

## HOUSING CHIEF TOPIC AT HEALTH MEET

Detroit Session Attracts Health Representatives from All Larger Cities in the United States

Detroit.—The national health conference was held in Detroit November 30 and December 1, at which representatives of health departments from all of the larger cities in the country discussed the housing situation and its effect upon the health of the people.

Officials of the local board of health conducted a health survey to determine the difference in death rate between centers of the city that are crowded and those where the number of persons in a given territory is not as great.

### Survey in Other Cities

Similar surveys have been conducted in other large cities of the country and reports were submitted at the meeting here.

The Detroit survey is a repetition of one conducted in 1919. Several cross sections of city were chosen for the survey and representative blocks in these sections inspected.

The death rate per capita is being figured upon the following factors:

The number of families in each apartment.

The number of persons in each room.

The number of persons using each lavatory.

The number of persons on each acre.

The number of roomers.

### HARD SURFACED

#### ROADS OPENED

#### THROUGH STATE

Springfield.—Many miles of hard surfaced roads in Illinois soon will be in readiness for public use.

The Lincoln highway from Chicago to Clinton, Ia., will be opened within 30 days, the state division of highways announced this week. Thirteen miles of this stretch will be of gravel or macadam while the remainder is of brick, bituminous macadam and concrete construction. Concrete and bituminous will replace the gravel or macadam next year.

During the winter there will be no detour between Chicago and Clinton, except at the Desplaines river in Cook county, where a bridge is being constructed, and between Geneva and Elgin, which is over an excellent gravel road.

A total of 51 miles of this highway has been completed since January 1. The parts uncompleted are: Seven miles between Geneva and Elburn, now paved with gravel; 2½ miles east of Dixon, now paved with macadam; 2 miles west of Sterling, now paved with gravel; 1½ miles east of Felton, paved with macadam.

Some time in December the division of highways plans to throw open the completed portion of the Chicago-St. Louis road from Chatham, south of Springfield, to a point north of Chillicothe. This portion of the road is now complete with the exception of three gaps, two of 1,200 and 600 feet respectively, near Green valley, and one of about 1,100 feet near Pekin. Work on these sections will be completed shortly, making a continuous road over 100 miles in length.

One hundred and seven miles has been completed on this highway since January 1. The section from Chicago to Joliet will be opened within a few days.

Altogether, over 500 miles of hard road has been built this year. In addition to 107 miles of the Chicago-St. Louis road and 51 miles of the Lin-

coln highway, there has been completed 444 miles of the Dixie highway, 64 miles of the National Old Trails, six miles of the Chicago-Waukegan road and 38 miles of the state-aid highway.

There are uncompleted contracts on this system at the present time comprising 178 miles, distributed as follows: Lincoln highway, 12 miles; Dixie highway, 22 miles; National Old Trails, 53 miles; Chicago-St. Louis, 77 miles; Chicago-Waukegan, 14 miles. Some of the contractors are still working and with reasonably dry weather this uncompleted mileage will be considerably reduced.

Inability of contractors to secure material has retarded construction to a great extent. Embargoes of cars has made it impossible to secure material rapidly enough to complete the contracts on hand and the extension of the work was out of the question, as material could not have been obtained in larger quantities, regardless of the price.

### U. S. IS RELYING ON

#### CANADA FOR 20 PER CENT OF LUMBER SUPPLY

Forest requirements of the paper industry of the United States amounts to some six million cords annually, of which amount four million cords are utilized by processes other than ground-wood pulp, writes Ovid M. Butler, assistant director of the association of wood-using industries in the American Forestry Magazine of Washington. We are leaning on Canada for 20 per cent of this supply. The best utilization that has thus far been accomplished under chemical processes is 45 per cent of the wood substance. Thus for every cord of wood pulped by these processes some 55 per cent of the original weight of the wood is lost. In terms of our annual consumption of pulpwood this amounts to over a million cords. It is the usual practice for pulp mills to store their wood over considerable periods and recent investigations indicate that improper methods of storing result in an actual wood loss of 10 or 15 per cent in the weight of the wood. This means an annual loss to the industry and to the nation of 575,000 tons of pulpwood with a valuation of over \$11,000,000. But the waste of pulpwood does not end here. The raw wood is converted into groundwood pulp, and much of it must necessarily be ground during the periods of high water then held in storage. Infection with consequent decay is apt to occur causing a large annual loss estimated by the industry of \$5,000,000 annually.

### HOUSING HOLDS BIG PLACE IN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE SESSIONS

Indianapolis, Ind.—Discussion of housing problems held a prominent place on the program of the twenty-sixth annual meeting of the National Municipal league, which was held here last week. Experts on government aid to housing spoke at the session.

The sessions were held jointly with the government research conference, the National Association of Civic secretaries, the Indiana Municipal league and the Indiana Association of the Commercial secretaries.

Charles Evans Hughes, president of the National Municipal league presided at an informal dinner this evening and delivered an address on the "Fate of the Direct Primary". Charles E. Merriam of Chicago university also discussed the direct primary law.

The timber of the sweet chestnut tree is extensively used in America for inside finishing.

## CAMP ROOSEVELT VETS COMPETE FOR PRIZES

Prominent Public Spirited Men and Organizations Deeply Interested in Military Camp Work.

Camp Roosevelt veterans are busily engaged in competing for prizes offered by prominent public spirited men and organizations. The men who are offering the prizes are interested in seeing what the reaction of the time spent in Camp Roosevelt is. They want to learn the things which the boys like most at camp. The great desire is to have every boy enjoy himself as much as possible during the time that he is at camp, and these organizations and men are taking this way of ascertaining the most popular activities. Each boy is to write a letter telling of the activity which he was most interested in while in camp. The activities include the following: High school, R. O. T. C., athletics, Y. M. C. A., Red Cross, swimming, first aid, W. J. R. C., rifle range, Camp Roosevelt news, photography and ground aviation.

One of the ideals underlying the present plan is to give each boy an opportunity, not only to win a prize, but it is thought to be a splendid means of securing a Christmas gift.

The contest closes on December 5, and the awards will be announced shortly thereafter.

There are some 5,000 Camp Roosevelt veterans in different parts of the United States. They are boys who have attended Camp Roosevelt, either in the summer of 1919 or 1920. This camp is the greatest boys' training camp and playground in the country, and it is located near Muskegon, Mich. It is conducted under the auspices of the Chicago Board of Education. Captain F. L. Beals, who is supervisor of physical education, as well as commandant of the reserve officers training corps unit in the Chicago high schools, is the commandant of the camp.

## MUCH WOOD USED IN SPORT APPLIANCES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

About twenty-five million feet of wood of thirty-two kinds are consumed yearly in this country by manufacturers of appliances and apparatus for games and sports, says the American Forestry Magazine of Washington. Several industries require much more wood than this one, and produce articles which, in the aggregate, sell for more money, but no one of all of them, with the possible exception of toys, affords as much enjoyment. In one direction this industry surpasses toys as a producer of happiness; for toys concern children almost exclusively, while this concerns old, young, and middle-aged in the same way. Games are for the elderly as well as for the youthful.

## GERMANY ENCOURAGING EMMIGRATION TO MEXICO

Mexico City, Mexico.—Germany is said to be encouraging emmigration to Mexico, but in a very quiet way. Great numbers of German immigrants are entering Mexico to engage in farming.

A German colony is being formed in Chiapas. It is suspected that Germany hopes to build up great colo-

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