

of life will benefit to the maximum by the change."

"So these Town and Country reconstruction plans are worked out in White hall for the whole country?"

"No, that is not the British way of doing things. The statutory Town Planning authorities are the local bodies. But these obviously cannot do the job each on its own. Long before the war most of them linked up into 'Joint Planning Committees' covering wide areas and delegated to these Committees the job of preparing statutory planning schemes. These schemes are integrated with the adjoining schemes of other Joint Committees, and of course the Ministry of Town and Country Planning itself, through its Regional Officers, co-ordinates the whole."

Conserving Land and Forest

"Why Town and Country Planning, Mr. Cameron? We usually hear only the phrase 'Town Planning.'"

"Because it's obvious that the country is as important as the town, and agricultural interests are of vital importance and must be considered. Also, we must conserve our forests and good agricultural land, and keep plenty of playgrounds. We are not concerned just with making this town and that town a good place to live in, but with making Britain as a whole the best possible home for the British people."

"But I haven't yet answered your question on how industry is to be attracted into new areas, because of course once industries and houses are in a place the people will naturally flow there. Partly it is being done by making building materials more available in districts where expansion is required and less available in districts that are already too full for social health and well-being. But I hope I am not giving the impression that shifting people about is the main part of British reconstruction. It is not so urgent a job, for example, as building up the Development Areas."

"Never heard of them."

"Probably you have — but as 'Distressed Areas' or 'Depressed Areas.'"

Britain is not leaving these to rot. Where the difficulty in the past has been due to over-dependence on one industry—as for example, mining in South Wales—considerable assistance has been given to bringing other industries to the area. In other words, 'diversification' is the keyword and other occupations are being attracted in by the means I have described."

"Disinherited Youth"

"Do you know these areas yourself?"

"Fairly well. Just before the war I conducted an inquiry into the social and industrial conditions of youths and young men in Glasgow and combined it with reports from investigators in South Wales and Merseyside into a report that was published as 'Disinherited Youth.' Later I did public relation work for the M.O.I. in Newcastle. Then I helped with Board of Trade surveys of the re-conversion of industry and with programmes and statistics for the Ministry of Aircraft Production."

"So you have seen 'Planning' both from the inside and the outside. Do you not think, Mr. Cameron, that it may be going too far? It must be pretty well impossible to do anything in Britain today without fitting it into somebody's plan."

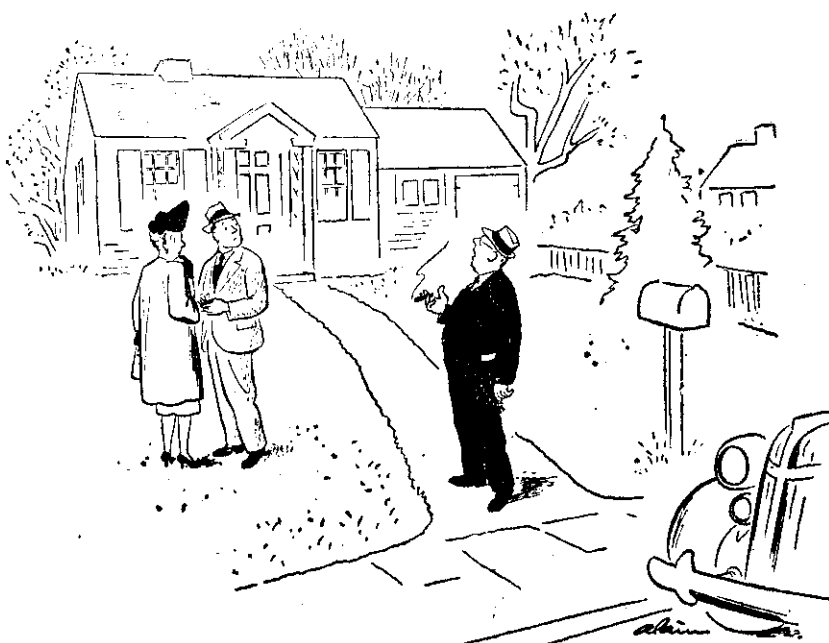
"There, of course, you have something! A high standard of life is possible only in a highly organised community. But in such a community you can do very little without affecting other people quite seriously. Therefore overall plans have to be made and followed out. But I am against making such plans more detailed than they have to be. Plans should provide a community with a framework of order in which to express itself—not with a substitute for individual self-expression. The Superman Planner idea is dangerous and absurd."

"What can be done about that?"

"Well, one defence against it will have to be a high degree of personal and professional humility among those who have to draft the community's plans. Another will be the vigilance and vital interest of the citizens on whose behalf the plans are being drafted."



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