

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



The Sixty-Sixth Convention
Code for Architects—Progress Report
Britain's Experience in Low-Cost Housing
Recognition of the Architect
With the Chapters
Items of Interest

Volume 6

JANUARY
1934

Number 1

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*Presidents. †Secretaries.

The Sixty-Sixth Convention

January 27, 1934.

Official Notice to Members.

TIME AND PLACE

THE Sixty-sixth Convention of The American Institute of Architects will be held in Washington, D. C., on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, May 16, 17, and 18, 1934.

Information concerning hotel headquarters, reservations, transportation, and the program of events will be given in a later notice.

EARLY ELECTION OF DELEGATES

No convention was held in 1933. Therefore, the coming one will be of unusual importance.

Attention is called to the desirability of electing delegates well in advance of the Convention. Early consideration should be given to this duty. Every Chapter, no matter how small, or how far away from Washington, should be represented by at least one delegate when the roll is called on the opening day.

Procedure concerning election of delegates and the giving of proxies is outlined in the next section.

PROCEDURE FOR DELEGATES AND PROXIES

By action of the Executive Committee, at the November, 1933, meeting, and with the advice of counsel, procedure for electing delegates and giving proxies was determined, as set forth in the following resolutions. The whole purpose is to assure representation from every Chapter and every State Association Member. Any member of the Institute who is in good standing may be elected to serve as a delegate or proxy. With reference to Institute dues, a member is in good standing if by April 1, he has made payment of the \$10.00, \$15.00 or \$20.00, as the case may be, or of \$5.00 on account thereof, as set forth in the January statement for dues.

The resolutions governing proxies are:

Whereas, Due to the economic depression, the Institute was unable to hold its annual Convention in 1933, but it is desirable to hold such a Convention in 1934; and

Whereas, It is desirable that every Chapter and State Association Member be represented at such Convention, but that the continued economic depression makes attendance of many delegates impossible, and all Chapter and State Association Members cannot be represented unless they can utilize their full right of proxy under the By-laws of the Institute; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Executive Committee does hereby authorize and declare that any Chapter and/or any State Association Member may be represented at the annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects, to be held in May, 1934, by voting and duly executing its proxy for one or more or all of the delegates

to which it is entitled to be represented at such Convention to any duly accredited delegate to such Convention; and each such proxy, when duly accredited to said Convention, shall be voted by the said delegate holding the same; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee on Credentials at said Convention, if it finds the said proxy to be in due and regular form and duly executed, shall accredit each such proxy to the meeting as qualified to be voted therein and thereat by the said delegate.

NO TAXES OR REFUNDS

Heretofore, a system of taxes and refunds has been in effect for the purpose of equalizing delegates' expenses. This year, on account of unusual conditions, there will not be a Convention tax or refund in any case. Therefore, the financing of travelling expenses strictly becomes a Chapter matter, or a personal matter with the elected delegate.

CHAPTER MEETINGS ON CONVENTION BUSINESS

The Secretary takes this occasion to urge upon each Chapter President that he arrange for at least one meeting of the Chapter at which Institute affairs and the current problems of the architectural profession shall be the only subjects of discussion. As the Convention this year will be held in May, it is recommended that the Chapters designate their April meetings as reserved for subjects which relate to the general welfare of the Institute and the profession as a whole.

The Institute has not been able to maintain many of its special activities. But, the general work of the Institute, as carried on by its Officers, Board of Directors, Committee Chairmen, and the Secretary's Office in Washington, has been put forward with greater zeal than ever before. Consistent with its seventy-six years of service to the architectural profession, the Institute continues to demonstrate its stability and its capacity for leadership. Today it is the rallying point for a profession which has been hard hit by adverse economic conditions of unusual force and duration. The Institute and its Chapters have great responsibility and corresponding opportunity. They are doing justice to both—and must continue to do so.

For these and other reasons, the obligations which will rest upon Convention delegates are more significant than usual. Each Chapter is urged to send its full quota of delegates if that is possible. If that is not possible, then a part quota, a proxy, or proxies, should be sent. *Under no circumstances should any Chapter be without representation in some form.*

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Secretary now advises each member of his privilege of nomination by petition, under the procedure indicated in Chapter VI, Article 6, Section 2 of the By-Laws. This section provides that not less than fifteen members, not more than five of whom shall be members of one Chapter, and each of whom shall be in good standing in the Institute, may nominate by petition candidates for the offices of Director and President, Director and First Vice-President, Director and Second Vice-President, Director and Secretary, and Director and Treasurer, about to become vacant. Each petition shall nominate only one individual.

The By-Laws also provide that not less than fifteen members, not more than five of whom shall be members of one Chapter, and each of whom shall be in good standing in the Institute, and each of whom shall be a member of a chapter within the regional division whereof the term of office of the regional director is about to expire, may nominate a candidate for Regional Director from that Division.

All nominations must be filed with the Secretary of the Institute on or before forty days prior to the opening day of the Convention whereat the election is to take place. (This makes April 6, 1934, the last day on which nominations may be filed at The Octagon.)

The offices and directorships to be filled by election at the time of the Sixty-sixth Convention are indicated by the following list:

Officers:

President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Directorships:

Candidates for directorships shall be selected from the members of the Regional Divisions where vacancies are about to occur.

The three Directors to be elected at the coming Convention will represent the three Regional Divisions named below:

New England Division:

States: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island.

Chapters: Boston, Connecticut, Rhode Island.

Central States Division:

States: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois (St. Clair and Madison Counties, only).

Chapters: Iowa, Kansas, Kansas City, Madison, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, St. Louis, St. Paul, Wisconsin.

New York Division:

State: New York. (Also Porto Rico, Virgin Isles.)

Chapters: Albany, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Central New York, New York.

In the New England and Central States Divisions, and under a By-law provision, the present Directors are not eligible for re-election.

With regard to the New York Division the present Director, Stephen F. Voorhees, is eligible for re-election, as he was originally elected by the Executive Committee to complete the unexpired term of Director Albert L. Brockway, whose death occurred in June, 1933.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,
Secretary.

Code for Architects—Progress Report

IT IS somewhat inaccurate to call this a progress report on the Architects' Code.

There has been little change in the situation since the report in the December number of THE OCTAGON—at least so far as the Architects' Code is concerned.

With regard to the general Construction Industry Code, which was approved by General Johnson and sent to the White House at the end of December: At the request of representatives of the American Federation of Labor a hearing was granted to them by the President, at which objections were made to various provisions of the Code.

It is understood that the President expressed himself in favor of integration of the construction industry under a general code; and that he desired further consideration of certain provisions of the Code by the National Recovery Admin-

istration. That reconsideration is now under way at N. R. A., with full participation by the code committee of the Construction League.

These developments, of course, have a bearing on the status of the Architects' Code. It is generally understood that neither the Architects' nor the Engineers' Code will be approved until the Construction Industry Code has been approved.

Meanwhile, every effort is being made by Mr. Parker, and the other members of the Code Committee of the Architects, to reach agreements with the Administration with respect to various provisions on which agreements have not become final.

The membership will be kept fully informed concerning developments affecting both codes.

FRANK C. BALDWIN, Secretary.

Britain's Experience in Low-Cost Housing

Address of Sir Raymond Unwin at a dinner in Washington given by the American Civic Association and the Washington Committee on Housing, on January 15, 1934.

IF WE are to be of help to each other, we must clearly understand the difficulties that exist. We had a great emergency after the War—you have it now. Both emergencies have given impetus to housing. Ours arose because we had lost five years, so to speak, out of our crop of housing. We were already very short of houses before the War, and a very great shortage occurred after it. Your problem has arisen as a problem of unemployment. We had no unemployment—on the contrary, we had not enough workmen, a scarcity of materials and of men. In both cases, we are faced with a problem always arising in the case of emergency work. You may either do it in such a hurry that you do the wrong thing, or you may sit down and forget the emergency and spend so much time trying to find the actual best thing that you do nothing. These are the two extremes to be avoided.

We are finding housing a very complex problem. We have been somewhat mistaken in trying to face it in sections, because all sections must hang together: our first problem is getting enough new dwellings built which the lower paid sections of our community can afford. That is the problem arising since the War.

Slum Clearance First

The second problem is that of actual slum clearance—getting rid of houses which are so far out of repair, so congested, or so lacking in light and air that they cannot be considered any longer fit for human habitation. This is a difficult problem. We find that we have the added problem of large areas which cannot be called actual slums, but which are not at all satisfactory—which are out of repair, crowded, with too many families, too many houses on the ground, and short of sanitary arrangements. This condition covers a very considerable area, and if we are not very careful, when we clear slum areas, we are very liable to drive slum dwellers into these areas, and spread the evil a little further.

When people have lived a long time under slum conditions they lose the capacity and desire to live properly, to live with adequate rooms and bedrooms. They are entirely wanting in the feeling that it is worth their while to pay an adequate rent for these accommodations, or that it is worth while to furnish all these rooms. It is desirable to help these people—they need a new education in living. Housing, therefore, in Eng-

land is under a Government committee—which has made a very interesting report—they suggest that all these inadequate houses should be acquired, and placed under public ownership and public management of some kind so that they can be managed along the lines of the "Octavia Hill" method. Miss Hill started a system for the training of ladies in accountancy and in being friends with the occupants of the houses in order to help and instruct them in housekeeping should they need it. These ladies were taught to combine these two occupations. Having to collect weekly rents—visit each house and collect rent—they also made it their business to become the friend and helper of the housewife, to help her to live in accordance with the new type of home and new ideals of living.

In America, you are beginning largely at the slum end. Our experience shows as an emergency means of fighting unemployment, you should realize that it is the approach which will take the longest time to get going. Do not expect the impossible of Mr. Kohn. If it is true that you have to begin mainly at the end of clearing before you can build, you must realize that it involves being rather slow in getting to work. You would fight unemployment more quickly if you could start building new houses on lands already clear.

The housing problem is simply one section of city planning. A house is designed to be a comfortable and efficient home for family life, and if properly designed, should be transferred from a mere living place to all that we mean by the word "home,"—capable of arousing a deep affection. The idea of city planning is to make the city a "home" for the community in the same sense. We try to apportion different functions to different parts of city planning, just as we have different functions in the home—activities of kitchen, bedrooms, and other rooms. This is the philosophy of town planning in a nutshell. The location of houses in relation to places of work—is a part of the problem.

We in England have also had a great deal of unemployment in later times, and I must say that I want to support as strongly as possible the use of housing as a means of fighting unemployment, and as a stimulus to set the wheels of industry going around again. So I wish to commend your President for selecting housing as a means to relieve unemployment. This spreads the whole of the capital outlay in purchasing power upon

a very wide range of people and occupations. Nearly all goes into labor in the last analysis. Nearly all goes into labor at home. It is difficult to find any other work which for the same outlay will give such wide help. Consequently, the saving in unemployment relief is at a maximum.

We have found that in a house costing to build \$1500 the saving to the Government in unemployment relief in the amount of labor is \$375. You either pay that labor \$375 for *not* building the house, or you pay \$1500 and you have your house. Do you realize that if you put that \$375 in the bank and let it accumulate interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, you will pay the whole cost in forty years, and will have a house as a revenue-earning asset for the rest of your life? The English Government allows amortization over a period of sixty years because it is convinced that such housing expenditure is a sound investment.

Raising Social Standards

My third point is that I believe that in no way can you make such a contribution to the raising of social standards in the community as in improving the housing of the people of the lower paid economic groups.

Easing the Public Debt

As my fourth point, I wish to say that it is very difficult to find any job on which you can spend public money which will add as little to the burden of public debt which has to be repaid, because, apart from the extra expenses of slum clearance (remedying the evil), if you will build simply for the lower-paid groups low-cost housing, you are transforming depreciated property into a permanent revenue-earning asset, which will, over the long period, probably gain a very good interest on all the monies invested in it.

Competition with Private Enterprise

I believe that very few works which you can start are less likely to compete with private enterprise, because the poorer sections cannot afford to pay the profit necessary to set the wheels going on this work. We, as a community, cannot afford to allow the lower-paid sections to live in the crowded quarters which they are able to afford on a commercial basis. Private enterprise is seldom able to build for them, but expects the low-income groups to become tenants of houses which the more highly paid groups vacate. We are basing our private-enterprise business on the principle that we are going to have these low-income classes wear our cast-off clothes. This is not good. It is not good for our physical health as a community. Evils spread rapidly from slum conditions which are not good for social welfare and happiness, and it is not good for curing the

discontent which breeds among people living under such conditions.

We are in this position: private enterprise cannot afford to build the minimum standard of accommodation for human beings, and society cannot afford to let these people live without decent accommodations. Therefore, the purchase of houses for the lower-paid groups has got to be regarded as a public service—on broad lines this can be carried out at low cost without actual loss. But we must have secure funds provided at the lowest rate of interest; the rental of property depends mainly on the interest. The government can house people on a basis of 4 or $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent, and pay the amortization in sixty years. Private enterprise cannot do it under 6 or $6\frac{1}{2}$ or 7 percent.

Attitude of Real Estate Interests

I notice a very great difference—more than ever before—in the general attitude of your people toward real estate and real estate problems. This difference is fundamental. The reason it is so difficult to agree is that so many things we argue about are largely matters of *mental attitude*. The whole question is merely a trick of maintaining a confidence, and the reason you have no settled philosophy of economics about it is that you cannot have scientific explanation of what any particular group of people will have confidence in for any time! Almost always in England, *we think of real estate in terms of rent*. We hardly ever think in terms of capital appreciation to be secured by selling at some future date for a higher price. We have had quite as bad a slump in industry as you have, but the effects on real estate have been totally different. Our shakeup consisted of having our banks say: "We will convert outstanding (5%) loans into $3\frac{1}{2}$ % loans, and fix the basis for secure money at $3\frac{1}{2}$ % instead of at 5%." The effect of this on real estate was that prices went up. Instead of a slump of real estate values, we had an accretion. Thinking always in terms of long term income, we don't have the pushing up of real estate value in times of boom, and therefore not the sudden drop in times of depression. Your conditions here are totally different. Until recently, you, in this country, were constantly moving West—a frontier whose limits had not been reached. Now you have apparently reached the western limit, and you ought to settle down and look at real estate as we do—more in terms of income, than as capital appreciation. I am staggered at the price of land in America, though I am a Londoner, and we have high prices in London. Four dollars a square foot is at least four times the highest price we should think of in London.

Ten Houses to the Acre

In England the reason for slum areas is that people have moved away from districts in which they lived—exactly as in this country. The original family moves away, then several families move in—one family on each floor, and then one family in each room—overcrowding takes place. In London this process has occurred to an enormous extent. Two-thirds of our families are living two or more in a house that was originally built for one family and which has never been converted into separate tenements. So our problem is still to deal with this situation.

At one time our Committee made a report showing that all of England and Wales could comfortably be housed in the greater London Regional area, and not have to provide more than ten houses to the acre. I have made a similar illustration for America: Giving every family 400 square yards of garden, by building 10 houses to an acre—the whole population in the United States could be housed comfortably in *Kansas*, and have the rest of the country to play in!

After the war, we took a good step in England. We said to the authorities: "If you are going to build, you may not build more than 12 houses to the acre, except for slum clearance in the center of town." This has been carried out. Municipal authorities have cooperated. It is natural that owners of real estate property are very anxious to concentrate the attention of local authorities on clearing the slums. I believe that the real estate people are wrong, and that they often don't know their own interest. Five million pounds were saved the land owners of England by limiting density to ten houses to the acre, because we had to buy double the amount of land! That means the land owners got their building value increment on double value of land. Fortunately we have not had to add that item to rents of houses, because it happens that the lower the density, the cheaper it is to develop, and the cost per house is hardly any more.

Productive Cottage Gardens

We find that our cottage gardens are very well kept as a whole, and most people grow vegetables and fruit for their own consumption. We have found that value of produce per crop acre, after the land is developed for housing, is considerably higher than when used for farming. *So we have housed our urban population, and fed it at the same time.* Therefore, economically this is a sound principle, and at the same time having made better use of the land the owners have benefitted.

I believe this principle applies to vertical planning just as much as to horizontal. If the owner is getting 50% increase in rent, I venture

to say that he is reducing the chance of the owners around him by 75 or 80%. I have some good news for land owners and real estate people. We have stumbled on a rather curious paradox: our population, like yours, is slackening up, and we have been in the habit of dividing the increasing population into families and seeing how it compares with housing. We have found we were building houses at two or three times the apparent increase, and yet did not supply the demand. This looked silly. Then we found that in England and Wales for the two census periods (1911-1921) of twenty years the population increased 11%, but our families increased 28.8%. That means the population is dividing itself into more families per thousand. In the main, it means that 50 more dwellings are required for every thousand of people.

Much the same thing is going on here in America. The population here increased 16%, and the families increased 23%. There's a handsome present for the real estate men. They can go on building, and Mr. Kohn cannot tread on their toes. There is thus more chance for your emergency to be solved, because real estate interests will not object to building houses.

Attacking a Slum Area

In England, in slum clearance, we have appealed to the real estate owners to come forward and help by giving voluntarily what will otherwise have to be imposed compulsorily. Our conditions are these: A slum is a legal entity. It consists of an area in which a sufficient number of houses are unfit for human habitation and in which others are unfit through need of repairs, congestion, and lack of light and air. When such an area is condemned, recommendation is made to the Town Council: It is the duty of the Council to take these conditions into consideration, and to frame a scheme for remedying the evil. This recommendation is sent to the Ministry of Health. An Inspector from the Ministry of Health then holds a public inquiry in the town, at which all sides including owners, dwellers and authorities state their cases. Then the Inspector makes a report to the Ministry of Health. If this report is confirmed—then it is a slum and the matter is settled unless the owner can find some illegality. The local authority can and may say to the owner of this slum: "We can house these people on some other land, therefore, we don't want to build on your area. Clear this property within six weeks. If you do not, we shall come in and clear it for you, and sell the old building materials. And if they sell for more than the cost of clearance, we shall pay you the profit; if they sell for less than the cost of clearance, we shall sue you for the balance."

Also, the local authority is under obligation to find accommodation for the tenants of a slum property before pulling down the houses. If they decide they want to build on the old area, they demand it from the owner. The following elements are considered: 1. A willing seller and buyer. 2. The slum houses are considered to have no value, and therefore nothing is to be paid for the building. 3. We are going to pay you a price, say the authorities, which the arbitrator appointed for the purpose will decide, and he will decide that you may get a fair price for the land, for use for housing purposes. The owner must not expect a fancy price.

Control and Management

We have felt that we could not end here, and so the present Minister of Health has appointed a strong Committee under the Chairmanship of Lord Moyné. They considered what further could be done to deal with areas surrounding slums. This committee recommended that it is not wise in the interests of the community to leave slum property in the hands of miscellaneous small owners, for various obvious reasons. So they have recommended that all of this class of property shall be bought with money provided by the Government—under the direction of the National Housing Council—an organization, something between the local elected council and private committee—similar to your limited dividend company. The Directors of this Council are appointed by the Government—there is no question of profits. If this cannot be formed in all places, then the purchase and management is placed in the hands of the local Council. Many of us have been thinking it would be useful if the housing problem could be once and for all put in the hands of a national housing board or company; not merely to deal with intermediate areas, but to deal with the whole problem.

A good rule to follow in considering this problem is this: "Keep in as close touch and sympathy with the local authority as you can, but have enough detachment to go on with your work year after year until the area is all cleared."

Limited Dividend Corporations

In considering the question of limited dividend corporations we have found a great difficulty. We have a law by which the Government may be required to loan to public utility societies (or

limited dividend companies, as you understand them)—loans up to 85% of the cost, leaving the corporation to find the other 15%. This doesn't work well or fairly because there is absolutely no risk in loaning 85%.

Cottage property is a safe investment. We have few investments in our country which are considered as safe and satisfactory, over a long period, as investments in cottage property, properly managed. The reason is that the rent of cottage property is based on a fundamental need. Houses may be built for wealthy people, and then somebody builds a thirty story tenement house on one side and an office building on the other, and you have entirely destroyed the value of the big house. No such destruction takes place with cottage houses. A safe way of doing this is: instead of guaranteeing 85% of the principal, you should spread the risk and put all the money on the same basis, this would then leave a strong inducement to good management. You can get all the money you want for a limited dividend corporation if you do this. But otherwise, you have a very difficult problem.

Homestead Developments

We have also been doing something on the lines you are experimenting with—rural development. We have developed little farms grouped together—some tenants to grow food—and some to do handicraft work for the community.

In my boyhood I used to visit in a village in the house of a man who had a little land, with a cow, and with a saddler's job. I used to go on wet days and learn to stitch leather, and on fine days help in the fields. It always seemed to me that that man had one of the happiest and best types of life I have ever seen. Therefore, I wish you well in your experience in subsistence homes, and in the Tennessee Valley project. We have experimented in the garden city, where it was the ideal to combine the little town of limited size where industries could be carried on, with the agricultural development around it. We have had to pass a century of struggle to attain quantity. We had constantly with us the bugbear of increasing population. The problem for the next century will involve the desire for *quality* instead of *quantity*—quality of life, and distribution, and in the relationships of people. The young folk of the future will see this theory receiving an increasing amount of attention.

England's Housing Policy

FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE R. I. B. A.

THE debate on Housing, which was opened by Lord Bishop of Winchester in the Upper House on Tuesday, 12 December, was one of the most notable discussions that there has been on this subject in either House of Parliament. The debate was chiefly remarkable for the authority and weight of opinion expressed by members of all parties, that the policy which is being applied by the Government through the Housing Act of 1933, is desperately inadequate to meet the immediate needs of the community, and no more likely to meet the needs of the community five years hence, when the programme will have reached its full development. As Sir Ernest Simon has shown in his latest book, *The Anti-Slum Campaign*, the whole progress of Housing and Slum Clearance since the war has been held up by the determination of successive governments to negative the efforts of each other; the Conservatives repealing Labour Acts stimulating local authority housing; and the Labour Governments repealing Conservative Acts encouraging private enterprise housing; and even now the game continues, so that, as the Bishop of Winchester showed, it is extremely improbable if, under existing provisions, the Wheatley subsidy being abolished, we can hope to reach anything like an adequate supply of houses to let at rents within the means of the poorest tenants, who are those who should have first consideration.

In five years, the Bishop stated, if existing legislation works effectively, we shall have 465,000 new houses, some 84,000 of which will have been built as survivors from the Wheatley provisions, 210,000 under the 1930 Act, and 160,000 by private enterprise. This seems creditable enough until we are reminded that in five years there will be something like 300,000 new families in existence, which, even if the average size of the families falls lower than it is today, will require almost as many houses to

accommodate them alone, leaving very few as a contribution towards the solution of existing overcrowding. Figures based on the number of families are, perhaps, misleading; more instructive is the figure calculated by Mr. Philip H. Massey for the *Architects' Journal* on the basis of one and a half persons per room. Taking that figure as an attainable optimum, the *Architects' Journal* showed that for twelve only of the largest cities in Great Britain, 500,000 houses are needed now, and about 1,400,000 for the whole country. These figures are doubly valuable in coming from an authority with no political flag at its mast-head, and which can properly be described, as it was by *The Times*, as being "unimpeachable." The Bishop of Winchester quoted the figures reached in the *Architects' Journal* survey and also quoted figures given by Sir Raymond Unwin in one of his addresses to the Institute.

More imposing, however, than the extent of the criticism was the unanimity with which members of all parties expressed a desire for more consideration of the proposals, which Sir Raymond has so often advocated, for the establishment of a National Housing Corporation. Some of the confidence that may have been stimulated by the enthusiastic launching of the Government's programme has undoubtedly faded now it is seen how clearly even the best that can be done under present Acts falls short of the absolute necessity. It is to be hoped that notice will be taken of the growing weight of opinion and that the housing policy of the country may be made to rest on more than pious hopes and reliance on private sources of supply that never yet have shown themselves equipped or prepared to build houses to let at really cheap rents, and whose activity is uncontrolled by anything but a very understandable but not necessarily socially-minded desire to make a good financial return.

A Visit to the Western Chapters

AT the November meeting the Executive Committee, acting on recommendations made by Director Raymond J. Ashton and former Director M. H. Furbringer, requested the President of the Institute to make a visit to the Chapters in the western states, during the early months of the current year.

In accord with that proposal and after correspondence with Directors Ashton, Mann and Witmer, Mr. Russell will undertake to visit the following chapters: Kansas City; Nebraska; Colorado; Utah; Montana; Washington State; Oregon;

Northern California; Southern California; Santa Barbara, and San Diego.

Under a tentative schedule, he will meet with the Kansas City Chapter on February 12, and thereafter will be governed by circumstances and the convenience of the various groups.

The President has stated that on this visit he intends to do much listening and little talking, although he will take opportunity to report to the chapters on the affairs of the Institute, and to answer questions about the Institute and other developments in Washington.

Architects Demand State Work

THREE HUNDRED members of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects, the Wisconsin Chapter, A. I. A., and the Building Congress of Wisconsin, held a joint protest meeting in the Assembly Chamber, State Capitol, Madison, on November 23, 1933, completely representing 300,000 persons in Wisconsin's building industry.

The meeting was called to present to the governor the plight of the men in the building industry, their dire need of employment; especially in business and professional branches, not provided for in Federal Relief Program. The only possible employment in this emergency is in public buildings, was their plea.

The state was asked to protect architects and contractors against those of other states discriminating against outsiders. Retaliation through legislation is contemplated. Governmental practice of engaging in private enterprise was attacked, called

fallacious, dangerous.

Resolutions Passed

Greatest interest centered on subjects leading to the passing of the following resolutions:

Be it Resolved, that State Governmental Departments stop making plans and supervising the construction of buildings and that they act only in an advisory capacity and represent the State in its transactions with architects, and be it further,

Resolved, that the preparation of plans and the supervision of construction be awarded to resident Wisconsin Architects, and be it further,

Resolved, that the plans for all school buildings, including the one and two department buildings be prepared by private registered architects, and be it further,

Resolved, that state governmental units be empowered to withhold the awarding of building work to residents of such states whose legislation or practices bar our citizens from obtaining work therein.

(From the Wisconsin Architect)

Recognition of the Architect

IN a recent issue of the Literary Digest, there appeared a photograph of the new William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and Atkins Museum, in Kansas City.

The text, which is in appreciation of the building, its purposes, and its donor, is illustrated by an excellent photograph of the building, by the Dorr News Service, which bears not only the name of the building but the name of the Architects—Wight and Wight, of Kansas City.

This entirely proper but somewhat unusual recognition of the Architect did not pass unnoticed by the President of the Institute, who, in a recent letter to the Editor of the Literary Digest, said:

The William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and Atkins Museum, as illustrated in your December 30th issue,

is a noteworthy building and fulfills, I am sure, the aspirations Mr. Nelson had in mind when he made his will. I know the residents of Kansas City will be as proud of the building as they are of the art collections it contains.

Entirely aside from my general interest in such matters I was much gratified to note in your article that the building had been designed by Wight and Wight, Architects, as it is a credit they are justly entitled to and one that the members of the profession seldom receive.

I hope you will continue this policy of professional recognition whenever the work of the architect merits it.

This current recognition of the architect by the Literary Digest is called to the attention of all chapters. They should encourage local publications to do likewise, and the individual architect should insist that his name be published with illustrations of his buildings.

An Editorial

WE are entering the year 1934 after four years of depression—a depression that has felled the building industry. The architect, in whose hands building projects take tangible form, may well be considered the Forgotten Man of the professions; not that he has been mentally idle, but rather because his projects have failed to take form in materials of building. Hope, he retains, and enthusiasm!

During the years of discouragement has he not been ever ready to give his best for the solution of the industry's difficulties? In the present Federal administration and in its predecessor, the profession has done and continues to do its full share in the Government's efforts to restore employ-

ment. Everywhere at conferences and conventions, and in the press, the architect is in evidence with effort and advice.

The Government's plans for better housing designed to clear slums in cities, and on these sites to erect modern sanitary housing for the temporarily displaced tenants at rentals only slightly, if at all, higher than exacted in the wrecked quarters, should produce in 1934 useful and interesting results that will be keenly studied by the profession. It is a new field for American government. The architectural profession carries a heavy responsibility in its consummation.

(From Illinois Society of Architects—Bulletin.)

With the Chapters

Boston.

At a meeting of the Boston Chapter held for the purpose of informing the membership of the work and policies pursued by the Emergency Planning and Research Bureau, William Stanley Parker spoke on its activities. He said that while the Bureau is not directly controlled by the Chapter, being a Massachusetts Corporation headed by both architects and engineers, it was as established policy that no work be undertaken that ought properly to be done by private practitioners. "A vast amount of work of a research nature," Mr. Parker said, "has already been accomplished which has received high commendation from investigators in other parts of the country. Bureaus in other cities have been modeled upon our plan. We have had inquiries even from London, where a similar organization has been established. It is the earnest wish of both the architectural and engineering committees who control the Bureau to be guided by the advice and wishes of the respective societies who sponsor them. There is a vast amount of research work and useful work that will not interfere with private practice that remains to be done, and we are having the foundations upon which future study of municipal, state and national needs may be based."

A general discussion followed, after which dinner was served in the Great Hall of the Architectural Club.

Frank Chouteau Brown gave a most interesting talk on the Century of Progress Exposition, illustrated with lantern slides. Many of the pictures were taken with the same camera that Mr. Brown had used forty years ago at the Columbia Exposition.

The report by the Executive Director of the Emergency Planning and Research Bureau, Inc., Architectural Division, contained a summary of the work of the Division. Some of the accomplishments were named, as follows: Maps of all kinds for the city of Boston; Charts for the various welfare organizations; settlement houses, etc.; Civic center suggestions for various towns; Signs for many groups, such as the Rotary International, mottoes and slogans for organizations; Exhaustive studies in housing; Health studies; Model making (two models were at the Century of Progress Exhibition); Measured drawings of buildings of historical interest; Posters and bulletins of all kinds; and Work for Civic enterprises—(The architects are in great demand on all major projects of this kind, acting in executive capacities). In all, 247 projects are under way; and 150 have been completed.

Chicago.

The January meeting of this Chapter was a joint one with the Illinois Society of Architects. John Reed Fugard, President of the Illinois Society, presided.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Ralph Fallerlert, of the Eastman Kodak Company, and his subject was "Promotion and Sale of Architectural Services by Photography."

His presentation was an illustrated talk, employing slides, motion pictures, and colored motion pictures. It was of great interest to every architect, presenting in a distinct manner a method of great educational value for placing architectural service before prospective clients.

(*Illinois Society of Architects—Monthly Bulletin.*)

Detroit.

"Carthage should be destroyed!" With this quotation Dr. Eliel Saarinen welcomed members of the Chapter at a dinner at Cranbrook Academy of Arts. The occasion was the annual meeting of the Chapter which, at the invitation of Dr. and Mrs. Saarinen and Richard Raseman, included many of the architects' wives and guests. Dr. Saarinen applied the quotation to the city of Detroit, but softened it saying that not all but a large part of the city should be destroyed and rebuilt. Upon arriving at Cranbrook the party visited the studio of Carl Miller, sculptor, and saw the interesting work he is doing on a fountain for Stockholm, Sweden. Following dinner the Chapter adjourned to the Museum Building for its meeting amid the lovely surroundings of an exhibition of etchings and water colors by Hugh Seavor.

At another meeting of the Chapter, and in response to a call for suggestions on the nature of meetings for the coming year, it was recommended that draftsmen should be invited to some meetings, since by so doing members could become acquainted with younger men who would make desirable members later. It was brought out that most business is transacted in directors meetings, so that the monthly meetings might as well be open to others interested.

The December meetings were absorbed by the current developments of vital interest to architects through the creation of the Civil Works Administration, and the program for recording historic buildings. A method of registering architectural draftsmen for the City Plan Commission was discussed. The solution of the problem of sufficient space, tables, etc., for this procedure, was referred

to a committee for consideration. The Office of the Secretary of the Chapter was selected as headquarters for the registration of architects and draftsmen who wished to apply under the program of the C. W. A.

Kentucky.

At a well attended meeting of the Chapter, including guests and chapter members, Mr. Robert V. L. Wright, State Engineer for the Public Works Administration, spoke on the work, procedure and aims of his office. He made a plea to the architects to assist in the work by bringing to him projects for which Government loans might be made, thus promoting building construction and the re-employment of labor.

Georgia.

At one of the early winter meetings, Hal F. Hentz related a visit with Dr. Leicester B. Holland, Division of Fine Arts in the Congressional Library, and Chairman of the A. I. A. Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings. In the work of this Committee, which is endeavoring to collect photographs of historic buildings from all over the country, practically nothing has been collected from the south due to lack of funds. Mr. Hentz urged that the members of the Chapter cooperate with Dr. Holland in this work and send in photographs of old historic buildings. As a result, at a later meeting the Chapter appointed a committee to secure a record of early American architecture in the State and the assistance of the members in this work was requested. P. Thornton Marye was named the Chairman of the committee. (This work has been greatly advanced by the C. W. A. program for measuring historic buildings, as reported in the November OCTAGON.)

R. S. Pringle spoke with regard to a meeting to which he was called by a group of men representing the entire building industry, fostered by the Chamber of Commerce with the idea of forming a permanent committee to study methods of improving the building industry. This committee would also study and offer any improvements of the Construction Code, particularly as pertained to the southeastern area. Mr. Pringle stated that there were about eighty sub-contractors and allied building tradesmen present, and, although the committee had not completely organized or established a name, a temporary chairman had been appointed and there was every evidence of some very lively and helpful meetings to be held in the future. Upon motion, Mr. Pringle was appointed as a permanent member of the committee to represent the Chapter.

North Carolina.

The notice of the winter meeting of this Chapter promises much, to wit: Festivities will begin at

the allied Construction Industries meeting under the sponsorship of the North Carolina Building Congress, at which time the questions of various codes submitted by the various groups of the Construction Industry will be discussed and explained. Good speakers, some of national repute, will speak.

On the following day the various groups will hold their individual meetings, but the real Convention starts with the above meeting, so make arrangements to be on hand.

The wind-up will be celebrated with a swell banquet, with all the "fixins" and entertainment will consist of a complete stage show, also with all the "fixins," and a dance afterward.

An entertainment committee will be on deck to see that all get almost anything they want.

Northern California.

A regular meeting of the Chapter was held at the University of California, in Berkeley. The business session was combined with dinner at the Faculty Club and the meeting concluded with a program of entertainment.

The memory of the late Professor John Galen Howard will always be closely enshrined with "University Night" to the architects who knew him and were associated with him. With recollection of his appreciation of this yearly manifestation of the Chapter's interest in the School of Architecture, the gathering indicated fond respect for its departed member by rising.

Raymond W. Jeans, a member of the Faculty, acted as program leader. Part of the time was spent in meeting with the students and observing their work. A male quartet added pleasant entertainment with a group of selections. The evening was climaxed by President John J. Donovan's words of encouragement to the students by which they were urged to continue the study of their chosen vocation in school and atelier while denied the opportunity of learning its practical structure during the period which is upon the country.

Oregon.

All registered architects were invited to a meeting with the Chapter at the Chamber of Commerce, at which the City Commissioner had been invited to address the members. The Commissioner made a very enlightening talk on the Civil Works Administration. He had recently returned from Washington where he was given information and instructions relative to the scope and administration of the C. W. A. in Oregon.

Washington, D. C.

The last meeting of this Chapter was devoted to a general discussion of "The Architect and Law." Mr. F. Regis Noel, newly elected President of the District Bar Association, was the guest speaker.

Following his discussion there was an open forum meeting with many questions asked and answered.

The Chapter expressed its keen appreciation to Mr. Noel for an interesting and valuable review of the many legal problems encountered by the Architect.

Wisconsin.

At the regular monthly meeting, Mr. Kloppenburg reported for the Draftsmen's Committee. He stressed the need of new recruits for the Atelier, and reported on the fine showing made in the summer design competitions. Three of the eight prob-

lems sent to New York were to be published in the Bulletin of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design.

Mr. Brust reported for the Civic Advisory Committee that Mr. Bogner's housing report was before the Land Commission for further study.

The President, Mr. Eschweiler, warned the members with regard to accepting the invitation to submit drawings for the Home Show House. He explained that the procedure violated the ethics of the profession and stated that every effort would be made to have the Home Show conduct the program as a regular competition.

Items of Interest

Housing Lectures.

A series of lectures on housing were held at the College of Architecture, University of Michigan, in December.

Professor Arthur E. Wood of the Department of Sociology spoke on "The Psychological Aspect of Housing," and Professor Wells I. Bennett gave an illustrated lecture on "The Architect and Housing".

On another date, Ernest M. Fisher, Professor of Real Estate Management of the School of Business Administration, spoke on "The Land Problem in Housing"; G. Frank Cordner, Architect, spoke on "The Detroit Housing Project," and Walter H. Blucher, Secretary of the Detroit City Plan Commission spoke on the city planning aspects of housing. (*From Weekly Bulletin of the Michigan Society of Architects.*)

Brochures on Architectural Practice.

The *Wisconsin Architect*, official publication of The State Association of Wisconsin Architects, announces that beginning with the February issue it will introduce a series of articles that, when completed, will be an invaluable file on architectural practice and business in Wisconsin. The articles will be in the form of brochures on selected branches or phases of the building industry, treated from at least four points of view—the Architectural, Technical, Mechanical, and Business.

Each brochure will be on a single subject, written by different representatives of the trade or business discussed, and at least one of the four or more writers of each brochure will be a Wisconsin architect.

Jury Appointed.

President Russell has appointed the following Jury for the Better Homes in America Architectural Competition:

F. Ellis Jackson, Chairman, Providence, R. I.; Chester Aldrich, New York; Seymour Williams,

Rahway, N. J.; Archibald M. Brown, New York; and Ralph T. Walker, New York.

It is understood that the awards are to be made shortly and the findings will be announced as soon as available.

Art in Industry.

At the annual dinner of the Royal Society of Arts His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales launched the scheme which is being jointly fostered by the Society and the Royal Academy for a great Exhibition of British Art in Industry, which is to be held at Burlington House in the spring of 1935. With such enthusiastic encouragement from the Prince who has continually exhorted British manufacturers to pay attention to design and, with the resources and the prestige of two Royal Societies, the exhibition should materially help forward "the Cause," as William Morris called his battle for this very thing that now, 75 years later, is recognized by everybody as an economic and spiritual necessity in everyday life. From Morris's day until this there has never lacked people with a vision of the time when the common things of life would regain the quality they possessed in more fortunate days, before Art and Industry set forth in opposite directions.

Today Art in Industry is much "in the air" to use the words of the President of the Royal Academy, and it is encouraging for all those who have held this "cause" as one of the greatest in modern life to find such influential support. Last year the Gorell Commission reported and urged the use of exhibitions as the best means of forcing home to manufacturers and public alike the value of good design. The B. B. C. has given its support by staging a lively series of talks on Design in Modern Life, and for many years the Design and Industries Association has been keeping the idea alive. All this found fruit in the exhibition held last spring at Dorland House, in which was

visible evidence on every hand of improvement, but yet there are enough badly designed things on the market to make the situation tragic. The increasing readiness of shops and stores to stage exhibitions of goods notable rather for their good design than their immediate popularity is an important index of growing interest. There are in London two shows of this type which should be visited. At Fortnum and Mason's is an exhibition of mass-produced furniture from Finland designed by Alvar Aalto and at Whiteley's is a larger exhibition staged by Mr. Serge Chermayeff to illustrate how the excellence of design already achieved in the manufacture of many objects of use can be extended throughout the house.—(*The Journal of the R. I. B. A.*)

Art in America.

A National Radio Program has been initiated by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and organized under the auspices of The American Federation of Arts under a grant from The Carnegie Corporation of New York with the cooperation of the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education. The program will be divided into two series, the first of which, covering American art up to 1865, has been prepared with the cooperation of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The second series, to be broadcast in the fall of 1934, will cover the period from 1865 to the present and will be prepared with the cooperation of the Museum of Modern Art.

"Art in America" will be broadcast at eight o'clock, Eastern Standard Time, through the courtesy of the National Broadcasting Company, over Station WJZ, on a coast to coast network.

The First Series, "Art in America up to 1865" will be offered on the following dates:

- 1—February 3—Painter Reporters of the New World.
- 2—February 10—The Early Settlers and Their Homes.
- 3—February 17—The First American Portraits.
- 4.—February 24—How They Lived in Colonial America.
- 5—March 3—John Singleton Copley—Our First Eminent Painter.
- 6—March 10—The Background of American Art.
- 7—March 17—An American Studio in London.
- 8—March 24—Peale and His Museum.
- 9—March 31—Gilbert Stuart and the Washington Portraits.
- 10—April 7—The Classic Arts of the Young Republic.
- 11—April 14—Jefferson—Last of the Gentlemen Builders.
- 12—April 21—The First American Sculptors.
- 13—April 28—Steamboat Gothic and Romanticism.
- 14—May 5—The Hudson River School and its Heirs.
- 15—May 12—One Hundred Years of Picture Collecting.
- 16—May 19—Art and the Public.

A handbook, which will serve as a guide to the lectures, is being published by the University of Chicago Press and will be available at that Press and at all museums. Additional information including the names of lecturers and authorities taking part in the program, a list of endorsing organizations, and complete data about the handbook, will be issued later.

History of San Antonio.

The Yanaguana Society, organized to collect and publish the manuscript history of San Antonio, announces the society's first publication: *Catalogue of a Loan Exhibition of Old San Antonio Paintings*, December 2 and 3, 1933, which contains nine biographies of artists: John Beckman, Mary V. Chabot, Theodore Gentilz, Ed Grenet, Carl Iwonski, Herman Lungkwitz, Robert J. Onderdonk, Wm. Thielepape, and Louise H. Wueste, and historical descriptions of the paintings. The pamphlet, 6 x 9, 20 pages, illustrated, sells for fifty cents. Address communications to Frederick C. Chabot, Secretary, 403 Madison Street, San Antonio, Texas.

Applications for Membership

January 31, 1934.

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:

Alabama Chapter - - - - - JOHN McCRADY BARNWELL, MARSHALL E.
VAN ARMAN
Boston Chapter - - - - - WILLIAM B. COLLEARY
Brooklyn Chapter - - - - - OSCAR I. SILVERSTONE
Central Illinois Chapter - - - BRYANT ELWOOD HADLEY
Chicago Chapter - - - - - LOUIS SKIDMORE
Louisiana Chapter - - - - - SAM PAYNE STONE
Montana Chapter - - - - - J. VAN TEYLINGEN
New York Chapter - - - - - WILFRED SARGENT LEWIS
Philadelphia Chapter - - - - JAMES SPEAR HATFIELD

You are invited, as directed by the By-laws, to send privileged communications before March 3, 1934, on the eligibilty of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors on 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.

BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS

STANDARD CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

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