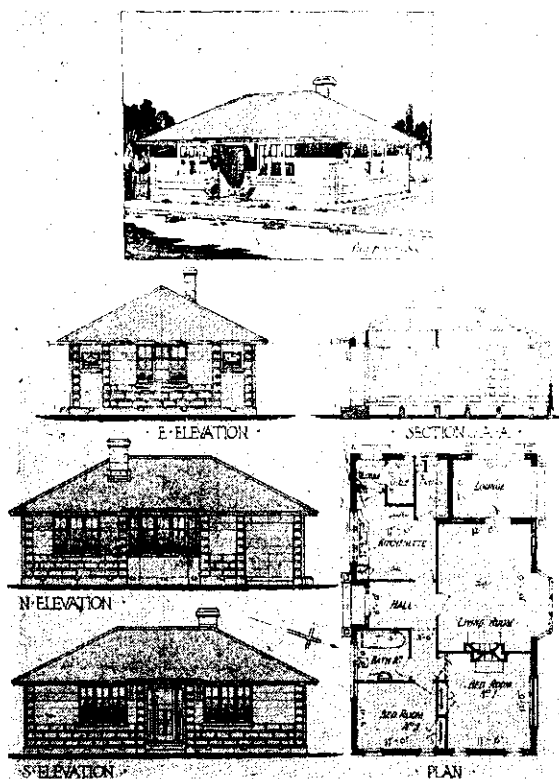


the Hon. G. W. Russell, "and I shall bring up the question of the appointment of a town planner at an early date without waiting for Parliament, knowing full well that Cabinet can, out of the unauthorised vote, agree to appoint a man, and Parliament will, of course, ratify whatever action will be taken. The housing problem and other matters will also be brought before the full Cabinet for its decision at the earliest possible date."

### The Housing Problem.

#### Million Subsidy Suggested.

Next in importance came the Housing Committee's report. The Committee which had dealt with



Workers' Homes Competition. Silver medal awarded to Messrs. Hart & Reese, Christchurch, class "B," estimated to cost £308.

legislation generally, had recommended the introduction of a Town Planning and Housing Bill, and that housing should be specifically included as part of the work of the central and local Town Planning and Housing Boards.

The following report was presented by the Housing Committee, of which the Hon. J. T. Paul was chairman:—

(1.) The committee reports that there is ample evidence that a pronounced shortage of houses, numbering many thousands, exists throughout the Dominion.

(2.) That many of the existing houses are not up to a standard of civilised comfort, a fact which intensifies the acuteness of the problem.

(3.) We recommend that the Government recognise the housing shortage as one of pressing national necessity, and that the Government co-operate with the local authorities in carrying out housing schemes on town planning lines; that the State undertake to finance the schemes, while leaving a reasonable degree of initiative and subsequent full control in the hands of the municipalities.

(4.) That the Government subsidise local bodies up to one-third of the cost of approved building schemes.

(5.) That the Government be recommended to at once set aside the sum of £1,000,000 as a subsidy to carry out the above resolution.

(6.) That the Government be earnestly requested to undertake the building of a Garden City on the lines laid down by Mr S. Hurst Seager in his paper. We are of opinion that the housing problem can be materially assisted in this way; that the prosperity of the country will be increased; and the comfort and happiness of the workers secured.

(7.) That the Government should restore the pre-war railway service as early as possible.

This report was adopted after a somewhat lively discussion in which a number of Labour members criticised the failure of the Government to do effective work on this problem in past years.

### Power Over Sub-divisions.

#### Reservation for Public Use.

A committee set up to consider the improvement of towns and cities and to consider reserves, parks, and domains, reported that its reference was so wide that it had been unable to discuss details. The Committee recommended to the Conference a resolution urging that on the passing of the Town Planning Act it should be made compulsory, when any area exceeding five acres was sub-divided, for the owner to make over to the local body 10 per cent. at least of the total saleable area to be sub-divided.

The report was adopted.

### Arts, Sciences and Crafts.

The committee appointed to consider "Town Planning as it Affects the Arts, the Sciences, and the Crafts," presented a report comprising the following recommendations:—

That the Education Department be urged to institute in the "School Journal" a series of elementary illustrated articles upon the subject of town planning; that whatever was available of the present town planning exhibition be shown in various towns of the Dominion, when applied for, and that the Government bear the cost.

The Committee affirmed the principles laid down by Mr W. H. Montgomery in discussing the erection of memorials to our soldiers.

The report was adopted.