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The Sixty-fifth Convention

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 27, 28, 29, 1932

EACH member of the Institute received advance information concerning the Sixty-fifth Convention in the December, January and February issues of THE OCTAGON.

In the February issue, there appeared a general outline of the Convention program, which is yet in tentative form. The program as finally arranged will be available at the time of registration.

This year, the established procedure will be followed in presenting the report of the Board of Directors. That is, the report will be read in full by the Secretary, at the opening session, and then considered and acted upon, section by section, throughout the various sessions of the Convention.

As heretofore, the Board's report will cover the work of the Standing and Special Committees and will submit to the Convention recommendations and resolutions proposed by the Committees and by the Board.

The session on Housing on the afternoon of April 28, promises to be one of great practical value. The presiding officer of this meeting will be Frederick Bigger, of Pittsburgh, Chairman of the new Committee on Economics of Site Planning and Housing.

Other major topics will receive their full share of consideration. Several were mentioned in the February issue of THE OCTAGON.

The Bicentennial Conference on the National Capital will meet in joint session with the Institute at the Friday morning session, April 29. This is an important item of the Washington Bicentennial Celebration, and the joint session will be in the interest of promoting those features of the "Plan of Washington," which have been essential to its completion which still await public encouragement.

An article appears elsewhere in this issue by Horace W. Peaslee, Second Vice-President of the Institute, on the Conference on the National Capital, which is meeting in Washington during the period of the Institute Convention.

The Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Institute will be the main topic of the dinner, which closes the Convention on Friday evening, April 29. One or two distinguished speakers from outside the Institute have been invited to speak on the relationship of the architect to the public, and one of the Institute's distinguished Past-Presidents has been asked to give a review of the Institute's history.

Convention Committee:

President Kohn has appointed, from the Washington, D. C., Chapter, the following General Convention Committee, and their cooperation may be counted upon by the chapters and delegates:

Waddy B. Wood, *Chairman*; Robert F. Beresford, *Vice-Chairman*; Members—P. C. Adams, A. P. Clark, Jr., Robert C. Danis, Wm. Douden, T. R. Edwards, W. H. I. Fleming, T. A. Mullett, Seward Hume Rathbun, George Oakley Totten, Jr., Julius Wenig.

Chapter Taxes and Refunds:

This year, as in 1931, a modification of the customary method of equalizing delegates' expenses has been authorized by the Board of Directors. Full information concerning the taxes and refunds under the modified plan has been furnished to the President, to the Secretary, and to the Treasurer of each Chapter.

Nominations of Officers and Directors:

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

An official notice concerning nominations and the procedure for making them appeared in the December, 1931, number of THE OCTAGON.

All nominations received at The Octagon on or before March 17, are listed herein. These nominations were made in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI, Article 6, Section 2 of the By-Laws. Under Section 3 of the same Article opportunity will be given at the Convention to make nominations from the floor, for any office about to become vacant.

Nominations by petition are as follows:

For President and Director—

Ernest J. Russell, St. Louis, Mo.

By members of the Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D. C., Chapters.

For First Vice-President and Director—

D. Knickerbacker Boyd, Philadelphia, Pa.

By members of the Central New York, Chicago, Florida North, New York, Northern California, Philadelphia, and Southern Pennsylvania Chapters.

Charles D. Maginnis, Boston, Mass.

By members of the Alabama, Boston, Detroit, Georgia, Indiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, Northern California, Oregon, San Diego, St. Louis, Southern California, Washington, D. C., and Washington State Chapters.

For Second Vice-President and Director—

John C. Bollenbacher, Chicago, Ill.

By members of the Central Illinois, Chicago, Cincinnati, Madison and Wisconsin Chapters.

Horace W. Peaslee, Washington, D. C.

By members of the Detroit, Northern California, San Diego, St. Louis, Southern California, and Washington, D. C., Chapters.

For Secretary and Director—

Frank C. Baldwin, Washington, D. C.

By members of the Indiana, Kentucky, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Southern California, and Washington, D. C., Chapters.

For Treasurer and Director—

Edwin Bergstrom, Los Angeles, Calif.

By members of the Florida Central, Indiana, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Southern California, and Washington, D. C., Chapters.

For Regional Director, Middle Atlantic Division—

James O. Betelle, Newark, N. J.

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

For Regional Director, Great Lakes Division—

Herbert E. Hewitt, Peoria, Ill.

By members of the Central Illinois, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Detroit, Eastern Ohio, Grand Rapids, Indiana, and Kentucky Chapters.

For Regional Director, Western Mountain Division—

No nomination by petition received at The Octagon by March 17.

Reduced Railroad Fares:

For this Convention, each delegate and member attending should apply for a certificate, inasmuch as many Passenger Associations of the railroads have advised the Secretary's office that the certificate plan has been approved, in accordance with requests made by the Secretary to the Trunk Line Association several weeks ago. While it cannot be guaranteed that all railroads will act favorably on the certificate plan, it is expected that they will approve it.

The railroads have furnished the following information on the certificate plan, which is reproduced here for the guidance of all who attend:

CERTIFICATE PLAN REGULATIONS

Subject to the filing of the applications in prescribed form, and the completion of necessary details, reduced fares on the Certificate Plan will be authorized under the following conditions:

FARE: For delegates and members attending meetings and dependent members of their families, who have paid normal one-way tariff fares of sixty-seven (67) cents or more on going trip, via routes over which one-way tickets are regularly sold, will be ticketed to their starting points by the route traversed in going to the meeting, at one-half of the normal one-way fare from place of meeting to original starting point, provided there have been in attendance not less than one hundred (100) persons holding certificates of the standard form.

CHILDREN of five (5) and under twelve (12) years of age when accompanied by parent or guardian, will, under like conditions, be charged one-half of return fares authorized for adults.

IDENTIFICATION: The reduced fare for the return journey will not apply unless holder of certificate is properly identified, as provided for by the certificate.

ISSUANCE AND HONORING OF CERTIFICATES: Certificates which show the purchase of tickets not earlier than three (3) days prior to the date announced as the opening date of the meeting or which show the purchase of tickets during the first three (3) days of the meeting, when validated by Special Agent, will be honored for return ticket at one-half of the normal one-way fare, if presented not later than three (3) days after the date announced as the closing date of the meeting; Sunday not to be counted as a day in any case, certificates, however, will not be honored when issued in connection with tickets sold to persons who reach a meeting after the last date arranged for the attendance of the Special Agent.

When a meeting is held at a distant point to which regular transit limit exceeds three days, certificate will be honored if procured within number of days transit limit prescribed in one-way tariff as applicable from place of meeting to station at which certificate was procured.

Return tickets issued at the reduced fare will not be good on any limited train on which such reduced fare transportation is not honored.

LIMITS AND STOPOVERS: Return tickets will be limited to 30 days in addition to date on which going ticket was punched as shown on certificate receipt issued in connection with going ticket; stopovers will be permitted at any point, within limit, upon application to conductor.

ISSUANCE OF TWO CERTIFICATES: If two certificates are issued on account of the through going trip they will be valid for purchase of reduced fare return ticket, provided the necessity for the issuance of two certificates is apparent.

FACING TICKETS "CONVENTION": The word "Convention" will be stamped or written across the face of contracts and each coupon of all tickets sold for the return of persons attending meetings for which reduced fares are authorized on the certificate plan. Certificates issued to children will also be endorsed "Child," and contracts and each coupon of such tickets will be punched or endorsed "half."

Be sure to secure certificate receipt from Ticket Agent when purchasing your ticket to place of meeting.

Hotel Reservations:

The Mayflower Hotel, DeSales Street and Connecticut Avenue, N. W., has been selected as the hotel headquarters for the Convention. The hotel is approximately one mile from Union Station, and is within the taxi-cab minimum-charge zone, or it can be reached by taking a street car marked Mt. Pleasant, Georgetown, Cabin John, or Alta Vista.

By special arrangement with the management of the Mayflower Hotel, all Institute delegates, members and guests will be assured accommodations if their reservations are made direct to the hotel at an early date—and not later than April 20. The Mayflower Hotel has agreed to assure accommodations for all those attending the Convention at the following prices:

Single Room for one person.....	\$4, \$5, \$6
Double Room for two persons, double bed.....	\$6, \$7, \$8
Double Room for two persons, twin beds.....	\$8, \$9, \$10

All rooms are with baths, and the hotel advises that there will be no limitation on the number of rooms which will be available at the above prices. That is, members will not be advised by the hotel that the supply of \$4, \$6, or other rooms are exhausted should rooms at any price be available.

All applications for reservations at The Mayflower should specifically state that the applicant is a member of The American Institute of Architects, attending its convention, and should specify the room desired, as to type and price, and the approximate time of arrival.

Membership Cards:

Only members of the Institute in good standing and duly accredited as delegates can act as delegates. Therefore, delegates and alternates are asked to bring with them the membership card issued in every case from The Octagon at the time of the payment of the annual dues for 1932.

Delegates and Voting of Proxies:

The Board of Directors of the Institute trusts that every Chapter will send just as many delegates to the Convention as is possible within its quota.

However, the Board realizes that it may not be feasible for some Chapters to send their full quota of delegates, and the attention of the Chapter Officers is called to the provision of the By-Laws for voting proxies—in the cases of those Chapters whose headquarters are more than eight hundred miles from Washington.

Early Registration—Notice.

The Committee on Credentials will be on hand at The Mayflower Hotel, Tuesday, April 26, from 1:00 P. M. to 10:00 P. M.; also on Wednesday, April 27, from 9:00 A. M. to 8:00 P. M. Those failing to register before 8:00 P. M., Wednesday, April 27, will not be accorded the privilege of voting.

Anniversary:

A really national gathering of the representatives of all Chapters of the Institute is most important this year, not only because many major questions will come before the Convention but also because it affords opportunity for the Institute to take appropriate part in the Washington Bicentennial Celebration.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,
Secretary.

Federal Employment of Private Architects

REPORT BY LOUIS LABEAUME, F. A. I. A.

Chairman of the Committee on Public Works

THE Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the House of Representatives has announced that action on H. R. 6187 will be deferred until April 15th, at which time the Special House Committee on Economy and Expenditures is expected to report. Whether or not this postponement presages unfavorable action with regard to H. R. 6187 cannot be foretold at this time. However, it may be reasonably inferred that the statements made by the Treasury Department, regarding the increased cost to the government resulting from the employment of outside architects, were considered of sufficient importance to cause the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds to defer action until they could be further investigated.

In our Rebuttal Brief, presented to the Committee and published in the report of the Hearings, as well as in the February OCTAGON, a fair analysis of the Treasury Department's statements was set forth. The point was made in that Brief that the Treasury costs of 2.7%, based, as they were, on the simpler and more standardized types of building for which much data was available, bore no direct relation to the fee of 5.2% which was claimed to be the cost involved in the employment of outside architects on the more complicated projects. The Brief also called attention to some conflict in the Treasury Department's testimony as to the actual cost of outside service, as well as to the fact that the Treasury Department's statement of its own cost, to wit, 2.7%, was not supported by convincing detail in the matter of overhead: rent, light, heat, printing and other necessary incidental expenses.

Reduced to concrete figures, the maximum increase of cost to the government, on the two hundred and twenty-nine major projects allotted to outside architects, was fixed at about six million dollars. It is quite possible that, on close analysis, this maximum might be very substantially reduced if, indeed, it might not be wiped out altogether. At any rate, in the present circumstances as applied to the current appropriation bills, the whole question of cost becomes more or less an academic one, inasmuch as the great majority of the remaining projects would be reserved to the Supervising Architect's office under the terms of H. R. 6187.

However, as we all know, scarcely too much importance can be attached to the word "economy" at this time. It is a word which radiates a kind of magic. It should not, at any time, however, be confused with the idea of mere cheapness. As applied to architects' fees, it is often very misleading, for competent professional service may frequently result in savings in the cost of the completed structure which will far outbalance any difference in fee.

The Institute is hopeful that Congress will not be over influenced by arguments which may seem, on the surface, to promise economies which concrete results may not substantiate.

It is encouraging to note that the principles of H. R. 6187 were not seriously questioned by the Treasury Department. Perhaps to have questioned them would have been inconsistent in view of the fact that they have been so often adhered to by the Supervising Architect's office during the past year.

Value of Unification

By JOHN J. DONOVAN, A. I. A.

IT SENSE and honor the privilege to talk to you as a mark of respect and especially upon this subject, for it was upon the principles of unification that caused the conception of our own State Association; and it is these same principles that motivate us now to unite the architects of the entire country. I'll admit this is aiming high; but the target should have been

From an address before the last Convention of the State Association of California Architects.

raised long ago so that we of our time would now be enjoying the fruits of collectivity. And not the least of these are the planes of respectability both within and without the profession.

* * * it is truly meet and just that the Institute should assume that leadership after its years of labor and effort to place the practice of architecture upon a high plane of achievement. Should not the organized lead the unorganized?

Viewed as an Association Member

For the moment may I step out of the picture as an Institute member and stand as I like to stand in this case as an Association member and view the values of unification from that point of view, which is the vantage point I wish to hold.

Gentlemen, there are supposedly 12,000 architects, bona fide and otherwise, in the United States, of which about 3,500 are members of the Institute. That would indicate that there are 8,500 a part of no national body. Some of these are members of state and city organizations, but in the main they are unattached and quite nondescript. For the moment I wish to consider myself one of the 8,500 rather than one of the 3,500 in order to better see the values of unification. For the moment I wish to join them in their viewpoint. And that viewpoint is that if the Institute will provide true leadership, the 8,500 will furnish the desired followship, discarding petty distinctions and differences which from time immemorial have harassed the souls of men and delayed human accomplishments.

Goal of Unification

Unification is more embracing than within the recognized meaning of the title of architect. The plan provides for uniting all those allied to the practice of architecture which includes our draftsmen, engineers, building superintendents and the architectural students at our universities. If this plan succeeds, instead of measuring numerical strength as that of 3,500, we can talk in terms of 30,000 to 40,000, and we can rely on triple these numbers when concerted action is required for the welfare of the profession. I am not deluded by mere size alone, but I know and you know that organization is necessary and numbers add to its potency. This is a value recognized by all professions and crafts, our own excepted, until recently.

Are we at all comparable with the American Federation of Labor, or the National Manufacturers Association or any of the other great national bodies that you can think of? No, we are not, either in training or in unity. We have been quite select, perhaps rightly so, but a threadbare gentility nevertheless. We are assembled here at Riverside in convention this year and were at Del Monte last year. Is the press of the larger cities at all interested in this convention or was it any more so last year and, put the question to yourself, why is this so? The supercilious person disdains publicity until of course he receives favorable mention, then observe the avidity of his consumption. Unification will not correct

all the ills of our profession. That will never take place, but it will go far towards mitigating a great many of them.

What Unification Will Do

May I ask what unification will do towards eliminating from the architectural field those who are not authorized to practice architecture? And may I ask what it will do to diminish bureau architecture and place that important work in the offices and hands of the men of the profession who are capable of carrying it out effectively and successfully and who are contributing to the support of the Federal, state and local governments?

And, now ask yourselves what will unification do towards the enactment of legislation which will properly protect the public in matters of safety, the development of good taste and the aesthetic values which are the natural rights of every human within our commonwealth. The average legislator and statesman is just as human as you and I. Numbers as well as reason appeal to him and influence his decisions far more than the man in the distance believes. Consequently, if any movement for progress is to be successful, solidarity must be the first step, and solidarity and unification are one and the same.

And may I touch briefly upon its values to education especially and to those who are to follow us. Is it at all possible that we are disinterested in the training and welfare of the boy of today who we were but yesterday? I can answer that by the action of our State Association which has gone far even in its infancy to foster, stimulate and promote education with the juniors both within and without the university. The spirit that energizes such movements is so American and so epic that the mere mention of its values is more than sufficient. I could travel a long way along the path of unification and sense many of the impressive and may I say beautiful growths attendant to the cultivation of this movement, but I know that you have them in mind and the sunrise in the distance is just as hopeful to you as it is to me.

Good of Profession Comes First

Gentlemen, the profession of architecture was not forced upon us, we chose it as our life's work just as we have chosen our wives to be our help-mates to create our homes. So let us consecrate our intelligence, our numbers and our best efforts to the advancement and protection of that which we chose to do as we would for our families, for their happiness is involved as well as our own.

Architecture

President Hoover's Survey of Social Trends

By LEICESTER B. HOLLAND, A. I. A.

FOREWORD.—In 1930, at the suggestion of President Hoover, the Rockefeller Foundation through the Social Science Research Council, undertook to finance a comprehensive survey of the present-day trends in social activities of all sorts throughout the United States. The work was entrusted to a committee of general supervision with Wm. M. Ogburn as director of research, and divided into many fields for investigation and report. The field of the Fine Arts was delegated to Dr. F. J. Keppel of the Carnegie Corporation, who on consultation with President Kohn of the Institute, requested Dr. Holland of the Library of Congress, and School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania, a member of the Philadelphia Chapter, A. I. A., to prepare a brief subsection on Architecture. The idea was not to give a history of the development of American Architecture, nor a criticism of contemporary work, nor a prophecy of future styles, but simply to analyze the role which Architecture plays in the present art consciousness of the social body, and to indicate how this popular consciousness has changed and is changing.

The survey as a whole will be issued in the course of the year, but permission has been granted to THE OCTAGON to print the section on Architecture in advance of the general publication.

THE aesthetic influence of architecture on a community is dependent not on intrinsic qualities of the architecture itself, but rather on the amount of popular and personal consideration given to it. In this field, of course, definite statistical data are unobtainable, general changes and shifts in emphasis are, however, easy to be seen.

If as a basis of comparison, we consider first the architecture of the American colonies at the end of the eighteenth century, it will be seen at once that the greatest sum of architectural effort and attention was expended on the residences of wealthy citizens, while the dwellings of the middle and lower classes were stock productions which neither required nor awoke much architectural consideration.

Second in total importance were public buildings, state-houses, court-houses, assembly halls and so forth. Because of communal interest in these structures they often surpassed in elaborateness of design and in size, any single private residence of a locality. But in number, they were far less and there were few instances where a public building was greater in size or architectural effort than two private ones.

In the third place were the churches, sometimes, in the middle states, almost as elaborate as the public buildings, but often, in the south and north, and in the country everywhere, of the simplest character. Business structures were designed wholly for utilitarian purposes. So, too, were institutional buildings in general, save for occasional college halls.

During the nineteenth century the concentration of wealth in cities robbed the country estates of their preeminence. In the twentieth century the increasing congestion of city life and the use of automobiles have in turn encouraged the abandonment of great city houses. The owner-

ship of country and suburban homes no longer rests with those who gain their living from the land, but in major part to those whose livelihood comes from city centered production and trade. Suburban residences replace, socially, the blocks of uniform houses that formed the cities of the early nineteenth century. The change has necessitated an isolation and individualization of the residential unit with a consequent heightened interest on the part of the owner in domestic architecture. In the last decade a far larger per cent of the population have had houses built to their personal requirements, by architects, than ever before. Even where the residence is selected from the offerings of a speculative operation or is built from published pattern books, much more architectural consideration goes into the design and into the selection than formerly. An evidence of this heightened interest of the family of moderate means in its architectural surroundings is to be seen in the large number of periodicals devoted to residences, garden design and interior decoration. In the last century the relatively limited amount of material of this sort which was published, was intended wholly for professional readers.

The interest of the most wealthy citizens in their homesteads, is, however, tending to decrease. This is largely due to an increase in mobility. Instead of concentrating on a single establishment, it is becoming the practice to maintain two or more residences in different parts of the country or even in foreign countries. And usually these are not built or bought with a view to family possession for generations, or even for many years, but for an immediate and often transitory occupation. In fact, the very wealthy, instead of building new palaces, or elaborating ancestral homes, are in many cases simply reoccupying country seats of colonial times, with their atten-

tion controlled as much by antiquarian romance as by architectural interest.

The result is that the former sharp demarcation between the domestic architecture of the very wealthy and the moderately well off no longer exists.

It is to be expected that the effect of mobility will extend constantly down the scale of wealth, with a consequent tendency to lessened interest in personal suburban dwelling. The "model village" or the standardized house may in time replace it. There will probably result an increase in economy, possibly an increase in beauty, but also a decrease in aesthetic responsiveness. For it is only the selective interest of the individual that makes for critical appreciation. The city apartment building illustrates this reaction. Modern apartments are architecturally far more interesting than the uniform rows of city houses they replace. But they have very little effect on the architectural consciousness of the community. They are chosen by their inhabitants almost wholly from considerations of location, cost and luxury of appointments, regardless of whether they are built by the foremost architects or wholesale by contracting firms.

On the other hand, business buildings such as stores, offices and theatres, which a century ago were of almost no architectural consequence, have today assumed prime importance. This change is due chiefly to the modern devotion to advertising in all commercial undertakings, though with this there enters an element of personal pride on the part of the merchant owners. An early expression of just this combination of motives was P.T. Barnum's residence "Iranistan," at Bridgeport, designed by a London architect in fantastic Moorish style and built regardless of expense within unobstructed view of the main railway line. Popular wonder pleased Barnum's self-consciousness and was moreover very good business. The fact of aesthetic significance in the modern expression of commercial architecture is the growing realization on the part of business men, that the service of expert artists produces commensurate returns in public appreciation. As a result, much of the very best talent of the country today is engaged in architectural as well as in pictorial advertising. In conjunction with this talent a lavish outlay of funds and general popular interest in and discussion of each important new commercial building, have produced an architectural movement of very great importance. Certain unfavorable elements, inherent in such work, must, however, not be overlooked. These are, the speed at which the design must be produced because of the great value of commercial properties, the prohibitive cost of changes in the course of execution, the relatively short life of com-

mercial buildings due to shifts in city growth and rapid obsolescence of equipment, and the inevitable tendency of advertising to stress the novel and the spectacular rather than the beautiful.

A markedly different situation exists in regard to governmental buildings, state-houses, post-offices, city halls, court-houses, public schools, etc. This class of work has far greater permanence and permits more time for careful study than does commercial building, but places considerably less emphasis on aesthetic appeal. The officials in charge of it are little affected by popular response to architectural appearance but are very sensitive to accusations of faulty construction or extravagance. Bad concrete will damn a public servant far more seriously than many eyesores. There results a natural tendency to entrust the construction of such buildings to staffs of governmental engineers, and from considerations of economy, many matters of planning and design are left to such staffs, where commercial undertakings would employ the best private architects. As a result, a great part of governmental architecture is aesthetically unimportant and is met with public apathy.

Somewhere between commercial and governmental building stands the architecture of semi-public institutions, such as hospitals and colleges. Though projects of this type are often partially financed by public grants, the control of the expenditure and responsibility for the architectural results usually rests with non-political trustees. Occasionally a building or group of buildings may be financed by a liberal endowment from a single individual, more often a collection from many sources supplies the capital. The gift of a single donor is liable to be spent according to the donor's whim, sometimes with rather fantastic results, but funds from general contributions provide the happy combination of a demand for economic efficiency coupled with an interest in public approbation. Institutional work is moreover free from the burden of taxes which in commercial work may cause excessive haste. Usually the best architectural advice is sought, sometimes, though with diminishing frequency, by means of competitions. And a relatively great degree of permanence for the structures is assured.

Two factors alone militate against the outstanding aesthetic success of our institutional architecture; a slightly sentimental attitude toward college life that tends to produce archaic theatricality, and the fact that charitable organizations can rarely keep abreast of the demands upon them, and must consequently sacrifice some of the quality of their architecture for simple quantity.

In a somewhat similar but even more favorable situation from the architectural point of view,

are cultural foundations, such as libraries, museums, endowed auditoriums and churches. Here the funds available are often quite adequate to the needs, they are administered by non-political trustees, and from the very nature of the institutions, aesthetic considerations become of prime importance. In consequence, it is probable that a century from now, buildings of this class will rank as the outstanding architectural relics of our day. It is certain that contemporary public interest in them is great and architectural consciousness much developed thereby.

In sum, those classes of building which are of the greatest architectural importance to our communities today, are private residences (chiefly suburban); commercial buildings; semi-public educational and welfare institutions; and buildings devoted to cultural purposes.

In the year 1929 the F. W. Dodge Corporation reported contracts in the following amounts on architect-planned projects of various classes for the 37 eastern states. Commercial buildings \$718,000,000; one and two family houses, \$432,000,000; educational buildings (including schools), hospitals and other institutions, \$500,000,000; social and recreational, religious and memorial buildings, \$209,000,000—a total of \$1,859,000,000; out of a total of \$2,917,000,000 for all the architect-planned construction for that region. It may be safely assumed therefore, that half of the current architect-planned construction, as measured in cost, is seriously considered from the aesthetic point of view by the general public.

Whether or not this aesthetic interest is to be properly satisfied, depends largely on the schools of architecture. These have been increasing rapidly. In 1900 there were 13 collegiate schools conferring professional degrees in architecture; in 1910 there were 22; in 1920 there were 41 and in 1930 there were 52. A total of about 700 students were graduated from these institutions in this last year. The number of practicing architects has increased at a somewhat slower rate, with 10,581 in 1900, 16,613 in 1910 and 18,185 in 1920. The figures for 1930 are not yet available. The increase in the number of architects is proportionately slightly above the increase in population of the continental United States, while the increase in the number of schools parallels the more rapid increase in national wealth. Thus if the figures for 1900 be taken as unity in each case, the relative increments are:

	Popula- tion	Architects	Wealth	Schools
1900.....	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
1910.....	1.21	1.57	(1912) 2.10	1.70
1920.....	1.39	1.71	(1922) 3.62	3.15
1930.....	1.61	Not yet available.		4.00

With the increase in the number of architects, there has also been a crystallization of the architect's professional status. Thirty-five states, including Hawaii and the District of Columbia, now have laws requiring the registration of architects. Before 1900, Illinois alone had any registration law, and even there registration was not compulsory. From 1901-10, 6 states adopted laws, 1 of which was not compulsory, from 1911-20, 12 more, 1 not compulsory, and from 1921-30, again 12 more, while the previously voluntary laws were all made compulsory. Though not so stringent as the laws licensing physicians and lawyers, there is no doubt that registration laws tend to emphasize in the public mind, what architects themselves have long maintained, that they are to be considered as professional men dispensing expert services and trained abilities in accordance with a customary rate of pay, rather than as business men engaged in financial enterprises where the return is affected by speculative success and commercial astuteness. The position of the architect in community life is therefore, that of one who is expected, like the physician, the teacher or the clergyman, to give much of his time and special abilities freely to the service of his community. And since his natural interests and training are largely concerned with aesthetic matters, it follows that in community life, architects are constantly found engaged, either as individuals or as organizations, in civic art movements, community drama, pageants and probably more than any other group, in the preservation and restoration of historic monuments. How much of such service is given would be impossible to say, certainly it is great in amount and it is almost wholly free. How much effect the architects thus have upon the aesthetic development of American culture, can also not be estimated, but it must be considered as an appreciable supplement to the aesthetic effect of their created works.

The contemporary developments of city planning and housing operations are considered elsewhere in this survey. Though of great importance to the welfare of communities, the aesthetic reaction of the public to such undertakings is relatively slight.

The Bicentennial Conference on the National Capital

By HORACE W. PEASLEE, *Second Vice-President, A. I. A.*

IN cooperation with the George Washington Bicentennial Commission, a group of the leading civic and professional societies are planning as their contribution to the Bicentennial a conference on the future development of the capital for the establishment of which the first President gave his full support. This conference will be held during the same week as the convention of The American Institute of Architects, and will be designated "The Bicentennial Conference on the National Capital." The participating organizations are as follows:

- The American City Planning Institute.
- The American Civic Association.
- The American Federation of Arts.
- The American Institute of Architects.
- The American Society of Civil Engineers (City Planning Division).
- The American Society of Landscape Architects.
- The Association of the Alumni of the American Academy in Rome.
- The Garden Club of America.
- The Mural Painters.
- The National Conference on City Planning.
- The National Sculpture Society.

On the invitation of The American Institute of Architects, which has sponsored the movement, an organization meeting was held at The Octagon in January, of representatives of the City Planners, the Architects, the Landscape Architects, the Sculptors and the Painters. An executive committee was set up with Horace W. Peaslee, Second Vice-President of The American Institute of Architects, as chairman, and Gardner S. Rogers, a Director of the City Planning Institute, as secretary.* This meeting was called to formulate a preliminary outline to submit to the participating societies for study and recommendation at the April conference.

The outcome of the meeting was agreement in principle on three main points:

First, that the development of Washington, in its general plan and in its details, should be in the hands of the ablest professional men, in order that it may express the highest ideals and accomplishments of American art;

Second, that the employment of such men should be made possible by definite legislative authorization;

Third, that the full force of professional and civic organizations should be directed towards the

accomplishment of this program and towards the appropriation of ample funds to obtain the men best fitted for the work, the proper execution of their designs, and adequate maintenance on a high standard.

General agreement was reached that steps should be taken in support of definite legislative measures, several of which are pending in the present Congress, making possible the employment of capable and experienced men in the various fields of the arts on Federal projects under existing governmental agencies or under any of the pending public works administration measures. Among these measures are those in which the Public Works Committee of the Institute is especially interested, and similar measures relating to the allied arts.

Support is to be consolidated for specific projects in the development of the capital, such as the completion of the Mall, the Monument grounds, the George Washington Memorial Parkway, and the arboretum. Efforts are to be made in cooperation with the painters to obtain adequate technical supervision of existing murals in public buildings; with the sculptors to secure participation in the development of the proposed Hall of Fame; and with both sculptors and painters to obtain representation on the Board of Treasury Consultants.

Among various related questions discussed at length was the establishment of a more definite relationship between the Fine Arts and Planning Commissions and the professional and other societies interested in the development of the national capital, to the end that these commissions should not become self-perpetuating bodies, nor be entirely independent of representative professional sentiment and opinion in the country at large as to the qualifications of men who should initiate or pass upon work proposed for the national capital. The desired relationship could be accomplished by selection of appointees from lists of eligible men submitted to the President with the endorsement of the professions involved.

It is felt that at the present time contact between these commissions and the professions exists only in times of emergency when support is desired either for the obtaining of authorizations and appropriations or for the blocking of some ill-considered project which jeopardizes the plan of Washington. An opinion seems to prevail that a close working contact should be established.

* It is noted, with great regret, that Gardner S. Rogers died February 28, 1932.

Corollary to this, the proposal was advanced that, in view of the number of general planning projects reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts, and the desirability of a closer working relationship between this body and the Planning Commission, the established profession of city planning should have recognition in the personnel of the Commission of Fine Arts. The work of the Planning Commission is to be carefully studied with a view of obtaining more general cooperation among its component elements in the carrying out of its plans, in stabilizing zoning, and in guiding private development along lines befitting the capital of the nation.

The general and specific elements of the program are along the lines which the Institute has fostered for thirty years in its national capital activities, and consistent with the objectives of its Committee on the National Capital during the past eight years. In the main, it proposes to enlist other groups for cooperative work in the same general direction. The program has been developed in close cooperation with professional and civic leaders who have been associated in campaigns for legislative authorizations and appropriations. This conference is the culmination of an effort to enlist in the movement for the development of the Federal City all groups which

should be concerned in making that development truly representative of American genius and accomplishment.

It is hoped that a second meeting may be held prior to the conference, to correlate the recommendations of the various groups and to arrive at a series of joint resolutions for adoption at the conference. The representatives of the various groups will sit in joint session Friday morning, April 29th, after which each group will vote upon the resolutions offered. It is hoped that the architects will lend their full support to these measures. The chairman would be glad to receive expressions of opinion for consideration in the framing of the resolutions.

The mere fact of the holding of this conference shows the tremendous interest throughout the country in the development of the city founded by George Washington and designed by Major L'Enfant, and augurs well for its future. It is hoped that out of the conference will develop in each organization a committee on the national capital similar to the nation-wide committee of The American Institute of Architects; and that their work may be coordinated by a central committee of the group chairmen, so that the full force of intelligent professional opinion may be exerted as occasion arises.

Investigating Committees of Architects and Engineers

THE Board of Directors of the Institute, at its November, 1931, meeting, received information concerning the activities of the so-called "Investigating Committees of Architects and Engineers."

The Board also received copy of a "preliminary report" on a given product, which bore the heading "American Institute of Architects Investigating Committee" with a recital of the trade name of the product and the location of the plant.

Various Directors reported that there exists a general impression in the architectural profession, and in the building industry, fostered by the promoters of this enterprise, that The American Institute of Architects sponsors, or is in some way connected with the "Investigating Committees" and their findings.

The Board was of the opinion that the findings of these so-called "Investigating Committees," conducted under the auspices of Mr. R. M. Hooker, of New York, are not invaluable to the

practicing architect. Some of the published reports give the impression that the Committees are connected with, or are in some way sponsored by The American Institute of Architects.

The Board of Directors adopted a resolution which stated that these "Investigating Committees" are in no way connected with or sponsored by The American Institute of Architects, or any of its standing or special committees. It was directed that a statement to this effect, as herein made, be transmitted to the membership of the Institute, and to various organizations in the construction industry.

That action is now taken. Members of the Institute and manufacturers of building products and materials are requested to be governed accordingly, and in the light of the information herein contained.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,
Secretary.

The Structural Service Department

F. LEO. SMITH, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

Devoted to the advancement of knowledge of materials, methods of construction, and equipment for buildings, and to a better understanding of the art and science of architecture.

Change in Producers' Council Office.

F. S. Laurence has resigned as Executive Secretary of The Producers' Council to become Director of the Architectural Division of the New York office of Taylor, Rogers and Bliss, Inc.

H. H. Sherman, formerly President of The Producers' Council and for many years Secretary of the National Building Granite Quarries Association has succeeded Mr. Laurence as Executive Secretary of the Council.

Opposition to Ventilating Codes.

The Ohio State Association of Architects recently submitted to the Executive Committee of the Institute a resolution in opposition to any standard ventilating code until such time as an agreement has been reached between recognized authorities regarding minimum requirements for ventilation.

After careful consideration the Executive Committee of the Institute, at its February meeting, adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, present laws and regulations relating to the ventilation of buildings require a tremendous annual expenditure for ventilating equipment involving the health, welfare and comfort of the general public, and

Whereas, the prevailing standards of practice in the ventilation of buildings are not supported by proven scientific facts, and

Whereas, competent hygienists and medical authorities, on the basis of authentic physiological data from reliable sources, are not in agreement with heating and ventilating engineers, and

Whereas, this chaotic condition has created a widespread dissatisfaction in the public mind regarding methods of ventilation, resulting in many objections to the present engineering practice, now therefore be it

Resolved, That The American Institute of Architects recommends the revision or repeal of present codes and regulations relating to the ventilation of buildings, wherever such codes and regulations are not supported by rational and authentic physiological data acceptable to both the hygienist and the engineer, and be it further

Resolved, That The American Institute of Architects is opposed to the promulgation or adoption of further codes, requirements, regulations or standards for ventilation until such time as an agreement between recognized authorities in the medical and engineering professions has been reached regarding the necessary minimum standards for ventilation, and be it further

Resolved, That The American Institute of Architects favors the creation of a national movement to determine the factors to be considered in maintaining the health, comfort and safety of the occupants of buildings as affected by ventilation and that these factors, when determined, shall be used as the basis for a ventilating code of fundamental minimum standards generally applicable in all communities, and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the Board of Directors of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, the American Standards Association, The American Public Health Association, The United States Public Health Service, the National Medical Association, the Ohio State Association of Architects, and the Secretaries of all Chapters of the Institute, and that a copy of this resolution be printed in THE OCTAGON.

Hot Cement.

The American Society for Testing Materials' Committee C-1 on Cement has been for some time investigating the effects of hot cement on concrete. Reports of tests by various laboratories and field investigations indicate that, contrary to general belief, hot cement does not affect the strength, durability or appearance of the finished concrete.

Cement is sometimes delivered on the job so hot that it is difficult to handle, burning the hands of the workmen. This heat is not the result of any chemical reaction in the cement but is due either to the use of hot clinker at the mill or is caused by the frictional heat created in grinding.

The controlling factor in the effect of heat on the finished product is the temperature of the concrete itself, and as the cement constitutes such a small percentage of the mix as a whole it can ordinarily be disregarded as a contributing temperature element.

Harry Parker, A. I. A., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, represents the Institute on A. S. T. M. Committee C-1, and the Technical Secretary of the Structural Service Department is alternate.

Patina on Copper.

The patina which develops on copper and its alloys by natural weathering has always been assumed to be basic carbonate of copper. Attempts to reproduce this pleasing green coloration by artificial means have been based upon this assumption but the patina obtained was not as permanent as that produced by nature.

Laboratory investigations have recently disclosed that basic sulphate of copper is formed by natural weathering, according to a report recently issued by the Copper and Brass Research Association. This compound is adherent, insoluble in water, and is, therefore, permanent.

A process has been developed which will accomplish in a very few hours or days what nature takes years to attain. Production methods for

commercial utilization of the treatment are being perfected and within a reasonable time copper weathered by the new process will be obtainable.

New Methods of Joining Wood.

After the World War, economic pressure forced European countries to turn to their native resources for construction materials, and as wood was plentiful it was made the object of special study. Recognizing the fact that the weakest parts of a wood structure are its joints, an effort was made to improve this detail. As a result old methods were superseded by new devices consisting of metal and wood connectors or dowels.

These new devices and methods have been made the subject of a joint investigation by the National Committee on Wood Utilization of the United States Department of Commerce and the Forest Products Laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Bureau of

Standards and the National Lumber Manufacturers Association are also cooperating.

The Committee now has a complete record of more than sixty different types of European connectors each having special characteristics and applications. The lack of basic engineering data necessary for the adaptation of these devices to American construction practice has been a handicap. The present problem is to determine through scientific, rather than empirical methods, what types of joints are best adapted for each particular purpose.

No reports on these tests or their application will be issued until all tests have been completed and a final comparative analysis made.

Additional information on this subject may be obtained from Axel H. Oxholm, Director, National Committee on Wood Utilization, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

Convention of Canadian Architects

IMPRESSIONS OF EDWARD F. STEVENS, F. A. I. A.

THE twenty-fifth annual Convention of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada was held Friday and Saturday, February 19 and 20 at the Seigneurie Club in Montebello (Lucerne in Quebec).

The buildings of this unique club, all constructed of logs, harmonize and blend with a landscape of unsurpassed natural beauty. Inside, the great family fireplace with its six openings, the spacious halls, comfortable rooms, and excellent cuisine were most attractive. Out of doors all nature called members to the sports which added much to the pleasure of the occasion.

The meetings were attended by about forty delegates who came from all the provinces, but mostly, of course, from Ontario and Quebec.

The Friday session concerned itself chiefly with subjects contained in the annual report, such as Institute Documents, Unemployment, Foreign Materials and Public Relations. I was not present until Saturday.

One of the main topics at Saturday's session was the Journal. I was reminded of the perennial discussions of this subject in The American Institute of Architects. The R. A. I. C. is justly proud of its Journal. I believe the A. I. A. might well learn from its Canadian neighbors how to elevate the Journal and make it more useful to members. Incidentally, the publishers of the Canadian Journal pay four hundred dollars annually to the R. A. I. C. for the privilege.

The exclusive use of "Canada made" products

had, of course, its supporters, but I found many broad-minded men who believe with me that an architect should buy to the best interests of his client.

The annual banquet Saturday evening took largely the form of congratulations to the Honorary Secretary, Alcide Chausse, who has served in that capacity since the commencement of the Institute. A beautiful silver tray with the seal of the Institute inset in gold, was presented. He was also notified of his election as Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and to corresponding membership in the College of Architects of Cuba. Responding, Mr. Chausse sketched the twenty-five years' history of the Institute formed in 1907 as the Institute of Architects. In 1909 "His Majesty King Edward VII was graciously pleased to grant permission to the Architectural Institute of Canada, to adopt the prefix 'Royal.'"

Two fellowships were conferred and prizes for meritorious work by students in the architectural schools were awarded. The new president, G. M. West of Toronto, was inducted into office and toasts were drunk (not in water) to the King, and to invited guests.

I tried to express the cordial feeling existing among architects south of the border for those of our sister nation to the north, and received many evidences that the feeling is reciprocated. They are a fine lot of men working for the ideal in architecture.

With the Chapters

Baltimore Chapter—March Meeting.

"In the absence of Mr. Lucius White, Mr. Jamison reported for the Committee on Industrial Relations, in regard to the proposed organization of a building congress in Baltimore. He stated that after three meetings with representatives of the building industry the Committee was strongly of the opinion that the organization of a building congress should be undertaken by the Chapter. After some discussion it was the sense of the meeting that the Committee should prepare a report to be presented at the April meeting covering a complete, detailed set-up for the Congress which could be acted on by the Chapter. This meeting will be reserved for the consideration of this business only, and it was suggested that Mr. Morgan Marshall, representing the Industry, should be invited to attend and speak on the subject."

Central Illinois Chapter—March Meeting.

"Although seventeen had signified their intention of attending this meeting, the blizzard that developed kept many away so that there were but eleven in actual attendance. * * *

"President Gregg stated that he contemplated as one of the principal items of work during his term of office to be an intensive drive for new members. * * * He also proposed a sub-organization of the district in each city of all architects in the city with a Vice-President of the Chapter as the President of each sub group.

"* * * The remainder of the meeting was spent in an informal discussion of the President's Housing Conference, the discussion being led by Herbert E. Hewitt."

Kansas Chapter—February Meeting.

"President Charles W. Shaver stated that he thought the architects over the country by their activity on the question of employment of private architects on federal projects had at least placed themselves as a power before the public. This activity is getting results over the country."

North Carolina Chapter—Annual Meeting.

(From a report of the Standing Committee of the Chapter on Building Code)—"The section of the code affecting us was suggested to read approximately as follows: 'All buildings except residences and those costing under Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) shall be designed by a Registered Architect or Registered Engineer.' It was considered an impossibility to include residences on account of the fact that they are not open to the general public; and to exclude Registered

Engineers, as the feeling seems to be that an engineer is better qualified than an architect to build, the impression still being held that the architect supplies nothing more than possible beauty. * * *

"* * * B. A. Skinner was appointed Building Inspector of Charlotte under the law passed September 10. This law requires the registration of architects, engineers and contractors. The reaction is favorable toward the first two, but there has been some resentment against the requirement of employing registered contractors only. The regulations apply on all jobs above Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000). * * *"

Northern California Chapter—February Meeting.

"J. Stewart Fairweather introduced the matter of a reduction in the building wage scale and stated that many trades are not receiving the scale established by the Impartial Wage Board. The discussion which ensued was to the effect that the present concern should be towards stabilizing of wages and the following motion of E. L. Norberg, seconded by John J. Donovan, was unanimously passed:

"Resolved, That the Northern California Chapter accept in principle the suggestion of consideration of stabilizing wages in the building industries throughout the bay region, and that it proceed in its investigation through the appointment of a committee of three to confer with the Building Congress toward that end.

"* * * A. M. Edelman spoke of the attitude in Southern California relative to the effort being made for the benefit of the unemployed, through the instituting of the five-hour shift in labor.

"Henry H. Gutterson reported on work being undertaken by the Educational Committee, in preparation of a syllabus for the State Board of Architectural Examiners. While on this subject, John J. Donovan voiced an opinion of faults to be found within the curriculum of universities for fitting students for their life work in Architecture."

North Texas Chapter—February Meeting.

"Following the business meeting and luncheon, Frank O. Wittchell, President, introduced M. H. Furbringer, Regional Director, as the chief speaker of the evening. Mr. Furbringer spoke on government in architectural business, building congress, schedule of charges, and discussed the architects' problems in general, all of which was most interesting.

"Otto H. Lang made a brief talk stressing the importance of the building congress and urged

that the local Chapter sponsor such a movement in Dallas."

Pittsburgh Chapter—February Meeting.

"R. Maurice Trimble, Chairman of the Special Labor Committee, reported on consideration given Recommendations of Contracting Plasterers Association. The committee report was read in full and discussed at length by those present. * * *

"James M. Macqueen urged the compilation of an historic building chart of Western Pennsylvania. Urged all to cooperate by giving him names and locations and pertinent information concerning buildings erected prior to 1860."

San Diego Chapter—Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the San Diego Chapter was held January 21.

Mr. Siebert reported on the endorsement received by local organizations on H. R. 6187, the terms of which would require the Treasury Department to employ private architects for construction of Government building projects.

Other subjects receiving consideration of the Chapter were the Board of Review, Contract Form between Owner and Architect when the Architect is not registered as provided by law; Fellowships; and reports of retiring officers and election of new officers.

South Carolina Chapter—January Meeting.

Samuel Lapham called the Chapter's attention to a movement that was now on foot in the State Legislature concerning some unknown changes in the lien law of the state. A resolution was adopted authorizing C. C. Wilson to act for the Chapter in protecting the interests of the architects in any lien law amendments that might be brought before this session of the Legislature.

A resolution was adopted to the effect that the Chapter endorse the bill now before the State Legislature providing for the enactment of a Workmen's Compensation Law.

"Paul Williams, a guest architect of Spartansburg, South Carolina, was granted the floor and brought up the matter of the State Board of Education through its Committee preparing plans and specifications for country schools thereby encroaching on the practice of private architects. C. C. Wilson as a member of the State Board of Architectural Examiners reported that they did not use the name 'Architect' and the Board could not move against them. R. S. LaFaye moved that a committee be appointed to investigate and report what action the Chapter could take. Carried.

"C. C. Wilson moved that the Chapter ask the Institute that it press the view that architects

should be represented on the series of Home Loan District Banks about to be established by the Government and that it be brought to the attention of the authorities the value of the services architects could render to said banks."

Washington State Chapter—February Meeting.

"George Stoddard, Chairman of the Exhibition Committee, reported on plans made to hold an exhibition of small houses only, in connection with the 'Own Your Home' campaign some time in May or June."

A number of instructors from local educational institutions were guests of the Chapter at this meeting, and after the general business of the meeting was over the meeting was turned over to Carl Gould, Chairman of the Education Committee.

Mr. Stanley Smith, of Washington State College; Messrs. Gove, Mulhollan and Osgood, of the Seattle Public Schools; Messrs. Rounds and Thomas, of the University of Washington; and others, were called upon for short talks.

Roland Borhek, Past President of the Chapter, read a most interesting article from the Educational Journal, entitled "Children and Architecture."

These discussions and the article read by Mr. Borhek covered the competition sponsored by the Tacoma architects among students taking architectural drawing in that city and the objectives sought in these various courses from the point of view of the architects and from the point of view of the instructors.

West Texas Chapter—A Correction.

In the January issue of THE OCTAGON, there was a reference, on page 17, under the heading, "West Texas Chapter—December Meeting," to the effect that the architectural work on new buildings done by the Architectural Schools of the Texas A. & M. College and the University of Texas was not satisfactory from the viewpoint of the West Texas Chapter.

It is desired to correct this statement by inserting the following quotation from a recent letter by the President of the West Texas Chapter: " * * * the work done by the Architectural Department of the University of Texas was found to be satisfactory to the Chapter * * * the University of Texas is now operating its building program under a contract with private architects who prepare plans and specifications for any work done at Austin, and these buildings are let to private contractors upon reception of competitive bids.

"The Committee appointed * * * made a report which suggested that the Texas A. & M. College carry on its architectural work along the

same lines as now pursued by the University of Texas."

West Texas Chapter—Special Meeting.

"The meeting was called for the purposes of discussing with M. H. Furbringer, Regional Director, items of particular interest to members and also items to be considered at the coming National Convention.

"Mr. Furbringer opened his discussion with the statement that many architects in attendance at the last convention at San Antonio and particularly Eastern members have commented favorably on the courtesies and hospitalities that were shown them by the West Texas Chapter and that in their opinion the San Antonio Convention was one of the most outstanding.

"The failure of passage of the Texas Architects' Registration Law was discussed and Mr. Furbringer mentioned that it was his experience that the easiest way to have a registration law passed was to make the first draft very lenient and increase the strength of the law and tighten it by amendments from time to time, rather than try to pass a law with all the ideal requirements in it at the very start. He also mentioned that there would be a possibility of the architects sooner or later being taxed under a 'privilege tax' after the enactment of a registration law. He commented further that enforcement of registration laws also proved difficult, although most authorities gave their utmost cooperation.

"The Building Congress idea was again brought up and Mr. Furbringer was assured that the local Builders Exchange and its relationship with the architects, contractors, sub-contractors, materialmen, etc., was serving as a Building Congress as has been established in a good many other cities."

Wisconsin Chapter—February Meeting.

"At the February meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, the Morgan Woodwork Organization has allied itself with the movement for good architecture combined with good materials and craftsmanship in the erection and construction of houses, and

"Whereas, the above named organization has instituted a far-reaching national campaign featuring the slogan 'Build your home architecturally correct,

"Be It Therefore Resolved, that we, the members of the Wisconsin Chapter, A. I. A., do commend this said Morgan organization for its pioneer movement and wishes it much success in the realization of its objective, namely, the education of the builder and home maker so that he will consult an architect before building."

After the Chapter business had been transacted Mr. T. S. Morgan, President of the F. W. Dodge Corporation, addressed the meeting on "The Future Trend in the Building Industry."

Items of Interest

Convention—Michigan Society of Architects.

The Michigan Society of Architects held its Eighteenth Annual Convention at the Book-Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, February 19-20.

Not only were the Michigan architects represented at this Convention, but architects from other parts of the country and many other organizations of the building industry interested in the work of the architects were also well represented.

We quote the following from President H. Augustus O'Dell's address to the Convention:

"We are told that Europeans are facing the same depression but they have stopped talking about it. They are beginning to accept the present conditions and make the most of them.

"Doubtless what is uppermost in our minds at present is the utter lack of gainful employment to which the architect can turn his talents.

"I am not the kind of a pest who says that today's business is normal, that there isn't any depression, or if there is, it is 'good for the soul.' I do say, however, that continuing to talk about it, and worry about it, will do no good. We should

take courage from our European neighbors and look ahead, forgetting what is behind. We must begin to give real serious thinking to what can be done toward creating a new demand for our services. Perhaps it would be better to say toward creating a new service."

Annual Meeting—National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

The Twelfth Annual Business Meeting of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards will be held April 26, 1932, at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D. C.

This is just preceding the annual convention of The American Institute of Architects, which will be held at the same place on April 27, 28 and 29.

At the meeting of the N. C. A. R. B., important matters, such as architectural registration laws, architectural examinations for entrance to professional practice, enforcement of architectural registration laws, and other related subjects, will be discussed.

Visitors are welcome.

Appomattox Memorial—Design Approved.

The jury appointed by the Quartermaster General of the Army, Major General J. L. DeWitt, to select a design for the memorial authorized by Congress to be erected at Appomattox, Va., to commemorate the termination of the war between the States, has selected the design executed by Harry Sternfeld and J. Roy Carroll, Jr., architects, and Gaetano Cecere, sculptor, all of Philadelphia, Pa., it was announced orally March 11 by the War Department.

A total of 186 designs were submitted. The jury awarded eight honorable mentions and expressed its approval of the exceptionally high standard of the designs submitted.

Congress authorized an appropriation of \$100,000 for the erection of the monument, but no actual appropriation has been made.

The jury consisted of William C. Noland, Chairman; H. Van Buren Magonigle, Alexander B. Trowbridge, Charles Keck, and Horace W. Peaslee, Secretary. George G. Will acted as professional advisor.

Mechanics' Lien Act.

A Committee known as the Standard State Mechanics' Lien Act Committee was appointed by Mr. Hoover in 1925, while Secretary of Commerce, to consider the necessity for a uniform Mechanics' Lien Act, and to prepare such an act if desirable.

The Institute was represented on that Committee by Victor Mindeloff, of Washington, D. C.

Dan. H. Wheeler, Secretary of the Committee, states that a draft of a proposed Uniform Mechanics' Lien Act has been prepared and will be presented next fall for final action by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and by the American Bar Association.

A pamphlet containing the proposed Act, as well as statements by the Committee appointed by Mr. Hoover, and by the Mechanics' Lien Act Committee of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, may be obtained at ten cents per copy (reduced price for quantities) from Dan H. Wheeler, Secretary, Standard State Mechanics' Lien Act Committee, Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

The Architect's Services.

The Washington, D. C., Chapter has issued six bulletins on the Architect and the value of his services. These have been distributed to leaders in local civic affairs, banks, building and loan associations, prospective home builders, etc. These bulletins carry their message under the following titles:

1. What an Architect Is.
2. What an Architect Does.

3. The Architect's Fees.

4. Why You Should Employ an Architect.

5. Why You Should Employ a Registered Architect.

6. Why You Should Employ a Member of the A. I. A.

The Chapter, through the Chairman of its Public Information Committee, Francis P. Sullivan, has made available to THE OCTAGON several sets of these bulletins. A set will be sent to each of the first ten Chapters advising THE OCTAGON that it contemplates a Public Information program along similar lines and requests a set.

Aid Expected from Building Congresses.

Building congresses, now being formed throughout the country, should prove of immeasurable assistance in protecting the public against the further use of shoddy materials and construction, since they bring together not only all of the building trades but the registered architects and financiers; and financiers are learning that poor planning, poor quality and poor construction do not make good collateral.

It is significant that the home office of almost any good bank or trust company is located in a well-planned, well-constructed, long-lived building, usually designed by a registered architect of standing in the community. That bankers should have demanded only the best in making their own investments is not surprising. The surprise comes in the fact that it took a national financial crisis and bitter experience to prove that the same yardstick should be applied to the investment of their depositors' and bondholders' funds.

(Lancelot Sukert of Detroit in The Bulletin of the Northern Section—The State Association of California Architects.)

Fraud—"Man from Mexico."

Several months had gone by without word being received at The Octagon regarding the "wealthy Mexican land holder," who states that he desires architectural services for the construction of a large home on his hacienda and who has been going about the country swindling architects.

THE OCTAGON has previously received reports of his activity in Philadelphia, Louisville, Wilmington, Charleston, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Clarksburg.

The most recent report of this swindler is from Toledo.

Previous statements in regard to this person appeared in the May (1931) and August (1931) issues of THE OCTAGON. This swindler is mentioned again merely that other architects may be on their guard in the event they are approached by this "wealthy Mexican."

Seventy-five Years Ago

The American Institute of Architects was born in 1857. It took a lot of courage to be born in that particular year, in proof of which the following is submitted. The profession may well take courage for the future. The first seventy-five years are the hardest!

"It is a gloomy moment in history. Not for many years—not in the lifetime of most men who read this paper—has there been so much grave and deep apprehension; never has the future seemed so incalculable as at this time. In our own country there is a universal commercial prostration and panic, and thousands of our poorest fellow-citizens are turned out against the approaching winter without employment, and without the prospect of it.

"In France the political caldron seethes and bubbles with uncertainty; Russia hangs on as usual, like a cloud, dark and silent upon the horizon of Europe; while all the energies, resources and influences of the British Empire are sorely tried, and are yet to be tried more sorely, in coping with the vast and deadly Indian insurrection, and with its disturbed relations in China.

"It is a solemn moment, and no man can feel any indifference (which happily no man pretends to feel) in the issue of events.

"Of our own troubles no man can see the end. They are fortunately as yet mainly commercial; and if we are only to lose money and by painful poverty be taught wisdom—the wisdom of honor, of faith, of sympathy and of charity—no man need seriously despair. And yet the very haste to be rich, which is the occasion of this widespread calamity, has also tended to destroy the moral forces with which we are to resist and subdue the calamity."

(Harper's Weekly, October 10, 1857)



