

# THE OCTAGON

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CONVENTION NOTICES

# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

## THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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# THE OCTAGON

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## The Sixty-Second Convention—Final Notice

PROGRAM—PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS—HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Washington, D. C., April 23, 24 and 25—New York City, April 26

Heretofore, this final notice concerning Convention matters has been sent to every member in a special circular. In accord with the policy of the Board of Directors the notice now appears in THE OCTAGON, the new monthly publication of the Institute, which will serve as the official means of communication between the Institute and its members.

In the December, 1928, number of THE JOURNAL there appeared the Secretary's letter concerning the preliminary plans for the Convention. He suggested that Chapter meetings be held to discuss Convention matters, and he gave notice of the procedure to be followed in making nominations of Officers and Directors.

In the January number of THE OCTAGON there appeared more definite information concerning the program of the Convention, and the award of the Gold Medal to Milton B. Medary. It was again suggested that the Chapters hold pre-Convention meetings, preferably in April, by which time many of the Committee reports should be in their hands.

Both of these notices called attention to the fourth day of the Convention—April 26—the sessions of which will be held in New York, under the joint auspices of the Architectural League and the Institute. The occasion will be known as "American Institute Day." There will be a viewing of the Architectural and Allied Arts Exposition in the Grand Central Palace, a dinner at the Hotel Roosevelt, and a dance at the Architectural League Clubhouse. Every delegate and member attending the Convention in Washington should plan now to go to New York for "American In-

stitute Day." For more complete information see the relevant section herein.

In this, the final notice to the membership, various matters must be called formally to the attention of each member. To meet with this requirement they are summarized, under descriptive headings, in the following text.

### ELECTION OF DELEGATES

Delegates should be elected by their Chapters. Presidents and Secretaries of Chapters have received complete information concerning the number of delegates to which each Chapter is entitled, the issuing of credentials, the equalization of delegates' expenses, and similar matters. All of these details were set out in the general letter of the Secretary, dated March 23, 1929, which was sent to the President, to the Secretary, and to the Treasurer of each Chapter of the Institute.

### CHARACTER OF THE CONVENTION

The general theme of the Convention will be "The Development of the National Capital." Prominence will be given to the report of the Committee on Public Works, Milton B. Medary, Chairman; and to the report of the Committee on the National Capital, Horace W. Peaslee, Chairman.

On Tuesday evening, April 23, the Gold Medal of the Institute will be awarded to Milton B. Medary, with appropriate ceremony, at the Corcoran Art Gallery. Every member of the Institute will receive an invitation. Following the presentation of the Medal there will be an opening of a general Exhibition of models and drawings, visu-

alizing the development of the L'Enfant plan for Washington. This Exhibition will remain open to the public for two weeks following the Convention.

On Thursday evening, April 25, members and delegates attending the Convention will be invited by the Secretary of the Treasury, Hon. Andrew W. Mellon, to a special Exhibition, which Secretary Mellon will hold for the purpose of showing to Official Washington the plans of the Treasury Department for the Executive group of buildings in the Triangle area, that much-considered space between the Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue and the Treasury and the Capitol.

Both of these occasions will be of great significance to architecture and to the architectural profession. They will be formal in character, and in themselves assure that the Sixty-second Convention will be a notable one.

#### THE GENERAL PROGRAM

The program of the Convention will, of course, provide time for consideration of the major activities of the Institute, which will be reported upon in definite and concise manner by the Board of Directors, in their annual report.

The program will include the presentation of the Fine Arts Medal to Senor Diego Rivera, of Mexico City; the presentation of the Craftsmanship Medal to the Cheney Brothers, of South Manchester, Connecticut; a discussion of "The Problems of Modern Cities and Communities," led by E. J. Russell of St. Louis; a discussion of "The Architect in the Small Community"; an evening session, on April 24, devoted to the report of the Committee on Education, which will be marked by an address by Dr. Frederick P. Keppel, President of the Carnegie Corporation; a special luncheon, and address by a representative of The Producers' Council; and a discussion of "Long-Range Planning of Public Works," under the leadership of William Stanley Parker.

The reports of the Standing and Special Committees of the Institute will come before the Convention in order, and through the Report of the Board of Directors. As these reports are reached, in the reading of the Board's Report, there will be full opportunity for discussion from the floor.

#### CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Delegates are requested to register promptly on arrival in Washington—at the Mayflower Hotel. The first session of the Convention will be called to order at ten o'clock on Tuesday morning, April 23. This session will be one of the most important of the Convention. It will include the President's Address, and the reports of the Committees on Public Works, and on the National Capital. All

in attendance should be seated at the hour designated, after having registered.

For the convenience of the delegates, the Committee on Credentials will be in session in the Mayflower Hotel on the afternoon and evening of Monday, April 22, from 1:00 to 11:00 P. M. Those arriving on the 22nd should not fail to register at once—thus avoiding delay at the opening session.

On the morning of Tuesday, April 23, the Committee will again be available, beginning at 8:30 A. M. The Credentials Committee will be located in the main lounge of the Hotel, first floor, adjacent to the Auditorium.

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Under the provisions of Article XVII of the By-laws, the Board of Directors proposes the following amendments to the By-laws of the Institute. The amendments relating to Article VIII are also approved by the Committee on Constitution and By-laws, and endorsed by ten members of the Institute. In order to present the amendments in the best form they are incorporated in a notice approved by Counsel, which follows:

##### *Determination of Delegates—Voting of Proxies:* *Article VIII, Section 1:*

In accordance with the provisions of Article XVII of the By-laws of the American Institute of Architects, notice is hereby given that an amendment to Section 1 of Article VIII of the By-laws has been regularly proposed in accordance with the provisions of Article XVII of said By-laws, has been received by the Secretary at least forty (40) days before the amendment has to be voted on, and has been approved by Counsel of the Institute, and by vote of the Executive Committee in regularly called meeting of March 8, 1929, and its adoption by the Sixty-second Convention of the Institute on April 23, 1929, will be urged by the Board of Directors by the following resolution wherein is set out the proposed amendment:

*Whereas*, Counsel has ruled that the provisions of Section 1 of Article VIII of the By-laws of The American Institute of Architects as amended May 17, 1928, are contrary to the laws of the State of New York whereunder The American Institute of Architects is incorporated with respect to the issuing, transferring and voting of proxies, and that it is necessary to amend said Section of Article VIII in order to make the provisions thereof relating to proxies in accord with said laws, and

*Whereas*, Any proxies executed prior to the first day of the Sixty-second Convention, either in accordance with the By-laws unamended, or in accordance with the amendment proposed herein, if adopted, should be accepted by the Sixty-second Convention, and

*Whereas*, An amendment to the By-laws curing the fault has been regularly proposed in accordance with the provisions of Article XVII of the By-laws and has been approved and will be urged for adoption on the first day of the Sixty-second Convention by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, and the Secretary has sent out a notice of the proposed amendment to each member and a copy



of the proposed amendment to all members at least thirty (30) days before the amendment is to be voted on, and all provisions of said Article XVII required to be performed prior to the adoption of the amendment have been complied with. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That Section 1 of Article VIII of the By-laws of The American Institute of Architects be and hereby is amended by striking out all of the third and fourth paragraphs of said section and substituting in lieu thereof three new paragraphs reading:

"Each Chapter shall be entitled to send two delegates, plus one for every twenty Institute Members of the Chapter in good standing, plus one for a remaining major fraction of fifteen or more Institute Members in good standing. Thus, a Chapter containing fourteen Members may send two delegates; if containing fifteen Members, it may send three; if containing thirty-five Members, it may send four, etc. The delegates of each Chapter shall be duly accredited by the Secretary of their Chapter, and any duly elected or appointed delegate so accredited may, by duly executed written proxy, properly witnessed, transfer his powers, rights and privileges as a delegate to any other similarly elected or appointed, and accredited delegate.

"The Convention shall decide all questions relative to the right of delegates to sit in the Convention.

"Delegates must be Members of the Institute in good standing."

And, be it further

*Resolved*, That this amendment shall become effective immediately after the adoption thereof; provided, however, that all proxies properly and duly executed prior to the adoption of this amendment in accordance either with the By-laws unamended, or in accordance with the terms of this amendment will be valid for voting on any matter at the Sixty-second Convention.

This amendment is made necessary because of the decision of Counsel that the provisions of the present Section 1 of Article VIII regarding proxies are contrary to the laws of the State of New York whereunder the Institute is incorporated. The restrictions placed on the use of proxies in the present By-laws can not be legally imposed.

To make the amendment effective for the Sixty-second Convention, the amendment will be offered on the opening day of the Convention and in the opinion of Counsel, if adopted on that day, no question can arise about Chapters conforming to the proposed amendment or being disenfranchised.

This change in the By-laws will permit any Chapter to be represented at a meeting of the Institute by the full vote to which it is entitled, whether or not any or all of its delegates are present at the meeting, providing that those of its duly elected or appointed delegates who are unable to be present at the Convention will execute their proxies in accordance with the provisions of the amendment and transfer their proxies to any duly accredited delegate of any Chapter who is present at the meeting.

Any delegate at any time during the meeting may transfer his rights and powers as a delegate in a similar manner, but it should be noted that delegates holding proxies from other delegates have no power of substitution under such proxies.

A delegate present at the Convention may vote any

number of such legal proxies properly transferred to him.

A Chapter may always instruct its delegates, with respect to any question before a meeting of the Institute, and, therefore, any proxies issued by a Chapter so instructing shall be limited by the terms of the Chapter so instructing and may be used and voted by the delegate holding the proxies only in accordance with the terms of such instructions.

#### *Change of Regional Districts to "Regional Divisions": Article XII, Section 1:*

Amend this section by changing throughout the word "District" to "Division."

The purpose is to bring about the designation of the sub-divisions of Institute territory as "Regional Divisions." The Board of Directors recommends this change, which is one of terminology, in order that in the future the various Regional Districts may be called Regional Divisions.

#### *Elimination of The Journal from the By-laws.*

In view of the action of the Board of Directors, at the December, 1928, meeting, in temporarily discontinuing the publication of THE JOURNAL, the Board recommends that references to THE JOURNAL be deleted from the By-laws, wherever they may occur, and also as follows:

Article VI, Section 3: Omit the words reading "less the annual subscription of \$2.50 per Life Member to THE JOURNAL."

Article VI, Section 6: Omit the words reading "after deducting THE JOURNAL subscriptions."

Article III, Section 3: Omit the first paragraph of Section 3 and substitute therefor a section reading: "Juniors shall receive such documents of the Institute as the Board may direct."

#### NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Offices and Directorships to become vacant at the time of the Sixty-second Convention are those of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer; and of Director in each of the following districts: the Middle Atlantic, the Great Lakes, and the Western Mountain.

An official notice concerning nominations and the procedure for making them appeared in the December number of THE JOURNAL, page 474, and is not repeated here.

All nominations received at The Octagon to the close of March 22, are listed in the section which follows.

*For President and Director*—C. Herrick Hammond, Chicago, Ill.

By members of the Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Philadelphia, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, and Southern California Chapters.

*For First Vice-President and Director*—J. Monroe Hewlett, New York, N. Y.

By members of the Philadelphia and Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapters.

*For Second Vice-President and Director*—William J. Sayward, Atlanta, Ga.

By members of the Philadelphia and Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapters.

*For Second Vice-President and Director*—Dalton J. V. Snyder, Detroit, Mich.

By members of the Cincinnati, Dayton, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Kentucky Chapters.

*For Secretary and Director*—Frank C. Baldwin, Washington, D. C.

By members of the Cincinnati, Detroit, Philadelphia, and Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapters.

*For Treasurer and Director*—Edwin Bergstrom, Los Angeles, Calif.

By members of the Philadelphia, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, and Southern California Chapters.

*For Regional Director, Great Lakes District*—J. C. Bollenbacher, Chicago, Ill.

By members of the Chicago and Wisconsin Chapters.

*For Regional Director, Great Lakes District*—Frederick W. Garber, Cincinnati, Ohio.

By members of the Boston, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Detroit, Georgia, Grand Rapids, Indiana, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, Northern California, Oregon, and Philadelphia Chapters.

*For Regional Director, Middle Atlantic District*—Edward H. Davis, Scranton, Pa.

By members of the Philadelphia and Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapters.

*For Regional Director, Middle Atlantic District*—Victor Mindeff, Washington, D. C.

By members of the Washington, D. C., New Jersey, and Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapters.

*For Regional Director, Middle Atlantic District*—Arnold H. Moses, Camden, N. J.

By members of the New Jersey and New York Chapters.

*For Regional Director, Western Mountain District*—Fred Fielding Willson, Bozeman, Mont.

By members of the Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Washington State Chapters.

#### HOTEL RESERVATIONS, WASHINGTON-NEW YORK

*In Washington*—The Mayflower Hotel, Connecticut Avenue and De Sales Street, Northwest, has been selected as hotel headquarters for all attending the Convention. The Hotel can be reached conveniently from the Union Station by taxicab, or by taking a street car marked "Mt. Pleasant" or "Georgetown."

By special arrangement with the management of the Mayflower Hotel, all Institute Delegates, Members and Guests will be assured of accommodations if their reservations are made direct to the Mayflower Hotel *not later than April 15*. Reservations requested after April 15 may not be available.

Washington, during the month of April, is crowded. The Mayflower Hotel has agreed to assure accommodations for all of those attending the Convention of the Institute on the following conditions:

Single rooms, with bath, for one person, 30 rooms available at \$5.00 each.

Single rooms, with bath, for one person, 50 rooms available at \$6.00 each.

Single rooms, with bath, for one person, 45 rooms available at \$7.00 each.

Double rooms, with twin beds and bath, any number available, \$10.00 to \$12.00 a day.

Allocation of rooms according to the schedule above shown will be made as fast as reservations are received, and after setting aside a proportionate number of rooms of each class for Delegates from the Pacific Coast and other western states.

*In New York*—The Architectural League will take care of the reservations of those who desire to stop at the Hotel Roosevelt, at which place the dinner will be held on the evening of April 26. Reservations for rooms at the Roosevelt should be addressed to Miss Constance C. Smith, c/o The Architectural League, at 115 East Fortieth Street, New York City, and must reach her *not later than April 23*. The rates at the Roosevelt are—for single rooms, with bath, \$6.00, \$7.00 and \$8.00 a day; for double rooms, with double beds, \$8.00, \$9.00, and \$10.00 a day; for double rooms, with twin beds, \$10.00, \$12.00, and \$14.00 a day.

With respect to both the Mayflower and the Roosevelt Hotels, your reservation should specifically state that it is on account of the Convention of The American Institute of Architects, should specify the type and price of room desired, and the approximate time of arrival. A confirmation should be requested. Special attention is called in both cases to the time limits for making reservations.

#### REDUCED RAILROAD FARES NOT FEASIBLE

The Secretary's Office has made every effort to arrange for reduced railroad fares, on the new basis of 150 certificates, and regrets to find that the holding of the Convention in two cities as widely separated as Washington and New York, makes it impossible to put the certificate plan into effect this year. The reduced number of certificates now required—150—in place of the old re-

quirement of 250, will undoubtedly permit reductions in the future.

#### YOUR ATTENDANCE AS AN INSTITUTE MEMBER

Conventions of the Institute are not limited to delegates and alternates. Every member of the Institute is cordially invited and urged to attend the Sixty-second Convention. He will have all of the privileges of a delegate except voting, including all the rights of discussion on the floor. The Institute is one of the great professional societies in the United States—although its membership is small and widely scattered. Its good standing in our national life, and its achievements in its chosen field since 1857 are the fruits of the democratic principles of government which have been honored and observed by this Institute since its organization

—seventy-two years ago. The Convention is the highest power in the Institute. In exercising that power it must represent the will of the membership as a whole. Every Chapter should send its full quota of delegates, and they should come prepared to take a full part in the deliberations and decisions of the Sixty-second Convention.

In conclusion, every member should note that this is the final circular of information pertaining to the Convention.

The final program, with complete information, will be available to each delegate as he registers, and will be included in the Proceedings for the information of those who do not attend.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,  
Secretary.

## The Manly Art of Architecture

By LOUIS LA BEAUME

OF all the arts with which the Anglo-Saxon world concerns itself, the art of Pugilism alone is known as the manly art. It is high time that something should be done about it. There are many arts, as everyone who will give the matter a little thought must realize, that call for more downright physical stamina, more brute endurance, as high a quality of head-work, manual dexterity, and seriousness of purpose. It is a very pretty sight, of course, to watch two fast boys pummel each other; and such exhibitions of virility quite naturally win our plaudits. These clever artists call upon us to witness their struggle, and having witnessed we are impressed. They seem in deadly earnest as they stand before us stripped of all the impedimenta of civilization. They are trained in the technique of what we are pleased to call a practical art.

Usually the two words, "practical," and "artistic," are not found in such close juxtaposition. They are supposed to mean quite different things. The man who prides himself on being practical is often a little skittish at sight of the word artistic; and the man who thinks himself artistic as frequently winces, alas, at the mere sound of the word practical. This sensitiveness in either case is deplorable, and is the base result of our incorrigible desire to ticket and label the manifestations of the human intelligence. There are differing degrees of intelligence, as there are different intellectual preoccupations. We denominate a gesture, or an action, practical when we feel that it is prompted by reason, and the definition serves us well enough as far as it goes. Did we not pull it up short and confine it to the prosaic affairs of material existence all would be well. But, there is an extension of

reason which opens up new vistas of possible or ideal activity; and, in order to differentiate it from humdrum everyday reason, we call it imagination. It remains reason none the less, and is inexorable in the straight course it pursues from cause to effect. We speak of the fruits of the imagination as Art; as we refer to Poetry, Music, Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture as works of the Imagination. From the beginning we may suppose that men have regarded the doer as the practical fellow, and the deviser as the dreamer. It is an obvious, though perhaps shallow, differentiation that satisfied the *amour propre* of both. But who is bold enough to say upon reflection that he who shaped the flint, and fashioned the bow, was one whit less practical than he who sped the arrow? Artists they both were, each in his metier—the one, in his cunning, stalking the visible quarry; the other visualizing it in his mind's eye, and slaying it with a shaft sprung from his brain.

So-called men of action are prone to regard themselves as the lusty fellows who do the real work of the world, sweating under the heat of the noonday sun, freezing in the icy waters off the Banks of Newfoundland, and bringing back the carnivora, or the cod, to the stay-at-homes who sent them after it. They can hardly fail to magnify the importance of their own adventures as they contemplate their catch of fish, their stack of blue chips, the mountains of metals, or produce, which their tired arms have piled up. Quite naturally perhaps they look upon the painter, the poet, the sculptor and the architect as indolent fellows, who play idly with illusions and avoid the stern facts of life which test the mettle of the he-man.



These hewers of wood and drawers of water have achieved, along with the development of their muscles, and their appetite for red meat, a superiority complex that tends to make them look askance at thinkers, and lump them all together as frail sedentary creatures, pale, anemic, wistful, decorative, perhaps, but not fundamentally useful. Florid John Bull, sportsman, and shop keeper, and wiry Uncle Sam, pioneer, frontiersman, and shrewd trader, have attached their own values to the meaning of the word practical. Art to them has meant something soft and pretty, but unrelated to their daily routine; something to be played with in their leisure moments, not quite the real thing.

And the artist himself has sometimes drooped into a tacit acceptance of their verdict, assuming the romantic posture of the troubador, the entertainer, the master of pageants and masques, the graceful decorator. He has flattered his own self love by asserting a kind of spiritual arrogance to be registered by a sigh, or by the arching of an eyebrow—like Gilbert's pallid aesthete who walked down Piccadilly with an orchid or a lily in his mediaeval hand. This delicate behavior, while undoubtedly appealing to the tender sensibilities of the squaws, has had the effect of confirming the big chiefs in their convictions, and further widened the breach of misunderstanding. As the ladies have flocked to the contemplation and the study of art, the men have shied off and amused themselves with rougher games.

The art of Architecture hasn't suffered so much from this effeminization as some of the other arts, for the reason that Architecture has a rather nasty business side, which cannot fail to win a kind of respect. There is digging connected with it, and plumbing, and bricklaying, and a vast lot of tiresome mechanical detail, as well as the stewardship of considerable sums of money. Labor, sweaty labor, is involved in it somewhere and architects have actually been seen at work and at worry. The universities have dignified its study in a way they have not quite dignified the study of the other arts. Men of affairs are obliged to consider it as a necessity, not as a luxury, and men of affairs practice it.

Yet it is still a prey to the dangers of sentimentality. It is exposed to the poisonous infection of silly magazine articles, written by romantic creatures to whom art means affectation, to whom architecture means stage scenery, to whom imitation and reality are of equal importance; if indeed they do not prefer imitation. It is a prey to the confusion of a pretty sketch with the veracity of a solid structure, to the failure to realize that the ardors of the imagination are like the labors of Hercules; that the dreams that come from eating hashish are quite another matter. It is a prey to

the false conception that there is no intimate relation between beauty and utility, and to that other false conception that there is some abstract ideal of beauty which only the angels, a few upholsterers, and the true aesthetes understand.

It struggles against the notion that it is an art of modes and fashions; and its normal development is thwarted by the effort to make it minister to the suppressed Romanticism of the American people. It suffers from the general failure to realize that every line that is shown on paper means something vital; that every stone or every brick, every shadow and every wall must tell as effectively as the marksman's bullet, as the boxer's blow. In short it suffers from the ridiculous superstition that Art is not a matter of hard common sense.

As a matter of fact Art is a Trade like any other, and in all the great periods when Art meant something needful to life, the artist was as virile as the man at arms, and often far less docile. Steadfast in his devotion to high standards of craftsmanship, no labor was too vast, no patience too infinite to achieve his ideal. Bold in his conceptions, firm in his convictions, he went about his work with gusto giving blow for blow in defence of the integrity of his beliefs. The good artist was an honest workman forcing his hand to obey the impulse of his brain, in order that his vision might be bodied forth in terms of reality. Perforce he must be practical in the choice of his marble, his metal or his pigment; and perforce he must be true in the hewing to the line, in the blending of his colors. Indecision, vacillation, weakness, were faults of character which he could ill afford to indulge. Eccentricity, it must be admitted, has sometimes been confounded with individuality, and mannerisms mistaken for mastery; but temperamental spasms are the manifestations of the pseudo artist, the dilettante, and the hanger-on, which deceive only the unsophisticated.

Arty persons and posturing weaklings have imposed on the tender-minded and credulous, as confidence men flourish in every by-way of business. A weird jargon has been invented to bewilder and mystify the naive, and what ought to be an honest work shop is made to appear glamorous under the term "studio."

But your true artist is generally a robust fellow who stokes up as other men do, who feels the need of vitamins, and air, and exercise. For if he practices the art of architecture he has need of every ounce of physical and mental muscle he can muster to grapple with the problems forced upon him. He sketches in the outline of his opus with great sweeps of steel; or blocks it out in great masses of masonry. He not only senses the anatomy of his structure, as a surgeon knows the anatomy of his subject, but he creates it. He invents verte-

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brae and joints, ribs and tendons. He arranges for heart, and lungs, and sinuous arteries, and ducts, and glands. Bony structure, veins, and flesh, and finally skin itself he must manage somehow; and color he must wield by the ton, blocks of it, bricks of it, slabs of it from quarry, or kiln, or mine, or forest.

This is no dilettante's pastime. First, the organization of the elements into plan and physiognomy, facades and silhouettes. Next, the nice choice of the material ingredients, concrete, steel, wood, stone, glass, marble, metals. The architect's palette is Gargantuan. All this must be done, not with nature's profligacy, but, with nature's economy; which is perhaps synonymous with Art. Then the marshalling of an army to erect and make fast, to join and fit, to hew and carve, to paint and gild. The army must move with discipline, but the discipline must be like that of an orchestra, fluent, plastic, suave and ductile. And, when all is set in order, every stone, every pin, every dowel must be accounted for to the master's master, and the master's master's mistress—which is a pretty little task in itself.

Is it any wonder that the Architect takes himself seriously as he contemplates the scope and variety of his functions? He practices the most enduring of the arts, an art which embraces many arts, and the art above all others which touches most nearly his fellow men. He fashions their homes, their hives, their temples. His handiwork can not be evaded. It is seen of all men, subject to the moods of all women, exposed to wind and weather. Like Iago, the Architect wears his heart upon his sleeve for daws to peck at. Architecture is the most ubiquitous of all the arts; practically the most needful as it should be aesthetically the most satisfying. It touches all kinds and conditions of men, affecting their comfort, their efficiency, their happiness. As in the past, kings and princes have prized it, and the common people have been sheltered and inspired by it, so today, and especially in America, it is the Art most near to life. And thus it must be true to life, compounded of the very substance and spirit of man's best hope. Architecture is an art of high adventure. Architecture is indeed a manly art.

## Apropos of Mr. Parker's Plea

By W. R. B. WILLCOX

THERE should be hearty agreement with the idea expressed by Mr. Parker, in comments in the February OCTAGON upon that provocative book, *The Road to Plenty*, that "it is highly desirable for members of the Institute to give thoughtful consideration to the question of stabilization of business," even though there be some who will be skeptical of the method proposed for securing it, namely, "by long range planning of public works." This method, the thesis of the book, so entirely omits seemingly essential factors in the economic situation, that it makes one wonder if Mr. Parker may not too hastily have reached the conclusion, valid or not, that it "exposes the fallacy of the old economic theory that money paid out in production furnishes the wherewithal to purchase the product."

The totality of Wealth would seem to be the only source from which "money is paid out in production," or from which "other consumer income" may be obtained. The question, therefore, concerns the Distribution of Wealth. Capital is only a portion of Wealth—that portion, and only that portion, devoted to the production of more Wealth. Its return is Interest. But Capital alone can produce nothing. It is simply the tool of Labor. All the Capital in the world could not, alone, create a dollar's worth of Wealth. Capital is the passive

element in Wealth production; Labor, the active participant. The return to Labor is Wages.

Labor, or Labor and Capital combined, have produced all the Wealth there is, or ever was, but they cannot produce it out of thin air. There must be something for them to work on, to extract, combine, transport—to "produce" where Man can make use of it. The only thing Labor and Capital can work on, extract, combine, transport, is the natural resources of the earth, its contents, surface, or its natural superficies such as Minerals, oil, water courses, soil, building sites and timber, or, in economic nomenclature, Land. These are not Man's handiwork, nor was Capital employed in their production.

Certainly, the price paid for access to, and use of, Land, must be included in the cost of production, the "money paid out in production." In economic science, the part of Wealth paid for access to, or use of, Land is Rent. Our colloquialism "rent of a building" is properly Interest on that portion of Wealth (product of Labor and Capital) put into the structure itself, *plus Rent*. It would seem necessary, therefore, since Wages go to Labor and Interest to Capital, to determine what portion of Wealth goes, or should go, to the privilege of occupying or using Land, before closing the lists to "money paid out in production, which furnishes

the wherewithal to purchase the product." These definitions will, it is hoped, be pardoned, since it is probable, if we are to escape fallacies, that we shall have to hold rather strictly, in scientific fashion, to the use of terms that are mutually exclusive, that mean exactly the same thing at all times and in whatever connection; also, that we shall have to admit all factors essential to the solution of our problem.

It was the entire disregard of obviously essential factors that stirred a curious interest in "The Road to Plenty." The book contains not a reference, in any economic sense, to Land or Rent. It proceeds on the familiar assumption that Labor and Capital are the only factors involved. That assumption, by the way, is a probable cause of widespread feeling that there is, and must forever continue to be, a fight between Labor and Capital; that what one gets the other must lose; that there is inequitable division of Wealth. It is difficult to see how it could be otherwise while the obvious part Land and Rent play in the economic situation is totally ignored.

## Airports and the Architect

WHEN Rudyard Kipling wrote "With the Night Mail, a story of 2,000 A. D." he did not know that he was describing an age which would come to pass while he was still living. The Air Mail is a fact now and we see the motto from Herodotus carved over the entrance of the New York Post Office: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

This motto is fitting, and to follow it literally the airplane demands airports. There must be airports for the passenger and express services, which inevitably follow the mail service.

Who shall design our airports—and related sections of their environs which call for design?

In a discussion on this question the Chairman of the Institute's Committee on City, Community, and Regional Planning, E. J. Russell, of St. Louis, said, in his opinion the architect should be the designer of airports—for obvious reasons.

In the possibility that there may be other air-minded architects like Mr. Russell, who may have opportunities to design airports or to take an active part in their development, we call attention to the Aeronautics Branch of the Department of Commerce. This Bureau is sponsoring aviation on behalf of the Federal Government, and has issued a number of publications which are of great value.

But, Labor and Capital do not receive all "money paid out in production," as architects should be among the first to perceive; yet such questions as "What proportion of Wealth produced is not "money paid out in production," what proportion of it goes, or should go, to Labor as Wages, to Capital as Interest, or to Land as Rent, are not so much as mentioned. In the circumstances, may it not be wise to hold opinion in abeyance with respect to the conclusion that some "fallacy of old economic theory" has been "exposed"?

However, in this connection, may it be pertinent not only to support Mr. Parker's plea "for members of the Institute to give thoughtful consideration to the stabilization of business by long range planning of public works," or otherwise, but to recommend, through some authorized committee, continuation of the study indicated, but barely begun, in the Report of the Washington State Chapter to the Institute's Post War Committee of 1919, as published in the April JOURNAL of that year, of the collisions between present economic practices and Architecture.

Particular reference is made to the paper entitled "Designing Safe and Adequate Airports." This is a comprehensive study by Mr. Harry H. Blee, Chief of the Airport Section of the Department of Commerce, and contains seventeen pages of text and illustrations. In this article Mr. Blee says: "After determining this general layout, a comprehensive plan covering the ultimate development of the airport should be prepared, special attention being given to the proper coordination of all activities on the airport, to suitable architectural treatment, and to appropriate landscaping, etc."

Other publications of the Aeronautics Branch are "Civil Aeronautics in the United States," a comprehensive review of present conditions; an "Aeronautics Trade Directory," intended for the technical man; an "Airway Map of the United States," current today, and obsolete tomorrow because of the rapidly expanding airway system; "Airports and Landing Fields," a list of municipalities in which airports are in existence or proposed; "Report of Airway Marking Committee," a bulletin which outlines good marking practice in airway development; "Air Traffic Rules," a bulletin of eleven pages with some graphic illustrations; "Airports: Types of Management, Rentals, Concessions, Field Rules," a document of great value which covers airport management, airport fees and rentals, the airport and the operator, airport field

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The Aeronautics Branch also publishes a bulletin entitled "Domestic Air News." Architects seriously interested should request this publication—by letter addressed to the Aeronautics Branch of

the Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

Inquiries, or requests for other documents and information should be addressed to the Aeronautics Branch, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

## From Chapter Minutes

*Membership Increase:* Washington State Chapter. Mr. Grainger reported for the Membership Committee indicating that the Committee has been alive during the past year, although no great gains in Chapter membership have resulted.

*Kansas Chapter.* The President's report recommends the appointment of a Membership Committee to be constantly on the lookout for men available and eligible for membership in the Chapter. The committee was appointed.

*Kansas City Chapter.* Henry C. Smith, the retiring Secretary, reported the increasing membership of both the Chapter and Institute by the admission of the younger men, including four new Associates, three Juniors, and one Institute member.

The President of the Chapter, Mr. Tanner, brought up the question of membership. It was decided that Institute members of the Chapter should make an effort to get in touch with their fellow architects with whom they are acquainted, who would make desirable members, with the idea of adding to both the Chapter and Institute membership in Kansas City.

*Pittsburgh Chapter.* Mr. Palmgreen, speaking for the Budget Committee, requested that a reasonable amount of diligence be exercised by members in increasing the membership of the Chapter.

*New Jersey Chapter.* At the last regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the New Jersey Chapter, it was decided that Junior members of the Institute be extended the courtesy of Chapter membership, without payment of Chapter dues.

*New Chapters:* The Florida Chapter. The Executive Committee of the Chapter announces that Nat Gaillard Walker, a former Institute Director, recently transferred to the Florida Chapter, becomes its "envoy" to visit all sections of the State, and to discuss with the Florida members the desirability of the formulating of petitions from various major groups for charters as new Chapters of the Institute.

*Education:* Washington State Chapter. The Committee on Education presented the following report through its Chairman, Mr. Harlan Thomas: Educational work along architectural lines has proceeded during the past year with a certain measure

of satisfaction to your Committee. Following the Second Annual Meeting of the Interscholastic Architectural Conference in conjunction with the last annual meeting of the Chapter, the resolution passed at that Conference recommending more instruction in the High Schools in freehand drawing and art appreciation, was sent to all High Schools in the State.

*The Florida Chapter.* "Robert Smith has for several years," writes John Skinner, "conducted a pre-college course in Architectural and Mechanical Drawing at Miami High. He gets results! His students attain a real excellence in draftsmanship, and some of them are as far advanced in the Elements as many College Sophomores I have seen."

*Craftsmanship:* Kansas City Chapter. Mr. Van Brunt recommended that consideration be given a local committee on craftsmanship awards.

*Washington State Chapter.* The Committee on Craftsmanship have considered the advisability of making awards for superior craftsmanship and recommends that such awards be made.

*Public Information:* Oregon Chapter. Mr. Doty, Chairman of the Public Information Committee, announced that final steps had been taken for publication of twelve or more articles on architecture to appear in the Sunday "Oregon Journal," each article to be written by a Chapter member. Attention was called to the series of architectural pictures now being published in "The Morning Oregonian," under the auspices of the Chapter as a contest for school children.

*Georgia Chapter.* Mr. Burge suggested a campaign to acquaint the public with the purposes and activities of The American Institute of Architects by means of newspaper advertisements and talks over the radio.

*Kansas Chapter.* The Committee of Public Information, Chairman Weigel, informed the Chapter that Mr. Wichers, one of its associate members, had furnished several articles to magazines, explaining the functions of an architect.

*Initiation Ceremony:* The Kansas Chapter has decided that some form of ceremony be adopted at the next regular meeting for inducting new members after their election to the Chapter and Institute.





