial Design.

The associations participating in this Brief see it as a plan of creative activity that does not stop with the erection of post-war buildings but also the releasing of a flood of national cultural values that will be of a permanent value to the country. The ties that bind Canada together must be strengthened by the development of a national culture.

The associations are also aware that the primary concern of the Reconstruction Committee is the consideration of employment in the post-war years and would draw attention to the scope of employment that could be given were the scheme of activity suggested in the Brief brought into being. The building, decorations and furnishing of these community centres will create work for thousands; the servicing of these centres with Films, Music, Theatre and Art Exhibits, will create work for thousands more. Practically all trades and professions would benefit not alone for a short post-war period, but far into the hoped-for years of peaceful living.

The following national art associations were represented in the presentation of the Brief:

Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, The Sculptors' Society of Canada, The Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour, The Canadian Society of Painters-Etchers and Engravers, The Canadian Group of Painters, The Canadian Society of Graphic Arts, The Federation of Canadian Artists, The Canadian Authors' Association, The Music Committee, The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and Town-planners, The Dominion Drama Festival, The Canadian Handicrafts Guild, The Canadian Guild of Potters, The Arts and Letters Club, La Société des Ecrivains Canadiens.

(Courtesy of British Columbia Region, Canadian Federation of Artists)

# COMMUNITY CENTRES OF THE FUTURE

By GWEN FIFE, Community Counsellor, Hamilton

Out of the most devastating of human experiences emerge, from time to time, discoveries of great value. Throughout the most difficult years of the war the people of England, forced to meet their urgent needs by organizing on a community basis, re-discovered the value of such co-operative community effort.

Although on this continent there has been infinitely less urgency toward group action, the trend has, nevertheless, been perceptible. As people, of necessity, settled down to a less nomadic existence than they have known for two decades, there has gradually emerged the discovery of what may be achieved when local groups organize to meet local needs.

Any country of the vastness and great divergencies of Canada will obviously present a picture of contrasting demands from coast to coast. Canadians are an independent and individualistic people, they prefer to discover their own needs but will work with energy and enthusiasm toward the achievement of any goal which they themselves have set. This characteristic should not be forgotten in planning for community centres throughout the Dominion. The building itself must be the outgrowth of keenly perceived needs of the community group. Only as such will it become an integral part of that particular community and adequately fulfil its function.

The term "community centre" has a variety of connotations. As it is being considered in Canada today, it is usually interpreted as a single building, which must serve a panoramic function. Under one roof provision must be made to meet the educational, social and recreational needs of the entire community. Included under these broad headings are library facilities, clubrooms for men, and women, teen-agers and children. Equipped gymnasium, bowling alleys, swimming pools, auditorium, separate accommodation for nursery schools, health services and children's activities are all requirements of an efficient community centre.

It must be kept in mind that if the development is a healthy one the function of the building will not be static, and every allowance should be made for growth and change. The future need for additions and alterations should be taken into consideration from the beginning, in order to avoid rendering the older sections of the building less valuable or attractive when such changes and extensions become necessary.

In this building we have an opportunity to set cultural standards for the entire community, and beauty of line and functional simplicity both in exterior and interior design, are of major importance.

"Four walls do not a centre make" despite all appearances to the contrary! The cheery and restful effect of rooms which are spacious, of good proportion and well-lighted cannot be overestimated. Soft and pleasing colours in walls, floors and drapes need not be perishable and well reward the effort necessary to keep them in condition.

Ample cupboard and storage space, readily accessible, is a "sine qua non" to peaceful and efficient operation when the same rooms are to serve a rotating series of groups. Offices and cloakrooms will probably be best located directly inside the main entrance. If space permits, there should be an outer office where clerical work may be carried on, casual enquiries answered, etc., while interviews or private business may continue uninterrupted in the private office. The latter should be large enough to accommodate several visitors and still allow for the required furniture and equipment.

Cloak rooms can scarcely be too large. It is advantageous where possible, to separate the wash rooms and lavatories from the cloak rooms. These need not take up coveted positions in the front of the building, but should be easily accessible from the main, generally used rooms in the centre.

Opening into the entrance hall, which need not be large, should be the lounge or common room, which will serve as an informal meeting place for members of all ages. It will, in all probability, be the most constantly used room in the centre. It should, therefore, be spacious and bright and if possible so placed as to receive the afternoon sun. A fire place would be a great asset, plenty of comfortable chairs, several tables and lamps are necessary. If the building is not sufficiently large to permit a separate reading room, tables for periodicals and desks or tables equipped for writing will be welcome additions.

If, as is frequently the case, a small branch library is located in the centre, this should be so placed that people coming and going are constantly reminded of its existence and so that the books are in view even when the room is locked and when the librarian is absent. One method of achieving these objectives would be to have a glass partition between common room and library.

The centre should be well provided with small rooms for the use of various clubs and committees. These should be separated from the gym and auditorium, or from such craft rooms as would cause disturbance because of noise. Some of these rooms may be so planned as to meet the requirements of the Department of Public Health for clinics and at the same time adequately serve as club and committee rooms. A waiting room is necessary and its size depends on the number it is to serve. Two smaller treatment and examination rooms are necessary for immunization, pre-natal clinics, etc. An office is required for the nurses where files and records may be kept, and it is an advantage, if possible, for the doctor to have a smaller office separate from the nurses. An extra room is required for the storage of general equipment and sterilization materials.

Work rooms and craft shops demand special consideration with regard to their separate needs. Metal, wood and pottery work shops are generally best located in the basement, but should be well-lighted and provided with adequate work benches and cupboard space. Cabinet making and the use of power machinery cannot satisfactorily be combined with wood-working groups for boys and young people.

When upholstery is to be undertaken, it will be important to have a room where furniture and working materials may be left undisturbed from one period to another.

If pottery is included in the craft programme, the local potters' guild (in Canada, The Canadian Guild of Potters) should be consulted as to essential equipment. A simple kiln may be built by the prospective potters themselves at very low cost.

Unless the size of the building necessitates combining the functions of auditorium and gymnasium, there are important advantages in separating these two. The auditorium should be equipped with a stage which will be a nuisance in a gymnasium. The same type of flooring is not suitable in the two rooms and an entirely different surface is required for gymnastics and for a dance floor. Both rooms require adequate storage space.

Where it is possible to have two rooms, the smaller of the two, the gym, will serve many purposes: Mass activities for

*(Continued on page 39)*

# COMMUNITY CENTRES IN UNITED STATES WAR HOUSING PROJECTS

By WILLIAM H. CONRAD

The building of a great number of temporary war housing projects in the United States for its workers in the war industries brought to the fore many problems inherent in large scale housing aside from the planning and construction of dwelling units. Tremendous shifts in population from rural districts to industrial centres, the development of industries in small towns with the attendant influx of war workers to these towns, and the building of new settlements around newly built industrial areas put loads upon existing public services and institutions which, in many cases, could not be adequately carried. In programming housing projects, the Federal Public Housing Authority made use of existing facilities such as schools, churches, transportation lines, amusement and commercial centres, to the greatest possible extent, but, in many cases, found it necessary to supplement these facilities or to provide complete new services in order to make it possible for the new communities to function properly.

The necessity for adequate facilities is accentuated in the housing project by the fact that in the successful project, community life plays a much more important rôle than in the ordinary suburban neighbourhood. Only through the complete co-operation of each and every tenant within a project can control be maintained and a programme of organized community activity be carried out. Thus, besides the ordinary function of community facilities found in any town or settlement, the community centre of a housing project plays the additional rôle of serving as the nerve centre of the community. It is here that the business of the project is transacted, prospective tenants interviewed, rents collected, personal problems adjusted, and repairs and maintenance ordered and supervised. It is here that the tenants gather for social functions, dinners, clubs, plays, lectures and dances. It is here that we find programmes of constructive recreation for children and young people such as organized play, crafts and manual training clubs, and little theatre groups. In short, it has to a certain degree supplanted the home as a social centre, the home which has become too small to serve the social needs of the worker's family. It is, then, through the community centre that a spirit of neighbourliness and community interest is built up without which the housing project cannot successfully function.

Several factors are to be considered in determining the location of the community centre within the housing project. The first of these has to do with the convenience of the tenants in reaching the centre from their homes. This prescribes a location within as easy access as possible from all parts of the project, for unwarranted effort required on the part of any group of tenants to reach the community centre will discourage attendance at community functions and may seriously curtail the social programme of the project.

Following the well-known axiom of architecture that a good plan will find its proper expression in the third dimension, the well-designed community centre, which is the centre of activity and control of the project, should also be the focal centre of the project. It should not be necessary for the visitor or prospective tenant, approaching the project for the first time, to hesitate in order to determine where to enter it and which road to take to reach the community centre or Manager's Office. The entrance should be unmistakable and it should lead directly

to the community centre of the project. Projects so designed are certain to impress the prospective tenant as well as the resident with an atmosphere of orderliness which will result in a more favourable acceptance by tenant and visitor alike.

Topography and site conditions are, of course, important factors in determining the location of the community centre. Not infrequently, a large portion of a site for a housing project consists of land which, for one reason or another, is not suitable for building. Such land may be heavily wooded, have excessive fill, or difficult terrain. Quite often, it is possible to locate the playground on such land and, by exercising a little ingenuity, it can be made into an extremely attractive feature of the project, thus making an asset of what, on first consideration, appeared to be a liability.

Perhaps the most important factor in the location of a community centre, however, is its relation to what we may call the psychological centre of the project or the natural point of congregation. This is analogous to the strategic location of the well-known corner drug store, the spot to which the neighbourhood inevitably gravitates. Even though the community centre may be within a few minutes walk from all parts of a project, it will fail in its purpose if it does not occupy the common point formed by the intersection of the natural lines of travel within it. In fact, a plan that disregards the psychological hub of the project as a proper place for the community centre may seriously hamper not only the function of this centre but also the success of the entire project.

The Commercial Building brings its own problem of placement in the community. It may form part of a group of buildings of the community centre or it may be more or less isolated, being placed, perhaps, on a busy boundary street, a location which is preferred by the businessman because of the possibility of attracting trade from adjacent neighbourhoods as well as from passing traffic. From an architectural standpoint, however, and from the standpoint of the convenience of tenants in the housing project, the former arrangement is generally desired. In this case, of course, care must be exercised to arrange the activity and traffic around the Store Building so that it does not interfere with activity around other buildings and on the playfields.

The elements that make up the community centre in the average project are: A Community Building, a Child Day Care Building which in a small project may be combined with the Community Building, a Commercial Building, two playgrounds, one for older and one for pre-school age children, and Parking Areas. The size of these elements, of course, varies according to the size of the project.

In order to save the architect endless hours of research and study in solving this special problem, the United States Federal Public Housing Authority, drawing upon its many years of experience in the operation of project facility buildings, has prepared standard plans in sketch form to serve as a guide to the architect and to establish minimum areas required by the various functions housed in community buildings.

Because of the wartime necessity for material conservation, the standard areas arrived at by the FPHA are somewhat

undersize to adequately accommodate the permanent housing project; nevertheless, the figures given here will serve to give some idea as to the proportionate areas required for the various functions.

Community Buildings vary in size from slightly over 2,000 square feet for a project consisting of 50 to 125 dwelling units to about 18,000 square feet for a project consisting of 1,200 to 1,600 dwelling units. The Community Building serves three separate functions: Management, Maintenance, and Tenant Activity. Perhaps a discussion of the plan of a Community Building for a fairly large project of, say, 900 dwelling units would be of interest to the architect. This building would have a gross area of approximately 13,000 square feet which would be divided as follows: 1,400 square feet for Management, 1,650 square feet for Maintenance, 9,000 square feet for Tenant Activity, 400 square feet for Clinic and 550 square feet for the Heater Room. A Lobby, placed somewhere in the central portion of the building, serves as the entrance to the building, a waiting room for the Clinic and offices, and separates the Tenant Activity space on one side from the Management offices on the other. The Management space is subdivided into a General Office, adjacent individual offices for the Manager, Assistant Manager, and Rental Manager, a Vault or Storage Closet, toilets, coat rooms, etc. The General Office is separated from the Lobby by a counter where tenants may pay rent, receive general information, and register complaints.

The Maintenance space is usually placed at one end of the Community Building adjacent to the offices and contains besides the main work shop, a small paint shop, and a toilet, shower and locker room for the employees. The large maintenance room is equipped with garage doors to provide for easy delivery of materials and a fenced-in or screened yard should adjoin it for the storage of additional material and as a parking area for employees and delivery court.

For the type of building under discussion, the space for Tenant Activity may be assigned as follows: Community Hall, 35 feet by 72 feet; a large club room, 28 feet by 45 feet; a small club room, 18 feet by 24 feet; an active games room, 32 feet by 58 feet; a kitchen, public toilets, storage rooms and the necessary corridors. The plan of the Tenant Activity Space should provide for an extremely flexible use of the rooms so that the building may be adapted to the changing social programme of the project.

Functions such as dances, plays given by Little Theatre Groups within the community, lectures, movies, volleyball games, and community dinners are held in the Community Hall. The club rooms provide meeting space for various types of organizations ranging from card clubs to study groups. The large club room can be separated in the centre by accordion doors into two smaller club rooms, both of which have direct access to the corridor. The Active Games Room where ping pong tables, checker boards, card tables and the like are provided, may be partitioned from time to time in various ways with removable partitions to provide suitable space for games, club activities, etc. If the kitchen is placed adjacent to the small club room, separated from it by a counter serving as a lower kitchen cupboard, it can also serve a dual purpose. When large dinners are given in the Community Hall, food can be prepared in the kitchen and the small club room can act as a pantry and serving room. This arrangement also permits the use of the kitchen for demonstrations to cooking clubs or classes which can be seated in the small club room.

Adequate storage closets should, of course, be provided for all rooms and, in the case of the Community Hall, should be large enough to store chairs when it is desirable to clear the room for dances or other similar functions.

The Clinic, which usually consists of two examining rooms separated by a toilet room and dressing closets, also has direct access to the Lobby. Here school children receive regular examinations and such necessary treatment as is usually furnished by the public school system of the community.

The playground for older children may be advantageously arranged to operate in connection with the Community Building thus providing for organized and supervised play. The size of the playfield varies from three-tenths of an acre for 50 dwelling units to four acres for 1,000 dwelling units and, where space permits, is equipped with ball diamonds, volleyball, basketball and horseshoe-pitching courts and fixed apparatus such as swings, slides, etc.

The Child Day Care Building where working parents leave their children to be cared for during the day by trained and experienced attendants, consists of one or more playrooms, each 24 feet by 48 feet, together with an office, kitchen, a small laundry, and the necessary toilet and storage space. In projects up to 300 dwelling units where only one Child Day Care room is required, it may be included in the Community Building. A playroom accommodates between 30 and 40 youngsters of pre-school age and is equipped with small open wooden lockers where the children are taught to hang their clothes and keep their rubbers. It is customary in the afternoon to set up cots in the rooms so the youngsters will not miss their afternoon naps. These cots when not in use are stacked on a small truck and kept in a closet. Each room has its own toilet facilities, one toilet room per playroom, authorities agreeing that it is not desirable to separate the sexes in this age group.

Simple meals are prepared in the kitchen and served to the children at tables in the playrooms. The office usually contains an alcove separated from it by folding doors as an isolation room for children who might come down with a contagious disease during the day. It is advisable to have a separate toilet for this isolation tenant.

Orientation is of the utmost importance in planning the Child Day Care Centre. The rooms should have, preferably, a south-east exposure and the adjacent play areas should be to the south of the building. The play yard, having good access from the playrooms, is a fenced-in area (at least 2,100 square feet per room) and contains sand-boxes, digging pits, paved islands for wheeled toys, swings and slides.

The size of the Commercial Building and the types of stores provided therein are controlled by the availability of other shopping facilities in the neighbourhood. Generally speaking, the kind of stores provided are: A food store, drug and variety merchandise store, barber shop, beauty parlour, and a "pick-up depot" including space for laundry, dry-cleaning, and shoe repairing agencies. A Commercial Building accommodates an area within a radius of one-half to one mile. Parking requirements for shopping centres are calculated, under normal conditions, at 15% of the number of dwelling units.

In addition, it is occasionally necessary to provide schools, police and fire stations, and theatres. These, however, are special buildings and must be designed to meet the requirements of the individual problem.

# PRESENTATION TO SIR IAN MACALISTER

AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS, OCTOBER 18, 1944



(From left to right): Mr. Michael Waterhouse; The Right Hon. Vincent Massey; Sir Ian; Mr. Percy Thomas and Mr. C. D. Spragg.

## EXTRACTS FROM SPEECHES

### The President

We meet today to pay honour to one who I think you will agree has been one of the outstanding personalities in the hundred years' history of this Institute. We all regret that this little ceremony has been so long delayed, but we are delighted that Sir Ian has recovered from his accident sufficiently to be present with us today.

When we decided about a year ago to make a little presentation to Sir Ian on his departing from us, the response from members of the Institute was immediate and widespread. That response enables us to present to Sir Ian an address and a cheque, and to Lady MacAlister a rose bowl.

This is obviously an occasion when almost all of you would like to pay a tribute to "Mac", but, unfortunately, time will not permit of that, and we have drawn up a little programme so that we can have the tributes from representative members of our Institute, with one exception: in the case of one class I am going to ask all the members of it to say a few words, that class being the class of Past-Presidents. I should think it is almost unique, but in this room at the present moment are all the living Past-Presidents of the Royal Institute.

In addition to our own tribute to Sir Ian, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada wishes to pay honour to "Mac" and has conferred upon him its Honorary Fellowship and the Medallion which goes with that distinction. We are greatly privileged today in that the High Commissioner for Canada, the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, has come here to make the presentation on behalf of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

### The Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey

(High Commissioner for Canada)

It is my honour and privilege, as Canadian representative here and as one of the Honorary Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, to present to Sir Ian this afternoon the Diploma and Medallion which symbolize membership of our Canadian Institute.

I should like, with Sir Ian's permission, to read to you the letter which was sent by Mr. Forsey Page, the President of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, to Sir Ian, to tell him of the resolution passed by that Institute. The letter is as follows: "My dear Sir Ian,

"By resolution of the members of the R.A.I.C. in Annual Meeting assembled, I have the pleasure to ask your acceptance of Honorary Fellowship of the Institute, in recognition of your outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession during your long service as Secretary to the R.I.B.A.

"In no field has your contribution brought greater return than in the welding together of the Architectural Societies of the Empire; we pay tribute to your unfailing and courteous co-operation with this Institute.

"I am glad to hear that you have made such progress toward recovery as will permit your participation in a little ceremony on the 18th of October, when the Fellowship and Medallion will be presented. I can be present in spirit only, but as President, on behalf of every member of the R.A.I.C., it is my privilege and duty to assure you of our affection and appreciation, and to wish you happiness and well-earned ease in the nearing days of peace.

"Yours sincerely,

"(Sgd.) Forsey Page, President."

(The Presentation then took place)

The President then presented the cheque and Address to Sir Ian MacAlister, and said: I am sure, Sir Ian, that in accepting these outward tokens of our respect you will appreciate very much more the regard and affection that go with them.

The President then presented the rose bowl to Lady MacAlister and said: Lady MacAlister, we should like you to accept this rose bowl as a small token of our regard for you. We, especially the Past-Presidents, know what your help and kindness have been to "Mac" through all these years. We remember many happy occasions, at conferences and festive gatherings, when you seemed to be a part of the Institute, and we hope this little gift will often remind you of those happy days.

## Sir Ian MacAlister

You will admit that this is a rather overwhelming affair for me. But, overwhelming as it is, I confess that it is very delightful and I am thoroughly enjoying it.

I happen to have had a rather unusual amount of experience of the characteristics of a great many professions. For more than fifty years I have known members of many professions—engineers, surveyors, librarians, secretaries, surgeons, physicians, barristers, solicitors—and all those professions have rather marked characteristics. In that period I have learned more about the characteristics of the architectural profession than about those of any of the other professions. I do not believe that anyone in this room has the slightest idea what are the outstanding characteristics of the architectural profession, but I know what they are. I had thirty-seven years' evidence of them. The outstanding characteristics (I leave aside art and practice and so on) are generosity, friendliness and, above all, kindness. I have had so much kindness during the last thirty-seven years from architects, not only from end to end of this country but from end to end of the Empire, that kindness always stands out in my mind as the mark of the architect.

I experienced kindness from the very beginning of my time here. When that very young man was appointed to the Secretaryship of the Institute at the end of 1907, I am sure some people were a little dubious about it, but as soon as I had been appointed they said: "Oh, you had better come along and dine with us," and they took me around the corner to the "Burlington". Leonard Stokes gripped me by the arm, and in characteristic Stokesian language gave me blunt advice about my job. We got to the "Burlington" and there I found myself in the middle of a group of new friends, very few of whom are alive now. There were Thomas Colcutt, in the chair, Ernest George, Leonard Stokes, Reginald Blomfield, Edwin Lutyens, Paul Waterhouse, John Slater, John Simpson, and a host of others, and at once they made me one of themselves and made me comfortable and happy.

The R.I.B.A. is really a very great institution. It is not one of the biggest in wealth and numbers, but it is, in my considered opinion, the best of all in energy, vitality and public spirit. I can see the beginnings now of a quite baseless legend, the idea that the work of the last thirty-six years has been in some sense rather a "one-man show". I can see people attributing to me personally all that has happened in the last thirty-six years. That would be a complete illusion. If it were true it would be a very disastrous thing. It would point to a lack of vitality and organic power that would be disastrous to any profession or professional body. The simple fact is that the good work and the progress of the R.I.B.A. during this long period have been due to the constant devoted work of hundreds of members, Presidents, Councils and innumerable Committees working year by year towards the same end, generally with very little credit being given to them and most members knowing little about their work. If you want proof of that, look at what has happened in 1944. I resigned at the end of 1943. Was there any change? The only change I have marked has been an increase in activity and energy. The great machine rolls on, and no one man, whatever may or may not be true about him, can claim the credit for all that is done or claim to have inspired it all. This is a great institution and it is doing great work, and that is due almost entirely to the efforts of all the people I have just mentioned and to another body of people of whom I must speak, that is, the staff. I have known a great deal about professional institutions in my time, and I can say that throughout that period there is no body which had so good, so devoted or so hardworking a staff as the R.I.B.A. has had, a staff always overworked, always overstrained, but with such patience, cheerfulness and devotion as deserve the utmost gratitude of every member.

For these generous gifts that I have received today I am intensely grateful. They in themselves are a more than ample

reward for what I have tried to do for the Institute, and I can only say "Thank you" to all those who have so kindly contributed to them.

I have to thank you also on behalf of my wife. Our married life has almost exactly corresponded in time with my secretaryship of the R.I.B.A. From the beginning of that time my wife has been one of the best friends of the Institute, and, though few people knew it, one of its best workers. She began working for the R.I.B.A. at the great Conference of 1910. You can see her picture in the Transactions for that year. Since then, at innumerable events of all sorts, at the functions of allied societies up and down the country, at conferences and social activities of all kinds, she has been a tower of strength to me, and she has also intensely enjoyed the work. The R.I.B.A. has become a very large part of her life.

It has been a peculiar pleasure to me personally to receive at the hands of the High Commissioner this magnificent tribute from the Canadian Institute, because more than forty years ago I was an officer in the Canadian Army. A young friend of mine named Mackenzie King had just received his first appointment at Ottawa, and I had just been received in Toronto by that great Empire citizen, Dr. George Parkin. So through all these years my feeling for Canada has been constant and intense. One of my greatest pleasures has been the knowledge that I was able to do something towards the creation of the great Royal Architectural Institute of Canada in 1909, and I have had the pleasantest possible relations with it ever since. The honour which that Institute has conferred upon me is one of the things that I shall particularly treasure in my retirement. I need not say how grateful I am to Mr. Massey personally, a busy man, for giving up so much time to a purely personal affair like this, but I am deeply grateful to him.

Finally, I have to express my particular thanks to those who have spoken today, especially to the Past-Presidents, who have been my kind masters through so many years. The R.I.B.A. is 110 years old, and I have known personally two-thirds of its Presidents. That makes me seem a Methuselah, but it is arithmetically correct. I have known personally twenty-four of the Presidents, and they are an extraordinary interesting group of men. I was making up a list of them this morning—all different, all interesting, all full of individual character. I have to thank the Presidents for the more than kind words that they have said about me.

I also have to thank Mr. Worthington, a very old friend of mine, for his kind words on behalf of the allied societies, and my old friend Mr. Jack McKay for his tribute from Scotland, which I intensely appreciate. I am also deeply indebted to Mr. Waterhouse, who, as Honorary Secretary, knew all my faults and all my secrets and forgave the faults, and to Mr. Spragg, who spoke on behalf of the staff. My indebtedness to the staff cannot be exaggerated. No professional body, to my knowledge, has had an abler, more hardworking or more devoted staff than those people who bolstered me up during my period of service here. They covered up my deficiencies and helped me in every possible way. I am more grateful to them than any member of the R.I.B.A. can be.

This, of course, is a very great occasion for me. I can say quite truly that it is the greatest occasion in my life, and I shall look back upon it, as the hair grows less and the back grows more crooked, with more and more pleasure and pride.

I am not saying "Good-bye" to the R.I.B.A. You have done me the honour of making me an Honorary Associate, and I am going to use the privileges which that gives me. You will see an old man creeping in and taking a modest seat at the back of your lectures, exhibitions, and so on. You can depend upon that.

In conclusion, I should like to say to those who have spoken this afternoon, to those who have contributed and to all those who have helped: "On behalf of my wife and myself, I thank you with all my heart."

# THE PROVINCIAL PAGE

## ALBERTA

Whilst, a century ago, many cities were in relatively static condition and some of our smaller towns may still be in that happy state, most of our busy towns keep changing their aspect fairly rapidly. Many of the changes are producing very bad architectural and community results. Aggressive looking buildings are thrust into otherwise peaceful and orderly surroundings. The commercial urge to squeeze out the biggest financial profit from a piece of land is a source of prejudicial congestions, especially when these take the form of excrescences patched on to existing premises. Some wholesome control over these matters is exercised by official building regulations and some more in many cases by zoning regulations. But, on the whole, evil results seem to multiply. Zoning by-laws are generally under pressure caused by the changing circumstances of increasing population and business. A degradation of district category is in common operation. This term "degradation" is to be understood in a special sense which may be made plainer by writing it de-gradation. A residential district is said to be in a higher category than an industrial simply because its uses are more exclusive. It is necessary to observe how de-grading tends to operate. A single-family district becomes more and more filled up and is more closely approached and pressed upon by the more central commercial district. The first natural challenge to its exclusiveness arises from the fact that in the older houses, at first the homes of well-to-do people, the families of these people grow up and leave the old home. The old folks, left in homes now too large for them, quite frequently find it a good expedient to have a married son or daughter share the house. Before long it is desirable to divide the house into two, more or less independent, housekeeping units—a very desirable social arrangement. The older couple pass away, or the younger ones require, for business or other reasons, to move elsewhere. One of the housekeeping units now becomes not a purely social convenience, but a commercial investment. The ownership changes. The building is now simply a rentable duplex or two-family dwelling and there appears no reason why new buildings in the neighbourhood should not be frankly built as two-family dwellings. The district is de-graded from its one-family district status. Some of these duplexes are built with the possibility of a third suite in the basement. This being permitted, owing to pressure for more housing, they become triplexes. In fact they may be called apartment houses, though the district may not yet be classed as an apartment or multiple dwelling district. At this point the official zoners or district classifiers are faced with a peculiar difficulty. So far, all the original limitations of set-backs at front, sides and rear applicable to one-family residences may have been strictly observed. A district may at this point, owing to social and business pressure, have become essentially de-graded so as to call for the introduction of apartment buildings. But, with even so little as a ten per cent. set-back on each side of the lot, a well laid out apartment house cannot be built on a lot of 50 feet frontage. The reasons for this deserve a little careful analysis.

The duplex and triplex houses which may have already been permitted vary little from the one-family house. The staircase is simply isolated at the various floors to which it forms the common approach and is on one side. But an apartment house must have, either a central stair, or long and somewhat wasteful passages and must be arranged with the apartments alongside of one another in the direction of the frontage or else behind one another in the direction of the depth of the lot. A lot of 50 feet frontage with side set-backs of ten per cent. leaves only 40 feet of building width, and this is too small for

two apartment suites side by side. Therefore, the alternative is that of suites one behind the other. If adjoining lots be thus built upon there is left a space of ten feet between them with windows on each side of that ten feet space. This is decidedly unsatisfactory. In addition to this, even when there is no apartment on the adjoining lot the neighbours find the sunshine and the privacy of their gardens encroached on by the new apartment.

Since the next step in the de-grading of districts will probably be that of a commercial zoning,—and in a commercial district no side set-backs are required,—the question arises whether it will not be reasonable and preferable to allow the apartment builder in a multiple dwelling district to occupy the whole frontage without any side set-backs; providing at the same time against any considerable rear projections. The privacy of neighbouring rear gardens would be safeguarded and congestion of the site effectively provided against. The apartments themselves would be well lighted from front and rear only. But certain objections would arise even apart from the limitations thus set on the commercial development of the apartment lot. The neighbours who had observed their ten per cent. set-back in the faith of having also the benefit of a further ten per cent. set-back of the adjoining buildings would find this cut in half. There would also be a slight inconvenience to the apartment itself in having no open air communication between the front and rear of its property.

A solution of these various difficulties would be to prohibit apartment buildings in any residential district on lots of less than, say, 60 feet, and also to prohibit in these cases the erection of apartments on the one-behind-the-other principle. In this way all apartment windows to all habitable rooms could be either towards the front or the rear. The objection to the limitation imposed upon the commercial aspect of development of the site to greater financial profit would operate to the benefit of the community through restraining congestion.

*Cecil S. Burgess.*

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Architectural Institute of British Columbia held their Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting on December 8th at the Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver, B.C., which was well attended.

Mr. G. Norris Evans, the retiring President, presented a very interesting and comprehensive report on the activities of the Institute.

One item of this report which has aroused great interest is the question of the Provincial Government trespassing in the field of the private practising Architect. The Provincial Government was asked to define their policy regarding projects, wholly or in part, financed by them, being given to the private practising Architects. It is the general opinion that some of this work, especially semi-public and private projects partly financed by the Provincial Government, should be given to private practising Architects and not be done by the Office of the Government Architect.

As so many of the younger members, draughtsmen and students are in the armed forces, the Vancouver Chapter of the A.I.B.C. has gradually passed out of existence. Due to this fact, it is proposed to publish a quarterly report of the business of the Institute, so that these members can be kept fully informed.

Members elected to the 1945 Council at this meeting were Messrs. John S. Porter, Percy C. Underwood, and G. N. Evans. Members carrying on for another year are Messrs. W. F. Gardiner, Harry Barratt and Jos. F. Watson.

A well attended and enjoyable dinner followed the afternoon meeting. Our guest speaker, Professor Frank Buck of the University of British Columbia, gave an instructive talk on Town Planning.

On Friday, December 22nd, a meeting was held in the Institute rooms, at which Flight-Lieutenant Jos. F. Watson was elected President and John S. Porter, Vice-President. Mr. S. M. Eveleigh was named Honorary Secretary, and Mr. P. L. James of Victoria, Honorary Treasurer. Mr. John S. Porter and Mr. Harry Barratt were appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal* with the hope that the *Journal* will receive more material for its Provincial Page than has been furnished in the past year or so.

It was with surprise and regret that the Council learned of the decision of our very able Executive Secretary, Mr. E. B. McMaster, to retire from active participation in the affairs of the Institute. A very hearty vote of thanks on behalf of the Institute was expressed to Mr. McMaster for his untiring efforts in the past years, especially during these last few troublesome years. Mr. Reg. Deacon has been appointed as Executive Secretary.

It is with sincerity, that we extend to the R.A.I.C., its President, Council, and to our Eastern Colleagues, "A Happy New Year".

Harry Barratt.

## ONTARIO

It is now probably safe to reveal—or should be, by the time this appears in print—that Toronto has enjoyed at least one pleasant day this winter; and it turned out to be the day selected for the Annual Meeting of the O.A.A. All the sessions, as well as the luncheon and dinner, took place at the King Edward Hotel; an arrangement which, if not particularly stimulating—aesthetically, that is—was at least convenient. Routine matters were disposed of at the morning session; and at luncheon the members were treated to a talk by Mr. J. Lance Rumble, whose riotous handling of "Post-War Planning" was, by all accounts, something new in architectural experience. After lunch, levity was again laid aside. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. P. P. Novojilov, one of the Soviet Union's representatives in the United States, his address on "War-time Construction Activities in the Soviet Union" had to be read. It was followed by a discussion of "The Future of Architect-Engineer Relations", by Professor R. F. Legget, of the University of Toronto. His treatment of this difficult and contentious subject was admirable, with no punches pulled but no bones broken; and it is a pity that the time remaining was insufficient for an adequate development of means by which a solution of the problem might be sought.

The attendance at the dinner was disappointing; but those who were present were amply rewarded. The speaker was Professor K. Grant Crawford, of Queen's University; and his analysis of the housing situation, as it affects Municipal Governments, was a delightful mixture of closely-knit argument and infectious humour, which was obviously enjoyed by everyone. Equally enjoyable were the songs contributed by Mr. Merrill Cameron, of Ottawa. During the evening new members and the winners of scholarships and medals were introduced, and a silver tray was presented to Mr. J. P. Hynes, who has recently retired after serving as Secretary to the Registration Board since its inception in 1931, and as Secretary to both the Board and the Association since 1935. In making the presentation, Mr. Gordon M. West briefly reviewed "J. P.'s" many services to architects and architecture, from the days of the Eighteen Club onwards, and expressed the hope that for many years to come the profession's affairs would continue to receive the benefit of his enthusiasm and experience as Secretary Emeritus of the Association. The new Secretary is Major James H. Craig, whom we are all glad to see again after several years overseas. Mr. W. J. Abra continues as President for the current year; and

if—as we all hope—it turns out to be Victory Year, the next Annual Meeting under his genial guidance should be something to look forward to.

Turning to more parochial matters—Toronto continues to be a going concern, in spite of snowstorms from all quarters and blizzards of vituperation from points east. The smoke-laden atmosphere of architectural offices vibrates with mental energy thrown off in the process of developing a wide variety of projects, "too numerous to mention", as the auctioneers put it. Of work actually under way, the largest, of course, is the hospital at Sunnybrook Park; and—this being an architects' Journal—it is perhaps in order to point out that, contrary to the impression created by the much-publicized activities of other people, a great deal of the credit for whatever progress has been made must go to the Architects, the Consulting Engineers and the members of their staffs, who have worked long hours and under serious strain to produce an ordered scheme out of a chaos of requirements, and with a minimum of delay.

During the holiday season, Brigadier Eric Haldenby, C.B.E., M.C., V.D., paid two flying visits to Toronto, sandwiched in between official business at Ottawa. He has since returned to England, after two short and hectic weeks in Canada. Other members who were in uniform are beginning to appear in mufti—reminding us that all the problems of readjustment, which once seemed so infinitely remote, may soon be upon us in earnest, and find us no better prepared, perhaps, than we were in 1918.

Gladstone Evans.

## QUEBEC

The two biggest news items to record in the Quebec Letter this month are the Annual Meeting and the Perry Case.

The Fifty-Fourth Annual General Meeting of the P.Q.A.A. was held at the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, on Saturday, January 27th. The attendance at all functions was good, and interest in proceedings keen.

As is usual, the morning session was devoted to reports and other routine matters, including the report announcing new officers and Council for the ensuing year. The retiring President, Eugene Larose, figuratively handed the gavel to the new President and thus initiated a new administration.

Officers and Council for the new term follow:—Harold Lawson, Montreal, President; Eugene Larose, Montreal, Past President; Oscar Beaulé, Quebec, First Vice-President; A. J. C. Paine, Montreal, Second Vice-President; Maurice Payette, Montreal, Honorary Secretary; L. N. Audet, Sherbrooke, Honorary Treasurer. Council—Emile Venne, Montreal; H. Ross Wiggs, Montreal; Gaston Amyot, Quebec; R. E. Bostrom, Montreal; Lucien Lemieux, Montreal; Paul Painchaud, Montreal; D. E. Painchaud, Montreal; Lucien Mainguy, Quebec; John Bland, Montreal; and Henri Mercier, Montreal.

The following were elected delegates to the Royal Architectural Institute:—Maurice Payette, Montreal, Gordon McL. Pitts, Montreal; Charles David, Montreal; J. Roxburgh Smith, Montreal; Eugene Larose, Montreal; Oscar Beaulé, Quebec; Harold Lawson, Montreal.

We missed the presence of some of our old standard-bearers of former years, notably J. Roxburgh Smith and Charles David, both unavoidably prevented from coming for personal reasons. Another absentee also had a very personal reason for not coming. It was his wedding day. Yes, on the same morning as the Meeting, Oscar Beaulé, our popular Vice-President, went to the altar with his bride. When this was announced, the Meeting unanimously voted that a telegram be sent him expressing most sincere and cordial wishes to both bride and groom.

The unflinching support of Gordon McLeod Pitts at the Meeting was much appreciated and we hope his powers will remain undiminished for years to come in the interests of the profession

that means so much to us all. It was a pleasure to welcome, among other delegates at large, H. R. Little and E. J. Turcotte of Montreal, as well as others whom we would like to name if space permitted.

The principal speaker at the luncheon was His Honour Mayor Lucien Borne of Quebec, who spoke on post-war plans for that City and district. There were three other speakers also, all of whom referred to the value of planning for communities as well as larger areas.

A very lively session in the afternoon dealt with professional subjects mostly, including fees. Several resolutions were voted upon for consideration of incoming Council.

Quebec hospitality is proverbial. Our warm-hearted confreres of the ancient Capital had worked unsparingly to make all functions a success, and out-of-town delegates, without exception, enjoyed every moment. Special thanks are due Rene Blanchet, Sylvio Brassard and Leopold Fontaine for their arrangements.

On the day before the Meeting, Judge Orville S. Tyndale brought down his decision in favour of the P.Q.A.A. in their suit against Brian Perry, Engineer, for undertaking architectural work in contravention to the Statutes of the Province of Quebec, which give architects sole rights for the designing and supervision of construction of buildings in our Province. Space does not permit further comment on this case, the merits of which always seemed so clearly established to architects, except to hope that the judgment will establish in the minds of the building public a clearer conception of the functions and responsibilities of architects. The importance of the decision cannot be underrated.

Harold Lawson.

## COMMUNITY CENTRES IN CANADA

(Continued from page 23)

a library and a reading room. Full time staff will be needed. Direction must be left to the local people." The newspaper quotes from a Ministry of Education document: "The need is unquestioned. Hosts of men and women earn their living by monotonous work which contributes hardly at all to the worker's development of a human personality. If this is to be achieved it must be in leisure time. Intense industrialism means shorter hours and more leisure. These Community Centres would be the very thing." The *News Chronicle* continues: "The aim is to increase immediately the present 100 Community Centres to at least 1,500, possibly 3,000. They would be built by a twin effort of education and housing authorities, but the Ministry of Education would pay for buildings, structural maintenance and a warden's salary. Members' fees, low enough to debar none, would make the centres self-supporting. Among the nineteen recommendations are that local authorities should immediately start surveys and that the warden should be well paid. The Cabinet became aware of the value of Community Centres in the wartime experiment with transferred workers made by the Ministers of Labour, Works and Supply. Self-contained towns were supplied with centres catering to every social need of the workers. As a direct result production soared, and these war towns amazed welfare workers with their record of health and creative living." If we add to this information the knowledge that S.E.M.A. (Society for the Encouragement of Music and Art) has been given adequate sums for the diffusion of music, the distribution of art, we can see where Canada stands. It would be not less than tragic if Lorne Pierce's experience in the twenties were repeated after this war, if no serious attempt were made to establish tolerable living conditions throughout the country, and the initiative of our most creative individuals—the artists, poets, musicians, actors, dramatists, architects—were to fail for lack of social enterprise.

## COMMUNITY CENTRES OF THE FUTURE

(Continued from page 32)

children; meetings or conferences not sufficiently large to require an auditorium; and informal gatherings of all ages. It will probably be particularly in demand by the 'teen-agers. Concerning these latter vitals members of any community, it seems important to provide at least one room in the building which may be considered theirs, and where they are at liberty to meet at any time.

Requirements for stage and dressing rooms vary greatly according to their prospective uses. Too small a stage is not serviceable. A good apron in front of the curtain is most useful for lectures and occasions when the whole stage is not required. Flood and foot lights and a public address system should be part of the permanent equipment. The dressing rooms serve all purposes more adequately if they are a good size. They should be equipped with well-lighted mirrors. At least one back-stage wash room is a necessity. Such dressing rooms may be used for committee meetings or if provided with sufficient window and cupboard space are practical for women's sewing or dress-making rooms.

The kitchen should have an outside entrance and be separated from the auditorium by a smaller room where suppers or refreshments may be served to small groups. Ample cupboard and shelf space will be needed. In some centres a sliding partition between the kitchen and adjoining room has proved practical, both for food demonstrations and for cooking groups.

Inadequate as the foregoing outline is, it is sufficient to demonstrate the futility of attempting to draw up any single, stereotyped plan to serve a variety of communities without making a careful preliminary survey of the particular area, and securing in advance the advice and co-operation of all groups whose interests are involved. Such basically sound planning will be more than repaid by the contribution of such a centre toward the progress and full life of any community.

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Marcus Adeney, a professional musician, was one of the first Canadians to recognise the artistic and social significance of the Community Centre Movement, and has investigated existing Centres in Canada and many proposed projects. He is Chairman of an Advisory Council, Arts and Letters Club. Mr. Adeney was chosen as a delegate by some sixteen Cultural organizations to present their now famous Brief at Ottawa.

. . . .

William H. Conrad was one of the principal architects for the permanent housing project at Cleveland, Lakeview Terrace. For many years he has served on the educational staff at John Huntington Polytechnic Institute; and over the last two years has been attached to the Regional Office of F.P.H.A.

. . . .

Gwen Fife, graduate of the University of Toronto, Student of Fine Arts in France and England. Teacher of Art and Handicraft, and Director of activities in two Vocational and Art centres in Canada. For the past two and one-half years Community Counsellor for Wartime Housing, in Hamilton.

. . . .

Lionel Scott is an Interior Decorator known to many Canadians for his articles in the Press, and his radio programmes. For some four years, as Director of Tenant Relations for Wartime Housing, he has had an excellent opportunity of studying and fostering community activities in the Wartime Housing settlements throughout Canada.

# THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF

## THE ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

in Toronto, Friday and Saturday, the 23rd and 24th February, 1945

(All Sessions to be held at the Ontario College of Pharmacy, 44 Gerrard Street East)

### Pre-Convention Meetings

Thursday, the 22nd February, 1945

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 11.00 A.M.—Meeting of the Editorial Board of the <i>Journal</i> , R.A.I.C., with Provincial Representatives, in the Board Room of the O.A.A., 74 King Street East.   | 4.00 P.M.—Meeting of the Architectural Training Committee in the Board Room of the O.A.A.  |
| 1.00 P.M.—Luncheon for the members of the 1944 Council, the Editorial Board and the Architectural Training Committee in the Elizabeth Room at the King Edward Hotel. | 7.00 P.M.—President's Dinner to the members of the 1944 Council, the Editorial Board and the Architectural Training Committee. The Dinner will be held at the Granite Club and wives of the members are invited to attend. |
| 2.00 P.M.—Meeting of the 1944 Council of the R.A.I.C. in the Board Room of the O.A.A.  |  |

### Programme

Friday, the 23rd February, 1945

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 10.00 A.M.—Registration of Members and Delegates of the R.A.I.C. and Architectural Students, at the Ontario College of Pharmacy.  | 2.00 P.M.—INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA at the Ontario College of Pharmacy.   |
| 11.00 A.M.—General Meeting at the Ontario College of Pharmacy. Mr. Wm. C. McBrien, Chairman of the Toronto Transportation Commission, will give an illustrated address on the "Proposed Subway and Rapid Transit System for Toronto". | (a) Reading of the Minutes of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting held in Toronto.   |
| 1.00 P.M.—Buffet Luncheon at the Ontario College of Pharmacy. Mr. John W. Gooch, President of the National Construction Council, will be the Guest Speaker and will give an address on "The Work of the N.C.C.".                      | (b) Report of the Council: The President.  |
|   | (c) Discussion of the Report of the Council.   |
|   | (d) Report of the Election of Delegates to the 1945 Council of the R.A.I.C. by the Honorary Secretary.   |
|   | (e) New Business.  |
|   | 7.00 P.M.—Informal Dinner at the Arts and Letters Club, 14 Elm Street. Members of the R.A.I.C. from other Provinces will be the guests of the O.A.A. on this occasion. The Guest Speaker will be Dean R. O. Hurst, of the Ontario College of Pharmacy. |

Saturday, the 24th February, 1945

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 10.00 A.M.—Meeting of the 1945 Council of the R.A.I.C. at the Ontario College of Pharmacy.   | 2.00 P.M.—General Meeting at the Ontario College of Pharmacy. Mr. Prentice Bradley, Architect, Boston, Mass., of the Modular Service Association, will give an illustrated address on "The Standardization of Building Materials".   |
| 11.00 A.M.—General Meeting at the Ontario College of Pharmacy. Mr. H. J. B. Hoskins of Holabird and Root, Architects, Chicago, will give an address on "Architectural Hardware and the Operation of a Large Architectural Office". | 5.30 P.M.—Convocation of the College of Fellows at the Royal York Hotel. (Dress: dinner jackets and insignia).   |
| 1.00 P.M.—Buffet Luncheon at the Ontario College of Pharmacy. Mr. H. C. Nicholls, President of the Canadian Construction Association, will be the Guest Speaker and will give an address on "The Ontario Apprenticeship System".   | 7.30 P.M.—R.A.I.C. ANNUAL DINNER at the Royal York Hotel. (Dress: dinner jackets). Members, their ladies and guests are invited to attend this Dinner during which the Fellowship Diplomas will be presented to the newly elected Fellows. Announcement will be made of the newly elected officers. The Guest Speaker will be MR. FRANCIS HENRY TAYLOR, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City. |

Sunday, the 25th February, 1945

- 4.00 P.M.—The President's Tea to visiting Members and their wives at the University Club.

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS: Members attending the Annual Dinner are requested to arrive at the Royal York Hotel at 7.00 P.M. Dinner will be served at 7.30 P.M.**