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PLANNING THE LAND FOR THE FUTURE¹

By Professor L. DUDLEY STAMP

DIRECTOR OF THE LAND UTILIZATION SURVEY OF BRITAIN

SOME apology is needed for my appearance on this platform to-night in the presence of those much more directly concerned with the subject-matter of my address, for I am in this country as a student and not as a lecturer. There are so many aspects of land planning which have been so successfully considered here—I may refer, for example, to the magnificent series of national and state parks—and the subject in relation to the economic difficulties of the present time is one so much to the fore in America that it is only natural for a European to come here to attempt to observe and learn. As director of the Land Utilization Survey of Britain—a survey that aims at making a record of the present use of every single acre of England, Wales and Scotland as a basis for comparison with the past and of planning for the future—I

have been close to the problems of land planning in Britain for the past three years and seized with avidity the invitation extended by Dr. Isaiah Bowman, chairman of the National Research Council, to spend a year in America in order to get an international view-point on the problems of land planning before preparing any report on the British Survey. My observations will thus be influenced by a comparison of conditions in Europe, especially Britain, with what I have seen in the course of the past year in 47 out of the 48 states of the Union as well as in Canada, the West Indies and in ten of the countries of South America. But I offer these observations in a spirit of inquiry and not as fixed precepts.

THE APPROACH TO PLANNING

The land is the heritage of all. It does not matter whether or not we own a tract of the earth's surface, whether or not we are directly concerned with the

¹ The Hector Maiben Lecture of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, delivered at Berkeley, California, June, 1934.

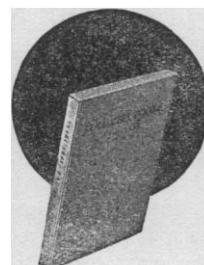
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