Typical development in the northern suburbs

Some of Toorak's fine houses showing spacious grounds and attractive gardens

MELBOURNE'S RESIDENTIAL SUBURBS

New development in the western suburbs

A pleasant eastern suburb

An old inner suburb

A popular southern bayside suburb within eight miles of the city centre
in the more settled intermediate suburbs to the east and south-east such as Malvern, Caulfield, Box Hill, Hawthorn, Kew, Moorabbin and Oakleigh. The remainder were fairly well distributed. Many who wanted to be near better shopping facilities were located in some of the outer northern and eastern suburbs, where shopping facilities are not well distributed.

In general, it would seem from this survey that the majority of all people wanting to move, and especially those in the older inner suburbs, desire to do so primarily because they want a better home in more spacious and attractive surroundings. A high proportion want to own their own homes. A somewhat small proportion of people in the inner suburbs but a higher proportion in the intermediate and outer suburbs want to move mainly because they want a more convenient location such as proximity to work, the beach, friends or shopping facilities. It would also seem that there is a natural resistance growing to residence in the more distant outer suburbs, chiefly because of distance and inconvenience which, when related to the prime objection to the inner suburbs—poor housing conditions—suggests that there will be increasing pressure to redevelop the older inner suburbs to make them more attractive for living purposes.

**DENSITY**

The closeness with which people live together is referred to as “population density” and is expressed either as the number of houses to an acre or the number of persons to an acre. The latter expression will be used in this report.

Density figures naturally vary according to how the area to which they relate is defined. There is an unfortunate lack of uniformity and some inconsistency in the various terms used for expressing density in relation to defined areas. The various definitions used in this report in this context are set out in Appendix I.

The variations in the density of residential development throughout the metropolitan area are shown in map 23 which is based on the average residential density for each of the census districts used for the 1947 census. The map clearly shows the low overall density pattern, the diminution in density with distance from the centre and the generally higher density in the west and north compared with the east and south. Within the old inner suburbs of Melbourne, the residential densities generally range from 30 to 80 persons to the acre, with most of the area averaging about 50 persons per acre. In the outer suburbs, under conditions of full