

## STORIES of New Jersey

workroom for garden and carpenter tools. A plot of ground no smaller than 100 x 300 feet surrounds each house, enough space to allow each occupant to grow whatever flowers or vegetables he desires. The homes will be paid for over a period not exceeding 30 years at a cost of \$18 to \$24 a month. A space of about 500 feet between the backs of the houses will be ploughed, sown and cultivated by community-owned machinery. The families have decided on 17 vegetables which they all want. These will be grown and cared for by the community, but the produce will belong exclusively to the family on whose land it is raised.

The cooperative farm of about 500 acres gives work to 6 members. It has been so successful that wages of \$25 a week have been paid the year round and a considerable amount returned to the credit of the whole colony. The produce has either been sold to other members or disposed of through a farmers' cooperative auction market in Hightstown. There has been considerable praise of the quality of the vegetables, particularly the Irish potatoes, which in 1936 were judged second best of all raised in Monmouth, Mercer or Middlesex Counties. The first year's crops showed a profit of \$17,000 after repaying a Government loan of \$26,000. During the planting and harvesting seasons the women help in the fields. When work is slack in the factory the coat makers and milliners join the farm workers.

A cooperative poultry project has been started with 3,000 chickens. This gives work to two members of the colony. The colony has also acquired a dairy which is run cooperatively like all the other community projects.

A consumer cooperative store owned by all the members as consumers is run on the same principles which govern other such ventures the world over. The savings were eight cents on the dollar after the first four months of business.

The two utilities which serve the community cooperatively and which eventually will be owned by them--water supply and sewage disposal--are models for their size and have attracted the attention of engineers from all over the country.

A fine school building has been completed. A nursery school is conducted in one of the old farmhouses that stood on the property. The school will not only teach the usual subjects but will be a training center for future workers in the colony. A farmhouse also serves as a community center. Movies and dances are held on Saturday evenings in the factory. Building expansion will continue for several years.

At first the surrounding Monmouth County residents looked askance at this community of pioneers. But little by little they are coming to accept them. Neighboring farmers have been impressed with the methods of the city-bred newcomers; and the Hightstown people are coming out to buy clothes from the factory.

Jersey Homesteads, now incorporated as a borough with its own mayor and council, welcomes visitors interested in studying this new adventure in social and industrial planning.