

Where a satisfactory water-supply is not available, the Board of Health may, by requisition, require the local authority to provide a water-supply. The power to supply water naturally includes the power to take all measures necessary for the supply of the water which covers the choice of watersheds, catchment areas, the erection of reservoirs and dams. Power is also given for a Borough Council to supply persons outside the borough<sup>(1)</sup>. An illustration of the exercise of this power is seen in Auckland, where the Auckland City Council provides the reservoirs, dams, and catchment areas, and supplies water at a fixed rate to a number of the other boroughs on the isthmian area in Auckland. As noted previously, the Auckland City Council also supplies water to the North Shore Boroughs<sup>(2)</sup>.

#### D. PUBLIC RECREATION INSTITUTIONS AND AMENITIES

As with all modern governing institutions, local authorities have to accept certain responsibilities concerning the social and physical welfare of the inhabitants of their districts. Because of the greater grouping of people in urban areas, the responsibilities and, therefore, the powers, of the urban local authorities are considerably greater than those of rural local authorities, although from the evidence received it would seem that there is a desire for further powers to be granted to rural local authorities in this direction.

Municipal Corporations<sup>(3)</sup> and Town Boards<sup>(4)</sup> have very wide powers with regard to the provision of pleasure-grounds, sports-grounds, rifle-ranges, gymnasiums, physical-training schools, gardens, zoological gardens, music and dance halls, libraries, museums, and art galleries.

One very interesting provision of the Municipal Corporations Act is that the authority to prepare handbooks and other publications containing information and matters of interest relative to the history, administration, or affairs of the borough requires the prior approval of the Minister of Internal Affairs<sup>(5)</sup>.

The above provisions refer to amenities which are owned and controlled by the local authority, but the Borough Councils are also authorized to make grants of sums of money, or leases of land, to institutions not conducted for private profit, such as technical, secondary, or agricultural schools, or model farms, or the Workers' Educational Association, libraries, museums, art galleries, youth institutes, trades halls, dental clinics, crèches, district nurses, the Royal Society for the Protection of the Health of Women and Children, or similarly constituted bodies for the purpose of recreation, enjoyment, health, education, or instruction of the public<sup>(6)</sup>. The powers of County Councils are not so extensive<sup>(7)</sup>.

Not all of these powers are exercised by all urban local authorities. Only the larger cities exercise all the powers, but there is a growing consciousness of the civic implications of providing these amenities, particularly in regard to physical welfare and recreation. The Physical Welfare and Recreation Act, 1937, makes specific provision for local-authority co-operation in this particular direction<sup>(8)</sup>.

Fundamentally, one of the most important phases of local-body activity in this direction is the provision of parks and open spaces. These "breathing-spaces" are fundamental to modern urban life, and there is a growing consciousness among local-body members and executives to-day of the importance of making these areas not merely decorative, but useful and usable. While the day of the formal botanical gardens is by no means past, the day of the planned open spaces, attractively yet usefully laid out, is just beginning. Perhaps the most important function at the present time is the education of the public in the effective use of these. There was some indication from the evidence that local bodies in the planning of future developments were making more adequate provision for such spaces than had been done in the past.

In the larger towns library facilities are relatively adequate, but much remains to be done in the smaller towns and in the rural areas. The Libraries Association in their evidence suggested a new basis for library facilities which seems to have very much to commend it. This will be discussed in more detail later.

The powers of County Councils are not so extensive and probably do not need to be so extensive as Borough Councils, but they are permitted to acquire and maintain museums, public halls, and public libraries within the geographical limits of the boundaries of the county. The Country Library Service is doing much to provide library facilities in country areas, and many rural local authorities are co-operating.

Certain land belonging to the Crown may be reserved as recreation areas within the territorial limits of a local authority, and may for this purpose be placed under the jurisdiction of a Domain Board. The Domain Board is sometimes the Council of the local authority in which the domain is situated. For the purposes of the administration of the particular domain the local authority acts as a separate authority. This seems to be a little redundant, and possibly calls for statutory amendment to enable the domain to be controlled by the local authority itself. A large number of these domains are scattered throughout the Dominion, and although the property in the domain always remains with the Crown, the administration is vested in the Domains Board.

In addition to these Domain Boards, there are also a number of scenic and native reserves which are not vested in the local authority either as to property or as to administration, but are maintained by the State.

(1) Municipal Corporations Act, 1933, sections 253 and 254.

(2) See North Shore Boroughs Auckland Water Conservation Act, 1944.

(3) Part XXIV, Municipal Corporations Act, 1933, sections 308-310.

(4) Town Boards Act, 1908, section 33.

(5) Municipal Corporations Act, section 308 (1) (f).

(6) Municipal Corporations Act, 1933, section 308.

(7) Counties Act, 1920, sections 198-200.

(8) Physical Welfare and Recreation Act, 1937, sections 11-13.