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*Presidents.

†Secretaries.

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A Letter from the President

TO THE MEMBERS:

IN the September number of *THE OCTAGON* there appeared a letter to the members—and to the Presidents of the Chapters—in which there was some discussion of certain phases of the present economic crisis with which all of us have been faced for some time.

That letter requested the Chapter Presidents to report on their efforts to strengthen their Chapters and to maintain the spirit and integrity of the architectural profession.

Their responses have been most gratifying. Individually they vary from the depths of depression to the heights of courage and determination. Collectively they make a symposium of courage, determination, and of the right philosophy of life which is nothing short of inspiring. They contain a mine of information that can be used advantageously as a guide for future activities of the Institute.

Many letters indicate that social and civic activities are playing an ever-increasing part in the daily lives of the architects. This is as it should be and I hope it will become a universal practice. Even a catalogue of such outstanding activities would be impressive.

After reading the letters I am more than ever convinced that we can look to the future with confidence, and in the belief that we will be better equipped to keep abreast of the constantly changing conditions.

I have a feeling that the Institute owes a debt of gratitude to the men who are so ably carrying on under conditions that are not the most fortunate at present, and are only temporary.

The letters have encouraged me, and have strengthened the belief that the year that is to follow can be faced with equanimity.

Also, I believe it is appropriate for me to express to the members of the Institute, as individuals and as Chapters, the very deep appreciation of the Officers and Directors of the support which they are giving so freely to them and to the officers of the Chapters.

Of the professions, I think ours is the most fortunate, because it has in such large number men who place certain high ideals, and loyalty to the common good above all else.

As I have said before no Architect has escaped those hardships and those discouragements of the past three years, which came inevitably to those who give first place to the idealism of creative art. The splendid courage with which those hardships have been met is to me final proof of the enduring place to be held by the architectural profession in the future life of our country.

Let us renew our determination to meet the year 1933 with aggressive spirits. Let every individual determine for himself to give no room to despair, and to go out and create opportunity for professional employment by all honorable means. The Architect can no longer wait for opportunity to knock at his door. He must act as an individual, and collectively, in such manner as will bring proper recognition in every case in which the training, experience, and judgment of the Architect are of value.

Regardless of the atmosphere of the moment, which I think is contrary to the real spirit of America, I have the hardihood to send the Greetings of the Season to each and every member of the Institute, and to wish for him, with a considerable degree of assurance, a Happier and a Busier New Year.

ERNEST JOHN RUSSELL,
President.

December 14th.

A Letter from the Treasurer

TO THE MEMBERS:

AT the last Convention we celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of The American Institute of Architects. During those seventy-five years the Institute passed through many periods of plenty and through an equal number of depressions. Yet no depression has been able to destroy it or do more than temporarily check its progress. The thousands of architects who have loyally contributed their time, money, and devotion to upbuild its effectiveness can not be other than proud of its position as an American institution.

What of the Institute today? Never has the architectural profession, in its distressed financial condition, needed the Institute more, and never has the Institute been more needful of the support of the architects of America.

Only through the Institute can the architects hope to retain their professional prerogatives, and only the Institute stands between them and those whose accumulative aggressiveness would take those prerogatives from them.

Last year (1931) the Institute did not live within a suddenly reduced income. This year it has done so, except for one large unanticipated item of expense, because the Board of Directors had made the most drastic economies. Only the educational activities, which are supported by endowments, have been carried on as before.

What of the Institute next year—the year 1933 which is before us? Its activities must now be planned and budgeted. What will the income be? What financial support is essential to carry on fundamental work?

The Institute has but 3,000 active members. Perhaps one-half, but not more, of these may be able to continue their annual dues to the Institute next year without some sacrifice.

But the dues from these one-half of its members will not permit the Institute to carry on those things which we know are essential to the welfare of the profession. If it must depend on such dues only, then it will be obliged to give up its publicity work; to give up its program to secure the designing of public buildings for the practicing architects; to give up its structural service work; to curtail further the visits of the directors to their chapters; and, in brief—to become a skeleton organization.

During the past two years, many things not vital in the fight to maintain the morale and solidarity of the architectural profession have been temporarily discontinued. These include the Annuary, the Proceedings, the Manual, and other documents. This

year one Executive Committee meeting and one Board meeting were omitted. The personnel at The Octagon has been substantially reduced, and the salaries of those remaining have been cut.

During the coming year, it is imperative that certain things be done. We must preserve the Institute's leadership of the architectural profession. We must fight through the economic readjustment which faces our country. The Institute must carry on the work it is doing through its Officers, Divisions, and Chapters, the purpose of which is to maintain the integrity of the architectural profession and to secure for the individual architect that public and private recognition which is his due.

We must continue our program to take the government out of competition with the private architect. We must continue to maintain the ideals of professional practice. We must continue to uphold a proper schedule of charges. We must continue to regulate architectural competitions. We must continue, by means of the standard documents, to improve our business practices. We must continue to publish THE OCTAGON, as a monthly message to the individual members.

This statement is sent by the Treasurer, to all members of the Institute, at the request of the Executive Committee. It represents a true picture of the Institute's financial problem, which it has to face in the year 1933.

Its purpose is to bring to every individual member the proposition that the Institute can carry on just so long as, and to the extent that, it is supported by the profession. To those who have found it difficult to make their yearly dues contributions, it is a special plea for support.

Membership in the Institute is of very tangible and direct benefit to every member. It gives him a definite standing in his community, as a member and a supporter of an organization of high ideals and honorable name. The members recognize this, and hence they must surely desire the Institute to continue its work for them and the profession.

Within a few days the obligations of another year will be upon us. The Institute is down to fundamentals. What it will do and become during this new year will depend entirely on the support you give it through your dues.

Perhaps those fortunate members to whom the payment of dues entails no sacrifice may be helpful to those unable to contribute. Can fellowship be more worthily evidenced or received?

EDWIN BERGSTROM,
Treasurer.

December 14th.

Excerpts from Reports of Chapter Presidents

TO THE MEMBERS:

A letter, addressed to the Members, and to the Presidents of Chapters, appeared in the September OCTAGON. It asked each President to report on his Chapter—on its problems, its morale, and its program.

These reports have been received. As a whole, they make a symposium of courage, of determination, and of the right philosophy of life which is nothing short of inspiring. No Architect worthy of the title can read these reports and not be strengthened in his purpose to hold fast to his profession and its ideals until the better days of economic improvement are here. Those days cannot be far away.

Please regard as confidential the excerpts here printed, so far as any republication is concerned. It is my hope that every Member and every Chapter will find in these pages practical suggestions which can be used for self-improvement and new initiative; and that they will also find complete justification of our great faith in the Institute and its Chapters.

December 15th.

Faithfully yours,

ERNEST JOHN RUSSELL,
President.

New England Division

BOSTON CHAPTER—RALPH W. GRAY, *President*

Appraisal Service

Several members are interested in devising a plan to make possible a "Central Appraisal Board," to assist loaning agencies in connection with building projects. The idea is an excellent and a sound one. It is hard to achieve because such Board would replace existing (and incompetent) agencies now performing this function, which they would be loth to relinquish because of financial reasons. There is no doubt that such an Appraisal Board would be of enormous help to the lenders and to the public.

Federal Employment of Architects

The Chapter has written to all Congressional candidates regarding the Institute's proposed legislation for Federal Employment of Private Architects.

State and Civic Affairs

It would be highly desirable, if there be means to accomplish it, to cause state and municipal authori-

ties to more frequently appoint architects as members of commissions (paid or unpaid), having to do with architectural matters. In the past, while architects have been occasionally appointed, the profession has not been called upon for a service which it is competent to give and which the public is entitled to receive. It is hoped that some means may be devised to stimulate government authorities in their use of the experience of the architectural profession. The road, however, is fraught with political obstacles.

Unemployment Relief

The Unemployment Committee—Messrs. W. Stanley Parker, J. F. Clapp, and Hubert G. Ripley—has been instrumental in establishing an organization for the relief of architects and draftsmen which is believed to be one of the most able and efficiently conducted of any temporary relief organization of its kind. Its work will redound to the credit of the profession in the public eyes.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER—HAROLD H. DAVIS, *President*

Membership

We of the Connecticut Chapter feel that real progress is being made toward bettering the conditions of practice for the individual architects in this state. Our membership has been maintained through this period of unrest and a few names added to the roster. At present, we are putting on a concentrated drive to secure several new members from an eligible list of some fifteen unaffiliated architects.

Competitions

The Chapter was also instrumental in bringing about an Institute competition for a recent state project which resulted in a chapter member winning the competition. These competitions formerly were "catch as catch can" affairs which, of course, barred Institute men. We hope to be able to continue this influence relative to state competitions.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER—continued
Registration

State registration of architects is another objective of the chapter and while we have worked for this law many years previously, we seem nearer our goal than ever before and this year we are cooperating with the state engineering societies who are sponsoring their own bill.

State and Civic Affairs—R. F. C.

A chapter committee is now surveying the state with reference to the advisability of the chapter proposing an enabling act in the coming session of the state legislature which would allow private and municipal corporations to take advantage of the R. F. C. loans for slum clearance.

Arbitration

The executive committee of our chapter recently assumed the role of arbitrators between a chapter member and client which prevented the case from going to court. The decision of the committee was satisfactory to both parties and an equitable settlement made. Incidentally, I believe this is a precedent which might well be followed in other chapters.

Attendance

Attendance at our chapter meetings has improved recently and this is due largely to an active program committee which has arranged meetings of interest to the members.

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER—GORMAN HENSHAW, President

Registration

The request for a report as to how the Rhode Island Chapter is carrying on, has received my attention. After due consideration, I believe it would be more fully answered by my annual report, made to the Chapter, reviewing the work of the year 1931 and recommendations made for the year 1932. My recommendations regarding registration are proceeding, and we expect a bill to be presented to the coming legislature. The A. I. A.'s committee on registration is giving us hearty cooperation and assistance.

Federal Employment of Architects

We now have a committee on Public Works, and they are doing what they can to help forward the Institute's policies.

Publicity

The Committee on Public Information is carrying on a fine program, and the Providence Sunday Journal is devoting several pages with illustrations of houses and articles of interest to home builders, many of which are the result of interviews with our

members, and other information supplied by the committee. This feature of the Sunday paper is meeting with much popularity, and I am informed will continue indefinitely.

School Prize

In addition to our assistance to the Rhode Island School of Design, we have added a prize of twenty-five dollars to the Providence Architectural Club.

(OCTAGON NOTE: Mr. Henshaw attached a copy of the report which he had made to the Chapter earlier in the year when his previous term of office as Chapter President ended. It is an excellent statement. It covers in detail Chapter activities during the past year, and makes recommendations for future work. Referring to the work of the Institute he said, "I wonder if we appreciate and realize the immense amounts of work and the advantageous results accomplished by these committees. If we did appreciate them I think the \$25.00 yearly dues, to the National Body, would seem less of a burden and a very reasonable investment.")

New York Division

ALBANY CHAPTER—THOMAS L. GLEASON, President

Membership

The Albany Chapter of the A. I. A. was chartered in May, 1930, with 11 charter members. To date there are enrolled 20 Institute members and one honorary chapter associate, with one membership application pending.

Meetings and Program

We do not have permanent quarters, but meet

monthly from December to May inclusive, at the University club or elsewhere.

At these meetings we have a dinner, to which we have invited guests or speakers. Frequent executive meetings are held and we also meet with the Regional Director, Mr. Albert L. Brockway.

Our program for the coming year is in the course of preparation, and we start our regular meetings for the coming year early in December. In October

ALBANY CHAPTER—continued

we held a meeting, with dinner, and an inspection of the new Phillip Livingston Junior High School of the City of Albany, N. Y., of which one of our members, Andrew L. Delehanty, is the Architect.

We are not able so far this year to offer assistance to strengthen the position of the Architect, locally,

because of present conditions and our regular meetings not having started.

The Problem of Good Attendance

Our principal problem is that of having the majority of the members attend the meetings. Our Program Committee is working to overcome this problem this year.

BROOKLYN CHAPTER—WILLIAM A. SANDERS, *President***Meetings**

Monthly meetings have been arranged for the coming year with interesting programs.

Finances

The annual dues of the Chapter have been reduced one-third in order to make it easier for the members to retain their membership in the chapter, and as an inducement to non-members of the profession to become members.

Federal Employment of Architects

The Chapter, through its Secretary, is communicating with the various members of Congress representing the territory covered by the Brooklyn Chap-

ter with reference to the employment of private architects on Federal Government work.

Loaning Companies

The Chapter is bringing to the attention of the companies loaning money on building operations, the benefits to be derived by both the Loaning Companies and the Owners for employing Architects.

Unemployment Relief

The Chapter has contributed to the Architects Emergency Unemployment Relief fund, and the individual members are arranging for various kinds of parties to raise money for this fund.

BUFFALO CHAPTER—HARRY F. HUDSON, *President***Architectural Bureaus**

A committee is now working to have the City and School Board abolish their architectural departments.

Membership

A committee is working to strengthen and increase the Chapter membership.

Brochure—Value of Architectural Service

A committee is working on a brochure on the services of the architect which members can present

to prospective clients and building interests.

Meetings

A committee is working on a program for monthly meetings at which speakers will be public officials, representatives, etc.

States and Civic Affairs

A committee has been appointed relative to the Chapter taking a more active part in community affairs.

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER—WALTER H. CASSEBEER, *President***Meetings**

The meetings of the Chapter are regularly held bi-monthly with the exception of the summer recess during which period some of our members attend the regional conference.

Our June meeting was held in Corning with an attendance of twenty-four. We have a chapter membership of seventy of which usually forty attend meetings. This year because of lack of funds and the necessarily increased expenses of travel by members in attending meetings, it has become increasingly more difficult to secure attendance.

Because of this fact no summer conference was held. The October meeting called for Utica re-

ceived so meagre a response that it was deemed best not to hold that meeting. The Chapter is holding a meeting in Rochester on November 19th. To date ten members have responded favorably. In view of this small number the Chapter President is sending a special urgent appeal embodying President Russell's comments of September relative to Chapter President and membership responsibility, in order to secure better attendance.

Trade Recovery Committee

With reference to the National Committee on Trade Recovery; no contacts have been had with the temporary chairman located in Buffalo. I un-

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER—continued

derstand our Regional Director has had some correspondence. No member of the Chapter has been connected with any A. I. A. Committee appointed under this program to my knowledge. This statement is made without full knowledge of conditions and contacts in other cities.

The Chapter's Board of Directors has given every point of the Trade Recovery Committee's program serious consideration and has taken every opportunity to further the program outlined, within its power and through individual membership wherever it is known action would be positive.

The Rochester Chamber of Commerce has a Trade Recovery Committee of which C. Storrs Barrows and William G. Kaelber are members. Both are Institute members and Mr. Barrows reports that new projects coming to the attention of this committee are referred to a Project Committee who pass the project on to the Buffalo R. F. C. office for consideration. This is done only after it has been approved by committees of architects and engineers for construction and design, and to realtors for land values. So far I understand no project has been developed to a point to secure loans. If it does not seem desirable to the Buffalo office, it may be cared for by local banking institutions.

Contacts are being made with banking institutions which in Rochester are very close. I might add that A. I. A. members of the Society are united in the merits of these efforts. This morning's news (November 11th) gives the first public hope of a betterment of mortgage loaning conditions and the relief of unemployment. Needless to say that here much work is being held back because of the financial situation.

Civic Affairs

Locally (in Rochester) an independent committee was established through the efforts of the Board of Directors of the Rochester Society of Architects—on which your Chapter President and Secretary are active workers. A committee of four was formed of one member of each of the following groups: Rochester Society of Architects, Rochester Engineer-

ing Society, Rochester Real Estate Board and the Builders Exchange (a group of local building contractors). It is called the Coordinating Committee.

This Committee has regular meetings and has contacted City and County officials in an effort to:

- (a) Have new work undertaken;
- (b) Secure the dissolution of the Architectural Department of the Board of Education of the City of Rochester.

Federal (and State) Employment of Architects

The city department is headed by Francis S. Scherer, A. I. A., and employs upwards of twelve men. It has functioned for about eight years. Under the impetus of getting the government out of business and because of drastic reductions in the education budget, the department may be discontinued. The Committee is endeavoring to secure cost data sheets of school construction and department maintenance in order to make comparisons with fees for employment of local architects. It is the belief that here, as in Washington, the answer will be, if honestly computed, that it is less expensive to employ competent Architects.

The Committee has contacted similar associations in neighboring cities of the State in an effort to secure the establishment of committees similarly purposed. So far definite results have not been obtained.

With reference to all bills before the Senate and House on the employment of Private Architects, the closest contact with Senators and Congressmen is had. In each instance we have received encouragement and expressed support by all Washington Representatives. In contacting nominees for office, in each instance the same result has been had.

In New York State correspondence is maintained by your Chapter President and your Regional Director with officials in Albany on state work and its release to Architects.

It may be interesting to note that in the area covered by the Central New York Chapter during the past year five A. I. A. members were appointed architects on six Government Post Office projects amounting to a little over two million dollars. The sixth was assigned to a Pennsylvania architect.

NEW YORK CHAPTER—CHARLES H. HIGGINS, *President***General Statement**

We are working hard, taking advantage of this opportunity to plan for the future. There is an opportunity. Our general policy can best be worked out when we are not being driven to finish drawings, or close buildings in before winter. We depend on our Committees and, by appointments, we have made

strong Committees. We have added to the Committees a Staff Committee on Chapter Relations, with Vice-President Dwight James Baum, as Chairman, from whom I attach a report. In appointing this Committee I hope for entertaining meetings with more open expression of the friendly feeling which exists among the members.

NEW YORK CHAPTER—continuedFuture Outlook

There are bridges to be crossed and we are crossing them one at a time as best we may. However, at the same time, we are taking a look forward and preparing for the demands which will come in the busy days ahead. Our Secretary Eric Kebbon, has prepared a general outline of our activities, and I take pleasure in attaching copy of his letter.

An Object Lesson for Architects

Door to door delivery was discussed some years ago as a policy for the railroads. The railroads chose to leave the trucking, from the freight yard to the door, to truckmen. Today the same truckmen have extended their delivery from door to door, from New York to Chicago, while the railroad loadings decline. I feel there is a lesson for architects in this experience which we have seen go on around us.

From the Report by the Vice-President, Dwight James Baum—New York ChapterMeetings and Bulletin

To retain the interest of the members during these trying times for the professional man, there has been appointed a committee on Chapter relations to not only make the meetings more interesting to the members both new and old, but also to make the members better acquainted with each other. Therefore, six members have been appointed comprising various ages and men of varied interests. These members, under the direction of the vice-president, as Chairman, ex-officio, will be present at all meetings to introduce members to each other and start various discussions before and after the regular program to make members feel more at home and more a part of the organization. Also, to attract attention to the meetings, to get the members informed as to their officers and as to affairs not only in the Chapter but in the profession, a small bulletin is to be issued at irregular periods. It is intended that these will be as newsy as possible and not of the dry and statistical type. It will be more in the shape of an informal news sheet than the usual Chapter or Institute publication. The Chapter Bulletin will carry in each issue, various suggestions as to cooperation with local groups and civic organizations as to opportunities for the architect along these lines.

Unemployment Relief

The Chapter is working actively through many of its members in helping the present unemployment situation and is cooperating with the Architectural

League and their general committee in this important work.

From the Report by the Secretary, Eric Kebbon, New York ChapterCivic Affairs

Through the Legislative Committee, the Chapter, in cooperation with the Council of Registered Architects will work for the passage of such legislation as will benefit the profession, and will seek to obstruct legislative efforts to minimize the influence of the architect in the community.

A representative of the Chapter is serving as one of the Trustees of the Citizens Budget Commission, thereby bringing to bear the influence of the total membership of the Chapter on the reduction of taxes.

Through a committee of the Chapter we are cooperating with the State Department of Education on the preparation of a Code for School Buildings in Cities other than First and Second Class.

Through another committee we are working with the city authorities in an advisory capacity in connection with the revision of the Building Code.

Publicity

Through the offices of the Committee on Education, representatives of the Chapter are to speak on architecture and allied subjects in the public schools throughout the state.

Through our Committee on Public Information, we hope to provide articles for the daily papers which will bring the architect before the public.

Chapter Bulletin

By issuing a Chapter bulletin to the members of the Chapter it is hoped to increase their interest in the Chapter and to provide them with current information pertaining to the profession.

Meetings

The Entertainment Committee is planning to obtain interesting speakers to address the Chapter at its meetings, and particularly at the Annual Meeting, on architectural problems of the moment.

New Members

The Membership Committee is seeking to add new members to the Chapter by means of an extensive campaign.

Unemployment Relief

It is assured that the unemployment situation among draftsmen will be dealt with constructively, in association with the Architectural League.

Middle Atlantic Division

BALTIMORE CHAPTER—HENRY S. T. WHITE, *President*Chapter Interest

The members of the Baltimore Chapter have been hard hit by the depression and some are experiencing and facing real difficulties, but there appears to be no lack of interest on the part of the members in matters pertaining to the profession, the Chapter, and the Institute. Our meetings, which are held monthly, are well attended.

New Members

We only anticipate the loss of one or possibly two of our members through non-payment of dues, and before the end of this year we hope we shall be able to add two new associates.

Building Congress

A number of our members have been engaged this year with the formation of a Building Congress for Baltimore, the organization meeting of which was held on October 13, 1932, when Mr. Robert D. Kohn was the guest of honor and spoke of the operation of and benefits to be derived from a building congress. The formation of this Building Congress in Baltimore was due to the initiative, interest, and efforts of the members of the Baltimore Chapter.

Exhibitions

A number of our members are now engaged in making arrangements for an exhibition at Baltimore's Municipal Museum. This exhibition will show, by photographs and drawings, the city's growth in architecture from the early days of the Republic.

DELAWARE CHAPTER—G. MORRIS WHITESIDE, II, *President*Meetings

We not only are holding our meetings regularly, but have had occasion to call special meetings between regular dates, at which meetings we have considered such matters as the registration of architects in Delaware. A committee is now very active preparing such a bill for the coming meeting of the Assembly. Other matters receiving attention are unemployment; publicity; the cooperation with the Allied Building Industries; the Better Homes of America Committee; the Governor's Committee on Housing, and arrangements for our inaugural dinner.

Membership

As you probably know, our Chapter was chartered this year (1932), so that we have held our memberships and by the end of the year, hope to have nearly doubled our numbers.

It will be of interest to the public and of educational benefit. The Municipal Museum seems an ideal place for such an exhibit, as it was originally erected by Rembrandt Peale in the early part of the nineteenth century, and after many vicissitudes, has been splendidly restored by the City, mainly through the initiative and influence of the Baltimore Chapter.

Governor Selects Architect

We, of the Baltimore Chapter, feel that we took a forward step in the interest of the public and the profession when we, in the latter part of last year, requested the Governor of the State of Maryland to allow the Chapter to help him select an architect to design the Memorial Hall of Records to be erected at Annapolis, Maryland, to commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the State. Governor Ritchie complied with our request, and we solved the problem of making a choice by selecting, through secret ballot, six architects, from whom the Governor agreed to make the choice, which he has now done to the entire satisfaction and approval of the profession.

Unemployment Relief

In the early part of this year the Chapter sent a questionnaire to all architects in Baltimore, for the purpose of ascertaining the situation in regard to the employment of architectural draftsmen. The response to this questionnaire was most gratifying, and the Secretary of the Chapter is, therefore, in possession of data which is quite comprehensive. We rejoice that it has not yet been necessary to give financial assistance to any unemployed draftsmen.

Chapter Progress

In some ways I think 1932 has proven to be a good year for us to organize, for I feel quite certain that had normal conditions ensued, your local officers and committee chairmen would have been put to their wits ends to find time to attend the Institute's business. However, it is all very fine and we enjoy doing it. In fact, certain phases of the work might be said to be inspirational, and there is no doubt but that these past brief months have done more toward a better understanding among the architects of Delaware than ever before in history.

We are keeping up our morale I believe very successfully and trying to establish public confidence in the profession by so doing. We believe that you will have every reason to be satisfied with the progress of the Delaware Chapter.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER—SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, *President*To Strengthen the Position of the Architect(a) Civic Affairs

By serving on many committees both professional and civic—because I believe the architect should take a very active part in his community which directly affects the position of the profession.

Have definitely taken up the problems of our profession as presented to us for action, such as the Sears-Roebuck and Small House encroachments; and influencing the leading home magazine to drop a proposed similar program in favor of one which strengthens rather than decreases the position of the architect. May I humbly state that I do not think there is any one more important task for a Chapter President than to zealously watch and try to control the many encroachments on the profession of architecture.

By trying to give an encouraging outlook and reading inspirational letters to the members at the meetings.

(b) Local Architectural Organizations

By initiating and sponsoring the formation of local societies or groups of architects in various sections of the State. As part of this work I am serving as President of the Union County Society of Architects which is my own local group. Have appointed a strong Committee to work throughout the State to form other groups believing that united we stand, etc., which in the success so far indicated will greatly strengthen the position of the architect.

(c) Publicity

By trying to get as much merited recognition in the local newspapers as possible for our meetings, programs and civic performances. We depend greatly on our Publicity Committee.

(d) Architectural Exhibit

By initiating and sponsoring an architectural exhibit of the work of our own members in one of the Museums early next year which we hope later to develop into a travelling exhibit throughout our State.

Chapter Program(a) Meetings

Monthly meetings October to June inclusive, with the Executive Board of seventeen gatherings at four o'clock to meet until six, when a dollar dinner is indulged in. Encouraging letters are read at these meetings. Our notices invite all members to attend but state if they cannot, the regular business meeting will start at 7:30. We make this as short as possible and follow with a program of instruction, en-

lightenment and good fellowship, adjourning anywhere between 10 and 12 o'clock. After adjournment the old guard of Chapter workers then usually adjourns the second time to _____'s beer garden, but as he was fined \$1,000 since the last meeting and is now in jail, we may have to go over to New York for ease and refreshment.

Can any Chapter President beat our last meeting when the Board of Directors, fourteen attending, please note, expedited quite a lot of important work and then fought heatedly for the balance of the meeting over much less important matters.

I am proud to say that in spite of the depression and the devil we have an average attendance of about forty. The only deviations from this program are our December and June meetings. We make the Christmas meeting a gala occasion, invite our wives, and dispense with business in favor of an evening in the Christmas spirit. The June meeting is generally an out of doors affair with a large keg in evidence, and is held at the Camp of one of our members.

The problem of attendance is partly alleviated for us by our nearness to New York City and opportunity to get architects of distinction who help us by personifying what we, under different circumstances, environment and cellular distribution, might have been, and inspire us by personal contact during their visits.

The success of our meetings is due in a large measure to the work of our Program and Fellowship Committee under the very able leadership of Arthur B. Holmes.

(b) Chapter Organization

The business and all Committee work is studied by the President and officers and presented to the Executive Board for action. The business is handled by this Board and other work assigned to the proper Committees, of which we have fifteen in number. The officers assist and back up the Committee Chairmen as it has been our experience that, scattered throughout the entire State as we are, it is hardly ever possible to get a full committee together.

Problems(a) Federal employment of architects. Smaller buildings excluded.

We as Chapters are constantly asked and do give loyal support to the Institute in their activities which benefit the architects of large interests and practice. Federal Buildings over \$300,000 is one instance, while the rest of the membership seem to be personifying the so-called forgotten man. Our Chapter loyally supports the Institute activities—the report to Mr. La Beaume as an instance. The Institute should

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER—continued

reciprocate with help to the vastly greater membership, who, we won't admit cannot do the jobs above \$300,000 and do them well in most instances, but who do represent the strata below \$300,000.

(b) Professional Ethics

Unethical practice by any Institute member, of large practice or small, greatly lessens the value of Institute membership.

(c) Membership Income

The difficulty of increasing membership under the present plan of \$50 with the application is apparent.

NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER—J. HOWARD HICKS, President**Meetings**

Our Chapter is small and as such cannot do many of the things that many of the larger Chapters are doing, but with it all we have maintained our monthly meetings with fairly good success.

For several years our meetings have been luncheon meetings, but this year thinking a change might be beneficial, we decided to hold our meetings in one of the offices in the afternoon, and then every third meeting to be an evening meeting at one of the clubs, with a program and buffet luncheon, employing an outside speaker whenever possible, which has added much interest to the meetings.

Federal Employment of Architects

In spite of our handicaps we have tried to cooperate with the Institute, with the several Chapters in the work they are doing, and also with the State Association, especially in bringing pressure to bear on our representatives in Congress with reference to government work.

We are planning to invite the newly elected congressmen and legislators to meet with us at our next evening meeting so that they may better understand our position, and we will offer to them our hearty cooperation in their work, as has been suggested by President Russell.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER—RALPH B. BENCKER, President**Committees**

We have the usual list of committees which have been recommended from time to time by the Institute, dealing with the general business of Chapter affairs. These Committees are busily at work—advancing the cause of Architecture.

Why not \$25 with the application, and \$25 when elected. It takes from two to three months, and a job might come in in the meantime.

The further difficulty of increasing membership is the very definite objection to the Institute's endorsement of the Competitor, the Architects Small House Bureau.

Clement W. Fairweather

As sometimes happens I find I have inadvertently failed in giving credit due to one who is in a large measure responsible for whatever success our Chapter attains, namely our Past-President, Clement W. Fairweather, and for the years since his presidency the very best Secretary in the sixty-seven Chapters!

Civic Affairs

Our several committees have been functioning with reference to Zoning Ordinances and City building code. We also have a special committee working with the Mayor and City Council with others in an advisory capacity on tax matters. We have had a committee working with a committee of the Technical Federation of Erie, and this year have placed a goodly number of technical books in the public library. Our Chapter takes its turn in furnishing a program in connection with the meetings of this Federation.

Convention Tax—Membership

It has been suggested at several of our Chapter meetings from time to time that there should be some re-adjustment of the Institute tax in favor of the small Chapter. In order to have enough money to pay the Institute tax, State Association dues, Erie Technical Federation dues, and other necessary expenses of the Chapter, our Chapter dues are necessarily about twice what other Chapter dues are, and some think that may be keeping some out of the Chapter who might otherwise join with us. There are three or four practicing architects in our district who ought to be members, and we have done everything we could to get them to affiliate, even to sending a committee to interview them personally.

Reconstruction, Housing and Rehabilitation, etc.,**Chapter's Major Activities for the Year**

At our Annual Meeting on June 13, 1932 (as the result of a previous study which I had made, and in order to bring our Chapter and its members more actively in touch with municipal affairs) I proposed

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER—continued

that for our Major Activity for this year, we set up an organization formed of our Chapter and all other interested bodies—to undertake the study of Reconstruction, Housing and Rehabilitation, and also to make a study with recommendations on the work of the City Planning and Zoning Commissions.

I proposed that the Chapter endeavor to produce a "Master Plan" of the City of Philadelphia—bringing together all the different groups who, for a number of years, have been working individually on the solution of this problem.

The work undertakes to solve the problem connected with the blighted areas of Philadelphia, in addition to producing finally a Master Plan which we hope will receive the approval of all interested organizations.

We are making fairly good progress. The October Meeting of the Chapter was devoted to the study of Arterial Highway Recommendations, and we are planning—starting this month—to hold two or three Chapter Meetings each month from 3 to 5 P. M., so that we might more fully develop ideas on this subject.

In connection with this work the Chamber of Commerce have appointed a Committee to undertake the renovizing of old properties in the blighted areas, and I am serving on their committee so that the Chapter's work might be coordinated with theirs. At our September meeting the Chapter voted, as a body, to take membership with the Chamber of Commerce so that we might have a group of our members available to serve on the Chamber of Commerce committees.

Federation of Construction Industry—Renovizing Campaign

Years ago, we had in our city, as you know, the old Building Congress. It has since been reorganized

into the Philadelphia Federation of the Construction Industry. I have served continuously as an officer of this body, and just now they are about to launch in Philadelphia a "Renovize Philadelphia Campaign."

In this connection, the Chapter is giving its fullest support. We have just arranged for the following: We shall appoint a committee of three Architects to serve on the General Organization Committee; we shall appoint every two weeks, three other Architects who, during that period, will help in this work by giving free Architectural advice on any problems requiring expert opinion, brought about by the solicitors . . . ; this "Committee of Three" will rotate every two weeks and, as the campaign will probably last twenty-four weeks, this will require the services of a great number of our Chapter members.

Whenever it is determined that an owner should, through this campaign, employ an Architect, the three Architects, on the permanent committee will be asked to suggest to the owner the names of four or five architects particularly qualified to handle that type of work. Of the four or five Architects suggested, the owner can select one.

Unemployment Relief

During the past two winters, the Chapter has raised about \$15,000, which was used for the employment of needy draftsmen. Their time was used in measuring old historic buildings in the Philadelphia area. At one time about forty of these men were employed at the rate of about \$20 per week. They produced some 400 drawings which are to be put into book form and sold in order to raise additional funds for Unemployment Relief.

In addition to the regular affairs of the Chapter, the activities outlined above show that the Philadelphia Chapter is engaged in many directions that will be to the credit and advancement of the Architectural profession.

*PITTSBURGH CHAPTER—PRESS C. DOWLER, President**Meetings*

Replying to your letter to the President of each Chapter, beg to advise you that the Pittsburgh Chapter has started its Fall work and the attendance at the October meeting was one of the largest in the history of the Chapter.

Membership and Unemployment Relief

We have a number of activities under way which we believe will hold the attention of the Membership even in the face of present conditions. A group on Unemployment Relief has been formed to work in conjunction with a similar group of the Pittsburgh Architectural Club.

Book on Architecture of Western Pennsylvania

We have also been fortunate in interesting the Buhl Foundation in financing the publication of a book on the early architecture of Western Pennsylvania. This, they have agreed to do at a cost not to exceed \$6,500, for the compilation and preparation of text, drawings, and illustrations for the proposed volume. Much of the money expended on this will revert to the unemployed Architects and Draftsmen. All of this is under the direction of a Committee from the Chapter working in conjunction with the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey.

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER—continuedCivic Affairs

Some months ago a group was sponsored by the Chapter to follow up the matter of legislation concerning a State Housing Commission, which is expected to come before the Pennsylvania Legislature at its next meeting.

Federal Employment of Architects

With reference to the action of the Chapter to secure greater recognition to the private Architect

by the Federal Government, beg to advise you that we have carried out the wishes of Mr. LaBeaume in approaching the candidates for Congress, and the report has already been sent to Mr. LaBeaume on the matter.

Membership

Practically all of the Chapter Members have been maintaining their position as practicing architects under the trying conditions of the last several years; and there seems to be a full desire to cooperate and maintain the interest in the Chapter.

SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER—M. EDWIN GREEN, PresidentMembership

We have not received the resignation of a single Institute member and this class of members remains at thirty, the largest membership of any time in our history.

Two Chapter members were dropped on account of non-payment of dues last April at the meeting preceding the beginning of this Chapter year.

One Junior Associate member was dropped as he had moved from the District.

Finances

Several of our members are in arrears in dues either to the Chapter or to the Institute or to both. We have been reluctant to press for collection of dues in cases where we know the member is without work and having difficulty in meeting his financial obligations.

Federal Employment of Architects

We have been active in conferring with nominees for Congress and influencing them, where possible, to support a bill for the Federal employment of architects.

Civic Affairs

We are trying to have enacted in our State Legislature an Act providing a State Housing Commission.

The State Legislature threatened to abolish the Architectural Registration Board and so far this has been successfully combatted.

We are cooperating with the staff of the State Architectural School (Pennsylvania State College) in giving them such information and advice as possible.

Publicity

Our Publicity Committee is attempting to put in operation a method of bringing the profession to

the attention of the public in a way adaptable to our particular problems.

Consultation Fee—Appraisal Work

Our next meeting (November 14) is given over to a study of methods of increasing the employment and income of our members. We have already some members who have successfully adopted a policy of charging a consultation fee for consultative advice such as recommended at the last Convention. We shall discuss and, if possible, help our members to do appraisal work. Consideration is being given to inducing the City Governments of the several cities of our territory to employ architects to make a study of future development of streets, parks, municipal buildings, monuments, etc., in order to prepare a comprehensive plan for future expansion and beautification. This will probably yield meager immediate relief to unemployed architects but may create a desire and demand for future building and construction work.

Our meeting of January 9, 1933, will be devoted to developing a closer relation between the architect and the building trades. This meeting will be held in connection with a rather large dinner to which we shall invite the leading members of the building trades in our territory.

Our meeting of February 24, 1933, will be given over to a discussion of questions relative to laws, etc., in which the profession is interested and inasmuch as our State Legislature is in session at that time, definite action will be taken toward influencing any legislation in which our Chapter is interested.

Our meeting of April 10, 1933, is set aside for election of new officers, reorganization, etc.

Chapter Problem

Our problem is to try to keep intact our Chapter membership and encourage those most affected by lack of business.

SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER—continued
Housing Slum Clearance—R. F. C.

As a personal observation and in addition to our Chapter report, I would like to express myself to the effect that, even with an acceptable State Housing

Law and Commission, I do not believe any appreciable amount of work may be obtained by members of our profession in developing "Housing" for Slum Clearance under the present "set-up" of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

WASHINGTON, D. C. CHAPTER—FRANCIS P. SULLIVAN, President

Meetings

Regular meetings are being held, with programs of lectures, and discussions dealing with both the cultural and practical aspects of professional practice.

Civic Affairs

A committee has been appointed, of which Mr. Louis Justement is Chairman, to prepare a draft of a housing law to be presented to Congress at its next session, and to take such other steps as are necessary, looking toward the reconstruction of slum areas in the City of Washington, as provided by the Emergency Relief Construction act.

The Chapter contributed largely to the preparation of Bicentennial book on The Planning and Building of Washington.

Publicity

Methods of securing publicity for the Chapter through the cooperation of local newspapers are also under consideration.

Exhibition

The Committee on Education, of which Mr.

Seward H. Rathbun is Chairman, has arranged for an exhibition to be held at the National Museum, which will include student work from all the architectural schools and colleges within the territory of the Washington, D. C. Chapter. This exhibition will be graded by schools and by the quality of the work—ranging from the lower grades through college—national Fellowship competitions and work sent home by the travelling students.

The Committee hopes to obtain a sequence so complete that the observers will, so to speak, visually take an entire course in architecture, as he views the exhibition. The period of the exhibition will be from about December 10 until an indefinite date in January, 1933.

Program

Other questions which have received, or will receive, attention are: Unemployment relief, public works, and the relationship between the Municipal Architect, the Fine Arts Commission, and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

NOTE: Reports from the South Atlantic, Great Lakes, and Central States Divisions will appear in the January number.

Highway and Building Congress

DETROIT, JANUARY 16-20, 1933

A cordial invitation to architects, from the Construction League, to attend the Highway and Building Congress in Detroit, January 16-20, appeared in the November number of the OCTAGON.

The Banquet: On Thursday, January 19, at 7 P. M., the Congress banquet will be held at the Masonic Temple. Tickets will be available at the hotels.

Building Congress Day: On Friday, January 20, the Building Congress under the general direction of the Construction League, will hold its meeting at the Statler Hotel. The following subjects for discussion by able speakers will form part of the day's program:

- Unifying the Construction Industry.
- Advantages of a Unified Industry to the Subcontractor.
- Today's Labor Problem Applied to Construction.

Coordinating Construction Industry Legislation. Prequalification in Construction.

Economic Recovery via the Construction Route.

A Six-Year National Construction Program.

Failure of Finance in the Field of Construction.

Rebuilding Blighted Areas—Effect Upon Economic Conditions.

Reduced Railroad Fares: The railroads have granted an unprecedented low rate for this Congress—a round trip ticket for one and one-ninth one-way fare. Ask your ticket agent for a *certificate*, which will be validated at the Congress by Congress and railroad representatives.

Hotel Reservations: The Statler Hotel will be the headquarters for the Building Congress. For hotel reservations address J. Lee Barrett, Detroit Convention and Tourist Bureau, 1805 Stroh Building, Detroit, Michigan.

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.

Wasteful Practices in the Selection of Face Brick

Recognition of the responsibilities of the architectural profession in the reduction of economic waste in the building industry is evidenced by a Resolution on the elimination of wasteful practices in the selection of face brick, which was adopted by the Executive Committee of the Institute at the meeting of November 18-19, 1932. The need for the active cooperation of architects in correcting the present extravagant methods of face brick selection, was brought to the attention of the Institute by the American Face Brick Association, through The Producers' Council.

The Board of Directors of The Producers' Council, at a meeting in New York City, May 26, 1932, adopted the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, the American Face Brick Association has submitted to The Producers' Council a statement relative to certain wasteful practices in the face brick industry in the correction of which the cooperation of the architectural profession is essential, and

"WHEREAS, the cooperation of The Producers' Council has been requested by the American Face Brick Association in bringing this matter to the attention of the architectural profession in such a manner as may appear most expedient and proper, and

"WHEREAS, the matter has been carefully reviewed and considered at the Annual Meeting of the Council and referred to the Board of Directors for appropriate action, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED: That the statement submitted by the American Face Brick Association be submitted to the Structural Service Department of the American Institute of Architects with the request of the Board of Directors of the Council that the matter be referred to the Board of Directors of the Institute asking its cooperation in correcting these wasteful practices."

This resolution was submitted to the Executive Committee of the Institute together with a statement of the Joint Trade Relations Committee of the Face Brick Industry, as follows:

ELIMINATION OF UNECONOMIC PRACTICES IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

Cooperation Sought by the Face Brick Industry

The Joint Trade Relations Committee of the Face Brick Industry—which is composed of face brick manufacturers and dealers, and which was established in 1927 by the American Face Brick Association and the Face Brick Dealers' Association of America—seeks the cooperation of architects in eliminating needless expense caused by indiscriminate building of display panels at the job site, and in lessening the number of postponements that occur in connection with the selection of face brick at lettings. The responsibility of the face brick industry in correcting wasteful practices is recognized, but obviously progress will be greatly hastened if the architectural profession will lend its active cooperation.

Needless Expense in Face Brick Selection

Face brick is to be used on a new building. Dealers and manufacturers are, of course, anxious that their brick be adequately presented, and will cooperate in submitting portable display panels of lines that are judged suitable. These panels are made of slabs cut off the front of the brick, and usually show fifteen bricks with joints between. Several years of use have proved that they give an excellent idea of the brick offered.

Such display panels now in the hands of dealers represent a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Their great advantages lie in the ease with which they can be taken to the architect's or owner's office on short notice, their adaptability to repeated use, and the ease of handling and storing them. Through their use, the dealer can exhibit face brick much more effectively than when he had to rely upon sample brick and panels built-up in mortar.

Portable panels are now generally recognized as adequate for the selection of face brick, but occasionally the architect, perhaps at the suggestion of the owner, still requests that panels be built-up in mortar at the job site, without quite realizing what is involved. Or a single manufacturer may ask permission to build a panel at the site, claiming that his brick appear to better advantage that way; and under present competitive conditions, of course other manufacturers feel obliged to follow the lead.

Regardless of how it starts, the results are often startling, as witness the following example. For a private school job, nearly 100 panels of face brick, each containing 200 brick laid in mortar, totalling some 20,000 brick, were built in a row almost a third of a mile long, so that one dealer and his manufacturer might obtain an order. In another instance, 250 bricks were supplied by each manufacturer so that panels could be built at the site of a job, the contractor charging \$60 per panel for laying. About \$4,000 was paid by the face brick industry for the privilege of submitting brick on this job, and again only one manufacturer could obtain the order.

In each instance, the cost to the face brick industry was probably greater than the net profit in the job. Such costs must, of course, be eventually reflected in the selling price, so that anything that can be done to lessen the waste will be to the advantage of all concerned.

Since portable panels have been proved adequate to permit selection of face brick for practically all jobs, the building of panels at the job site should be eliminated, unless conditions are most exceptional. And the cooperation of architects and owners to this end is requested.

Lessening Postponements of Lettings

In the selection of face brick for schools, and other types of public buildings, it has been the custom to ask salesmen to be present on a date specified by the architect, building committee, or board, at which time bids are to be opened, the general contract let, and the face brick for the job chosen by the committee or board, with the architect's approval.

Salesmen often travel long distances at considerable expense to present their brick at such lettings, and have found altogether too frequently that the selection of materials is postponed from the time originally specified, making it necessary for the salesmen to make second or even third trips at heavy additional expense.

These additional expenses, of course, enter into the selling cost of face brick and must in the end be borne by the buildings into which the brick enter, with no compensating gain. In view of this, it is suggested that architects and building committees cooperate so far as is possible in establishing

definite dates for the selection of face brick and other materials similarly chosen, and make every effort to arrange their program so that visiting salesmen may complete their work on the day specified."

Recognizing the necessity for active cooperation of architects in eliminating uneconomic practices in the selection of face brick, the Executive Committee of the Institute at a meeting on November 18-19, 1932, adopted the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, The Producers' Council, on behalf of the American Face Brick Association, has submitted to the Board of Directors of the Institute, a resolution by the Council and a statement of the Joint Trade Relations committee of the Face Brick Industry, relating to certain wasteful practices in the face brick industry, and

"WHEREAS, the cooperation of the Institute is requested in correcting these wasteful practices, therefore be it

"RESOLVED: That the Structural Service Department be directed to cooperate with The Producers' Council, American Face Brick Association, and the Joint Trade Relations Committee of the Face Brick Industry in the elimination of uneconomic practices; and be it further

"RESOLVED: That the resolution and statement submitted to the Institute by The Producers' Council, together with a copy of this resolution, be printed in THE OCTAGON."

Wasteful practices in the building industry are directly reflected in the cost of materials and completed structures. The architectural profession has a clear responsibility in connection with any movement designed to relieve the industry of unnecessary burdens.

Dissimilar Metals in Contact

The corrosion occurring when dissimilar metals are in contact is often referred to as "galvanic action". This is probably due to the popular but erroneous conception that the corrosion is caused by the electric current which exists under such conditions.

It is a well known fact that accelerated corrosion usually occurs when unlike metals are placed together and one metal is protected at the expense of the other. When clean copper and clean lead are in contact the corrosion of the lead will generally be increased. Zinc will also suffer preferential corrosion when lead and zinc are joined. In atmospheric exposure these relations do not necessarily apply since one of the metals may develop a protective film.

The electro-chemical theory has been of material assistance in clearing up the mechanism of the action of dissimilar metals in contact. Every metal has a tendency to go into solution with the formation of ions. This potential is the inherent force which initiates and helps to maintain corrosion. The following is a partial list of elements in their probable order in the electro-chemical series: Potassium, sodium, calcium, magnesium, aluminum, manganese, zinc, iron,

(ferrous), cadmium, nickel, lead, tin, iron (ferric), hydrogen, copper (cupric), antimony, copper (cuprous), mercury, silver, platinum, gold, silicon, carbon, tungsten, chromium, iodine, bromine, chlorine, fluorine, nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen.

If the hydrogen potential is arbitrarily taken as zero all of the elements preceding it have a negative potential and those following, positive. Any metal, such as iron, which precedes hydrogen in the electro-chemical series and which does not quickly form an impermeable protective coating will tend to plate out a film of nascent hydrogen on any more cathodic material with which it is in electrical contact in solution. If iron is in contact with a more anodic material, such as zinc, a similar action takes place. When gaseous hydrogen is being evolved any acceleration in corrosion caused by contact of an anodic metal with a metal which is cathodic, is due primarily to the lower over-voltage of the cathodic metal.

Ferrous metals and copper are so located in the electro-chemical series that when they are installed in contact so that galvanic action can take place, this action destroys the ferrous material and not the copper. Similar action may result from the salts of one metal being washed down over the other, but to be deleterious such wash would have to be from the copper onto the ferrous material.

The architect is frequently confronted with problems involving dissimilar sheet metals in contact. Metal roofing, valleys, gutters, leaders and flashing are the most common sources of difficulty.

When a valley is soldered to an adjacent roof of a different metal the edges of both sheets should be thoroughly tinned before soldering and the locks should be completely filled and sweated with solder. The solder being a composition of lead and tin, both of which are suitable for insulation, the joint will be adequately protected against electrolysis.

Loose lock seams between dissimilar metals can be insulated by the insertion of good quality bituminous felt into the locks since it possesses the desirable qualities of effective electrical insulation, low permeability, and a reasonable degree of permanence. Subsequent replacement of such felt for any reason would be a comparatively inexpensive operation.

In single flat lock seams there are three layers of contact between the metals forming the two hooks, and care should be taken to see that the insulating strip is sufficiently wide to extend over the entire area of contact.

Slum Clearance and Low Cost Housing

IN BOSTON—By WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, F.A.I.A., *Chairman, Advisory Committee on Housing*

THE Federal Government, through the agency of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, has made available funds for low cost housing and slum clearance projects under certain conditions of state or municipal control. These conditions involve complete supervision of limited dividend corporations organized to provide limited rental housing. It is generally understood that preference will be given to slum clearance projects rather than developments of housing on raw land.

Certain preliminary studies in the field of housing have been under way for the past nine months under the guidance of the Emergency Planning and Research Bureau, Inc., which has been aiding the unemployed architects and engineers and engaging them, among other ways, in the collection of statistics, the study of existing conditions, and the development of studies for new housing in different sections of the city.

Some three months ago, His Honor, Mayor Curley, directed the City Planning Board to investigate the question of housing and what steps would need to be taken to secure some of the R. F. C. funds for slum clearance projects in Boston. As a result of this original instruction and upon recommendation of the Planning Board, the Mayor has appointed an Advisory Committee on Housing to cooperate with the Planning Board in this study. The Advisory Committee on Housing consists of some thirty-four persons representing the dozen or more organizations that are active in one or another part of the field of housing, and other citizens broadly representing the community.

The Committee is studying what legislation is necessary and will act as a coordinating force, to correlate the various existing activities and to develop whatever new activity is needed in order to meet the new present conditions.

The Architectural Division of the Emergency Planning and Research Bureau, Inc., has undertaken an experiment of some interest and possible real value. At the request of the Division about a

dozen architects have accepted the task of making preliminary surveys of as many different sections of the city, each one of which is an entirely separate and distinct problem. The men working on the Bureau payroll are available to do the draughting of the necessary charts and compile the desired statistics of occupation and other facts concerning the districts.

These reports are not expected to be final, in any sense, but should be helpful as points of departure for the further detailed study of the desirable development of the districts. Taken together they will constitute the first complete architectural survey of the city and will doubtless prove of educational value to the profession as examples of the varying approach to community planning that will doubtless govern the reports of a number of different architects acting on the most general instructions and with complete freedom to develop their surveys and reports entirely according to their own ideas.

The combined reports will constitute the first contribution of the architectural profession to the work of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Housing.

R. F. C. funds constitute a new opportunity to accomplish slum clearance. The local legislation needed will perhaps develop opposition of selfish interests but that will be the easiest part of the problem to solve. The real problem will be to obtain the slum areas at any price that will permit demolition of the existing structures and the construction of new housing of the required low cost units with a density per acre that will not exceed what the surrounding local conditions will determine to be reasonable.

"There's the rub." Until this underlying land cost problem is solved consideration of the details and costs of the contemplated new housing units is somewhat academic. Concentration on this problem should be, I believe, the first concern of the organized study of slum clearance and low cost housing here and elsewhere.

IN CLEVELAND—By ABRAM GARFIELD, F.A.I.A., *President, Cleveland Chapter.*

WHAT use are we to make of the fact that the federal government, through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation has offered to loan money upon housing projects? No one thing has given a greater impetus to the idea of replacing bad housing with better housing than this act of the government. It has called attention forcibly to conditions which were almost universal but were known

to very few. It has set before us the acknowledgment by Congress that slum clearance is a public purpose and it holds out an opportunity to borrow money at a time when it cannot be borrowed from any other source.

Following this act of Congress, states have examined their constitutions and laws and have been surprised to find that they are not prepared to take

advantage of this principle that has been acknowledged by the federal government. New York state alone had prepared itself and has a housing act giving certain privileges and exercising the control that the state should require when granting privileges. Ohio has followed with an act enabling the state to exercise control and granting one important privilege, that of condemnation. Other states may follow this lead when their legislatures meet and the privileges granted will vary but the control must be closely similar to that exercised in New York and Ohio.

The fact of the enactment of such a housing law is a long step forward but will not of itself set things going. The board of the R. F. C. will not accept the interest and intention of a building corporation as sufficient evidence of their probable success. An architect's plan even if incorporating all of the requirements of recognized good practice will not be enough. Any proposal brought to the board of the R. F. C. should include many facts and esti-

mates which are available but are often overlooked.

There should be a statement of the population of the district and its changes; its vacancies; the number and size of building permits during the past ten or twenty years; the number and condition of mortgages and foreclosures; and the character and foot frontage of stores and their history during the past two or three decades. This involves a complete inventory of the real estate and a careful analysis and interpretation of the facts.

Knowledge of these facts and many others should be a part of any report to a private investor and it has always been important but the architect, as a rule, has taken instructions from his client and has assumed that the client's judgment was sufficient evidence of probable success. The reclamation of old residence districts is a new problem and failure at the beginning will act as a deterrent more discouraging than past indifference.

IN WASHINGTON—By FRANCIS P. SULLIVAN, A.I.A., *President, Washington, D. C., Chapter.*

The Washington, D. C. Chapter is making substantial headway with its efforts to develop an adequate and much-needed slum clearance program in the Nation's capital. The initiative in proposing and framing the legislation necessary to this end has been taken by the Chairman of its Special Committee on Housing, Louis Justement, and his efforts and leadership are proving most effective.

The most encouraging recent development is the recognition accorded the architectural profession and the Washington Chapter by the Washington Star—the most influential newspaper in the city.

The Star, in a leading editorial, said in part as follows:

The proposal from the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for creation of a District Housing Board, this board to exercise regulatory control over limited dividend corporations engaged in the construction of low-rent housing, merits the serious consideration of the bodies before which it has been laid—the Board of Commissioners and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The scope of the work proposed is large, and there are possible objections which at first blush might seem to mitigate against realization of any such radical plan. But the fundamental idea behind it and the objective outlined are sound. The source of the suggestion alone is enough to warrant serious study.

The money put at the disposal of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for slum-clearance work—\$1,500,000,000—has, for the most part, gone begging because of the absence of the limited dividend corporations under the regulation of State Housing Boards. But, given time, the availability of such money at low rates of interest should stimulate everywhere the organization of corporations that must be guided more by idealism and a certain altruism than hope of gain, subject to regulation by the State. Already the Reconstruction Finance Corporation has put new life and significance into the New York Board of Housing, which recently requested a loan from the Corporation for slum-clearance work in New York City, destined, according to the plans, to cost in the

neighborhood of \$120,000,000. The New York plan has been opposed by some real estate interests in that city. New York's board, by the way, is understood to be the only one in the country meeting the requirements for obtaining R. F. C. loans. The bill which the local architects have proposed to the Commissioners is modeled generally on the New York legislation.

The interest of the architects in Washington's housing problem, a problem which, in their communication to the Commissioners they discuss interestingly and intelligently, springs originally from the plan sponsored nationally by the American Institute of Architects to interest States and cities in slum clearance and low rental dwelling construction as a form of combating the depression. Robert D. Kohn, past president of the Institute, recently called attention to the opportunity—presented by availability of money at low interest rates—for such work, which would be a boon to the building trade, a boon to the cities and, of course, to future tenants.

If the movement gains headway it is conceivable that from the ashes of this depression new cities may rise, and that new standards of comfort, cleanliness and beauty will replace the cheap, slovenly hovels that mar every city. It is possible to entertain such a conception without fear of the nationalization of the home-building industry.

Editor's Note: Procedure to Get Federal Funds

The major problem to be met and solved in every slum clearance or low cost housing undertaking is "Finances."

Therefore, those Chapters of the Institute which contemplate leadership or active participation in either field are referred to a very valuable review recently issued by the National Committee for Trade Recovery of the Construction League.

That review, which contains much information and all of Title II—Self-liquidating projects—of the Emergency Relief and Construction Act for 1932, is obtainable on application to the National Committee for Trade Recovery, 330 West 42nd Street, New York City.

With the Chapters

EXTRACTS FROM CHAPTER MINUTES AND REPORTS

Baltimore Chapter—December Meeting

At the December meeting of the Baltimore Chapter L. R. White reported on the last meeting of the Building Congress which has now about 175 individual members, and group membership representing another 125 firms or individuals. The last meeting was attended by over 200 persons. The next meeting will be held December 15 in the evening.

President H. S. T. White reported the tentative plans discussed by the Executive Committee for the Annual Meeting, including an invitation to President Russell, Secretary Baldwin, and Regional Director Betelle of the Institute, to be present at this meeting. It was the sense of the meeting that this plan was most acceptable to the Chapter, and that the Executive Committee should carry out the arrangements.

The Secretary reported his tentative arrangements with the Made Work Bureau of the Emergency Relief Fund for the employment of needy cases among draughtsmen in connection with the City Plan Commission, and also read a letter written by him to William Helburn, Publisher, in regard to a project for publishing data on Baltimore architecture collected by unemployed men.

Chicago Chapter—Joint Meeting with the Illinois Society of Architects

Prior to the regular business sessions of the Chicago Chapter, and the Illinois Society of Architects, November 15, two illustrated talks were given, one by Mr. O. P. Cleaver of the Westinghouse Lamp Company on "Illumination," and the other by Mr. Lee McCannes of the Stormberg-Carlson Company on "Remote Control Radio."

At the business meeting a resolution supporting the Bill, in regard to low-cost housing and slum clearance, which is before the Illinois General Assembly, was approved.

This resolution provided for the appointment of a committee of nine persons, three of the Chapter, three of the Illinois Society of Architects, and three of the Architectural Club of Chicago, thus making a Joint Architectural Committee, whose duty it is to confer with the Illinois Temporary Housing Commission and members of the Legislature in an endeavor to secure the passage of an Illinois Housing Law, free from the possibility of favoritism and graft and in harmony with the high ideals of the architectural profession respecting the public interest.

This resolution gave the Committee of nine the power to give or withhold the support or approval of these three organizations on the final form of the bill now under consideration by the Legislature.

This resolution was then submitted to the Illinois Society of Architects, which also adopted it.

A resolution was also adopted by the Chicago Chapter at this meeting, which expressed to Judge Henry Horner, Governor-Elect of the State of Illinois, the willingness of the Architects of the state to confer with him with respect to the position of Supervising Architect of the State.

This resolution was also referred to the Illinois Society, which adopted it.

John R. Fugard, President of the Illinois Society of Architects, spoke briefly on the plan for dispensing or disbursing excess funds from the "Architects Latin Quarter Fete" through the establishment of an "Architects Sales Bureau" in the McGraw-Hill Building. Gerald Bradbury was mentioned as being in charge of this office, and the men of the profession were directed to confer with him in regard to possible employment.

Elmer Jensen presided over the program of the evening. Following is given the subjects and speakers:

Architectural Practices—F. Charles Start.

Budgeting Work in the Drafting Room—Frank L. Long.

Shop Drawings—Howard J. White.

Architectural Fees—Melville C. Chatten.

A General Resume of Architectural as a Business—Richard E. Schmidt.

Connecticut Chapter—October Meeting

The members of the Connecticut Chapter who attended the October meeting met at the Yale Gymnasium in the early afternoon of October 12. A representative of the building and Stanley R. McCandless escorted the members through the various buildings, including the Gymnasium, Jonathan Edwards Hall, Davenport Hall, Pierson Hall and Calhoun Hall.

President Davis reported on matters of registration of architects of the State, especially as to the matter of collaboration of engineers with the architects in preparing bills for presentation to the Legislature at its next meeting.

A committee was appointed by President Davis to consider and report back to the Chapter as to what may be done in the State which could be financed through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Georgia Chapter—Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting of the Georgia Chapter, definite action was taken to support the Institute in its request for architectural representation and viewpoint, in connection with the loaning of funds

by the R. F. C. on slum clearance and low cost housing projects.

As noted in the November issue of THE OCTAGON, Clark C. Wright and N. Max Dunning, both of Chicago, have been appointed as Architectural Advisors to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

At this meeting, the Chapter decided to continue its "Round Table Luncheons" every Monday. Other Chapters may find luncheon meetings an excellent means of keeping in close contact between the more formal monthly, or other formal periodic meetings.

Kansas Chapter—October Meeting

Paul Weigel called the attention of the membership to the fact that local papers were willing to publish information on architectural subjects, and especially on modernization. He also expressed the hope that more talks might be made by architects (before civic and other local organizations) and asked that the membership call to his attention any information they thought should be published.

The question of a charge for plans to the contractors over and above a refunded deposit was brought before the meeting by J. Stanley Hagan. It seemed that the general consensus of opinion was that a certain number of plans and specifications should be given out free of charge but that a fair charge for additional copies would not be unjust. This is due to the fact that an unusual number of requests for figuring jobs occur regularly. However, it was felt that the handling of this should be left to the individual architect without the chapter taking definite action.

The latter portion of the meeting was given over to short talks by members of the Chapter which were followed by open discussion. Following are the subjects discussed and the chapter member leading:

The Architect and His Home Town—Charles W. Shaver.

The Proposed Tax Amendment—A. R. Mann.

Home Financing—Ralph W. Scamell.

Some Phases of Architectural Education Education—L. B. Smith.

Limiting Lists of Contractors—J. Stanley Hagan.

Suggestions for Chapter Activities—George M. Beal.

Minnesota Chapter—November Meeting

The regular meeting of the Chapter was held on November 17 at the Leamington Hotel.

Mr. Raugland reported definite progress in the formation of the house rating bureau to be operated by the Chapter. A committee of architects will examine and rate any new house as to design, plan and construction. There will be no appraisal as to value. The Bureau will be operated primarily for the public but its services will be available to either builders, buyer or mortgage companies.

Mr. Bersback reported correspondence with con-

gressional candidates relative to public works program. Mr. Dunham suggested that newly elected congressmen be invited to the next Chapter meeting.

Mr. Tusler reported good progress by the Relief Committee. The Committee visited Rev. Paul's farm where arrangements have been made to provide housing and constructions work for the winter for the single unemployed men. An attempt will be made to raise funds to provide employment for married draftsmen in the office of the City Planning Commission.

Mr. Dunham reported a most satisfactory meeting between the architects and the contractors relative to a cooperative effort in the promotion of modernization work.

New Jersey Chapter—Joint Meeting with the New Jersey Society of Architects

The President opened the business session of the meeting October 21, by giving an inspiring address outlining the year's work. At the conclusion of his talk, he read President Russell's message in the current issue of THE OCTAGON and the same was appreciatively received.

The Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Arthur B. Holmes, then outlined the year's programmes and invited suggestions from the members.

B. Sumner Gruzen then gave an informal talk covering his two years' stay in Europe, with particular emphasis on the modern movement in domestic architecture. Extended discussion took place afterwards and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 P. M.

Northern California Chapter—Annual Meeting

Following his election as President, John J. Donovan accepted the chair.

In the course of remarks fitting to the occasion, the newly elected President spoke, glowingly, of the continued growth of the Chapter under Henry H. Gutterson's leadership and called upon G. Frederic Ashley to present a resolution. Approval of the resolution was signified by unanimous rising vote and in accordance with its instruction, copy thereof is inscribed in these minutes, as follows:

"Whereas, Our retiring President, Henry H. Gutterson has brought to the administration of this high office rare qualities of gentleness, firmness, human understanding, unselfish devotion, unremitting zeal and broad vision; and

"Whereas, All of his actions have reflected great credit on The American Institute of Architects and this, the Northern California Chapter thereof; therefore be it

"Resolved, That we, the Northern California Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, in annual meeting assembled, do hereby express our sincere appreciation of and gratitude for the above mentioned qualities and actions of our retiring President, Henry H. Gutterson. * * *

Oregon Chapter—November Meeting

The November meeting of the Oregon Chapter, held in the Office of A. E. Doyle and Associate, was well attended.

Architects, both members of the Institute and non-members, have been working to secure a State Building Code.

At this meeting Fred Aandahl reported on the meeting of the Oregon Building Congress, at which Architect Kroner submitted and explained the proposed Code.

Philadelphia Chapter—Joint Meeting

A joint meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter and the Producers' Council Club of Philadelphia was held on November 28, in the Architect's Building.

Mr. F. W. Morse, President of The Producers' Council as well as Mr. H. H. Sherman, Executive Secretary, spoke on the work of the Council.

Mr. Elmer Lang, President of the Producers' Council Club of Philadelphia, introduced Mr. Davidson of the Carrier Company, who read an interesting paper on air-conditioning, illustrated with lantern slides of various air-conditioning means and apparatus.

Executive Committee Meeting

Mr. Martin reported that he had investigated the (*magazine*) advertisement in regard to the magazine's service to prospective home builders, concerning which a letter had been received from Director Betelle. Mr. Martin said that he felt the Chapter should write to the magazine condemning the idea, which the magazine proposes. Mr. Purves was requested to write such a letter.

Pittsburgh Chapter—October Meeting

The Secretary read a report on the formation of the "Allied Architects of Pittsburgh".

The Secretary also read a report from Chairman Stotz of the Committee for Preservation of Historic Monuments, reviewing various steps of this committee leading up to the grant from the Buhl Foundation for prosecution of this work.

A motion was adopted accepting the grant and expressing appreciation therefor to the Buhl Foundation.

Frederick Bigger extended an invitation to all members to attend meetings of the National Conference on City Planning, to be held at the Hotel Schenley, November 14-16. He gave a general outline of the program and items of particular interest.

Washington, D. C. Chapter—November Meeting

At the November meeting of the Washington, D. C. Chapter it was voted to submit for publication in the *Evening Star* series of house designs of such quality as would be fitting the endorsement of the Chapter. The only remuneration for these designs would be the publicity for the individual whose design is published. From the group of designs submitted an impartial jury will select those most worthy of publication.

At this meeting of the Chapter a resolution was adopted to the effect that the Washington, D. C. Chapter would take no part in any exhibitions sponsored by an organization interested in promoting the sale of building materials, and that the membership of the Chapter be so advised.

Under the auspices of the Chapter an exhibition of student work in architecture from the schools and colleges in Washington will be held in the National Museum Building from Sunday, December 11, through Monday, January 1, 1933.

Washington State Chapter—November Meeting

The Secretary read a letter from William O. Ludlow, Chairman of the Institute's Committee on Industrial Relations, stressing the desirability of the Chapter promoting cooperation with the other elements of the building industry through the formation of a Building Congress or otherwise.

Victor Jones, in reporting for the Chapter Committee on Public Information, of which he is Chairman, made a plea for more material for the illustrations of future building projects which were being presented in the *Seattle Times*.

Mr. B. R. Perkins, the speaker of the evening gave an interesting account of a vast Pacific Northwest exposition project which he called the "Beaver Centennial," explaining the plan for financing and exploitation of the great Pacific Northwest.

To our members who have been thinking in the past few years in nickels and dimes, it was a pleasant change to hear Mr. Perkins describe with facility the plan for raising four hundred million dollars, building a permanent "Sphere of Vision" over thirteen hundred feet high with an auditorium seating seventy thousand people, and national exploitation which would attract thirty thousand people to our Pacific Northwest Land of Opportunity.

Applications for Membership

December 16, 1932.

Notice to Members of the Institute:

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors, or its Executive Committee, for action on their admission to the Institute, and, if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

<i>Delaware Chapter</i>	-----	ALBERT ELY IVES
<i>New York Chapter</i>	-----	GEORGE F. DEZELLER
<i>St. Louis Chapter</i>	-----	ERNEST T. FRITON
<i>Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Chapter</i>	-----	ARTHUR P. COON, EDWARD J. RUTLEDGE
<i>Southern California Chapter</i>	-----	LELAND F. FULLER

You are invited, as directed by the By-laws, to send privileged communications before January 16, 1933, on the eligibility of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors in their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request, within the thirty-day period, an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

FRANK C. BALDWIN, *Secretary.*

Members Elected September 16, 1932, to December 1, 1932

<i>Central New York Chapter</i>	-----	EUGENE D. MONTILLON
<i>Cincinnati Chapter</i>	-----	DAVID BRIGGS MAXFIELD
<i>Grand Rapids Chapter</i>	-----	MARION FRANCES BLOOD, WILLIAM ADDISON STONE
<i>North Texas Chapter</i>	-----	GEORGE LEIGHTON DAHL
<i>Washington, D. C. Chapter</i>	-----	DONALD S. JOHNSON, W. R. ROSCHÉ

A CHRISTMAS GIFT

Hard times cannot erase the 25th of December from the calendar.

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