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# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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## The Outlook for 1930

A Statement by President Hammond

The outlook for 1930 in the Construction industry is difficult to forecast. However, in all probability, the first quarter of the new year will show an amount of building construction somewhat less than the corresponding quarter of 1929. This loss will, with reasonable certainty, be overcome and the total volume of construction for 1930 should be equal to, if not in excess of 1929.

Reports from leaders of industry gathered together in Washington, at the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, December 5, show that the Railroads, Public Utilities, and most of the larger corporations of the country have extensive programs calling for expansion in excess of that for the year 1929, which will contribute largely toward an increase in the volume of new construction for 1930.

The Federal Government will do its share in maintaining the stability of business through an increase of its program for construction—both in the Capital City, and throughout the United States, beyond that originally planned for the new year.

There is every reason to believe that 1930 will be a good year.

Money formerly diverted through speculation from construction loans should be available for permanent improvements. There should be a stabilized market for both labor and materials—with labor doing more work per day, than has recently been the case.

The cost of construction work is lower today, than for several years, and those contemplating construction should be advised by their architects to build now.

## Construction and Home Ownership

A STATEMENT BY ROBERT P. LAMONT, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE\*

In each field of the department's cooperation with business, civic, and labor groups, and Government officials, important steps have been taken toward solving outstanding problems of the construction industry and home ownership. Besides the activities relating to standardization and simplification of building materials, improved wood utilization, and scientific investigations of the manufacture, uses, and properties of building materials, all of which are described elsewhere in this report, definite advances have been made in the following fields:

*Uniformity of local building codes.*—By completing its report on fire resistance in construction the department's building code committee has

\*From the Annual Report of the Secretary of Commerce, December 16, 1929.

reached a new stage in its work. The seven reports which it has prepared during the past eight years involved much basic work on fundamental subjects, such as requirements for small dwellings, floor loads, allowable working stresses in design, and masonry walls. It is now vigorously engaged in consolidating, bringing up to date, and supplementing its previous reports in the form of a single volume which can be used readily as a basis for new or revised local ordinances, since a survey by the department has revealed the fact that the existing codes of several hundred cities have not undergone a major revision for at least 10 years and are thus necessarily obsolete.

At least 200 municipalities throughout the country have now made use of the committee's reports.

*Stabilization of construction.*—A study of the

methods by which public works construction can be controlled as a practical matter in order to help stabilize employment and general business conditions, was undertaken toward the close of the fiscal year by the department in cooperation with the committee on recent economic changes of the President's Conference on Unemployment. Data obtained thus far from the different Federal Government departments, and from State and local public works officials, planning commissions, and civic organizations throughout the country, indicate that substantial results can be attained. Application of the idea will be of far-reaching value in focusing the attention of business men, labor organizations, other groups, and public officials on the value of definite efforts to stabilize employment in other directions, and contribute materially to the general program for stabilization of employment and business, which has been one of the main concerns of the department during the past eight years. The local ups and downs of business in many cities are such as to demand the type of thought and attention that hitherto have been directed more largely to the nation-wide aspects of the matter.

*City planning and zoning.*—The department's service to municipalities actually concerned in problems of city planning has continued to be in demand. More than 800 cities now have officially established planning commissions, and substantially the same number have zoning ordinances in effect. More than 35 States have used the department's standard State zoning enabling act. The standard city planning enabling act, by the adoption of which States may confer adequate city planning powers upon municipalities, has already served as the basis for acts in a number of States. The rapid extension and application of city planning and zoning unquestionably results in reducing the great wastes which

arise when buildings or public improvements are poorly located.

*Small house construction.*—Groundwork for a constructive program for improvement of small house design and construction was laid by a field survey of several hundred newly erected small houses in cities throughout the country. The information obtained, which is directly of great interest to many business and professional groups, will also be of basic value for systematic efforts to improve the quality of structures, reduce costs, and educate the public to be more discriminating in its demand for homes. It is believed that the information obtained as to common dimensional standards will open the way for further simplification of sizes and thus permit economies in their manufacture and use.

*Home-owners' problems.*—Following the issuance of a bulletin on Present Home Financing Methods, which aimed to aid prospective home owners in making satisfactory financial arrangements for the purchase of homes and to encourage the development of more adequate provision for their needs, the department commenced a study of the conditions under which secondary financing companies operate. The belief is widely held that existing State legislation is a deterrent to the entrance of more capital into this field, and to the efficient organization of this type of financing as part of the recognized financial organization of the community. The study revealed a lack of data regarding the reasonable needs of a community for financing above the customary first mortgage, and regarding the risks due to instability in the value of residential property. The need for a comprehensive study of the subject and for the formulation of a constructive remedial program is evident, and steps are being taken which it is hoped may lead to such a work in cooperation with private groups concerned.

## New Division of Public Construction

A preliminary survey by the new Division of Public Construction, just created in the Department of Commerce, at the request of President Hoover, reveals wide-spread, prompt, and efficient mobilization of effort to expedite public construction, in response to President Hoover's appeal for the cooperation on the part of Governors, and other public officials.

The newly organized division, which is under the direction of Dr. John M. Gries of Ohio, former chief of the Division of Building and Housing of the Bureau of Standards, serves as a clearing house of information on methods and plans. In general, it is helping to coordinate the efforts of the Federal Government departments and of State

and local Governments in their programs to help to stabilize business and employment conditions by speeding up construction projects.

The State Governors, in response to telegrams from President Hoover, have assumed responsibility for carrying out the idea in their own States, and for encouraging similar efforts on the part of county and municipal officials. Some of the Governors have indicated that they wish to be informed of measures and methods being used elsewhere, particularly where the best results are achieved, and the Division of Public Construction is analyzing the reports already in hand from this point of view.

The new unit is also making an intensive study of Federal Government projects now under way or



which can be put in motion within the next few months. Such information on the position of the many Federal departments and bureaus which carry on construction is necessary for the most effective mobilization of the Federal Government's own efforts.

Facts on many phases of the problem are already in the hands of Dr. Gries, as a result of the study of public works by the Division of Building and Housing, and the National Bureau of Economic Research.

## November Meeting—Board of Directors

### Date—Place—Attendance.

The meetings took place on November 13, 14, and 15, 1929, at Memphis, Tennessee. Sessions were held in the morning, afternoon, and evening of each of the first two days, and in the morning and afternoon of the third day. Those present were: the President, C. Herrick Hammond; the First Vice-President, J. Monroe Hewlett; the Second Vice-President, William J. Sayward; the Secretary, Frank C. Baldwin; the Treasurer, Edwin Bergstrom; and Directors William H. Lord, Olle J. Lorehn, Myron Hunt, Charles D. Maginnis, Charles Butler, Louis La Beaume, Frederick W. Garber, Charles T. Ingham, and Fred Fielding Willson.

Of the fourteen members of the Board of Directors not one was absent.

There were also present the Executive Secretary, E. C. Kemper; and the Field Secretary, William M. McIntosh.

### The Agenda.

The Board had on its Agenda many matters of general administration which come up each year at the late fall meeting. These included financial problems; the general program of work for the coming year; the preliminary plans for the Convention; and a general survey of the work of the Institute.

Under Finances, the Treasurer, Edwin Bergstrom, made a complete report which is not included in this review because it will be covered in the Treasurer's report to the Convention. Several proposals for the establishment of new endowment funds, apart from the established financial program of the Institute, were received and considered. These proposals were not acted upon finally, and, therefore, are confidential for the time being. It can be said that they constitute further recognition of the work which the Institute is doing, and that they hold encouraging promise for the future.

For this meeting there were seventy-three cases on the Agenda of which thirty-six related to routine items and were quickly disposed of, and of which thirty-seven were of greater importance.

The Minutes have been printed and distributed in confidential form to Directors. This brief review has been taken from those Minutes. Space does not permit extended comments. Only those subjects

of special interest, and not in confidential form, are outlined in the following sections.

### Purpose of Meeting in Memphis.

The meetings of the Board were held in Memphis in order to permit participation by the Officers and Directors of the Institute in the Exposition and Regional Conference held under the auspices of the Southern Chapters of the Institute. Various accounts of this splendid effort of the Southern Chapters have appeared in *THE OCTAGON*. The November number carried a full report of the architectural awards made at the Exposition. All of the Officers and Directors attended the Regional Conference of the Southern Chapters, held at noon on November 14, under the Chairmanship of Olle J. Lorehn, Director of the Gulf States Division.

### The Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer, Edwin Bergstrom, submitted his semi-annual report on the financial condition of the Institute; on the condition of its various funds as of October 30, 1929; and comparisons with the preceding year. The Treasurer also made recommendations concerning those activities of the Institute which are closely related to the subject of finances, and these are reported under their respective heads. (The substance of the semi-annual report of the Treasurer will be included in his annual report for 1929 to be made to the next Convention.)

### Revision of Constitution and By-laws.

The Chairman of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws, Edwin Bergstrom, reported that much progress had been made in developing by-law provisions intended to clarify Institute procedure. Two major sections relative to finances and general administration had been prepared, criticized, and reviewed by members of the Committee, and by members of the Board, and were ready for submission to the Convention should the Board think that course desirable. The Chairman, however, was of the opinion that these sections had so direct a bearing on other basic questions that he did not consider it advisable to present them for adoption until the Committee had completed its study of the other major factors involved. Mr. Bergstrom submitted informally, and for the information of the Board, the views of the Committee on Constitution and

By-laws, as so far developed, on the effects of the limitations imposed by the existing documents on Institute leadership of the architectural profession.

The Board directed the Committee to proceed with its work along the lines under way, and to make a full report at the pre-Convention meeting of the Board in May.

#### Formation of Branch Chapters.

This subject had been discussed at various times in the past. The Second Vice-President, William J. Sayward, made a report on the formation of branch Chapters in various sections of the country, and particularly commended the set-up developed by the West Texas Chapter in connection with the establishment of a branch Chapter at Austin, Texas.

Later in the meeting Ralph H. Cameron, President of the West Texas Chapter, and Harvey P. Smith, Secretary of the Chapter, met with the Board and reported on the details of the organization of the branch Chapter at Austin. Mr. Cameron read proposed amendments to the By-laws of the West Texas Chapter, which formally provided for the organization of branch Chapters in its territory.

The Board concurred fully in the principle of these amendments, and suggested that they be submitted to the Secretary for approval.

#### The Architects' Small House Service Bureau.

Various Directors reported the reactions of their Chapters with respect to The Architects' Small House Service Bureau and its relation to the Institute. Communications received subsequent to the meeting of the Executive Committee, in September, were read.

The President read a letter from William Stanley Parker, Director of the New England Division of the Bureau, in which Mr. Parker reported his visits to Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Omaha, Denver, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh. Mr. Parker said that in all of these places he had spoken at meetings of architects—generally Chapter meetings—and at meetings where representatives of other elements connected with the small house problem were present, including representatives of building and loan associations, other banking institutions, real estate and material dealers. In addition, he had had personal conferences with important representatives of the building and loan group. He found that in every place the financial group confirmed the statements made to him by representatives of the loaning associations in Massachusetts, which were in substance that in the past they have loaned money on small houses without any standard requirements of design, without any requirements as to the adequacy of the drawings illustrating the design, and without any requirements for supervision to insure that the

materials and labor properly required to establish the security back of the loan would be actually incorporated in the building. They agreed that this has resulted in many unsoundly built structures, that people have been induced to buy only to find that they were faced with financial losses resulting from improper construction, and undue loss in depreciation, and that steps should be taken to create standards covering the character of the design and the character of the construction employed. These financial groups strongly endorsed the establishment of contacts between The Architects' Small House Service Bureau and the financial agencies. They were of the opinion that if such contacts were made generally effective by the building and loan associations, they would go a long way towards improving the character of the small American home.

Mr. Parker's letter concluded with a reference to the plan service of The Architects' Small House Service Bureau, and a statement of his view that its plans are instruments of service only, because the broader work of the Bureau is the educational function through which it can bring the pressure of the architectural profession to bear upon other national groups involved in the production of small houses. In this work, he stated, the endorsement of the Bureau by the Institute is fundamental.

The Board, after considering those objections to the relation between the Institute and the Bureau, directed that various Convention and Board resolutions relative thereto be sent to the Bureau, with the objections reported, with a request for a report from the Bureau at the pre-Convention meeting of the Board.

#### Membership Increase—Mr. Bollenbacher's Report.

On the invitation of President Hammond the Chairman of the special Committee on Membership, J. C. Bollenbacher of Chicago, met with the Board. Mr. Bollenbacher submitted a comprehensive report on the lack of growth of the Institute in recent years and the reasons therefor.

The Board considered this question of Institute growth one of the greatest importance. After extended discussion and a review of all the data Mr. Bollenbacher was directed to send a communication to every member of the Institute outlining conditions exactly as he had found them, and requesting each member to look about among his unaffiliated architectural acquaintances to see if he could not find at least one among them eligible for membership in the Institute, and to act accordingly.

(Mr. Bollenbacher addressed a letter of December 15 to every member of the Institute, with complete data. Individual members, and Chapters, are urged to give special attention to membership increase and to bring in the good men now on the outside.)

**Industrial Relations.**

The Chairman of the Committee on Industrial Relations, William O. Ludlow of New York, met with the Board. On his recommendation the Board agreed that a statement concerning the functions of the Architect and the functions of the Contractor might be submitted to the Convention for consideration in connection with the report of the Committee, provided the document first met with the approval of the Executive Committee.

With reference to a proposed code of responsibility for Architects and Contractors the Board saw no necessity for the issuance of such a code at this time, since the responsibilities of the Architect and of the Contractor are now well-established by general custom.

**Architectural Drawings for Steel and Concrete Buildings.**

A protest was recorded from D. J. Zimmerman, of the Indiana Chapter, in which he called attention to a growing practice by contractors for steel and concrete buildings, which is the furnishing of complete architectural drawings for buildings wherein steel or concrete is used. Mr. Zimmerman recommended cooperation between the Institute and the societies representing the concrete and steel interests for the purpose of regulating such practices.

The Board requested the Director of the Great Lakes Division, Frederick W. Garber, to consider the whole matter, to confer with the Indiana men, and to report to President Hammond, who was authorized to take such action as he might deem proper.

**Public Information—Report of the Committee.**

Reports were submitted from the Chairman of the Committee on Public Information, William Harmon Beers, and from the Publicist, James T. Grady. There was also submitted a letter from the Detroit Chapter commending the Public Information work of the Institute. The reports reviewed the work of the year, the communications sent to the Chapters, and various details of administration. The reports were accepted.

**Public Information—Advertising Architecture and the Architect.**

The Executive Committee, at the September meeting, gave much time to the subject of advertising architecture and the architect by Chapters of the Institute and by individuals. The whole matter was referred to the Committee on Public Information for report. The Board also directed that this subject be given a place on the Convention Program, and that it be suggested to the Chapters that they consider it at their various meetings between now and the time of the Convention. (See September OCTAGON, page 9.)

**Charges of the Architect—Document Suggested.**

The Secretary referred to the Institute document entitled "Functions of the Architect." He said there had been a wide-spread distribution of this document, and that it was serving a most useful purpose. Inquiries received at The Octagon, many of them verbal, have led to the suggestion that the Institute issue a new document, the purpose of which would be to demonstrate that in the great majority of building operations the fee of the architect is saved in "real money," when a competent architect is engaged, and that in addition to the financial saving the owner and his building have the benefit of professional advice and service.

The Secretary said that in his judgment such a document was greatly needed and would be of value to the building public and to the architectural profession. The Board approved the suggestion and directed that the preparation of an Institute document of the kind described be entrusted to the Committee on Public Information.

**Contract Documents—California Edition.**

The Regional Director of the Sierra Nevada Division, Myron Hunt, reported with regard to a California edition of the Standard Contract Documents. He said that under the rather unusual statutes of the State of California it is difficult to adapt the Standard Contract Documents to the average building operation in California. He said that several methods for overcoming this condition, by using the Institute documents as a base, had been proposed.

The Board directed the Committee on Contracts to prepare a California edition of the Standard Contract Documents, with the assistance of a local committee with a personnel appointed from the various California Chapters of the Institute.

**Outdoor Advertising in the United States.**

This subject was reported separately and in advance on page 16 of the November OCTAGON. It is suggested that Chapter officers read the resolution and act accordingly. Chapters which lead their communities in exterminating the billboard will render valuable public service.

**Committee Reports—Procedure.**

At the April meeting of the Board of Directors it was directed that in the future all reports of Standing and Special Committees be addressed to and submitted to the Board of Directors for such action thereon as the Board deems proper.

This resolution changed the long-established procedure under which the yearly reports of the Standing and Special Committees had been addressed to the Convention, and distributed, in pamphlet form, to the Chapters, prior to the Convention. At the same time the Board, at the April meeting, asked

that the Secretary convey to the Chapters for pre-Convention discussion information on the subject matter of those reports which may be specially relevant to the current problems and affairs of the Institute.

In reviewing this matter the Board, at the November meeting, was impressed with the lack of continuity in various Committees—namely, those whose personnels are frequently replaced in full by changing administrations.

There was extended discussion. The procedure for committee reports as indicated above was left as stated, but the Board directed that the Committee on Constitution and By-laws consider the principle of "continuity of personnel," and program, with a view to placing the Standing Committees and various Special Committees on such a basis that at least a third of the membership of each shall carry over from year to year.

#### Education—School Medals.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Education, William Emerson, Chairman, the Board directed that in the future the awards of the School Medal, of which twenty-six are made each year in the recognized schools of architecture, shall be—to those senior students who have maintained a continuous course of high standing throughout the period of study in the school, rather than to the student showing exceptional brilliancy on isolated occasions.

The Committee on Education was requested to prepare an explanatory statement outlining the conditions of award of the School Medal for distribution to the schools and others who are interested.

#### Education—Admission of Juniors from Unapproved Schools—Relations to Chapters.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Education the Board directed that hereafter graduates of other than the approved schools of architecture may be admitted to Juniorship in the Institute, on the same basis as graduates of the approved schools, when and if the qualities and characteristics of the individual student are guaranteed in some satisfactory manner by the head of the school in question, and by two Institute members personally acquainted with the student.

With reference to the relations between the Juniors and the Chapters no formal action was taken as the Juniorship class is now under consideration by the Committee on Constitution and By-laws.

#### Proposed Lincoln Memorial Boulevard.

Communications were submitted seeking the endorsement of the Institute for a proposed "Lincoln Memorial Gettysburg Highway."

It was directed that the project be endorsed, provided the highway is not designated as a Lincoln

Memorial. It was the opinion that the existing Lincoln Memorial in Washington, the Lincoln Highway, and other memorials to Lincoln in the east would cause confusion, and that the name "Gettysburg Memorial Highway" would be more appropriate.

#### Contracts—Report of Committee.

Acting on the recommendation of the Committee on Contracts, Thomas E. Snook, Chairman, the Board agreed that the development of a "progressive construction statement" is not necessary at the present time; and that development of or endorsement of a "proposal form" is not desirable at present. A proposal form was issued by the Institute some years ago and abandoned.

The Committee on Contracts also reported an infringement of the copyright of the Standard Form of Bond. The Bond had been reprinted by a private corporation, with minor additions, and distributed for advertising purposes among architects and contractors. With the advice of Counsel this infringement was taken up with the corporation, which agreed that it would immediately discontinue printing and distributing the Bond.

#### Exhibition of American Architecture at Stockholm.

An invitation was presented from the American Scandinavian Foundation to send an exhibition of American paintings to Sweden to be shown in the Royal Academy in Stockholm during the month of March, 1930. The Foundation offered to pay the cost of packing and transporting the exhibits, and of their return to their respective owners when the exhibition is over.

The Board accepted the invitation and directed that arrangements for participation by American architects be turned over to the Committee on Foreign Relations, Kenneth M. Murchison, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y., Chairman—to whom communications should be addressed.

#### Hospital Exhibition Committee—Report.

The Board received the very satisfactory report of the Committee on Hospital Exhibition on the exhibition of hospital drawings shown in Atlantic City in connection with the Convention of the American Hospital Association and the First International Hospital Congress. Director Charles Butler, Chairman of the Committee, said in connection with his report that the President of the Hospital Association characterized the exhibition as a distinct contribution to the work of hospitals, not only in the United States but abroad, and stated that the influence of the exhibition arranged by the Institute would be of decided benefit in influencing present and future hospital construction.

The report was accepted, and the Committee discharged with the thanks of the Board.



**Documents of the Institute—Typography and Format.**

The question of typography and format of all printed material issued by the Institute has received the attention of the Board of Directors, and of individual members, over a long period of years. Divergent opinions on the policy to be followed have been numerous and vigorous. One group has held that the documents of the Institute should be as near perfection in typography, format, and stock as is possible. The other view has been that the proper course was to use the established and generally available type faces, with due regard to good appearance, with special regard to legibility, and without effort at embellishment or typographic originality. The Executive Committee, at the September meeting, acting on the suggestion of the Secretary, appointed Edwin H. Fetterolf, of the Philadelphia Chapter, a special committee of one to assist the Secretary in the investigation of the whole question of typography and format.

The Secretary submitted Mr. Fetterolf's report of November 8, in which he stated that he was convinced that the problem should be placed in the hands of some recognized and practised expert in typography. He said that only by so doing would the Board be assured of worthwhile results. He suggested the names of three outstanding men who are recognized as experts in the field of typography and urged the desirability of making a professional engagement with one of them to make a survey and recommendations. He stated that an appropriation of \$1,500.00, in 1930, might be sufficient for the fee and related expenses.

There was discussion of the various classes of Institute documents. It was pointed out that the Secretary's Office is under the obligation of securing estimates from various firms of printers for all printing jobs which exceed \$500.00 in cost. This requirement, fixed by the Board, has a bearing on the use of special fonts of type and upon the feasibility of securing within reasonable limits of cost a distinctive style of printing throughout the many documents of the Institute, some of which are used in large quantities, and many of which are produced under the competitive bidding system.

There was extended discussion. The Board directed that the improvement of the typography and format of the documents of the Institute be left in the hands of the Secretary with instructions to consult Mr. Fetterolf, to secure his advice for the improvement of the title pages of such of the documents as may be in need of improvement, and on such font or fonts of type to be used in the text of the documents which will permit competitive bidding.

In view of other urgent demands on the finances of the Institute the Board was not able to make the suggested appropriation of \$1,500.00 in 1930.

**Historian—Appointment Considered.**

There was consideration of the desirability of developing a history of the Institute. The Secretary reported his investigations, and Mr. Hewlett reported his conferences in New York. It was the consensus of opinion that the writing of a history should be under the direction of an editorial committee, and that the research work would have to be done by a paid employee who was fully qualified to do it.

It was directed that the reports of the First Vice-President, and of the Secretary, on the appointment of an Historian be received as reports of progress. The Secretary was requested to report at the next meeting on future procedure.

**The Octagon Administration Building.**

The Chairman of the Building Committee, Past-President D. Everett Waid, met with the Board of Directors to confer about the development of the plans of the Octagon Administration Building, and upon the financial progress which is being made.

Mr. Waid presented a series of studies and illustrations showing the plans of the new building. These were hung on the wall of the meeting room, were studied in detail, and suggestions were made to the Chairman.

With regard to finances Mr. Waid submitted a graph showing the totals of subscriptions by the various Chapters, in comparison with the tentative quotas assigned to them. He said that the Building Committee was anxious to receive all suggestions and comments on the new building as its plans develop. There was discussion of the use of the library. It was the sense of the Board that in any announcement to members the proposal to develop a circulating library for the use of Institute members throughout the entire country, and for the use of architectural schools, should be stressed.

No formal resolutions were adopted other than an endorsement by the Board in the highest terms of the progress made by the Building Committee in the development of the plans for the building project.

**Associateship—Extension of Period Proposed.**

Charles T. Ingham, Director of the Middle Atlantic Division, stated that sentiment was expressed at the Regional Conference of his Division in favor of extending the present five-year period of Associateship. Some of the Chapters feel that the Associateship period should have no limitation with respect to time, in order that men who are not eligible for full membership may retain their affiliations with the Chapter. They do not consider that the present two-year period of extension now allowed in Associateship meets the situation.

The Board referred this question to the Committee on Constitution and By-laws for its consideration as part of the larger question of Institute affiliations.

**Old Federal Building in Portland, Oregon.**

A telegram was submitted from the President of the Oregon Chapter, Jamieson Parker, asking the aid of the Institute in bringing about the preservation of the old Federal Building in Portland, Oregon. It was the desire of the Board to render all possible assistance to the Oregon Chapter in saving this building from destruction. As complete information was not available the Secretary was authorized to prepare a suitable statement for transmission to the Oregon Chapter.

**Regional Directors—Reports.**

Reports in detail on visits to Chapters were made by the following Directors:

Charles D. Maginnis.....	New England Division
Charles Butler.....	New York Division
Charles T. Ingham.....	Middle Atlantic Division
William H. Lord.....	South Atlantic Division
Frederick W. Garber.....	Great Lakes Division
Louis La Beauce.....	Central States Division
Olle J. Lorehn.....	Gulf States Division
Fred Fielding Willson,	Western Mountain Division
Myron Hunt.....	Sierra Nevada Division

President Hammond expressed his appreciation of the work of the Directors as shown by their reports. It was the sense of the meeting that these visits are of great value to the Institute, to the Chapters, to Members, and to the Directors themselves. It was directed that the reports be reproduced at The Octagon and a complete set made available to each Director, and that copies be preserved for submission to new Directors as they come on the Board.

**Pacific Coast Chapters—Visit of Officers.**

The Director of the Western Mountain Division, Fred Fielding Willson, expressed the hope that President Hammond and at least one other Officer would find it possible to visit the Chapters in the Western Mountain Division soon after the beginning of the year. It was pointed out by Director Hunt that such a visit should include all of the Pacific Coast Chapters. There was discussion, and a unanimous opinion was recorded that the President and the First Vice-President should make visits to the Chapters in the Western Mountain and Sierra Nevada Divisions, that Director Willson should accompany them on visits to the Chapters in his Division, and also to those in the Sierra Nevada Division if feasible.

**Delano and Aldrich Fund—Administration.**

The gift of \$30,000 to The American Institute of Architects by William Adams Delano and Chester Holmes Aldrich has been heretofore reported. This sum was used to establish "The Delano and Aldrich Fund." The Board considered the desirability of definitely fixing the procedure for the

administration of the Fund under the terms of gift. Conferences between the donors, the Committee on Education, and the Treasurer were reported. In view of these reports, and to meet fully the wishes of the donors, a letter of agreement between the Institute and the donors was recorded and appropriate resolutions adopted under which the Committee on Education was authorized and directed to supervise and have general oversight of conducting the awards of the Delano and Aldrich Traveling Scholarship.

The awards and the accomplishments made possible by this generous gift will be reported to the Institute at the annual Conventions, and through the pages of THE OCTAGON from time to time.

**Annuary and Proceedings—Distribution.**

The Secretary reported that as instructed by the Board the Annuary and Proceedings for the year 1929 were sent to Institute Members, Associates, and Juniors only upon request. The Treasurer reported that the net saving by this measure of economy, which was particularly needed in 1929, was more than \$1,100.00.

It was directed that in 1930 the Annuary be sent to all Institute Members, Associates, and Juniors, and that they be requested to indicate on return postcards whether or not they desire to have the Proceedings of the Convention of 1930. (Such cards will be sent out after the Sixty-third Convention.)

**Producers' Council—Expansion of Program.**

A letter was presented from The Producers' Council which stated that the Council was of the opinion that the time had come for a restatement and an expansion of its initial purposes. Many problems mutual to the architect and the producer were believed to be involved. The Board was requested to appoint a committee, or to direct that an existing committee confer with the Plan and Procedure group of the Producers for the purpose of establishing a program of broader activity.

In accord with this request the following were appointed to act for the Institute in conferring with the Plan and Procedure Committee of The Producers' Council: N. Max Dunning, Director of the Structural Service Department, and Sullivan W. Jones, Frederick L. Ackerman, and Stephen F. Voorhees, Members of the Advisory Council of the Department.

**Safety Code—Protest of Detroit Chapter.**

A protest was presented from the Detroit Chapter, sent under the impression that the Institute had authorized and issued a Safety Code.

The Secretary was requested to advise the Chapter that the Board had not approved a Safety Code for the construction industry, and that the preparation of such a code had been referred to the Struc-

tural Service Department of the Institute, with instructions to accept, on behalf of the Institute, joint sponsorship with the National Safety Council for the preparation of a safety code for construction work which shall be developed under the procedure of the American Standards Association.

**Convention of 1930—May 21, 22, 23, 1930.**

Much time was devoted to discussing the program for the Sixty-third Convention, which is to be held in Washington, D. C., on May 21, 22, and 23, 1930.

Some of the major subjects to receive attention were decided upon and the program was roughly outlined.

A more complete report, including the tentative program adopted by the Board, will appear in the January number of *THE OCTAGON*.

**National Museum of Engineering and Industry—  
Competition Inquiry.**

A request was presented from the National Museum of Engineering and Industry. It sought the aid of the Institute in connection with the proposed erection of a National Museum of Engineering and Industry in the city of Washington.

It was directed that the Institute offer its cooperation in conducting the competition for a building of this kind if and when Congress takes action looking to the erection of the building.

**Mississippi Chapter—Charter Granted.**

Reported in the November number of *THE OCTAGON*, page 16.

**Erie Chapter—Name Changed.**

On the request of the Erie Chapter the Board changed the name of that Chapter to be the "Northwestern Pennsylvania Chapter." This action was taken in order to make the name of the Chapter a more representative one for the architects in the various cities in its territory.

**Standard Filing System.**

On the recommendation of the Treasurer, and the Secretary, the Board directed that beginning January 2, 1930, a price of fifty cents a copy be placed on the Standard Filing System, A. I. A. Document No. 172.

It also directed that an alphabetical index for use with this system be developed, by the Structural Service Department, and that the document be sold when ready at a price of fifty cents a copy.

(The Index should be ready about February 1, and will be announced in the January number of *THE OCTAGON*.)

The Board also directed that the Standard Filing System and the Index, when combined in one document, be sold at a price of one dollar per copy, with the usual discounts to dealers.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 P. M., on Friday, November 15.

## With the Chapters

This section of *THE OCTAGON* is largely composed of notes extracted from Minutes of Chapter meetings, as such Minutes are received at Washington. It should be more effective and comprehensive than it is. It would be if all the Chapters would send their Minutes, in duplicate, to *The Octagon*; or if they would send—for this clearing house page—information about their activities. Methods of procedure, action on Institute or Chapter problems, reports on things accomplished, may have great value to other Chapters of the Institute. Communications about them are invited. Give national circulation to your successful ideas and accomplishments.

**Membership Increase—West Virginia.**

There was discussion of the old West Virginia Society of Architects, its present status, etc., at a recent meeting of the West Virginia Chapter. It was suggested that the Society call a meeting at Parkersburg, West Virginia, and that the West Virginia Chapter hold its own meeting at the same time and place. At this joint meeting there would be consideration of and action on plans for increas-

ing the membership of the Institute, and for advancing the standing of the architectural profession in West Virginia.

**Department of Architecture—Registration—  
Central New York Chapter.**

Albert L. Brockway reported proposed legislation which is ready to be introduced in the legislature for the restoration of the Department of Architecture, and the Fine Arts Commission, in the State of New York. The bill establishes a Fine Arts Commission in the Executive Department. It was drawn by Joseph H. Freedlander, Theodore I. Coe, Charles Butler, Albert L. Brockway, and others, and is understood to have the endorsement of the Governor. The Chapter endorsed the bill as written.

Information was considered which came to light at a recent real estate convention held in Syracuse, to the effect that the State Real Estate Board was about to attack the architects' registration law. A resolution was adopted by the Chapter under which action might be taken to clear away any misunderstanding with respect to the architects' registration



law—before the submission of injurious amendments.

**Architectural Education—Detroit Chapter.**

At a recent meeting of the Detroit Chapter Clair W. Ditchy introduced Professor George Young, Dean of the Architectural School of Cornell University, who discussed the work of the architectural schools. He also told of the efforts being made by the schools to inform the layman about architecture and the related arts, and about the usefulness of the architect to his community.

**Draftsmen's Registration—Baltimore Chapter.**

At a recent meeting of the Baltimore Chapter it was suggested that the Chapter establish a registration bureau for architectural draftsmen where a record could be kept of the names of those living in or adjacent to Baltimore, with records of their present and past employments, experience, and general qualifications. It was felt that such a bureau would be of great assistance to both draftsmen and architects. The plan met with general approval. The Secretary of the Chapter was requested to take the necessary steps to form such a bureau. The Philadelphia Chapter already maintains a service of this kind.

**Film of Fifth Avenue—Philadelphia Chapter.**

At a recent meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter a most interesting film showing the development of Fifth Avenue, New York, from an early period to the present time, was shown to the members and guests and at its conclusion was vigorously applauded. This film illustrated many buildings now demolished. It was possible to compare the conditions existing fifteen or twenty years ago with those of the present time. Among the guests present were Samuel P. Wetherill, Vice-Chairman of the City Planning Commission, and the President of the Regional Planning Federation; J. Willison Smith, Chairman of the Zoning Commission; and the Presidents of the Chestnut Street, Walnut Street, and Market Street Business Men's Associations.

**Sign Boards—Wisconsin Chapter.**

A letter signed by Peter Brust, presented at a recent meeting, suggested that the Wisconsin Chapter write to the Milwaukee Journal commending it for its attitude and support in connection with the campaign that various women's organizations are waging against sign-boards. Mr. Brust urged that the Chapter go on record as favoring the entire abolition of sign-boards along the highways of the State of Wisconsin.

**Branch Chapter at Austin—**

**Medal Presentation—West Texas Chapter.**

At the December meeting of the West Texas Chapter a report was made by the President, Ralph Cameron, on the establishment of the Austin branch,

and on the favorable comment thereon by the Board of Directors of the Institute, in Memphis.

A report was also made by Mr. Cameron on the trip taken by the President, and the Secretary, Harvey P. Smith, to Memphis, to represent the West Texas Chapter at the Regional Conference and Southern Architectural and Industrial Arts Exposition. At its conclusion there was a presentation of the gold medal awarded at the Exposition to Atlee B. and Robert M. Ayres, Architects, Emmett Jackson and George Willis, Associate Architects, for the Municipal Auditorium of San Antonio, adjudged to be the best public building shown at the Exposition.

**Southwestern Architectural Exhibition Proposed—North Texas Chapter.**

At the December meeting of the North Texas Chapter, the President, Edwin B. LaRoche, made a report on the Regional Conference and Architectural Exposition held in Memphis. He said that he and the President of the West Texas Chapter had discussed plans for a general meeting and exhibition, under the auspices of the three Texas Chapters, to be held in San Antonio in the fall of 1931. Mr. LaRoche was requested to communicate with the other Texas Chapters in the matter with a view to formulating definite plans for a Southwestern Exhibition to be held in 1931. The Chapter gave much attention to the subject of public information about architecture in its territory. The personnel of the standing committee on publicity was increased to five members, with a view to more active work in this direction.

**Gift of Architectural Fee—Nebraska Chapter.**

At a recent meeting of the Nebraska Chapter, the President, J. D. Sandham, was requested to prepare a resolution expressing the thanks of the Chapter to John McDonald and Alan McDonald for their generous action in donating to the Chapter their fee as architects of a steel frame residence built by the Omaha Steel Works.

**Public Information—Philadelphia Chapter.**

At a recent meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter a report dealing with the conference between members of the Chapter Committee on Public Information and representatives of the Philadelphia newspapers was submitted by D. Knickerbacker Boyd. He called attention to the fact that Chapter headquarters are now being used as a clearing house for the dissemination of information and pictures relative to architectural activity in the Philadelphia section. Mr. Boyd spoke of the extensive publicity given to architecture and to the activities of the Chapter, which was brought about by this closer cooperation. He outlined the plan for presenting pictures of architectural subjects to various schools, and requested volunteers to make addresses at the schools.



