

File 3

Adult Education

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JOHANNESBURG AS A MET CENTRE. Page 4.

What are the world trends in the development of metropolitan areas, and can we learn from the experiences of the other cities? The first form of metropolitan government in North America was started in Toronto in 1953. The City of Toronto occupied an area of 35.1 sq. miles. Nine other local authorities formed an inner ring around Toronto and occupied 23 sq. miles. Three towns occupied an outer ring of 182 sq. miles. The 13 local authorities agreed to co-operate and create a metropolitan government. The main function of metropolitan government was to control the levying of rates, the borrowing of money and the provision of major arterial roads. It was also the wholesaler in such matters as water supply, sewage disposal and similar activities. The metropolitan government was also designated to serve as the central works agency for the entire metropolitan area. At the beginning the metropolitan council experienced many difficulties, but the necessity to plan and co-ordinate the development of this large area soon became apparent. The population of the Greater Toronto Council has extended very rapidly. Now, however, after the experimental period, it has been decided to reduce the number of boroughs from 13 to 6. It was because of this unique experience regarding the establishment of a metropolitan area that the Bureau of Metropolitan Research in Toronto convened a Conference in..... which coincided with the Centennial celebrations in Canada. Forty metropolitan cities scattered throughout the world with populations of over one million people were asked to send delegates to this conference,

and Johannesburg was fortunate to be one of the cities selected.

Last year a conference was held in Stockholm organized by the International Union of Local Authorities, the subject of the conference being "Amalgamation or Co-operation".

Because of the need for co-ordinated planning the world trend is for metropolitan regions to become larger and larger. Ninety local authorities formed the London County Council covering an area of 117 sq. miles. This has now been changed. The area of the Greater London Council has now been extended to 620 sq. miles. At the same time, the number of local authorities has been reduced from 90 to 32. In Sweden in 1949 there were 2,400 communes, these were later reduced to 800 and now the 800 are being reduced to 280 by amalgamation or merger. The same sort of thing has been happening in France.

POPULATION EXPLOSION:

Between the years 350 A.D. and 1850 A.D., a period of 1500 years, the population of the world doubled. The next doubling took only 100 years, that is, from 1850 to 1950, and it is now estimated that its present rate of growth will see the world's population doubled between 1950 and 1990.

A century ago five cities in the world had populations of over one million, but today there are 100 such cities. In the year 1960, 285 million persons lived in metropolitan areas of one million, but by the year 2000 it is estimated that 1285 million people will live in enormous metropolitan areas, and where the population is from 300,000 to one million in certain areas, it will increase from 154 million to 820 million in the next forty years.

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE:

In addition to the population explosion, the great phenomenon of our era is the movement of persons from the rural areas to the cities, and the growth in the size of the cities. Let us take America as an example. In 1850 15.3% of the American population lived in urban areas, and in 1900 this figure had increased to 39.7%. 1960 showed an increase to 69.9% and in the year 2000 it is estimated that 82% will live in urban areas.

What of the local scene? The following projections are made of the South African population :

Population figures and projections - quote here.

As in America, we have a movement of people from the farms and dorps to the urban areas. Think back forty years when there was the so-called "poor white" problem. Today, where are the bywoners of the 1920's and 1930's - they came to the towns and cities and were absorbed into the industrial life.

Think of it - double the population in forty years! Do you realise that we shall have to build as much accommodation in the next forty years as we have built since Van Riebeeck landed at the Cape. Where are the people going to live? For one thing, we are going to have more and more urban sprawl, and better transport systems will have to be developed so that people can commute longer distances in reasonable times. Then I visualise large urban renewal schemes being undertaken, when the older suburbs will be redesigned with increased density, enabling large numbers of people to be housed near the city. I can foresee that in the future a far greater percentage of our population will live in high rise buildings, and individual home ownership will become increasingly difficult.

Urge more interest in local government. Fact that urban renewal schemes must be envisaged because cities getting older. Meet challenge - unless cities are prevented from choking to death the National economy will be affected.

Trend more and more people have to live in high rise buildings.

Necessity to provide for leisure time.

A recent survey of ~~the~~ recreation in America, Sweden and Britain showed the greatest increase in outdoor recreation to be in the form of caravan parks, pleasure rides, holiday houses, motor boats, picnicking and camping. A conclusion which derived from these studies was that the future development of outdoor recreation was primarily dependent upon two variables: first, the location of outdoor recreation resources in relation to the location of the potential users, mainly the urban population, and, second, the ease of access from one to the other.

Air travel to and from South Africa - figures from Airways.

South Africa as air crossroad.

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