

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



Slums—Whose Responsibility?
Code for Architects—Progress Report
Relief Employment
On the Public Works Front
International Exhibition in London
Review of Carnegie Grants in the Arts

Volume 5

NOVEMBER
1933

Number 11

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTE

President.....**ERNEST JOHN RUSSELL**, Chemical Building, St. Louis, Mo.
First Vice-President.....**CHARLES D. MAGINNIS**, Statler Bldg., Boston, Mass.
Second Vice-President.....**HORACE W. PEASLEE**, 1228 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C.
Secretary.....**FRANK C. BALDWIN**, The Octagon, Washington, D. C.
Treasurer.....**EDWIN BERGSTROM**, Citizens National Bank Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal
Executive Secretary.....**EDWARD C. KEMPER**, The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For One Year (1933-34)

GEORGE H. GRAY, 6 Prospect Court, New Haven, Conn. (New England Div.)
FREDERICK M. MANN, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. (Con. Sta. Div.)
STEPHEN F. VOORHEES, 101 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. (New York Div.)

For Two Years (1933-35)

RAYMOND J. ASHTON, 312 Vermont Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah (West. Mt. Div.)
JAMES O. BETELLE, Chamber of Commerce Bldg., Newark, N. J. (Middle Atl. Div.)
HERBERT E. HEWITT, 1600 Peoria Life Bldg., Peoria, Ill. (Great Lakes Div.)

For Three Years (1933-1936)

RALPH H. CAMERON, P. O. Box 1063, San Antonio, Texas (Gulf States Div.)
WILLIAM T. WARREN, Protective Life Bldg., Birmingham, Ala. (South Atlantic Div.)
DAVID J. WITMER, Architects Bldg., Los Angeles, Calif. (Sierra Nevada Div.)

LIST OF CHAPTERS 1933

ALABAMA—*Frederic Child Biggin, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala.; †Hugh Martin, 910 Title Guarantee Bldg., Birmingham, Ala.
ALBANY—*Frank A. Ward, Telephone Bldg., Albany, N. Y.; †Clarence H. Gardiner, 84 Bellview Terrace, Renaselaer, N. Y.
ARKANSAS—*George H. Wittenberg, Home Insurance Bldg., Little Rock, Ark.; †Lawson L. Delony, 2407 Louisiana St., Little Rock, Ark.
BALTIMORE—*William G. Nolting, Keyser Building, Baltimore, Md.; †Charles D. Loomis, 12 East Pleasant Street, Baltimore, Md.
BOSTON—*Ralph W. Gray, 73 Newbury St., Boston, Mass.; †Laidor Richmond, 248 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.
BROOKLYN—*William A. Sanders, 527 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.; †George Francis Kieck, 4 Irving Place, New York, N. Y.
BUFFALO—*Harry F. Hudson, Dun Building, Buffalo, N. Y.; †Benning C. Buell, 647 Franklin St., Buffalo, N. Y.
CENTRAL ILLINOIS—*L. H. Provine, 505 Michigan Ave., Urbana, Ill.; †E. L. Stouffer, 256 Administration Bldg., University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.
CENTRAL NEW YORK—*Walter H. Cassebeer, 84 Exchange St., Rochester, N. Y.; †Leonard A. Waasdorp, 311 Alexander St., Rochester, N. Y.
CHICAGO—*Earl H. Reed, Jr., Tribune Tower, Chicago, Ill.; †Carl E. Hembrodt, 20 No. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill.
CINCINNATI—*John H. Deeken, 15 East 8th St., Cincinnati, O.; †Alan K. Leing, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, O.
CLEVELAND—*J. W. Thomas, Jr. 3868 Carnegie Ave. Cleveland, Ohio; †G. Evans Mitchell, Bulkley Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio.
COLORADO—*George H. Williamson, Majestic Building, Denver, Colo.; †Roland L. Linder, Insurance Building, Denver, Colo.
COLUMBUS—*Charles L. Inecho, 1200 Brunson Bldg., Columbus, Ohio; †Ralph Chas. Kempton, 21 West Broad St., Columbus, Ohio.
CONNECTICUT—*Harold H. Davis, 29 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.; †Lorenzo Hamilton, 22 Church St., Meriden, Conn.
DAYTON—*Freeman A. Pretsinger, 1155 Reibold Bldg., Dayton, Ohio; †Geo. T. Neuffer, 437 Ludlow Arcade, Dayton, Ohio.
DELAWARE—*G. Morris Whiteside, II, 2160 duPont Bldg., Wilmington, Del.; †Roscoe Cook Tindall, 914 Orange Street, Wilmington, Del.
DETROIT—*C. William Palmer, 120 Madison Avenue, Detroit, Mich.; †Talmage C. Hughes, 120 Madison Avenue, Detroit, Mich.
EASTERN OHIO—*Walter J. Canfield, 33 North Hazel St., Youngstown, O.; †Clarence A. Kinsinger, 2540 Market St., Youngstown, O.
FLORIDA CENTRAL—*Francis J. Kennard, R.F.D. No. 1, Asheville, N.C.; †Frank A. Winn, Jr., Stovall Office Bldg., Tampa, Fla.
FLORIDA NORTH—*Bernard W. Close, 1005 Bisbee Bldg., Jacksonville, Fla.; †Jefferson D. Powell, Professional Building, Jacksonville, Fla.
FLORIDA SOUTH—*Russell T. Pancoast, 1139 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach Fla.; †Robert L. Weed, 2620 Biscayne Blvd. Miami, Fla.
GEORGIA—*Harold Bush-Brown, Dept. of Architecture, Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.; †M. A. Tucker, Rhodes-Slaverty Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.
GRAND RAPIDS—*Harry L. Mead, 902 Michigan Trust Bldg., Grand Rapids, Mich.; †Roger Allen, 610 Lafayette Ave., S. E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
HAWAII—*Hart Wood, 517 Hawaiian Trust Bldg., Honolulu, T. H.; †Herbert Cayton, 324 S. M. Damon Bldg., Honolulu, T. H.
INDIANA—*Warren D. Miller, 819 Ohio Street, Terre Haute, Ind.; †Geo. C. Wright, Architects & Bldrs. Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.
IOWA—*Karl K. Keffler, 302 Masonic Temple, Des Moines, Iowa; †Edwin H. Wetherell, 506 Shops Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa
KANSAS CITY—*Raymond L. Vockamp, 4 West 13th St., Kansas City, Mo.; †Roy E. Crans, 1412 Knox, Northern Kansas City, Mo.
KANSAS—*Chester M. Routledge, 204 Exchange National Bank Bldg., Hutchinson, Kansas; †George M. Boal, 305 Marvin Hall, Lawrence, Kansas.
KENTUCKY—*Carl J. Epping, 806 East Broadway, Louisville, Ky.; †Ossian P. Ward, 1002 Washington Bldg., Louisville, Ky.
LOUISIANA—*Walter Cook Keenan, 4239 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, La.; †Alan C. Reed, 401-2 Nola Bldg., New Orleans, La.
MADISON—*Frank Riley, 24 E. Mifflin Street, Madison, Wis.; †James R. Law, First Central Building, Madison, Wis.
MINNESOTA—*A. B. Dunham, 512 Essex Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.; †Albert O. Larson, 308 Baker Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.
MISSISSIPPI—*N. W. Overstreet, Standard Life Bldg., Jackson, Miss.; †A. Hays Town, 1219-25 Standard Life Bldg., Jackson, Miss.
MONTANA—*Chandler C. Cohagen, Box 1305, Billings, Mont.; †W. R. Flew, Bozeman, Mont.
NEBRASKA—*James M. Nachtigall, 512 Paxton Bldg., Omaha, Neb.; †N. R. Brigham, 607 Keeline Bldg., Omaha, Neb.
NEW JERSEY—*Wilson C. Ely, 15 Washington St., Newark, N. J.; †Clement W. Fairweather, Metuchen, N. J.
NEW YORK—*Ralph T. Walker, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.; †Eric Kebbon, 522 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
NORTH CAROLINA—*Harry Barton, Jefferson Standard Bldg., Greensboro N. C.; †Walter W. Hook, Commercial Bank Bldg., Charlotte, N. C.
NORTH LOUISIANA—*Samuel G. Wiener, Shreveport, La.; †Edward F. Neid, Shreveport, La.
NORTH TEXAS—*Frank O. Wittichell, American Exchange Building, Dallas, Texas; †M. C. Kleuser, 609 Construction Bldg., Dallas, Texas.
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA—*Albert J. Evers, 525 Market St., San Francisco, Calif.; †James H. Mitchell, 309 Pine St., San Francisco, Calif.
NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA—*Walter Monahan, Palace Hardware Building, Erie, Pa.; †J. Howard Hicks, Palace Hardware Building, Erie, Pa.
OKLAHOMA—*Leon B. Senter, 306 Philtrow Bldg., Tulsa, Okla.; †Asbury Endacott, 625 Wright Building, Tulsa, Okla.
OREGON—*W. H. Crowell, 1041 Pacific Building, Portland, Oregon; †Leslie D. Howell, 404 U. S. National Bank Bldg., Portland, Oregon.
PHILADELPHIA—*C. C. Zantsinger, Architects Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.; †Edmund R. Purves, Architects' Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.
PITTSBURGH—*Fross C. Dowler, Century Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.; †Charles Skota, Bessemer Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.
RHODE ISLAND—*Albert Harkness, 1428 Industrial Trust Bldg., Providence, R. I.; †Norman Isham, Wicketford, R. I.
SAN DIEGO—*Louis J. Gill, Suite 32, Sefton Bldg., San Diego, Calif.; †Charles H. Mills, 1400 San Diego Trust & Savings Bldg., San Diego, Calif.
SANTA BARBARA—*Winsor Soule, 116 East Sola St., Santa Barbara, Calif.; †Henry W. Howell, 157 Cheltenham Drive, Santa Barbara, Calif.
SCRANTON-WILKES-BARRE—*Geo. M. D. Lewis, 809 Scranton Electric Bldg., Scranton, Pa.; †Searle Von Storch, Union National Bank Bldg., Scranton, Pa.
SOUTH CAROLINA—*Albert Simons, 42 Broad St., Charleston, S. C.; †Samuel Lapham, 42 Broad St., Charleston, S. C.
SOUTH GEORGIA—*Cletus Bergen, 1013 Liberty Bldg., Savannah, Ga.; †Percy Sugden, 125 East 49th St., Savannah, Ga.
SOUTH TEXAS—*Maurice J. Sullivan, 4301 Main St., Houston, Texas; †J. Russ Baty, 506 Bankers Mortgage Bldg., Houston, Texas.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA—*Gordon B. Kaufmann, 610 Union Bank Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.; †Palmer Sabin, 170 East Calif. St., Pasadena, Cal.
SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA—*M. E. Green, Third and Forster Sta., Harrisburg, Pa.; †John G. Todd, 253 Cumberland St., Harrisburg, Pa.
ST. LOUIS—*W. Oscar Mullgardt, 1620 Chemical Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.; †Fred R. Hammond, 7020 Waterman Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
ST. PAUL—*Edwin H. Lundie, 324 Endicott Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.; †G. A. Anderson, 1509 Pioneer Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.
TENNESSEE—*J. Fraser Smith, 400 Goodwyn Institute, Memphis, Tenn.; †R. J. Regan, 736 Bank of Commerce Bldg., Memphis, Tenn.
TOLEDO—*Charles A. Langdon, Security Bank Bldg., Toledo, Ohio; †Karl B. Hoks, 1118 Madison Avenue, Toledo, Ohio.
UTAH—*Edward O. Anderson, 825 Continental Bank Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah; †John Foster, 506 Templeton Building, Salt Lake City, Utah.
VIRGINIA—*Philip N. Stora, 21 Law Building, Fredericksburg, Va.; †Pendleton S. Clark, 610 Kruse Bldg., Lynchburg, Va.
WASHINGTON, D. C.—*Alexander B. Trowbridge, 917-15th St., N. W. Wash., D. C.; †Donald S. Johnson, 728 Jackson Pl., N. W., Wash., D. C.
WASHINGTON STATE—*J. Lister Holmes, 604 Republic Building, Seattle, Wash.; †Lance E. Gowen, 307 Medical Arts Bldg., Seattle, Wash.
WEST TEXAS—*Raymond Phelps, Gunter Bldg., San Antonio, Texas; †Richard Vander Straten, Travis Bldg., San Antonio, Texas.
WEST VIRGINIA—*C. C. Wood, Lowndes Bldg., Clarkburg, W. Va.; †C. E. Silling, 14 Hubbard Court, Charleston, W. Va.
WISCONSIN—*Alexander Eschweiler, 720 East Mason St., Milwaukee, Wis.; †Alexander C. Guth, 1249 N. Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

*Presidents. †Secretaries.

THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

Published Monthly by

The American Institute of Architects

Executive and Publication Offices, The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue N. W., Washington, D. C.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS THE COPY. \$1 PER YEAR. (FOREIGN \$2)

Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to The American Institute of Architects
All communications for publication should be sent to The Secretary, The A. I. A.

Copyright, 1929, by The American Institute of Architects

Entered as second-class matter, February 9, 1929, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C.

Slums—Whose Responsibility?

By VICTOR D. ABEL, A.I.A.

AS we are told by the dictionary, "Slum" is a word of obscure origin. This is peculiarly fitting in that while the primary causes of slums are clear enough, it is difficult to determine just when the social and physical degeneration began. What force causes a movement of people, mostly owners, away from a good residence area to find better quarters is understandable. But what is so baffling is why they should be so closely followed by a lowering of rentals with less and less effort at maintenance, until the entire neighborhood eventually becomes, as the definition so tersely states, "a thickly populated, squalid part of a city, inhabited by the poorest or lowest class of the people."

Insatiable greed, impelling the owner of a small piece of ground to secure a maximum return by covering as much of it as possible, has been mostly blamed for our slums. But there are other causes. Failure on the part of the municipal authorities to provide proper sanitation before houses are built is equally responsible. Too many streets have been paved and houses built without sewers. Privy vaults built in hard clay which will not permit sewage to dissipate, forces it eventually to rise to the ground and surface drainage results. And the construction of houses below tidewater levels, where sewers cannot be constructed with natural drainage, has caused some of the very worst blighted areas.

However, when we think that to the citizens of that day such houses as we now roundly condemn may have seemed fitting and proper for those unable to earn a reasonable living and afford their own homes, perhaps the fault is more that of society than of the individual. The Romans thought it proper to chain galley slaves and keep them in ships' holds, feudal retainers were herded in small quarters in tenant houses, some cotton planters of the south kept their slaves in small cabins and all felt that

their duty was fulfilled by feeding and clothing their retainers, no matter how poorly. And it must be realized that enlightened citizens are perhaps making more of an issue of the problem than the slum dwellers themselves.

It is only in the last generation that our own conscience has been fully aroused to the absolute physical and social danger of permitting unsound housing. When the more stringent requirements of today's housing are compared with the requirements of war housing, only fifteen years ago, then considered the very best practice, who knows but that we shall be most roundly condemned in another generation or two for our own present lack of foresight.

How Slums Grow

The actual types of houses or tenements that today are the cause of congestion vary greatly in each city. In Philadelphia slums were mostly caused by allowing narrow courts, from four to eight feet wide, with houses one room deep built on one or both sides, usually with a common dividing and rear wall. One or two in a row are left out to provide a common yard with a hydrant for water with a surface drain under sometimes and at other times a gutter to the street. An outside toilet with a vault under is provided for each house. It should, however, be made clear that these were all built prior to the law of 1853 requiring 144 sq. ft. of yard space for each house, one of the first of the modern laws leading to good housing.

In New York, slums are mostly due to the so-called "old law" tenements built during the latter part of the 19th century. And in all cities it naturally followed that entire blocks and districts were lowered to the level of the few objectionable type buildings.

In Philadelphia there is, for instance, a narrow opening leading to a slum court with a euphonious title like "Esterweiser Avenue" in incised lettering on marble slabs. Its name and start have been long forgotten but the bitter dregs remain. Walking over and around waste boxes, papers and pails one suddenly finds wider space lined solidly on both sides with one room deep houses three stories high. Windows are on one side only, facing the "avenue". In the court will be found baby carriages being wheeled, a ball game in one corner, a fight in another and between, outside, and inside all the teeming life of a little world untouched. True, the people must go out to shop, to visit and for work or amusement, but at dark the houses swallow more people than you and I feel should be housed in an entire block. And who could blame the better people who move out of the surrounding houses and away from such a potential center of filth and disease!

Then on the other extreme there is the court named after a former president, having a certain dignity, perhaps by virtue of its name. This court belongs in what might be termed the "upper crust" of slums, being fairly clear and free of rubbish. It is paved with brick, nice in color, albeit a little stumbly due to lack of repair. City Planning has been recognized, for the toilets are all carefully placed on axis in the center. The tenants have given them an inviting aspect in summer by growing flowers, vines and vegetables from wood boxes placed on the ground. And one tenant has occupied the same house for about forty years! And protests against the terrible conditions in surrounding courts!

Are We Not Responsible?

It is the pernicious influence exercised upon the surrounding property by such spots and the consequent effect upon living conditions and physical upkeep, that have caused our major problems. Ninety per cent of such buildings either are or have been a violation of any decent existing laws on sanitation and housing. And that is, after all, mostly because the police powers which exist were not utilized when the houses were built.

Since we, as the government, have allowed these sore spots to fester until they have reached their present status, is it not our duty, as a whole, to see that they are cleaned out? And to pay the penalty, in dollars and cents, for their elimination and correction?

It would certainly seem so! And how that obligation is to be met is the question of the moment. Only the Federal Government can afford to study the problem as a whole and undertake to find a program of long range planning, construction and management, which will reclaim entire areas and not just the individual groups. Private capital cannot pay the price required; city or township government,

in most cases hampered by lack of legislation, can only find a purely local solution which cannot be coordinated with a national far reaching program. So if there is to be a sound plan it must be constructively studied in each general locality and then made part of a nation wide program of rehabilitation.

Something Must Be Done

What might be accomplished? That is difficult to say. Certainly if there is nothing more done than to tear down the old, uninhabitable or insanitary houses, something would be gained. However, vacant ground—government or privately owned—helps no one, so the problem is to develop these areas with structures that will give safe and reasonable commercial return after the high price originally paid for the ground is taken into consideration and adjusted or absorbed without being a permanent charge upon which a return is essential.

Usually such districts are adjacent to commercial or industrial areas which, being in old parts of the city, cannot spread but continue to produce. The logical answer seems, therefore, to be to provide housing for industrial workers at low rentals. Two immediate results are obtained. First, actual construction work in the building industry; second, of even greater importance, relief by providing proper shelter to those who heretofore have never had the right kind of housing erected for their pocketbooks.

However, it must be understood that any program of tearing down and rebuilding or of remodeling involves so many features, beginning with accumulation of ground from the existing multiple ownership that a more intensive and detailed study is needed than would be required to provide housing on vacant land. The actual cost of building in the slum areas is no greater than in outlying sections, except for the difference required to construct of fire-resistive materials. Services in the main streets, such as water, sewerage, gas and transportation are generally already in, so that there is a saving over outlying sections. But the stumbling block to a sufficiently low per room cost of rental will be found in the purchase price to be paid for the ground and whatever building may be upon it, adding to it the cost of individual agreements, searches and settlements on small parcels.

How the Government Could Help

If the theory that society, or government, must assume a certain responsibility for having allowed slum conditions to be started and then to continue and spread, is to be accepted, it is perfectly reasonable to assume that this difference in ground cost should be absorbed out of Federal funds. This is exactly the same as subsidies provided to keep ships on the ocean, funds advanced to plough under crops to preserve the farmers' independence, legislation to

impose tariff to aid a particular industry or public works to pour out millions for dams to provide water to reclaim arid areas and selling the water at a cost far below any interest or amortization on the investment.

There is no difference between spending money to raise the prices of goods in one industry and taking similar action to provide shelter at a lower cost to another. Both benefit the worker and are good business for the government in its responsibility for the well being of its people, and should not be construed as communism, socialism, or even paternalism.

That this obligation has already been recognized by the Government is shown by the wording of the N. I. R. A. The Administrator of Public Works is specifically required to prepare a "comprehensive program of public works." And surely there is no one thing more vital to any such program than the clearance of slums.

The creation of a Federal housing authority with funds sufficient for an immediate intensive study of blighted areas, starting in those cities where unemployment in the building industry is most rampant, with all other cities to follow closely thereafter, would seem a not unreasonable method of starting. This central authority should have subordinated regional authorities to control and generally supervise the studies to be made and determine the allocation and expenditure of funds. But, and this is most important, the actual work should be done locally by corps of technically trained men, experienced in the work, familiar with conditions in their locality and selected carefully for their knowledge and ability. Just as there is a different cause in each city so each has its own peculiar local remedies that do not apply elsewhere. But the result of these investigations could be coordinated by the regional and national authorities and a sane, sensible long range national program laid out.

Many Men Could Be Put to Work

Without a spade being put in the ground, literally thousands of technical men could be saved from the bread line this winter. In Philadelphia alone seventy-five to one hundred men could be put to work within two weeks in devising means of securing ground and ascertaining the cost thereof, types of buildings to be built and methods of management. In each city the work already accomplished, mostly by altruistic effort, in the study of city plan, the movement of population and of commerce and industry and other vital factors could be coordinated into a master plan. Never before has this been possible of accomplishment under a competent supervising authority, with the funds and power of the national administration behind it.

Architects, draftsmen, housing and planning consultants, engineers, realtors and contractors all have

their function in such a study. And all could cooperate with a responsible group of citizens trained in banking and business to give needed advice on the commercial aspects of the plan. If this Federal authority could then extend to local housing corporations the benefits of the money grant applicable toward the cost of labor and materials for public works, this would act as a reduction of the added ground cost in such proper proportion in each community as the studies would determine. Such a grant would act as the incentive to secure the required local participation, both in cash, equity and civic interest, which should be an essential part of the program.

Eminent Domain Is a First Essential

The much discussed power of eminent domain must be given to each such public corporation organized by the Federal authority in order to solve the problem of ground accumulation. Much as its use is disliked, there will undoubtedly be occasion when persuasion or the use of police power to condemn uninhabitable and dangerous buildings or arbitration will not be effective. For the commonweal the ground must be secured, but the owner compensated on a reasonable basis only and he must be fully protected in accordance with legal procedure in each state. The very threat contained in the possession of the power would militate to a great extent against real estate speculation.

The cooperation of the municipal authorities must be invoked. Vacating existing streets, placing new ones on the city plans, changes in water and sewer, etc., may be essential to properly clearing out districts. And in return the city must be assured that the reclaiming of areas and new construction will return a proper tax for the prosecution of the city's business and the meeting of existing or new obligations required. The fear that the non-success of any government assisted or owned housing project either in the slums or suburbs would result in non-payment of city taxes is at present a strong deterrent against municipal cooperation.

Various Types of Housing Should Be Included

In the determination of rentals, there should be worked out a rate suitable to the existing prices currently paid in the neighborhood without under cutting, except perhaps in a type of house which might be called "interim". Such a house, usually a tenement, built of steel joists, fire resistive and vermin proof materials, could be without bath rooms, but with toilet and sink for each apartment; without wall paper but with cold water painted walls and rented at a figure only slightly above the prices paid in the present slum houses or tenements. These could be let only to the very poorest of the tenants, those without steady employment or in the past without ambition to better themselves. The compe-

tition of better neighbors and living quarters and the hope of building themselves up to eligibility in the next better type house at a little higher rental should do more than teaching or preaching to improve family living conditions, as has been demonstrated in Rome and other European cities.

Another slightly higher type of house for the worker of low but steady income and a still higher type for the white collar man who either has to or prefers to live down town, should be a part of the program. Parks, playgrounds and low-coverage of buildings to land area naturally follow such a plan and form an integral part of the studies to be made.

The proportion of each type of occupancy is essentially a problem of proper management. For this it is essential to build up a personnel which will sympathetically determine eligibility of tenants and help them in their problems, without taint of charity. Perhaps one answer is in weekly collections of rentals, or a sliding scale between summer and winter, or a rate dependent upon type and finish and equipment to suit each person's need instead of the usual, "Here it is; take it or leave it" type of house or apartment.

A Plea For Prompt Action

It will be seen from these notes that the ultimate cost of a slum clearance project dependent upon the

possibility of a governmental grant makes it a totally different problem from low rental housing on vacant land. Each factor mentioned above has an important bearing upon the determination of the amount upon which a return can reasonably be expected. Therefore, no attempt has been made here to suggest an absolute solution or to dwell upon the sociologic side or the ultimate benefits to the city in lessening of police and health expense. It is only an effort to lay before the members of the Institute some of the peculiar phases of this problem, unlike any other which faces our profession and therefore requiring in its preliminary stages of planning that incentive which only government can give.

It is hoped that it will encourage members in each section to continue further or to begin the studies essential to its solution. And the entire building industry cries out to the Architect to take the lead in urging the Government to constitute a proper "Housing Authority", and to act as quickly as possible. This is a war—a war against crime, depression and insanitary living conditions. All can join this war and if it is successful more will be accomplished for the future of our cities than would be possible by the expenditure of many times as much money for the erection of other kinds of buildings during this critical period.

Planning Projects and Work Relief

A Statement by Frederic A. Delano, Chairman, National Planning Board, P. W. A., Washington, D. C.

To City, County, Regional and State Planning Organizations:

IT is understood that *projects for preparation of plans, surveys, studies and mapping* will be eligible for assistance from the funds of the newly established Civil Works Administration.

On November 8 President Roosevelt announced an expansion of the Federal Relief Program aimed at putting 4,000,000 men to work immediately on a part-time basis of 30 hours each week, paying the workers a living wage rather than the bare subsistence money paid heretofore by the relief organizations. To accomplish this he has created the Civil Works Administration under the direction of Mr. Harry L. Hopkins, and \$400,000,000 of Public Works Funds have been made available.

It is suggested that as a basis for comprehensive planning, official planning agencies will wish to take *immediate action* toward the formulation of planning projects which they are prepared to undertake *within a week*. These projects might in-

clude such matters as mapping, planning studies and surveys for the collection of data for zoning, soil conditions, land use and classification, population distribution, schools, park and playground development, port, harbor and waterway work, parkways, highways, traffic, transit, water supply, drainage and sewerage, long-range financial programs, real property inventories, tax maps, building and housing conditions, subdivision control, etc. Your application should briefly describe the work to be done, the time it will require, and the qualifications and number of technical and clerical personnel you can use.

The organization of the C. W. A. is taking shape rapidly and is expected to be functioning within a very few days. The projects will be handled directly by the State and local Civil Works Divisions being set up. Therefore, do not submit your project to the office in Washington but watch for the organization of your State and local Civil Works Division and have your projects in readiness for their immediate consideration.

Code For Architects—Progress Report

By WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, CHAIRMAN, CODE COMMITTEE.

DEVELOPMENTS in connection with the Construction Industry Code have been rapid and fundamental during the past few weeks, and they have affected importantly the supplemental codes in so far as their structure is concerned.

A final policy has been generally accepted by the sponsors of that Code and officials of N. R. A., that there shall be a single Construction Industry Code, the first part being general provisions applying to all branches of construction, followed by a series of chapters (the former supplemental codes) containing the special provisions applicable to each of the elements, such as architects, engineers, general contractors, etc.

This means that, in the Architects' Code, certain provisions regarding hours, wages, appeals, etc., will be omitted from our chapter (the former supplemental code) and will be covered by standard clauses in the Construction Code equally controlling the other branches of the industry. This will make the chapter containing the architects' interests much briefer and related to four main subjects, namely—Definitions, Unfair Competitive Practices, Administration, and Modifications.

As this goes to press the final draft of the Construction Industry Code has been formulated and submitted to General Johnson. If it is approved by the President, it is believed the Architects' Code will be ready for immediate action in a form which the Code Committee considers to be satisfactory.

Proposed amendments to the provisions on schedules of charges in the Architects' Code, made necessary by fixed policies of the National Recovery Administration, have just been reported to the Presidents of all Institute Chapters, and of the State Societies, in a communication dated December 8, 1933, in order that the Code Committee might have the opinion of groups broadly representative of the profession throughout the country.

That letter pointed out that to date the Archi-

itects' Code Committee has been unable to secure acceptance by N. R. A. of fixed schedules of charges, either on a national basis or for local areas. The Administration assumes its present position in opposition to fixed schedules of charges on legal grounds, and as part of a general policy against price fixing.

The engineers have received similar intimations, and it is understood that they have modified their code accordingly.

Revised sections of the Architects' Code with respect to the schedules of charges were fully quoted in the letter of December 8 to Chapter and State Society Presidents, above mentioned; and replies were requested at the earliest possible date.

Now that there is definite prospect of final action on the Construction Industry Code, many supplemental construction codes (which will appear as chapters in the Construction Industry Code) are nearing completion. It has not been physically possible for the Architects' Code Committee to check the many drafts through which these codes have passed in the last five months to see that they contain no provisions unfair to the architectural profession.

Therefore, it has been necessary to appoint a sub-committee of the Code Committee, with the sole function of reviewing other codes of the construction industry groups. As the Institute funds are limited five Washington members have been drafted for this service and have accepted the heavy burden imposed upon them. The sub-committee is as follows: Robert F. Beresford, Chairman; William I. Deming, Louis Justement, Thomas A. Mullett, and Frank Upman, members. This sub-committee is holding daily meetings, and hopes to be in a position to report on other codes in advance of their approval at N. R. A.

The membership will be kept fully informed on Code progress by reports in each number of *THE OCTAGON*.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This number of *THE OCTAGON* was delayed in the optimistic hope that the Construction Industry Code, and perhaps the Architects' Division thereof, could be published in final form—as the law of the land.

Those not familiar with conditions in Washington can hardly realize the difficulties under which these two Code Committees have labored.

The Code Committee of the Construction League, Stephen F. Voorhees, Chairman, has reconciled some strongly conflicting interests, and has produced a Code which should harmonize all groups.

The Code Committee of the Institute, for which Mr. Parker reports above, has attained similar accomplishments.

The Executive Committee has approved the substance of both codes.

It is hoped that the Construction Industry Code will be approved in time for publication in the December number of *THE OCTAGON*; and that the Architects' chapter thereof will be ready for publication in January. However, these are hopes, not promises! The membership can depend upon monthly reports until both Codes are final.

Relief Employment—Recording Historic Buildings

THE Secretary of the Interior, Hon. Harold L. Ickes, has sponsored a program for the relief employment of Architects and Architectural Draftsmen, under the Civil Works Administration, which is outlined as follows:

The plan involves a means of furnishing relief to about 1,200 men of architectural training for periods of two months or more, with the opportunity of making an enormous contribution to the history and aesthetics of American life. One important phase of it is that, if approved, men could go to work almost at once, with a minimum of equipment, supplies, and general overhead expenses. It is estimated the project would cost about \$450,000.

The proposal embodies the securing of the services of a qualified group of architects and draftsmen to study, measure, and draw up plans, elevations, and details of the important historic old buildings of the United States. Our architectural heritage of buildings from the last four centuries diminishes daily at an alarming rate. The ravages of fire and the natural elements, together with the demolition and alterations caused by real estate changes, form an inexorable tide of destruction destined to wipe out the great majority of the buildings which knew the beginnings and first flourish of the nation. The comparatively few structures which can be saved by extraordinary effort and presented as exhibition houses or museums, or altered and used for residences or minor commercial uses, comprise only a small percentage of the interesting and important architectural specimens which remain from the old days. It is the responsibility of the American people that if the greater number of our antique buildings must disappear through economic causes, they should not pass into unrecorded oblivion.

Charles E. Peterson, chief of the eastern division of landscape and architectural planning of the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, is the originator of the plan. He proposes a comprehensive program which will include a judicious selection of period, type, and locality, and that a general canvass be made of the structures erected between the earliest times and probably 1860. This would include the best examples of the succeeding styles followed on the Atlantic Seaboard and the adjoining states, roughly grouped as Jacobean, Georgian, Early Republic, and Greek Revival. It also would include the remains of Spanish Colonial culture scattered from Florida to southern California.

An important field for exact architectural recording is the Indian territory of the Southwest. Exact record should be made of such communal

structures as the Taos and Acoma pueblos and the Zuni villages farther west, where mutations are fast encroaching upon the flavor of the native aboriginal style. Recording of some of the highly perishable prehistoric remains such as Pueblo Bonito in the Chaco Canyon National Monument, should be included. If practicable, the relics of Russian occupation of Alaska should be included in the program.

The list of building types to be recorded should be almost a complete resume of the builders' art. It should include public buildings, churches, residences, bridges, forts, barns, mills, shops, rural out-buildings and any other kind of structure of which there are good specimens extant. The lists should be made up from the standpoint of academic interest rather than of commercial uses.

Had such records been kept in early colonial times the task of replacing the birth house of George Washington, called Wakefield, at the George Washington Birthplace National Monument would have been a far simpler one.

If this architectural study project goes through as proposed, a National Advisory Committee of seven men will be established to guide the work. Four members, to be named by The American Institute of Architects, would be from the architectural profession, and three, to be named by the Director of the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, would be from civic and patriotic organizations.

The Executive Committee of the Institute at its recent meeting in Washington conferred with representatives of the Interior Department, with Dr. Leicester B. Holland, Chairman of the Committee on Historic Buildings, and Edward W. Donn, Architect, who restored Wakefield, Kenmore, and other buildings in Virginia.

The result of that conference was complete endorsement by the Institute of the program above described.

Following the meeting, President Russell appointed four architects to serve on the Advisory Committee of seven. They have accepted service and are: Leicester B. Holland, Chief, Division of Fine Arts, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.; William Graves Perry, Williamsburg, Virginia; Albert Simons, 42 Broad Street, Charleston, South Carolina; and John Gaw Meem, Sunmount, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Requests for information concerning developments under this plan should be made to local State Agents, as named in the public press, or to Presidents of Chapters.

On the Public Works Front

From *Pencil Points*—For November

AS we go to press things are beginning to look a little better in respect to public works. Allocations are being made every day and over two billions of the three billion appropriation have now been definitely assigned to federal, state, municipal and private projects. Actual expenditures, while naturally lagging far behind, are growing each month. The administration is apparently doing its best to educate the public to an understanding of the vital necessity for speed in getting the huge sum involved into circulation.

Appropriations for federal projects have, for the moment, approached the limit of immediate needs and the President's last radio address to the country emphasized the fact that it is up to the states and municipalities from now on to come forward with proper projects. In other words, responsibility for making the rest of the program effective rests upon the architects and engineers of the country who supposedly are best equipped to see the needs of their regions and communities and translate them into plans.

Of types of architectural projects, housing and slum clearance seem to be in highest favor and the Housing Division, headed by Robert D. Kohn, can be depended upon to continue pushing this part of the program. Other types of non-federal works involving architectural services which have been approved include schools, hospital buildings, jails and prisons, armories, airports, university buildings, courthouses, public markets, poor-houses, power plant buildings, and recreation facilities. Architects have got to do their part in calling the needs of their communities to the attention of the proper authorities and in following the projects through with all the energy and persuasiveness they can command. We are glad to say that we know of a number of architects who are alive to this responsibility and who are doing their utmost to promote state and local projects. Many, however, are still unawake to this opportunity to assume leadership. It would be a pity were the profession to fail the country in this, its hour of greatest need.

We still firmly believe that the initial appropriation of three and a third billions is only a beginning. Already the newspapers are carrying dispatches from Washington predicting that Congress will be asked for more when it assembles. The figure presently being mentioned is \$1,700,000,000 which would increase the total to five billions. If this comes true, as we hope it will, even more will it be up to architects to exercise their reputed vision towards the building of more and better services for the public of each community—facilities which will provide for the intelligent use of increased leisure and help to elevate the level of culture as the country grows wealthier.

We have repeatedly been assured by the administration and by those close to it that the redistribution of wealth is one of the prime objects of the "New Deal." There is no better way to bring this about than by a generous and continued program of public works paid for by taxation on high incomes and inheritances, thus at one stroke putting wages into the hands of many workers to be used in consuming the products of industry and agriculture and preventing the excessive investment in already well equipped industries that has led in the past to overproduction and then to bankruptcy and depression. What is more logical than that as a country grows wealthier and its industries, through science, become more productive, the labor thus saved should be put into providing all manner of public services for the enjoyment and utilization of life?

As we see it, the architectural profession has here an opportunity to participate for years to come in the work of rebuilding our cities and towns, eliminating the blight that has been put upon them through individual greed, and replanning each community from the social and sociological point of view instead of the narrow standpoint of private profit. Through such activities architecture can get away from its recent too commercial status and reassume its high estate as a profession and a fine art.

Board of Labor Review—Architect Appointed

THE architectural profession is honored by the appointment of Ernest John Russell, President of the Institute, to membership on the new Board of Labor Review. This Board constituted by Mr. Ickes, Head of the Public Works Administration, will function in settling disputes arising in connection with construction under public works money.

The other two members are Lindsay Rogers, of New York, and James Wilson, of Cincinnati.

The members' duties will be largely advisory and supervisory, as the Administration has accepted the suggestion of Mr. Russell that just as many disputes be settled on the spot—and not in Washington— as can be settled in that way.

International Exhibition of Contemporary Architecture

TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

THE Royal Institute of British Architects has extended an invitation through The American Institute of Architects to American architects to participate in this exhibition, which will, at the same time, mark the opening of the new Royal Institute of British Architects' building in London.

The scope of the exhibition is as follows:

- Section 1: Town Planning: Traffic and Transport; Housing Schemes; Streets, Bridges, Street Furniture and Kiosks, etc.
- Section 2: Planning the House: Houses, flats, hotels, dwellings, furniture, fittings, etc.
- Section 3: Planning for Health: Hospitals, clinics, orphanages, crematoria, stadia, schools and colleges, swimming pools, etc.
- Section 4: Planning for Industry and Commerce: Factories and warehouses, office buildings; motor-coach stations, garages and petrol filling stations; telephone exchanges; aerodromes, railway stations, signal boxes; shops and stores, shopping arcades.
- Section 5: Architecture of Pleasure: Theatres, cinemas and film studios; Clubs, amusement halls and exhibition buildings; Libraries; Restaurants; Museums and Art Galleries.
- Section 6: Public buildings: Town Halls and Civic Centres; Police Stations, Fire Stations; Post Offices; Banks; Broadcasting Studios.
- Section 7: Ecclesiastical Architecture: Cathedrals, Churches, Chapels, etc.; interior decoration and fittings.

Only buildings erected within the last ten (10) years may be shown.

The Committee of the Royal Institute of British Architects desires to make a selection of buildings to be exhibited from a preliminary submission of—

1. Small photographs, each photograph to be

clearly marked with the name of the building, its address and city and with the name of the architect and his address and accompanied, if possible, by small scale explanatory plans.

2. In the case of buildings that have been published in American architectural journals, the names of the buildings submitted for exhibition with the name and date of the publication in which they were reproduced, can be submitted, in lieu of the above photographs and plans.

Buildings accepted for final exhibition then have to be shown in photographic enlargements to a uniform size and color, etc., which will be announced by the Royal Institute of British Architects' Committee.

The submission of preliminary exhibits in either of the methods described above must be made before January 15, 1934, delivered free to Julian Clarence Levi, Chairman, A. I. A. Sub-Committee on Exhibitions, 105 West 40 St., New York City, and each exhibitor must accompany his submission by a check for \$10.00 drawn to the order of Julian Clarence Levi, Chairman, as an account payment on cost of organizing the exhibition.

Exhibitors desiring insurance on their preliminary or final exhibits must carry their own insurance as The American Institute of Architects, its Sub-Committee on Exhibitions, and Julian Clarence Levi, Chairman, will assume no responsibility against loss or damage of any nature. The submission of exhibits signifies the assent of the exhibitor to these conditions.

In view of the importance of the occasion and the cordial relations that exist between the architects of the two countries, the Committee urges prompt and full cooperation on the part of the architects of the United States.

Competitions for the Prizes of Rome

THE American Academy in Rome has announced its annual competitions for fellowships in architecture, landscape architecture, painting, sculpture and musical composition.

In architecture the Katherine Edwards Gordon fellowship is to be awarded, in landscape architecture the Garden Club of America fellowship, in painting the Jacob H. Lazarus fellowship and in musical composition the Walter Damrosch fellowship.

The competitions are open to unmarried men not over 30 years of age who are citizens of the United States. The stipend of each fellowship is \$1,250 a year with an allowance of \$300 for transportation to and from Rome. Residence and studio are provided without charge at the Academy, and the total estimated value of each fellowship is about \$2,000 a year.

The Academy reserves the right to withhold an award in any subject in which no candidate is con-

sidered to have reached the required standard.

The term of the fellowship in each subject is two years. Fellows have opportunity for extensive travel and for making contact with leading European artists and scholars.

The Grand Central Art Galleries of New York City will present free membership in the Galleries

to the painter and sculptor who win the Rome Prize and fulfill the obligations of the fellowship.

Entries for competitions will be received until *February 1st*. Circulars of information and application blanks may be obtained by addressing Roscoe Guernsey, Executive Secretary, American Academy in Rome, 101 Park Avenue, New York.

The Carnegie Corporation Review of Grants in the Arts

A THIRTY-TWO page report by Frederick P. Keppel and Robert M. Lester, reviewing the grants in the arts for the period of 1911-1933, has been received. Some extracts from this interesting document are presented herewith:

The arts are inextricably woven into all phases of human activity, and the Corporation in its support of education at every level, of libraries and museums, has contributed at the same time to the advancement of the arts.

While one of the earliest grants of the Corporation was made in the arts, \$200 to the American Federation of Arts in 1913, the grants specifically for this purpose have fallen almost wholly within the past ten years, the only exceptions being the American Academy in Rome, \$25,000; American Fine Arts Society, \$25,000; Community Arts Association of Santa Barbara, \$125,000; New York School of Applied Design for Women, \$25,000; American Federation of Arts \$30,200.

During this period, the sum devoted to the arts other than music has averaged \$365,600 annually, the grants reaching their peak with a total of \$500,000 in 1925-26.

Late in 1923 the Trustees authorized the appropriation of \$5,000 as the first of a series of grants for a general study on the place of the arts in American life. The admirable report, which was prepared by a group under the Chairmanship of Mr. Richard F. Bach, and submitted a year later, was the first comprehensive document of its kind to be published in the United States. In no field has the Corporation relied more upon voluntary advisers than in the arts, and nowhere have the results been more satisfactory. The original advisory group, called together in June, 1924, consisted of the following persons: Richard Aldrich, Royal Cortissoz, Royal B. Farnum, Henry W. Kent, Frank J. Mather, Jr., C. R. Richards, Paul J. Sachs, Homer Saint-Gaudens, Walter Sargent.

Both to secure differing points of view and also to relieve the individual members from that pressure which zealous applicants for grants sometimes exert, the personnel has been changed from

time to time, but the work of the group has been uninterrupted from that day to the present.

Art at the College Level

*** The first step, due to the obvious shortage of competent college teachers in the field, was the establishment and support for six years of a series of arts fellowships. The essential features of the system were selection on a competitive basis, and freedom on the part of successful competitors to select their places of study. The total sum devoted to these fellowships was \$195,000 and, in all, 80 individuals were appointed. A number of them are now in positions of responsibility and importance, though not all as college teachers, several having become museum curators and executives. *** These major grants toward the training of teachers were supplemented in several ways, chiefly by a series of grants to The American Institute of Architects for the maintenance of summer classes for college teachers in the arts, held at the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and the University of Oregon, and by grants-in-aid to enable other teachers to take summer work at the Sorbonne and elsewhere.

Publications.

Mindful of the inclusion of "useful publications" among the expressed interests of its founder, the Corporation has been responsible for the appearance of a number of books, some of them of general character, as *The American Renaissance* by Robert L. Duffus, and *Art and Nature Appreciation* by George H. Opdyke. Others have been more specific, as, for example, *College Architecture in America* by Charles Z. Klauder and Herbert C. Wise, and *Architectural Planning of the American College* by Jens Frederick Larson and Archie MacInnes Palmer.

Particularly happy have been the cooperative relations with The American Institute of Architects, which through its Committee on Education was the first in the field as an agency devoted to the stimulation of art interests in American colleges.

Handkerchief Map of Washington to Aid Memorial Parkway

THE Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and President of the American Civic Association, Frederic A. Delano, has had manufactured a handkerchief map of Washington and the surrounding country, which has been copyrighted by the American Civic Association. The net proceeds from the sale of the handkerchief map will go to the George Washington Memorial Parkway Fund.

Mr. Delano took his inspiration for the handkerchief from a rare cloth map of the Capital city printed about 1792. A second edition of this map appeared in 1796, which is also very rare. Only a few of these early maps are known to be in existence today. The Library of Congress has three in its possession, the Metropolitan Museum of New York has one, and others are held by private collectors or form part of historical collections. The historical background of these maps is vague, though it has been supposed that they were brought out in connection with the auction sale of lots in the "new Federal Town," for which the plans were drawn by L'Enfant, the young French military engineer who came to America in 1777.

The handkerchief map, now being brought out, is about twenty-eight inches square. Mildred G. Burrage of Kennebunkport, Maine, drew the design which reproduces not only the original L'Enfant Plan but a map of the surrounding country and its important landmarks, bordered by sketches of the notable buildings of the Nation's Capital.

Both the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the American Civic Association have advocated the George Washington Memorial Parkway, a development along the banks of the Potomac River.

Completion of this Parkway would secure official control of both sides of the Potomac River from Mount Vernon to Great Falls on the Virginia side and between Fort Washington and Great Falls on the Maryland side, with the exception of the areas

already occupied by the cities of Washington and Alexandria.

The recent opening of the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway between Washington and Mount Vernon completes about one-quarter of the whole project. Plans for continuing the Parkway have received a temporary set-back due to the depression.

Congressional authorization for the George Washington Memorial Parkway provides that Federal funds may be made available only on condition that State and local funds be secured for the purchase of private lands within the proposed park area. It is hoped that the proceeds from the sale of the handkerchief map will make it possible to secure essential key properties in order that the plan for the Parkway may not fail.

The sale of the handkerchief maps will enable patriotic and civic organizations and the millions of people who are interested in the National Capital to contribute to the Fund and to have a souvenir of their participation.

The handkerchief map is printed in six colors on a fine quality of muslin, sunfast and washable. The colors are red, blue, green, plum, brown and terra cotta.

Many uses have been suggested for the maps. They may be antiqued with lacquer or shellac and framed as an interesting wall decoration. They may be placed under glass for card table trays. They can be used as handkerchief, scarf, apron, table cover, or sewed together to make bags, bed spreads, window draperies, or even garments.

It is possible that this interesting map will some day be of as great value as those early historic maps now in the hands of the Library of Congress and private collectors. It will be a lasting memento of the American Civic Association's work on behalf of the Federal City. It is intended to dispose of the first edition to friends of the movement, after which there will be other editions for the general public.

The handkerchief maps may be ordered from the American Civic Association, 901 Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C., at one dollar each.

Architects in Appraisal Work

ARCHITECTS have been participating to a greater degree in appraisal work during the past three or four years. This is a field in which the knowledge of the architect should be utilized to a much larger degree than at present.

A Joint Conference on Appraisal Practice was held in Washington, D. C., on November 15th under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of

the United States—at which the Institute was represented by President Russell, and by Irwin Porter, member of the Washington, D. C., Chapter.

The following paragraphs are quoted from the Minutes of the Joint Conference:

Definition of Terms.

Discussion brought out the various meanings attached by different groups to the words "appraisal" and "value,"

and the necessity, before any agreement could be reached on a plan for cooperation of the groups represented in the Conference, of "learning to speak the same appraisal language."

Attention was called to the definitions of terms of the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers. The primary interest of the Institute is in appraisals and appraisal procedure which aims at establishing a competent judgment of the "market value" of real estate properties. Other groups are interested in procedure (making appraisals) for arriving at other values, for example, value for rate making, value for tax purposes, replacement value, depreciated value, etc.

It was agreed that there was no single entity called "value," which an ideal appraisal would show, but only values for this purpose or that purpose—and hence that as a first task the Conference should come to agreement on—

1. The different kinds of value in which it is interested (market value, value on earnings basis, value for public utilities regulation, value for tax purposes, etc.)
2. The bases of these different values.
3. Definition of terms.
4. Procedures for establishing these values.

Mr. Walter Rautenstrauch agreed to make a preliminary survey along this line, (classification of appraisals, terminology, procedures) with the understanding that he would start with what had been accomplished by the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers, and would confine his suggestions as to procedures to appraisals not covered by the Institute, such as, of factory value, for utility regulation, etc. He was appointed a sub-committee to report to the Conference Committee.

Consolidated or Joint Appraisals.

Discussion brought out a consensus as to the real necessity for consolidated or joint appraisals, that is, appraisals drawing on experts from more than one field (for example, real estate appraiser, architect, engineer, contractor) of larger projects where there is public participation in the financing.

For the purpose of clarifying this discussion it was tentatively recommended that the Securities Administration require a consolidated or joint appraisal (participated in by a minimum number (say three) of experts familiar with the real estate market, architecture, engineering and construction) of industrial properties (factories) where the loan is \$500,000 or more and of income real estate properties (apartments, hotels, store, office and theater buildings) where the loan is \$250,000 or more, with the further requirement of a report of the Planning Service of the National Association of Building Owners and Managers on apartments and office buildings where the loans are \$500,000 or more.

The attention of those members interested in appraisal work is called to the Journal of the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers, issued at 59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago. It is a technical quarterly publication, carries no advertising, and is issued primarily for members of the Association.

However, subscriptions are open to non-members. The rate is \$5.00.

Each issue is devoted exclusively to articles and discussions on various phases of real estate appraisal, and on the technical problems thereof.

With the Chapters

Cleveland.

The Cleveland Chapter recently dedicated their new and attractive quarters atop the Builders Exchange Building; to be exact—on the eighteenth floor with a superb view overlooking the industrial valley of the Cuyahoga River to the south and east.

Paradoxical as it might seem, nevertheless it is true, even though the depression persists, there are some buoyant spirits and here, due to the untiring efforts of Bloodgood Tuttle and G. Evans Mitchell, there has been created a worthy result both in plan and decoration. The furnishings and the lighting should appeal to the most fastidious.

The main salon has the form of an irregular hexagon with a platform in an alcove opposite the entrance. This platform serves as a rostrum, lighted by a broad soffit panel above.

Adjacent to the salon is a smaller room for the Executive Committee and conferences, with ample wardrobe facilities conveniently situated.

The walls of the salon are of oak stained a soft greenish grey, those of the rostrum alcove being in silver. The ceiling is done in a soft blue, on which are conventional constellations in silver. The den-

ticated frieze bears an appropriate inscription from Longfellow, done in Chinese vermilion—the whole lighted by a modern indirect fixture in aluminum and glass.

Black predominates in the floor and base, the former being relieved with patterns and bands in subdued colors.

Brown and Chinese vermilion with moulds of polished chromium comprise the color scheme of the Executive Committee Room.

Draperies in the salon are blue to harmonize with the ceiling and the furnishings are aluminum, upholstered in vermilion or blue leather, with black glass on the tables and stands, the result being essentially but conservatively modern and presenting a *tout ensemble* undeniably pleasing.

Dedicatory proceedings were in the spirit of the times, but none the less enthusiastic and it was agreed individually and collectively that the committee and all who assisted them so generously had done a singularly successful job.

Delaware.

The Chapter announces the passage of an Act creating the Delaware State Board of Examiners

and Registration of Architects, of which Roscoe Cook Tindall, of Wilmington, is the Secretary. The Board Members are as follows: E. William Martin, President; Walter Carlson, Alfred V. du Pont, G. Morris Whiteside, II, and Mr. Tindall, Secretary.

Minnesota.

The Minnesota Chapter reports that immediate results were obtained in its program of activity on housing. An article by Albert O. Larson on the subject of Low-Cost Housing—a Social Necessity and an Unemployment Relief Measure, was given wide distribution through *The Improvement Bulletin*. Copies were sent to every member of the City Council and other officials with the result that the Mayor immediately appointed a Housing Commission with instructions to do something constructive. He appointed to the Minneapolis Housing Commission four members of the Chapter, namely, Edwin H. Hewitt, Robert Taylor Jones, Albert O. Larson, and W. H. Tusler. In his article Mr. Larson pointed out present conditions are a "Challenge to the public to awaken to the necessity of providing low cost housing to replace the slums and hovels in which thousands of our families now live. To the press, which has ever in modern times led the struggle for human progress, to throw the light of publicity upon living conditions. To public officials, to provide the ways and means of proper housing. To those who, for financial gain, traffic in human lives through the ownership and rental of homes unfit for human habitation. To those who for selfish reasons have obstructed the passage of legislation which would have made low-cost housing possible through private enterprise. To those in social service work whose duties have yearly multiplied because of man-made living conditions. To the building industry to coordinate years of building progress into clean, modern homes, and thus provide employment for that class hardest hit by the depression. And to all those who are searching for a means of providing employment, without which the depression cannot end."

Northern California.

The second joint meeting of the year of the Chapter and the State Association of California Architects, Northern Section, was held on September 29th at the Clift Hotel, San Francisco. During the early part of the evening Harris C. Allen, President of the Association, Northern Section, introduced the architects who had received their certificates to practice during the year and welcomed them into the Association.

Robert H. Orr, of Los Angeles, then President of the State Association, addressed the meeting on its growth and work and announced the final sanction and inclusion of the organization in the In-

stitute as the first affiliated state body to be so recognized.

George Louderback, Professor of Geology, and President of the Seismological Society, University of California, told briefly of the movements known as earthquakes, which are going on through the earth's crust. The frequency of their occurrence and reoccurrence along defined fault lines was described.

Dr. Charles E. Derleth, Dean of the Department of Engineering at the University, in his talk, dwelt mainly upon the recent legislation enacted to provide construction to withstand earthquake forces. He advised caution in determining if more vigorous measures should be established. Otherwise a tremendous burden of cost would be placed upon all construction in anticipation of such severe shakes as might occur but once or twice in a millenium.

The Exhibit Committee of the Chapter displayed a most interesting exhibit of sketches, illustrating mural work recently executed by various artists in the vicinity.

Rhode Island.

At a recent dinner meeting of the Chapter the President, for the Committee on Competitions, reported on the competition for the Pawtucket City Hall. Institute documents on competitions have been sent to the authorities for their consideration. The Chairman of the Committee on Public Works reported his call on Governor Green in the matter, and said that the Governor had asked the help of the Chapter.

The program of the Community Art Project to be carried out by various local organizations was explained. It was voted to give the fullest cooperation to the project, and to appoint a committee with power to name a delegate to the Art Institute.

South Georgia.

The Chapter, as a whole, has offered its services to the City of Savannah in connection with the rehabilitation of blighted areas in the city, and the offer has been accepted. It was proposed to conduct this work as a chapter. Each member has his own part in the work. The Chapter itself will gain much in the estimation of the public.

The President of the Chapter is seeking information on all phases of the subject and would welcome any helpful material or suggestions.

With reference to this activity, President Bergen said "It seems to me that now is the time for the various Chapters of the Institute to demonstrate their value to their respective communities, and it further seems that slum clearance is the best medium to use for that purpose. We of the South Georgia Chapter are trying to do our part, and inasmuch as the local newspapers have promised their entire cooperation, we look forward to success."

Items of Interest

Community and Regional Planning.

THE Regional Plan Association, Inc., 400 Madison Avenue, New York, announces a new book, "Rebuilding of Blighted Areas" by Clarence Arthur Perry, of the Russell Sage Foundation. Its solutions are applied to a community having an area large enough (1) to permit the economies of mass reconstruction, (2) to establish its own neighborhood atmosphere, and (3) to provide on a moderate rental basis such amenities of light, air, recreation space, and pleasing outlook as are seldom available in cities even to the wealthy. An outline of contents is as follows:

PART I.—REPLANNING

The General Problem

Blighted Areas—A Condition Collectively Caused—Relation of Zoning to Rehabilitation—Radical Treatment Required.

The Particular Case

Character of the Section—Immediate Environment—Future of the Chosen Tract—Conditions in an Older, Near-in District.

The Suggested Remedy

Method of Selecting Tract—Preliminary Sketch—A Low Cost Study—A High Cost Study—Final Low and High Cost Schemes—Gains through Unitary Planning.

The Financial Aspects

Land Costs—Building Costs—Maintenance—Income—Financial Set-Ups—Conclusions.

PART II.—ASSEMBLING THE PLOT

Present Difficulties

A Case in Point—Effects of Unfair Prices—Partnerships in Rebuilding.

A Method of Pooling

The Proposed Procedure—Adapting Developments to City Plan—The Problem of Valuation—Compulsion of Minority Owners, Its Legal Aspects.

There are 64 pages, with diagrams and illustrations. The price is \$2.00.

Economic Readjustment.

"While you cannot repeal economic laws by statute, you can influence and guide and even harness them—just as Edison harnessed the law of electricity; and also that it is as great a folly to sit helpless under economic disaster as it would be to do nothing about an epidemic of smallpox.

"We can no longer afford to sit and do nothing about millions upon millions of honest people, who have been cut off from their livelihood. We can no longer say, 'Let them work out their own salvation.' Economic and mechanical progress has outstripped political progress and taken that salvation completely away. Any human economic and political system has failed when people can no longer live under it by their own efforts. For four years a very large proportion of our people have not been

able so to live. We must substitute for the old safety valve of free land and new horizons a new safety valve of economic readjustment. There is no other alternative to shipwreck and the need for action is upon us."—From a statement by Gen. Hugh S. Johnson.

Connecticut Registration—A Correction.

In the October number of THE OCTAGON there appeared a report on the successful accomplishment of the Connecticut architects in getting a registration law.

In the sixth paragraph of that report, the fifth sentence should be corrected to read as follows:

"Meantime the realtors were after registration, which was opposed by all the lawyers, who largely make up the legislature, as the lawyers in the small communities of Connecticut are the ones who handle real estate."

Wisconsin Association of Architects.

A resolution passed by the Executive Board calls for cooperation from every Wisconsin architect. It reads:

Whereas, many buildings have large, incongruous signs on them which ruin their architectural lines and beauty, and

Whereas, the practice of hastily erecting and thoughtless placing of large signs on buildings is becoming more general, and

Whereas, it is not possible to restrain this practice by any kind of legislation, therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, The State Association of Wisconsin Architects, condemn the promiscuous placing of large signs on buildings, and appeal to all public spirited citizens who have the beauty and attractiveness of our buildings and cities at heart to assist us in our effort for (1) the discontinuance of large signs on buildings, and (2) the proper study of signs as to their size, location and design. Be it further

Resolved, That the members of our Association be asked to give generously of their time and efforts to further the aims of these resolutions, and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread on our minutes, and that they be given much publicity through the press.

The Milwaukee District's medal award exhibition has proven a huge success. Architects and public alike are displaying great interest in the event.

The judging of the photographs entered took place on September 24. The jury consisted of William J. Smith, V. Stromquist, and Pierre Blouke, Chicago architects, and Frances E. McGovern and Douglas Van Dyke, as lay members. All pictures were on display at the Art Institute.

The first award in the residential group went to Harry Bogner. Second place was won by Fitzhugh Scott. Honorable mention was voted Eschweiler and Eschweiler, Fitzhugh Scott, Harry Bog-

ner, and Roy Oliver Papenthien. In the institutional division first award went to Peter Brust, architect of the student's chapel, known as St. Francis house at St. Francis seminary and second place to Roy Papenthien for his design of the Bay Shore chapel.

Free gallery tours, open to the public and starting at noon, were conducted by members of the Association.

The Committee in charge of the competition included Carl Eschweiler, Chairman, Harry Bogner and Elliott Mason.—*The Wisconsin Architect*.

"Man from Mexico". Again!

Word has again been received at The Octagon, regarding the "wealthy Mexican land holder", and his activities. The last information regarding him is from Louisville, Kentucky. Most of his efforts at swindling have been directed to architects, so the attention of members of the Institute is called to previous warnings which have appeared in the May (1931), August (1931), and March (1932) issues of THE OCTAGON.

This optimistic crook has been arrested several

times but no architect victims are willing to take the time or to incur the expense to testify against him. Therefore, he goes free and continues to pose as a possible client. As one member has said, that in itself should be enough to arouse suspicion!

Engineering Society Offers Courses.

The Detroit Engineering Society is offering to architects and engineers a number of extension courses which should prove of interest to members of the professions. A law course for architects and engineers will be conducted by Ben H. Cole, former Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and for the past seven years Law Instructor at the Detroit College of Law. A course in Public Speaking will be conducted by Leverette E. Fitts, who is outstanding in this field. A course in Strength of Materials by Professor Herman E. Mayrose will be included. Complete details as to costs and terms for the various courses can be obtained from E. L. Brandt, Secretary of the Detroit Engineering Society. All of the courses will be held at the Society clubrooms, 478 Alexandrine Avenue, West.—*Weekly Bulletin, Michigan Society of Architects.*

Members Elected—November 25, 1933

<i>Alabama Chapter</i>	- - - - -	MORELAND GRIFFITH SMITH
<i>Albany Chapter</i>	- - - - -	QUENTIN F. HAIG
<i>Baltimore Chapter</i>	- - - - -	FRANCIS HAYNES JENCKS
<i>Boston Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ELIZABETH G. PATTEE, J. HAMPDEN ROBB, PHILIP SHIRLEY WADSWORTH
<i>Brooklyn Chapter</i>	- - - - -	AUGUST HENRY GALOW
<i>Cleveland Chapter</i>	- - - - -	CARL ANDREW NAU
<i>Colorado Chapter</i>	- - - - -	J. K. MONROE
<i>Florida North Chapter</i>	- - - - -	FREDERICK ANTON HENDRICH
<i>Nebraska Chapter</i>	- - - - -	KENNETH H. GEDNEY
<i>New Jersey Chapter</i>	- - - - -	SAMUEL F. SWALES
<i>New York Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ALFRED MORTON GITHENS LUCIAN E. SMITH
<i>Philadelphia Chapter</i>	- - - - -	WILLIAM ALLEN DUNN
<i>West Texas Chapter</i>	- - - - -	CHARLES T. AUBIN



W
C
W
X