

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



The Convention Program
Notice Concerning Delegate Representation
Notice of Nominations by Petition
The New England Scene
Proposed Alterations of the East Front of the Capitol

Volume 9

MAY
1937

Number 5

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICERS 1936-1937

PresidentSTEPHEN F. VOORHEES, 101 Park Ave., New York, N. Y.
Vice-PresidentLOUIS LA BEAUME, 315 North 7th Street, St. Louis, Mo.
SecretaryCHARLES T. INGHAM, 1211 Empire Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.
TreasurerEDWIN BERGSTROM, Citizens National Bank Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For One Year (1936-37)

GERRIT J. DEGELLEKE, 152 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisc. (Illinois-Wisconsin Dist.)
HUBERT G. RIPLEY, 45 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. (New England Dist.)
RICHMOND H. SHREVE, 11 East 44th St., New York, N. Y. (New York Dist.)

For Two Years (1936-38)

WILLIAM H. CROWELL, 1040 Pacific Bldg., Portland, Ore. (Western Mountain Dist.)
WALTER R. MCCORNACK, 10006 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland, Ohio (Great Lakes Dist.)
WILLIAM G. NOLTING, Keyser Building, Baltimore, Md. (Middle Atlantic Dist.)

For Three Years (1936-39)

ALBERT J. EVERS, 525 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif. (Sierra Nevada Dist.)
MOISE H. GOLDSTEIN, American Bank Building, New Orleans, La. (Gulf States Dist.)
HENRY F. HOYT, 2500 Telephone Building, Kansas City, Mo. (Central States Dist.)
MERRILL C. LEE, c/o F. H. A., American Bank Bldg., Richmond, Va. (South Atlantic Dist.)

THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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

The Sixty-Ninth Convention

FOURTH AND LAST NOTICE

THOSE who have been reading the Convention notices and articles in THE OCTAGON cannot have escaped the conclusion that the Sixty-ninth Convention—now so near—may well be called "The New England Convention" of The Institute.

The Boston, Maine, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Chapters have joined forces with the intention of extending a cordial personal welcome to every delegate, member, and guest. New England hospitality will be in full flower!

The business program of the Convention, under the influence of President Voorhees, and Hubert Ripley, Chairman of the Convention Committee, has been confined to morning sessions—thus leaving the afternoons and evenings free for the nobler aspects of architectural interest, which include tours to historic places, receptions, a concert by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and last, but not least important, full opportunity for renewing old friendships and making new ones.

Under required procedure for notices, this number of THE OCTAGON is mailed on May 1.

The June number of THE OCTAGON will be mailed in advance of the Convention, but too late for further notices or information concerning the program. Any changes that may be necessary in the tentative program, as published herein, will be embodied in the final program to be distributed at the time of registration.

The July number of THE OCTAGON, containing important reports and all Convention resolutions,

will be issued as soon after the Convention as possible.

For convenience, an index of Convention notices is listed as follows:

In the January OCTAGON—

Convention Committees

Early Election of Delegates

Procedure for Election of Delegates

Chapter Meetings on Convention Business

Procedure—Nominations by Petition

In the March OCTAGON—

Qualification and Registration of Delegates

Number of Delegates

Credential Cards

Hotel Headquarters and Reservations

In the May OCTAGON (this number)—

Tentative Program of Convention

Notice of Nominations by Petition

Notice Concerning Delegate Representation

Meetings of The Board.

The annual meeting of The Board of Directors will be held in The Octagon, in Washington, D. C., May 26 to 29, inclusive; and the organization meeting of The Board (following the Convention) will be held in Boston in The Somerset Hotel on June 6.

Members or chapters having communications for The Board should send them sufficiently in advance for listing on the agenda.

CHARLES T. INGHAM,
Secretary.

Tentative Program of the Convention

THE FINAL PROGRAM WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE OPENING OF THE CONVENTION

Hotel and Convention Headquarters.

The Somerset Hotel, at 400 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass., will be hotel headquarters.

Information concerning rates for all types of rooms and the procedure for making reservations at The Somerset, and associated hotels, appeared in the March number of *THE OCTAGON*—page 7.

Please note that all reservations should be sent direct to The Somerset Hotel, to be received *not later than May 25*. Those making reservations later than May 25 may not find rooms as desirable as those who make reservations before that date.

Complete information concerning entertainment features, tours, and special events will appear in the Convention program, and in supplementary documents to be issued at the time of registration.

Registration.

Delegates, members and guests should register with the Credentials Committee, upon arrival at the hotel.

For the convenience of those arriving on Monday, May 31, the Credentials Committee will be on duty at The Somerset Hotel on the afternoon and evening of Monday, May 31, from 3:00 to 10:00 P. M. It will also be on duty on Tuesday, June 1, from 8:30 A. M. until 7:00 P. M., at which time registration records will be closed.

Prompt registration upon arrival at the hotel will greatly expedite the work of the Credentials Committee.

Resolutions.

Resolutions offered by The Board of Directors will be printed in The Board's report and moved for adoption when the relevant section of that report is before the Convention.

Resolutions concerning matters *not* covered in The Board's Report, or requests for opportunity to present items of new business, must be presented to the Committee on Resolutions for its action and approval before noon *on Thursday, June 3*—provided that an exception may be made by unanimous consent of the Convention.

A general rule to this effect will be offered for

adoption by the Convention at the morning session on Tuesday, June 1.

Program, Tickets, Etc.

The final program of the Convention, with complete information concerning procedure; such tickets of admission to special events as may be required; and all Convention documents will be available at the time of registration.

Transportation on Tours.

Private cars can be used on most of the tours, but it is believed that the use of the chartered buses which will be available on the Marblehead tour will save time and add to comfort. The other scheduled tours can be made by private cars, or in buses—which will have competent guides to point out the historic places of interest.

Meetings Before the Conventions.

Board of Directors:

Annual meeting of The Board of Directors, Washington, D. C., May 26 to May 29, inclusive.

Chapters or members having communications for The Board should address them to The Secretary of The Institute, at The Octagon, for delivery there not later than May 25.

Associations and Other Groups:

Meetings of associations and other groups, at The Somerset Hotel, unless otherwise stated, are as follows:

The Committee on Preparation for Practice—May 30.

The State Societies of Architects—June 1.

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards—May 31.

The Producers' Council, Inc.—June 2, 3, 4.

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture—May 30, 31.

The American Section—Permanent Committee, International Congress of Architects will meet on call during the Convention.

Information concerning these meetings may be obtained from the secretaries of the various groups, and will be posted in the hotel.

Tentative Order of Events

TUESDAY, JUNE FIRST

(At The Somerset Hotel)

Morning Session

The President, Stephen F. Voorhees, Presiding

8:30 A.M. Registration continued.

9:30 A.M. Opening of the Convention.

Address of Welcome—

The Right Reverend William Lawrence

The President's Address—

Stephen F. Voorhees

The Report of The Treasurer—

Edwin Bergstrom

*The Report of The Board of Directors—

Charles T. Ingham

Luncheon

No Convention event is scheduled.

All former students of the School of Architecture of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are summoned to luncheon at the Rogers Building.

Afternoon

2:00 P.M. The Route of Paul Revere.

Lexington, Concord, and other historic cities.

Visit to Gore Place—Reception there by The President and Mrs. Voorhees.

Transportation by private car—or chartered buses, tickets \$1.00 each.

Evening

7:00 P.M. Registration closes—

(At The Somerset Hotel)

8:00 P.M. "Pop Concert"—by Boston Symphony Orchestra—at Symphony Hall.

(Reserved tickets at \$1.00 each must be secured in advance. Informal dress is correct.)

* NOTE: The Board's report—printed and distributed in advance—will not be read in full. Resolutions contained in it will be acted upon when relevant sections are presented.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE SECOND

Morning Session

(At The Somerset Hotel)

The President Presiding

9:30 A.M. Opening of the session.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Nominations of Officers and Directors.

Report of the Committee on Public Works—

Discussion led by Francis P. Sullivan, Chairman of the Committee.

11:30 A.M. Report of The Board of Directors, continued.

Luncheon and Afternoon

12:30 P.M. Visit by chartered buses—tickets \$1.00 each—to the Eastern Yacht Club for entertainment and a shore luncheon, followed by a tour of Marblehead, Salem, and other historic places. Luncheon tickets \$2.50 each.

Evening

(At The Somerset Hotel)

9:00 P.M. Architectural Education—

The Chairman of the Committee on Education, William Emerson, Presiding.

Welcome to Architectural Students.

Report of the Committee on Education.

Essentials for Creative Design—

Address by Dr. Walter Gropius.

Foreign Influences on Architectural Education in America—

Address by Dean Everett V. Meeks.

THURSDAY, JUNE THIRD

Morning Session

(At The Somerset Hotel)

The Vice-President, Louis La Beaume, Presiding

9:30 A.M. Report of the Committee on Civic Design—Discussion led by Eliel Saarinen, Chairman of the Committee.

10:00 A.M. Polls open.

Report of the Committee on Housing—Discussion led by Walter R. McCornack, Chairman of the Committee.

(The discussions at this session may be continued at seminars in the afternoon, if a sufficient number of delegates so desire.)

Tentative order of events—Continued.
Thursday, June Third.

1:00 P.M. Joint meeting with The Producers' Council. William Stanley Parker Presiding.

Afternoon

Optional Events—

Visit to Harvard College and Tea at Lowell House. Visits to Longfellow House, Elmwood, and the Judge Lee House—home of Mr. and Mrs. William Emerson. Tickets complimentary.

Seminar on Civic Design—if requested.

Seminar on Housing—if requested.

Evening

8:00 P.M. Polls close.

8:30 to 11:30 P.M. Reception at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Tickets \$1.00 each.

FRIDAY, JUNE FOURTH

Morning Session

(At The Somerset Hotel)

The President Presiding

9:30 A.M. Opening of the Session.

New Business.

Report of the Committee on Resolutions.

Open Forum Discussion.

Announcements of Elections.

Luncheon and Afternoon

1:00 P.M. Reception at Fenway Court. Tickets of admission required, \$.65 each.

Golf Tournament of The Producers' Council.

Evening

(At The Somerset Hotel)

8:00 P.M. Dinner of The Institute.

Recognition of Past Presidents.

Presentation of Fellowship and Honorary Membership Certificates.

Induction into office of new Officers and Directors.

Adjournment.

SATURDAY, JUNE FIFTH

The Rhode Island Visit.

The "Comet" (streamline train) leaves Boston 9:30 A.M., arriving Providence 10:14 A.M.

Visits to some of the notable old houses in the city, followed by Rhode Island clam bake at the Squantum Club.

Drive to Newport via Bristol, Portsmouth and Middletown. A general view of Newport and the Ocean Drive, reaching Providence at 6:00 P.M., or thereabouts.

A definite itinerary with road maps is being prepared. Private cars may be used for transportation, and members of the Rhode Island Chapter will put their cars at the disposal of those coming by train.

Cost will be railroad fares (90¢ each way), and the clam bake at the Squantum Club.

See the final program for full details.

The special committee of the Rhode Island Chapter having charge of the events on Saturday, June 5, is composed of John F. Hogan, John Hutchins Cady, and Albert Harkness, Chairman.

Notice Concerning Delegate Representation

**TO CORPORATE MEMBERS, CHAPTERS,
 AND STATE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:**

In accord with the provisions of the By-laws of The Institute, there is published in this number of THE OCTAGON a list of the Chapters by states, and a list of State Association Members, which are self-explanatory—with respect to delegate representation at the Sixty-ninth Convention of The Institute to be held in Boston on June 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1937. (See opposite page.)

Delegate representation is determined by the

number of corporate members in good standing thirty days prior to the Convention; and upon the good standing of the State Association members as such.

Full information concerning the election of delegates and the registration procedure to be followed at the Convention will be found in the By-laws of The Institute under Chapter VI, and in the March number of THE OCTAGON, pages 3 to 7, inclusive.

CHARLES T. INGHAM, *Secretary.*

NOTICE CONCERNING DELEGATE REPRESENTATION—Continued

TOTALS OF MEMBER DELEGATES AS OF MAY 1, 1937		Number of member delegates that may be elected by the corporate members	*Aggregate number of votes that the member delegates may cast		
State	Chapters				
Alabama	Alabama	2	2	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
Arizona	In territory of Southern California			Oregon	Oregon
Arkansas	Arkansas	1	1	Pennsylvania	Northwestern Pennsylvania
California	Northern California	6	6		Philadelphia
	Southern California	7	7		Pittsburgh
	Santa Barbara	1	1		Scranton-Wilkes-Barre
	San Diego	2	2		Southern Pennsylvania
Colorado	Colorado	3	3	Rhode Island	Rhode Island
Connecticut	Connecticut	4	4	South Carolina	South Carolina
Delaware	Delaware	2	2	South Dakota	In territory of Minnesota
District of Columbia	Washington, D. C.	6	6	Tennessee	Tennessee
Florida	Florida Central	1	1	Texas	North Texas
	Florida North	2	2		South Texas
	Florida South	2	2		West Texas
Georgia	Georgia	2	2	Utah	Utah
	South Georgia	1	1	Vermont	In territory of Boston
Hawaii (Territory of)	Hawaii	1	1	Virginia	Virginia
Idaho	In territory of Utah and Washington State			Washington	Washington
Illinois	Central Illinois	2	2	West Virginia	West Virginia
	Chicago	10	10	Wisconsin	Wisconsin
Indiana	Indiana	2	2		Madison
Iowa	Iowa	2	2	Wyoming	In territory of Colorado
Kansas	Kansas	1	1		
	Kansas City (Wyandotte County)				
Kentucky	Kentucky	1	1		
Louisiana	Louisiana	2	2		
	North Louisiana	1	1		
Maine	Maine	1	1		
Maryland	Baltimore	4	4		
Massachusetts	Boston	11	11		
Michigan	Detroit	5	5		
	Grand Rapids	1	1		
Minnesota	Minnesota	3	3		
	St. Paul	1	1		
Mississippi	Mississippi	1	1		
Missouri	Kansas City	3	3		
	St. Louis	4	4		
Montana	Montana	1	1		
Nebraska	Nebraska	2	2		
Nevada	In territory of Northern California				
New Hampshire	In territory of Boston				
New Jersey	New Jersey	7	7		
New Mexico	In territory of Colorado				
New York	Albany	2	2		
	Brooklyn	5	5		
	Buffalo	2	2		
	Central New York	5	5		
	New York	17	17		
	Westchester	1	1		
North Carolina	North Carolina	2	2		
North Dakota	In territory of Minnesota				
Ohio	Cincinnati	4	4		
	Cleveland	4	4		
	Columbus	2	2		
	Dayton	1	1		
	Eastern Ohio	1	1		
	Toledo	2	2		

TOTALS OF STATE DELEGATES AS OF MAY 1, 1937	**Number of State delegates that may be elected by each state association member	*Number of votes that may be cast by each State association member
State Association of California Architects	1	1
Michigan Society of Architects	1	1
The State Association of Wisconsin Architects	1	1
Architects Society of Ohio	1	1
	4	4

* Subject to Chapter VI, Article 2, Section 2 (a-2) of the By-laws reading as follows:

"If none of the member delegates elected by the members of a chapter can be present at the said meeting, then the said members may elect any other delegate who is qualified to vote at such meeting to represent them as their member delegate and to cast the total number of votes that they are entitled to cast at the meeting."

* Subject to Chapter VI, Article 2, Section 2 (a-1) of the By-laws reading as follows:

"If all of the member delegates elected by the members of a chapter are not accredited to the meeting of The Institute, then such thereof who are accredited shall be entitled to cast thereat the total number of votes which the said members are entitled to have cast for them, and each shall be accredited to cast an equal and proportionate number of said total number of votes."

** If in good standing under the provisions of Chapter I, Article 2, Section 4 (a-1) of the By-laws.

Notice of Nominations by Petition

The Offices and Directorships to become vacant at the time of the Sixty-ninth Convention are those of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer; and Directors of the New England, New York, and Illinois-Wisconsin Districts.

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

All nominations received at The Octagon on or before April 21st—the last day for filing nominations by petition—are listed herein.

These nominations were made in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI, Article 4, Section 1 (c) of the By-laws and are as follows:

Nominations by Petition.

For President and Director—

Charles D. Maginnis, Boston, Massachusetts.
By members of the Baltimore, Boston, Cincinnati, Georgia, New York, Oregon, and Philadelphia Chapters.

For Vice-President and Director—

Frederick H. Meyer, San Francisco, California.
By members of the Brooklyn, Cincinnati, and New York Chapters.

For Regional Director, New England District—

Albert Harkness, Providence, Rhode Island.
By members of the Boston, Connecticut, Maine, and Rhode Island Chapters.

For Regional Director, New York District—

Richmond H. Shreve, New York, N. Y.

By members of the Buffalo, Central New York, and Westchester Chapters.

Offices for Which No Nominations Have Been Filed.

Those offices becoming vacant at the Convention, for which no nominations by petition have been received, are as follows:

For Secretary and Director

For Treasurer and Director

For Regional Director, Illinois-Wisconsin District

Under Chapter VI, Article 4, Section 1 (d) of the By-laws, opportunity will be given at the Convention to make nominations from the floor, for any office about to become vacant.

Under Chapter VI, Article 4, Section 1 (e) of the By-laws, in the event that a nomination is not made by petition, or by the delegates from the floor of the Convention, to fill any vacancy that is about to occur, a nomination to fill each such vacancy shall be made by a nominating committee from the floor, at the time set for making such nominations. Such nominating committee will be appointed by The President on the opening day of the meeting and shall consist of five accredited delegates.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

NOTICE OF CONFERENCE FOR TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 7

ALUMNI DAY'S center of gravity last year was a conference on transportation; this year one of the bold-face items on the program will be a conference on, or better, a preview of, the house of tomorrow—its financing, its materials and architecture, and its neighborhood. Last year's transportation fest drew bigwigs as speakers, attracted many alert Alumni who found it an opportunity to inform themselves about a major factor in American life, and produced pronounced ripples of attention throughout the country as shown by requests requiring the reprinting of ten thousand copies of papers presented.

The housing preview on June 7 (the date of Alumni Day this year) bids fair to be a bigger smash hit than last year's transportation show. Shelter is of vital and intimate interest to every one; we all are anxious to hear how engineering is going to affect the hearthstone, how city planning is progressing in providing our children with a healthy, less dangerous environment, and whether large-scale housing, with or without government aid, is to show in coming years any genuine progress in obliterating those slum areas that the sensitive person shudders to see and wishes to cure.

Speakers and their subjects are as follows:

SIR RAYMOND UNWIN of London, England, world-famous architect and town-planner, on

BETTER HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ALL
The Social and Economic Aspects of Shelter

JOHN ELY BURCHARD, Vice-president of Bemis Industries, housing researcher, on

HOW BETTER HOMES WILL BE BUILT
The Question Mark of Prefabrication; New Materials, New Methods of Design

ERNEST J. BOHN, Sometime President, National Association of Housing Officials, consultant on low-cost housing, on

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN HOUSING
What Government Agencies Have Done and Might Do

ROBERT D. KOHN, F. A. I. A., former Director, Housing Division of Public Works Administration, on

THE FUTURE OF HOUSING

Some Possible Ways Leading to Better Housing

VANNEVAR BUSH, Vice-president and Dean of Engineering, M. I. T., will preside at the conference and sum up at the end.

This program offers Alumni an unparalleled opportunity to inform themselves about one of the major problems of today, and bids fair to be one of the most fascinating alumni conferences ever held. The women will find it no less interesting than the men.

As a special feature of the conference there will be an elaborate housing exhibit.

A Communication from the Publicist

THE Publicist of The Institute recently distributed to the press a news article reporting a plan to organize community building councils throughout the country. This article contained the substance of a statement addressed to the chapters by the Committee on Construction Industry Relations.

The Committee strongly urged each chapter to assume the leadership in forming in its community a council which will comprise all elements of the building industry. The general aims which the Committee seeks to attain have received nationwide publicity. It is now appropriate to inform the public of the response of the chapters.

The Publicist therefore requests the president of each chapter to forward to him a brief outline of what is planned in his community. The material thus assembled should be used by the committee on public information of each chapter as local publicity. It will be available also for inclusion in a broader story describing the progress of the movement, which, its sponsors explain, is of vital importance to the building industry and to the public.

In requesting this chapter cooperation in the field of public information, the Publicist is motivated by a desire to see things through. From a public standpoint it is not enough to issue an elaborate announcement that sixty-nine chapters of The Institute will undertake the formation of local organizations in which architects, contractors, subcontractors, material dealers, and labor "can come together on common ground for the common purpose of formulating in a code of ethics the principles of what all believe to be fair practice."

Unless the suggested procedure of the Committee on Construction Industry Relations is vitalized by constructive forward action, the Committee's efforts are likely to be dismissed as futile and its publicity as prolix and unjustified. Let us not disappoint the nation by a passive attitude.

The Publicist is encouraged by the interest of regional directors and other Institute officials in the year-end reviews of architecture which were prepared and disseminated to the newspapers and other publications in recent months. This phase

of The Institute's publicity was highly successful, the results surpassing those of all previous years. From the interesting and informing narratives submitted by directors and officers the Publicist was enabled to write a series of articles which received prominence quite as wide as that accorded to science, industry, government and other major spheres of activity.

The Publicist again assures the chapters of his readiness and willingness to aid them in their publicity problems. It should be unnecessary to

state that in the future as in the past The Institute and its spokesmen should respect the canons of journalism, refraining from that type of publicity which is merely suggestive as a bid either for notoriety or for free advertising. The Institute is a quasi-public institution and its officers occupy quasi-public posts. Hence The Institute has a place in the news that is real and undoubted.

JAMES T. GRADY,

Publicist of The Institute

Ward Eight

THOSE who were so fortunate as to be present at the Old Point Comfort-Williamsburg Convention last May, witnessed the apotheosis of the Mint Julep. Between seven and eight hundred exemplars of that noble tippie were composed for the delectation of a distinguished assemblage.

There's a special niche in the Temple of Gasteria reserved for the Mint Julep, and leading authorities claim that this wonderful beverage cannot properly be made north of Mason and Dixon's line (lat. 39°, 43' 26.3") as established by those two eminent astronomers during the years 1763 to 1767, to the mutual satisfaction of Lord Baltimore and the Penn family. After the experience of last May, few will dispute this claim.

While Boston holds a deservedly high reputation in the matter of mixed drinks (their Martini cocktails are a challenge to gourmets), perhaps the one beverage that has achieved national fame is the "Ward Eight." Invented in the Hub a half century ago, its renown has spread like wildfire—or shall we say, firewater.

Eddie Maher dropped into our office (yes, we're still hanging on) one afternoon about four and said: "I've called to walk part of the way home with you." We knew what was in his mind, so putting on our hat, coat, and blue muffler, we tripped the latch and walked down the street with him to the Winter Place Tavern. Eddie said he'd just been reading a Library book entitled "Ward Eight." "Let's ask Billy Kane to make us a couple," he continued.

There was Billy behind the bar in stiffly starched

linen coat, a red carnation in the button-hole, and a pleasant smile of greetings; as distinguished a disciple of the Old School as one is privileged to meet in many a year. We watched his movements with absorbed interest, as he deftly observed the prescribed ritual with that delicacy of technique that characterizes the creative artist, whether his medium be the undying marble of Pentelicus or the intangible harmonics of a Stradivarius.

"The Ward Eight is to Boston," said Eddie, as we slowly sipped the masterpiece, "What the Mint Julep is to Baltimore. Here's how!" Eddie was born in Baltimore and always has a slight nostalgic attack whenever he thinks of Mint.

"Billy," we said suddenly as a bright thought struck us, "How would you like to make eight hundred Ward Eight's for a group of Architects, their Wives and Sweethearts?"

"When?" said Billy.

"June 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1937."

"For four days?"

"No, only one day, from four till six."

"From four in the afternoon 'till six in the morning?" said Billy.

"No, no. From four to six in the afternoon."

"Mm," said Billy.

"Think it over. We must have something characteristic of Boston to offer our guests, and what more filling refreshment of an afternoon, than the Ward Eight, invented in this very tavern, made by the hand of a Master?"

"Mm," said Billy.

H.G.R.

The New England Scene

INLAND TO LEXINGTON AND CONCORD

"If they mean war, let it begin here."

Afternoon of Tuesday, June 1, 1937.

New England in flower; the lilacs at their best. Out into the back-country of farms and white villages. Paul Revere once galloped this way. We are in the sector of the British advance. Ancient houses here and there; old elms arching above us.

At ten miles (on the left) we flash by the historic Munroe Tavern (1695). Then the Green at Lexington. Tablets and markers everywhere, for this is where the Yankees showed their stuff. Note a fine grouping of old homes, mostly of wood painted white. Around the corner, the old house where Hancock and Adams woke to the night alarm of the patriot rider.

Then through a more open country to Concord, just twenty miles from Boston.

On the outskirts to the right, we pass "Orchard House," the home of the Alcotts. Wonder how Louisa M. would feel about the recent lifting and filming of her "Little Women." Rather think she'd like it.

Then Hawthorne's "Wayside." Would he enjoy "The Maid of Salem?" Don't think so? Seen it?

A little further along we get a glimpse of Emerson's home under the tall pines. Across the street are the new quarters of the local historical society. A minute later we pass two old houses occupied today by the Antiquarian Society and the Art Center. A fine street.

We enter the center of the town. It is keeping the old flavor. As is fitting for Concord, all is harmony—meeting-house, hill-side burying ground, old houses, old bank, old shops.

Old Mr. Hosmer once gave a small boy a pencil made by his townsman, Mr. Thoreau. It was on sale in one of those shops. If we could use that pencil this might be better, such is the magic of David Henry Thoreau (1817-1862).

On the south side of the town square, the Wright Tavern (1747). Here, before the fight, the British major's finger stirred his morning draught. The potion was not a success. Even so, our learned and ingenious confrere, Col. Fullerton, can quote

the ingredients of this celebrated toddy and back it up with erudite foot-notes, chapter and verse. He reports that it is not a good fighting drink, though with a pleasant color, fine flavor and some authority.

Out of Monument Street, at the north end of the square, to the "Battle Ground." Not very far, but better to ride than walk it as our time is limited.

Soon, on the right, the Judge Keyes house with a bullet scar piously preserved. We are entering the terrain of fire. We swing sharply to the left and, advancing at the double,

Find Ourselves in the Direct Line of Fire.

It is an awkward moment. *We are backing* the wrong crowd. But the scurvy insurgent Americans are mowing us down at a great rate from behind those stone walls and things. We can't see a single one of them but seem to catch the gleam of a musket barrel now and then poking through the shrubbery. Good bye, Comrades! Good bye, Convention!! Good bye, The President's Reception!! A bas la République!

It looks mighty bad for a moment. But the British have fled and the gallant Americans, recognizing our badges, cease firing.

The members of the A. I. A. (and guests) already killed or wounded pick themselves up and dust off their clothes. It has been a grand fight and if the architects had gotten there earlier you can't tell what the result would have been.

Probably we all should be members of The Royal Institute of British Architects. A convention in London together with the coronation would be pretty good, too.

We visit in more detail the scene of Concord Fight, the Rude Bridge, Daniel French's Minute Man. We even have time to experiment a little with the new non-glare eye glasses brought along by the president of our fishing club. Unfurling and adjusting them you can look way down in the depths of the Concord River no longer in spate. Any fish? My word! Of course the rest of you can't see them. It's the glasses. Another shot soon to be heard by fishermen around the world.

From New Zealand to the chalk streams of Old England. From the Miñho to Wankinquoah.

To the south, near-by, stands (as it did before the Revolution), the Old Manse. Parson Ripley, (not to be confused with Hubert G.), lived there. So have Emerson and Hawthorne. So have Bert Hale and Jack Ames, the architects.

To the east, a few miles away, lies the pleasant village of Bedford. Have we time to swing around that way?

Good bye, Concord, replete with natural beauty, history and literature. You played a star part in "The Flowering of New England."

In the last OCTAGON the magic pen of H. D. C. has described the delectations now awaiting those who speed on to Gore Place and The President's Reception. Alas, whatever his charm of literary manner, that he should ascribe this noble building to Charles Bulfinch, though he backs water in the indispensable foot-note. Would that this distinguished writer had the learning and scholarship of H. G. R. who not only wrote the first chapter of our "New England Scene" but provided the authoritative documentation as to ingredients of Major Pitcairn's toddy. When Mr. R. doesn't know he says he doesn't know. For instance, there was ice in the mixing of the major's toddy but was it from the Concord or the Assabet river? Or was it from Walden Pond? Mr. Ripley (again not to be confused with the Rev. Ezra, for it is impossible to preserve the desired anonymity), frankly doesn't know and says so. As Mr. C's identity is hidden I trust this comment will not be taken in too personal a spirit.

NORTH SHORE TO MARBLEHEAD AND SALEM

"Posterity delights in details" J. Q. Adams.

Afternoon of Wednesday, June 2, 1937.

Found the gavel, Mr. President! The august proceedings of the Convention come to a halt. The meeting is adjourned and none too soon. For we are lurching on the broad verandahs of the famous old Eastern Yacht Club, eighteen miles away on Marblehead Neck.

The party entrains in motors and buses and proceeds by the shortest route, giving the go-by to Bunker Hill Monument over there, and probably missing the historical high-spots of Chelsea, the

golden strand at Revere and the nets and dories drawn up on the Swampscott shore. But nobody can entirely miss seeing the intensive suburban development along this route. Brand new small houses everywhere, of an "artiness," most of them, seldom surpassed in all this broad land. But now and then we pass a good one. It was probably designed by the quiet fellow in the front-seat. Give it a kind word. This will be the big moment of the day for that modest architect next the driver.

Gentlemen of the Middle West, you need not bring your yachting caps or tarpaulins. Nor do we think ex-Commodores Charles K. Cummings and William T. Aldrich, no less able as architects than as seamen, will sport theirs.

The call of the sea has sounded here through all the generations. The Schooner Hannah, the first American warship (1775) was fitted out, commanded and manned by men of Marblehead. Cummings took his German torpedo on the Mt. Vernon not so long ago.

As we turn to the right for Marblehead Neck, the yachting season seems to be getting into its swing. What a season this will be! Concord fight was nothing to the coming combat between Mr. Sopwith's newest Endeavour and the American defender. Except for these big-stickers, which should be off Newport tuning up, there is no lack of craft. They pack them pretty tight here during the racing season.

But now to the serious business of luncheon, its preliminaries and period of digestion.

Across the harbor is the pleasing silhouette of Marblehead. Had we time we should stroll about its crooked streets, visit the points of vantage where early Marbleheaders lie buried. In clear weather one can see out to Half Way Rock and beyond to the open sea. Can you see the ghosts of the "Chesapeake" and "Shannon" hard at it in the haze?

We should like to visit St. Michael's (1714) and that other church showing the lovely spire. And the Town-square with its town-house. And the powder-house, the old Fort and many of the finer Colonial homes, both the elaborate and the simple ones.

And that's all right if you are willing to skip Salem. However the wise will concentrate. They will confine themselves to the fairest sample of Marblehead, the Col. Jeremiah Lee House.

They will take the ferry* from the yacht club landing and in three minutes disembark in Marblehead and proceed directly on foot to that fair old Mansion.

In the meantime, motors and buses should be encircling the harbor ready to pick them up and continue the journey.

The Colonel Jeremiah Lee Mansion,† built in 1768, is owned by the Marblehead Historical Society and was opened to the public in 1909. In his excellent monograph in the White Pine Series on Marblehead our friend and fellow-architect, William T. Aldrich, gives its original cost as "said to be ten thousand pounds." Like the other (Col. William R.) Lee Mansion it boasts of an exceedingly effective cupola. It is the biggest of the old houses in Marblehead and you can distinguish it by the pediment which embellishes its main façade and the wooden walls coursed like masonry.

The discerning Fiske Kimball cites it as "the best of its kind, with cupola and original door beautifully paneled. The staircase and interiors throughout are in splendid preservation and of remarkable workmanship."

It is only a few miles from Marblehead to Salem. In our extreme youth the most desirable products of this fair city were Salem Blackjacks and Salem Gibralters. The first was black as your hat and shiny, the second was an uncertain white with considerable surface texture. Both were safe for long usage, almost impregnable. The present all-day-sucker has nothing on its prototype, the Salem Blackjack, but is less brittle.

Times have changed. A Salem gentleman was uncertain where to find them today in the Witch City. Salem emigrés to Boston and their descendants have retained the old nostalgia. There's a little shop on our Charles Street just beyond the "Nigger" Church where we stock up.

To the West.

Behind the railroad station lies Chestnut Street. It is of no great length but of exceeding quality, because of the many stately old mansions which face it. It is well worth a visit as are some of the neighboring streets to the north, notably Federal

Street with the fine Pierce-Nichols house and courtyard.

To the East.

On Essex Street, the two local museums almost face each other. Both are of outstanding merit. The marine collection in the front rooms of the Peabody Museum is the best thing in Salem.

From here we pass eastward to the Common, surrounded by many interesting houses. Nearer the harbor are the Custom House and the House of the Seven Gables. Don't try to see everything. There's too much.

Of course many of you, wandering about, will get fatigued or lose each other. It would be a good idea to arrange a rendezvous with your friends for tea at the Hotel Hawthorne facing the Common and start back from there in good order for Boston.

R. P. B.

OUTLYING TOURS

(Within the territory of the Boston Chapter)

- (a) Marblehead, Salem, Beverly, Wenham, Ipswich, Gloucester, Manchester-by-the-Sea.
- (b) Danvers, Rowley, Newbury, Newburyport; Portsmouth, N. H.
- (c) Nashua, Amherst, Peterboro, Hancock, Walpole, Orford, N. H.; Windsor, Vt.
- (d) Lexington, Concord, Bedford, Billerica, Chelmsford, Tewksbury, Andover.
- (e) Wayland, Sudbury, Stow, Bolton, Lancaster, Shirley, Groton, Pepperell.
- (f) Greenfield, Deerfield, Williamstown, Lenox, Lee; Bennington and Arlington, Vt.
- (g) Natick, Framingham, Southboro, Shrewsbury, Worcester, Brimfield.
- (h) Randolph, Bridgewater, Taunton, Mattapoisett, Fairhaven, New Bedford, Westport.
- (i) Hingham, Cohasset, Duxbury, Kingston, Plymouth, Sandwich, Barnstable, Falmouth, Edgartown, Nantucket.

Note: The above was compiled from a sheet published by the Boston Chapter in 1928. The visits to Lexington and Concord and again to Marblehead and Salem are chosen because of determining factors of time and convenience. Other regions are worth noting for a more extended survey by individual parties.

* Have your ten cents ready!

† Bang goes a quarter more!

Motoring Across Connecticut

CONNECTICUT is a state of rare scenic beauty. From tidewater to the mountains its undulating and broken surface is dotted with lakes and traversed by many rivers and streams, sometimes flowing through fertile valleys, sometimes guarded by rugged cliffs. Quaint white-spired villages in lowland and upland alike tell of a way of living in past centuries; the smoke of prosperous manufacturing towns, descendants of the older villages, tell of a new way of living. In few regions is there concentrated such a vivid panorama of the progress from Colonial settlements to our complex modern civilization.

The Connecticut Chapter regrets that its members are so scattered throughout the state that it is not possible for it to act as a Chapter in entertaining The Institute during the New England Convention. It can only hope that many members will find it possible to make an architectural pilgrimage across the state enroute to Boston and returning from Providence, and will be looking up their old friends as they pass through the many towns in which they live. It is hoped the following suggestions may enable our friends to see what is most characteristic and most interesting.

Most of those coming from the south and west will want to come at least within eyeshot of New York on the way up. A most impressive close-up silhouette of the city is to be had by coming from Jersey City through the Holland Tunnel and up the New York west-side elevated Miller Highway, whence the route continues north by the Sawmill River or the Bronx River Parkway, with Danbury as the first Connecticut stop.

In Danbury drop into a bookstore and buy a copy of *The Connecticut Guide* (\$1.00), with accurate information for finding all points of interest, particularly the architectural, and a map showing the scenic routes and points of interest. A study of the legend on the map is essential to its use.

The Guide gives such adequate information that we need only indicate the route and the high spots. Danbury, church (by William Webb Sunderland), at intersection of routes 6 and 7, is said by Amar Embury to be one of the finest pieces of architecture of our time; Newton, good

meals at old Colonial Sunset Tavern, as you come into the town; handsome town hall and community center (by Philip Nichols Sunderland); *Southbury, old brick Colonial school house, many fine old residences, good meals at "Old Hundred"; *Woodbury, many more old residences, particularly the "Manse"; fine old Masonic temple perched on rock as you approach the center; Watertown, buildings of Taft School (by Goodhue and Jas. Gamble Rogers), excellent meals, rooms and golf at M'Fingle Inn, Hamilton St. **Litchfield, one of the handsomest colonial towns in this country; the route brings you into South Street; continue past center into North Street; return to the center and see old colonial Curiosity Shop, tavern, church (good interior) and continue to Torrington center, good hearty meals at Conley Inn, and by Route 117 to Harwinton, excellent church spire, several good houses; through Burlington, Unionville to **Farmington, to south end of town to see many handsome colonial houses; return to center and on the way get out to study a church spire considered by some the climax in Colonial wooden spire design; from center continue north to *Avon Old Farms, famous school architecture by Theodate Pope; return, good hotel just beyond center of Farmington—Elm Tree Inn. Take the road to **Hartford, a handsome city, richest per capita in the country; south of the Capitol and Washington Avenue is the County Court House (by Paul Cret), opposite it an interesting trade school (by Merrill Prentice); also (by Prentice) modern P. O., several blocks north of Capitol. If time allows run down the river to Weathersfield and upstream to Windsor. Cross the river to East Hartford, whence one may go up the river to Springfield, or strike out for Worcester via Crystal Lake and Stafford Springs and Union; the first half of the latter route is without special interest, but the second half is through a beautiful wooded hill country with fine distances. From Worcester follow route 9 into Boston. From New York to Boston total net running time from 9 to 10 hours by this route.

Since the last day of the convention will be in Providence, you will naturally return by way of the shore. To Westerly route 3 is more direct but

less interesting than route 1, the old Boston-New-York Post Road, with many old time houses, churches and public buildings. *Mystic*, quaint fishing village and summer colony. **New London*, busy harbor and industrial town, with interesting old buildings. **Old Lyme*, many fine old houses and famous church, and art center; art gallery (by Charles Platt); two good summer hotels. **Old Saybrook*, from here turn left to get glimpse of characteristic shore—to Saybrook Point, Fenwick, Oyster River, back to Post Road, to *Clinton*, *Madison*, **Guilford*, at edge of the town left into center; some of the oldest houses in the state and Mrs. Leete's famous antiquary shop; *Branford*, at edge of green turn left and follow around green back to Post Road, noting quaint old school house on the green. *East Haven*, small houses, good stone

Colonial church, library (by Davis & Waldorff) Town Hall (by Douglas Orr). ***New Haven*, not many old buildings left here except the three churches on the largest and best preserved green in New England. Yale College, Library, Art School, Law School and Gymnasium near center; Divinity School north of center about one mile; Medical School and Human Relations one-half mile south; field house, etc., one mile west. Allow one day here.

Milford, Bridgeport, **Fairfield*, a handsome town, old and new. *Greenwich*, excellent hotels, Edgewood Inn and Kent House. *Westport*. From here on to New York the road becomes more and more congested up to *Port Chester*, where one turns inland on Route 119 to get to the famous Hutchinson River Parkway.

G. H. G.

Small House Planning Conferences

SMALL House Planning Conferences will be held in the following cities on the dates specified:

Salt Lake City.....	May 4
Seattle	May 11
Portland, O.....	May 18
San Francisco.....	May 25
Los Angeles.....	June 1
San Diego.....	June 8
Phoenix	June 15
Denver	June 22

Howard Leland Smith, Chief of Architectural Section, Technical Division, Federal Housing Ad-

ministration, will conduct these conferences, assisted by Richard Pretz, Associate Architect, of the same Division.

One of the purposes of these conferences is to emphasize the need of architectural service in the planning of small houses. Ways and means will be discussed by which this technical service may be rendered at a profit to the architect.

It is hoped by the Federal Housing Administration that the local Chapters of The Institute in the above cities will sponsor these conferences.

All members of The Institute are cordially invited to attend.

British Architects' Conference

THE Annual Conference of British Architects will take place this year at Leeds from June 23 to 26 inclusive, when the West Yorkshire Society of Architects will be the hosts of the Conference.

The Conference will be largely of a social character and it is expected that many ladies will be present as the guests of members.

Members of The American Institute of Archi-

itects who may happen to be in Britain at the time of the Conference will be heartily welcomed at the various functions which will form part of the program.

Copies of the program with full particulars and all the necessary information will be sent to any member who will write to Sir Ian MacAlister, *Secretary*, Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London.

The Extension of the East Front of the Capitol

BY EGERTON SWARTWOUT, F. A. I. A.

Historical.

The history of the Capitol, like that of most of the important buildings in the world, is one of change and expansion. The Capitol has grown as the country grew and is now over three times its original size, that is, the Capitol proper. If there should be included the offices and committee rooms of the Senate and House and the Congressional Library, which were once housed in the Capitol and are now in separate buildings of their own, the ratio would be increased to twenty or thirty to one, and there is now need of further expansion.

But this ratio of increase, large as it is, is small as compared to the Departmental expansion of other branches of the Government in Washington.

Original Competition.

In 1790, when the site of the City of Washington was selected and the streets laid out in accordance with the L'Enfant plan, the prime necessity was for the proper housing of the Government and the President of the United States. And less than two years after the founding of the city, competitive plans were asked for a Capitol Building and for a President's House.

Ten schemes were presented for the Capitol, most of them mediocre and some ridiculous. What appeared to be the best was submitted by Stephen Hallet, an architect of French descent, and he was instructed to submit a revised scheme.

Thornton Appointed.

Dr. William Thornton, a West Indian by birth, was not in the original competition but obtained permission to submit drawings some six months later, and his scheme met with such general approval that he was appointed Architect of the Capitol, April 5, 1793.

None of his competition drawings are in existence, but presumably his scheme resembled the existing central portion in size and shape, with the exception of the west, or, what was considered at that time, the principal front. This portion contained in his scheme a large round hall, expressed on the exterior by a semi-circular colonnade, which seen in perspective would have contrasted badly

with the sweep of the main dome. It seems remarkable that this feature persisted in subsequent schemes.

Hallet, strangely enough, was asked to study Thornton's plan and to obtain an estimate of cost, and, as might have been expected, did his best to undermine Thornton, and submitted a number of schemes of his own, one of which had a recessed east front which was strongly objected to by George Washington, who considered a recessed front inappropriate.

The corner stone, now covered up, was laid on the southeast corner of the north wing, Sept. 18, 1793.

Hallet's Changes.

James Hoban, who had won the competition for the President's House, now the White House, had general charge of the work on the Capitol and Hallet acted as his superintendent. Hallet still persisted in making changes, and put in some foundations not in accordance with Thornton's scheme. These were removed and replaced and Hallet was later discharged.

The building, though large for this country at that time, was small compared to the completed Capitol, and almost microscopic compared to recent work in Washington. It was 352 feet across the front and the wings were somewhat over 131 feet in depth. There was to be a portico on the east composed of eight Corinthian columns on a basement, the columns about 30 feet in height. The pediment contained a carved eagle of giant dimensions, and there were human figures as acroteria. The dome was a flat Roman dome of the usual classic type. The drawings, as shown in Glenn Brown's History of the Capitol, are well drawn and rendered.

Change to Sandstone.

The first portion to be built was the north or Senate wing. Thornton strongly recommended white marble, even if it had to be imported, but from motives of economy Aquia Creek sandstone was used. The quarry was conveniently located not far from the Capitol and was developed, it is

said, with the approval of George Washington. It went under the generic title of Freestone at the time, and is of a pleasant reddish-brown color with considerable variation and with some stratification. Some of it is very hard and tough with occasional flint balls and veins, and some of it very soft and friable. It is hard to work, as the cutting tools dull easily. It is quite adaptable as plain ashlar but not for moulded work or projecting cornices. It was extensively used at that period, not only for the exterior of the old portion of the Capitol, but for the stone work of the interior, for the exterior of the White House, and for many structures in and around Washington.

It is now painted white in the Capitol and in the White House exteriors. Just when it was first painted is problematical, but probably shortly after completion. Thornton designed the building for marble. Classic work demanded some light colored material so that the mouldings and detail would have the requisite relief and the shadows would count. The delicate detail of Thornton's work would be lost if left in the natural color of sandstone, and in the early sketches and engravings of artists at the time, the Capitol always shows white.

And in the interior in many cases the sandstone was painted, but the paint has now been removed and the effect of the stone is enhanced by the traces of paint that remain in the crevices. But the exterior is white, as it should be, and it should be of marble. Paint is a cheap substitute for marble in a great Government building, and the paint obscures the stone joints and the building loses in scale and in charm.

George Hadfield, an Englishman, was superintendent of the Capitol for a time, and the work progressed slowly.

Thornton's Detail Changed.

In January, 1798, Thornton protested strongly that the details he had made for the exterior were not being followed, particularly on the cornice of the north wing, and that it was a disgrace and should be removed, and if not, it would remain as a laughing-stock to architects, and he again regretted the substitution of sandstone for marble and wanted mahogany doors in the interior.

In 1800 the north wing was finished on the exterior. The Senate Chamber in this wing was

then on the ground level, approximately, and not at the level it is now. In 1801 a temporary brick building was built on the site of the south wing for the use of the House of Representatives.

In 1802 Thornton severed his connection with the Capitol. At that time the north wing was completed and the foundations of the Rotunda were in place. It is interesting to note the set-back in the east wall of the Rotunda from the face of the wings. This set-back had much to do with the beauty and openness of the portico when it was built. The foundations were then in for the south wing and the basement partially built.

Latrobe's Changes.

Benjamin H. Latrobe was appointed Architect on March 6, 1803. He completed the exterior of the south wing similar to Thornton's work on the north wing, but changed the plan of the House of Representatives from an ellipse, as designed by Thornton, to a shape composed of two semi-circles connected by straight portions in the center, a change to which Thornton violently objected in 1805.

Latrobe also modified the design left by Thornton for the west front of the central portion, and in 1811 made a revised design for the east front, making the main entrance on the east.

In 1811 the north and south wings were completed and were connected by a wooden corridor.

The Fire.

In August, 1814, the Capitol and the White House were burnt by the British. The floors and roofs were destroyed and much of the interior. The exteriors were badly damaged, particularly the upper portion. The cornices and balustrade were practically gone, and the stonework in general scorched and cracked. So great was the destruction that there was much discussion as to the advisability of rebuilding the old Capitol or starting a new one.

Latrobe resumed his position as Architect in 1815 and devised a radical change in the plan of the House of Representatives, abandoning his original scheme which was destroyed by the fire, and adopting the scheme now to be seen in Statuary Hall.

In the north wing he placed the Senate Chamber on the main floor as it now exists as the old Supreme Court.

Latrobe also made a new design for the central portion of the west front, designed the small domed lobbies in the interior and the domical cupolas over them, and left designs for the revision of the East Portico, as it is today.

Latrobe was severely critical of the work of his predecessors, as was often the case, saying in a letter to Congress, "I frankly confess that, excepting for a few details, all my ideas of good taste and even good sense in architecture were shocked by the style of the building." He refers here to Thornton's work in the north wing which he was obliged to duplicate in the south wing. How artists love each other!

Other criticisms of his and the delay of the work, caused his resignation in the latter part of 1817 and Charles Bulfinch was shortly appointed Architect.

Bulfinch's Changes.

Following the example of his predecessors, Bulfinch changed the scheme of the East Portico, omitting the steps and changing the dome, but this fortunately went for naught and the portico was erected on Latrobe's scheme, but Bulfinch's scheme for the west front was built, and now exists on the exterior as he designed it. From his designs a wooden dome was built which remained until the present iron one was erected by Walter. His work on the Capitol ceased June 27, 1829.

In Glenn Brown's History of the Capitol are a series of plates showing the Capitol as it was in 1840. The east front shows as the central portion does today, the pediment having the existing sculpture, the big eagle and the acroteria figures of Thornton having been abandoned. Thornton's low classic dome has given place to a crude and shapeless high-roofed structure on an octagonal plinth, all of wood. But it was a complete building and a fine one.

Expansion Necessary.

In 1850 there was a demand for more space. The legislative chambers especially were much too small. The Committee on Public Buildings recommended an extension, and Robert Mills, at that time Architect of the Capitol, made a scheme which was not accepted and a competition was called for. It is interesting to note that Mills' scheme called for a high dome, based on St. Pauls, London.

Appointment of Walter.

This competition, like the original one, was not a success. Walter submitted a scheme showing the extension all to the east, which was clumsy and unsatisfactory. Mills was asked to make a new plan embodying the desirable features of the best four submissions, but all the schemes were thrown out by President Fillmore, and Thomas U. Walter was appointed architect.

Walter made three plans, one of which was approved and the corner stone was laid on July 4, 1851. His scheme was substantially like the present extension except that the Chambers of the Senate and House were not in the center of the wings as they now are, but were across the east front of the wings. The material of the exterior was white marble from quarries at Lee, Massachusetts.

On the day before Christmas of that year, 1851, the interior of the central portion of the west front, which housed the Congressional Library, was destroyed by fire, and was restored from Walter's new designs.

In 1853 Captain Meigs, later General, was appointed superintendent and he was in constant conflict with Walter until he was relieved in 1859. The first dispute was in regard to the location of the Legislative Chambers, and a change was finally agreed on, putting the Senate and the House in the center of their respective wings, as they are now. Whether this was Meigs' idea, or whether it was adapted from the plan of Chas. F. Anderson, as the latter claimed, is uncertain, but it certainly was not Walter's original idea. It was a much better solution and the natural one, although it deprived the Chambers of outside light and ventilation.

Walter's Dome.

In 1855 the present cast-iron dome was authorized to replace the old wooden dome, which was manifestly too small for the enlarged building, and bad in design. There was some disagreement about the first scheme and Walter made a drawing of a lower dome of similar character, which fortunately did not meet general favor, and the first scheme was built.

This dome is Walter's masterpiece, and is indeed one of the finest domes in the world. It is original in design and finely proportioned, and has a majestic silhouette. The apex figure by Crawford, though not particularly good when seen in close-up photo-

graphs, is exactly right for the place for which it is designed. It is essentially round in plan, and masses well from every point of view. It is one of the best apex figures in existence.

The dome has been described as a masterpiece, and so it is; a remarkable achievement for any period, and the more remarkable for the period in which it was built. Architecture in the 1850's was at a low ebb all through the world. The Classicism of the early nineteenth century had given way to the horrors of the Victorian era, and cast iron fronts were rampant. Hence the Capitol dome. A domical form is a masonry form, and probably Walter would have built the dome of stone if it could have been done, but that was impossible then. Impossible by reason of the expense involved, not only in the structure of the dome itself but because of the inadequacy of the supports. The foundations were put in according to Thornton's plan, which contemplated a low classic dome which rose naturally from the circular walls below it.

And these existing circular walls, plenty large enough and strong enough for Thornton's dome and the crude wooden affair which was actually built, were not strong enough, nor big enough, for the type of dome made necessary by the addition of the new and overpowering wings that Walter was then building.

A stone dome being out of the question, he fell back on the material then generally popular, cast iron. But he did not design it as if it were metal, he designed it as if it were stone. And with cast iron one did not have to be particular about the support. The main wall of the dome does indeed rest on the wall below, but the encircling colonnade is supported *outside* of the wall. It is strong enough structurally, but it is a flagrant instance of modern construction by which anything is possible.

It is true this particular defect is not to be seen except in a sectional drawing, but the size of the dome made necessary a greater defect which is noticeable. The base of the drum, or rather the encircling colonnade, rests on an octagonal plinth of cast iron, and this plinth projects some 15 feet beyond the stone wall of the central portion of the front, which forms the rear wall of the portico, and the plinth comes down, unsupported apparently,

on the roof of the portico; and to rectify this defect is one reason, and a very important reason, for the proposed east front extension.

The Overhang.

It has been said by opponents of this extension that it is difficult to see this grave defect, this overhang, and no one notices it until it is pointed out to them. The answer to that is, that it is distinctly noticeable, and that it is always pointed out. There are few visitors to Washington who have not heard of this defect; it is so unusual that it has become a point of interest, a kind of joke. And it is a joke, and an unnecessary joke, on the Government of the richest and most powerful country in the world. It is bad enough to have visitors from foreign countries discover that our beautiful dome is not a real dome, but a cast iron imitation of a stone dome; but when they see that this dome of ours, in which we have so much pride, has really no visible means of support, it ceases to become a joke. It is a tragedy.

Extension Urged.

Walter knew all this, but he did the best he could under the circumstances. He designed a beautiful structure, and he felt sure that in time the east front would be extended to cover this defect. He urged an extension and he made plans for it, the last nearly ten years after his official connection with the Capitol had terminated.

The extension has always been in the minds of those closely identified with the Capitol. The architects of the Congressional Library, Smithmeyer & Peltz, made a scheme for this extension in 1881, and twenty-five years later Carrère and Hastings made elaborate plans and a model in 1905. The matter came up again thirty years later and now, two years after that, it is before Congress once more.

Walter's Design.

But to return to Walter and his dome, and to its design. That design is not only remarkable because of the period at which it was made, but also because it was made by the same architect, or under the direction of the same architect, who was responsible for the design of the existing Senate and House wings. Even the most fanatically patriotic American who has any knowledge of architecture, must admit that these wings are not great nor even

good design. They are too large for the central portion; they would dominate it entirely if it were not for the great dome. Perhaps this could not be helped, the room was needed, but still the wings are too large. And in spite of this palpably apparent condition, a proposition has been made recently to expand these wings so as to provide the additional space needed in the Capitol.

But the main defect of the wings is the crude planning of their porticos, the uninteresting repetition of the bays on the side and their congested proportion, and the clumsiness of the detail. It would be supposed that Walter would, in the wings, have reproduced the fine proportion and detail of the old work. The cornice apparently lines up with the old cornice but is quite different in character. The intercolumnation of the porticos and the bays is much smaller than on the old work, and there is a consequent tightness and hardness that is most unfortunate. This feeling of tightness is most notable in the porticos. Walter presumably thought it looked well in plan to put pilasters behind every column, ignoring, or not knowing, that this is the great inexcusable banality in classic work. It is clumsy, particularly in a shallow portico, and the lines of the pilasters seen in perspective clash with and destroy the orderly sequence of the columns in front.

Now Walter was undoubtedly familiar with classic detail. His early associations would indicate that, but the truth is, he was an advanced modernist of those days. He followed, and perhaps led, the revolution against the American classic architecture which found expression in the early Colonial and adapted Georgian work of which we are now so proud. He refused to follow the charming and distinctive detail of Thornton, Latrobe and Bulfinch, and on his additions to their completed work, inserted the clumsy forms popular at that time. It is indeed fortunate that the east front extension was not built by him according to any of the schemes he submitted, although his idea that there must be some sort of an extension to the east, was instinctively correct, as was his insistence on the use of marble for the wings, and his suggestion of refacing the old sandstone work with marble.

The dome unfortunately has the same crude detail, but it is so far from the eye that it is unobjectionable and is unnoticed, submerged by the

stately proportions and majestic silhouette of the dome itself.

Changes and Removals.

There is not much more historically that is pertinent to the present proposition of extension of the east front. Walter resigned in 1865, and at that time reports that the wings were completed except for a few stones and except for the colonnades. The dome was complete except for a portion of the stairs.

In 1874 Frederick Law Olmstead was put in charge of the grounds and the terraces were completed in 1894. In 1898 an explosion took place in the basement under the old Supreme Court Chamber, and the subsequent fire destroyed the skylight and small dome and much of the adjoining roof work.

In 1900 the Congressional Library was removed from the Capitol and a few years later the Senate and House office buildings were undertaken, thus releasing much space for committee rooms, offices and so on, in the Capitol building.

The Present Problem.

It was the purpose in the preceding brief historical notes to show that the Capitol, as it exists today, is not one building conceived in its entirety by one architect, but is a compound structure designed by many architects, whose schemes have been altered and enlarged often, and whose work has been many times hidden or removed.

This development has been made to correct faults of construction and design, and to provide increased accommodation as it became necessary. The present proposition is for both purposes.

It is now proposed to extend the east front between the two projecting wings so as to provide visible support for the overhang of the dome, and in this extension to reproduce the old work in white marble instead of painted and crumbling sandstone, and to reface with marble the central portion on the west, according to Bulfinch's design as it at present exists.

There is nothing revolutionary about this. All the Architects of the Capitol, from Thornton to Walter, were strongly in favor of marble because of its beauty and superior lasting quality, and Walter, building at a later date, succeeded in using marble where the others had failed. As has been herein before stated, the old portion was designed

for marble, and the sandstone had to be painted to show the design which from its delicacy would be lost in sandstone.

Sandstone.

A statement has also been made as to the structural limitations of sandstone. It is not adaptable for carving, mouldings or isolated projecting work. Most of the old work has now been up for over a hundred years and has so sloughed away, cracked and broken, that there have been constant replacements, and the projecting members, modillions and cornices, and the balustrades, have fallen in places, and are always a dangerous menace. The same condition exists on the White House, where much of the cornice has been replaced. If this replacement keeps up, the Capitol will be in the condition of the old man's jack-knife that he had had so long. To be sure the blades had worn away and new ones were put in, and there were new springs and the case was new, but it was the same old jack-knife, so he claimed.

Paint.

And not only the necessary repairs have changed the old work; the paint has obscured it. It has to be repainted every four years or so, and it is understood there are at least twenty-two heavy coats of paint over the stone work. Figure what this means to the delicate mouldings and the detail. The old work, as you see it now, does not look as it did when Thornton saw it, or the little that George Washington saw of it. But when the old work is replaced in enduring marble with the detail as originally designed, reproduced with scrupulous exactitude as is now intended, the work will look as Thornton saw it, or rather as he wished to see it.

Steps.

A statement has been made that it would be a sacrilege to move forward the main entrance steps on which so many presidents have been inaugurated. These steps were not part of the original scheme but were designed by Latrobe when the main entrance was changed to the east front, and as a matter of fact the existing steps are only twelve years old; the old ones were worn out and replaced. And further, the proposal is merely to reset these steps and cheek blocks somewhat further east.

Amount of Extension.

The amount of the extension of the east front has not been definitely settled. Carrère and Hast-

ings made two schemes in 1905, one providing for a 12'-10" extension from the existing wall, and one for 32'-6", the latter providing not only for a number of committee rooms on the three floors across the front, but also a corridor directly connecting the Senate and House. This connection is extremely important, particularly on the Gallery floor, as at present those desiring to get from one gallery to another have to go down to the main floor and up again to do so. Another recent scheme provides for a 40'-0" extension which gives additional space for the rooms and a return to the Latrobe plan of the portico, which is masterly, and gives that openness of feeling that is so fine in the portico that now exists. Another scheme has been suggested by which this effect can be retained, with a projection of little more than 33'-0".

Portico.

The new portico, then, will be exactly like the present one in plan, elevation and detail, with the exception that the pedimented portion will have ten columns instead of eight as at present. The reason for this increase is evident. The projecting pedimented portion of the wing porticos have eight columns, and being in advance of the central portico they overshadow it at present, whereas of course the central portico should be the most important. And then too the existing central portico is not big enough to be in scale with the great dome. It has been said that the Capitol is not a building with a dome on top, but a dome with a building underneath. And by this addition of two columns the projecting portico will have a better relation to the portico back of it, and on each side of it, than it has at present.

The arrangement of the portico will have the same open feeling that it has at present, and by that fact and by its increased size, will dominate, as it should, the porticos of the wings. Presumably, the pediment will have the same slope as at present; this will increase the height of the apex somewhat, though not materially, and this again will bring the portico into better scale with the dome above. The extension out from the dome will add to this effect.

The sculpture now in the pediment can probably be retained. It is very naive and interesting as it is, and does not clutter up the pediment as does the sculpture in the wing pediment, but this point will have to be settled by future study.

East Front Projection.

And only future study will determine the proper projection of the entire east front. A projection of thirteen feet or so will serve to support the plinth of the dome, visually of course, but it will not provide for the very essential connection between the Senate and House, without sacrificing the needed space for additional committee rooms. At present, the important Committee on Appropriations has its rooms now on two different floors inconveniently situated, and there is need of Reception rooms for the Senate and House. These needed rooms cannot be housed in separate buildings.

Recessed Front.

It will probably be necessary to extend the east front thirty feet or more, but even at the extreme figure there will be a recessed front. As a matter of design, the recessed front is questionable. George Washington is distinctly on record as opposing it. If an entirely new building was proposed for the Capitol, undoubtedly the central portion would be the most prominent and the wings subordinate. The original building was so designed. But when Walter designed the wings he was practically obliged to place them where he did and of the size he made them, and we have accepted the recessed front, and it has become traditional. And this effect will be retained in the proposed extension.

There is another valuable contribution in the proposed extension. At present the entrance from the main portico is directly into the Rotunda. With no preparation at all one enters directly into the Holy of Holies, under the great dome. It is poor planning, and destructive of architectural effect. With the extension there is space for a proper vestibule. This is an important point.

And another important point is the rectification of the snub-nosed effect of the present portico in relation to the dome. The base of the dome comes down directly on the portico, and not on the building back of the portico. It is not so apparent now because of the great wing projection, but the effect is readily noticeable. The portico and the pediment are now too near the dome.

No Changes in Interior.

In this proposed extension no changes in the present interior arrangements are contemplated.

The old Supreme Court Chamber, which was the original Senate Chamber, and the so-called Statuary Hall, which was the old House of Representatives, will not be touched. Nothing of historical interest will be changed. The construction will be made under the direction of a joint committee of the Senate and House, acting through and with the advice of the present Architect of the Capitol. This committee may seek the advice of architects in independent practice who have had experience in monumental work of this character.

Approval.

This proposed east front extension has been approved in principle by all architects identified with the Capitol since and including Mills. Walter always felt the need of it and planned for it, and his design of the dome was made with that extension in mind. The National Commission of Fine Arts has approved of it, particularly in 1915 and in 1935, and its Chairman, Mr. Charles Moore, has lent to it the weight of his thirty-six years of experience in the Washington plan. Without exception all architects who have done monumental work in Washington have approved it in principle—Carrière and Hastings, Bacon, Cass Gilbert, McKim, Mead & White, Platt, Coolidge, Pope, York & Sawyer, Zantzinger, N. C. Wyeth, Sullivan, Cunningham, Gugler; also Totten, Hiron, Magonigle, Holden, Swartwout. Most of these have testified at hearings. No attempt has been made to circularize the profession, but without doubt the vast majority, having experience in monumental work and knowing the conditions, would subscribe to the extension in principle.

Recapitulation.

The Capitol, as it stands, is the work of many architects, and was not designed as a unit. There have been constant changes and enlargements. The proposed extension is to provide needed legislative accommodations, to give proper visual support to the dome, and to replace the crumbling and defective sandstone of the older portions with enduring material, white marble. It does not destroy, but it replaces and preserves, the work of Thornton, Latrobe and Bulfinch. None of the historical portions of the Capitol are lost. This extension and restoration will be of incontestable benefit to the Capitol, to Washington and to the nation.

Wings Over the Capitol

BY LEICESTER B. HOLLAND, *Chairman*

COMMITTEE ON PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

CONTROVERSY is always unpleasant, I think particularly so to architects, but sometimes it is necessary, even for architects, to stand squarely on one side or the other of important questions. And because The Institute has conferred on me the honor of the Chairmanship of the Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings, I feel it my duty to speak, when the preservation of the most historic building in the country is threatened; as I think it the duty of The Institute, itself, to weigh carefully and give its official opinion clearly, concerning architectural matters of importance to all citizens of the United States.

The Ever Emulous Architect.

It is a curious fact that every architect who has worked upon the United States Capitol, though constrained to accord his work with that of his predecessor, has felt that he could better it. But fortunately those employed were great enough to respect what had been done, and develop their own designs in harmony therewith.

The immediate concern, when L'Enfant had laid out the city of Washington, was to erect two buildings, one a palace, in the European sense, to house the President, the other the legislative halls to house the government. Two competitions, perhaps the first architectural competitions in the country, were announced and held. For the President's house, the design of James Hoban immediately won, but for the much more complicated structure, the Capitol, no satisfactory plans were submitted. Providentially a late design was offered by Dr. William Thornton, an extraordinarily versatile man, a doctor, an amateur artist, and later the first United States Commissioner of Patents. His scheme for the Capitol was at once greeted with the highest praise. It was simple, noble, admirable, all the encomiums of the 18th century vocabulary were showered upon it by Washington and Jefferson. But as he was not a builder the work was carried out by a succession of recalcitrant supervisors, until finally Hoban took over the construction of the Capitol as well as the White House

and there was peace. By 1800 when the government was due to move to Washington, the northern section of the building, designed to house the Senate, was complete.

The Grandeur That Was Thornton and the Glory That Was Latrobe.

Then all efforts were turned to the southern section—now Statuary Hall—which was to accommodate the House of Representatives. To eliminate the complications of dual control, Latrobe was called in, in 1803, to design and to build, but in accordance with Thornton's original scheme. Latrobe was the apostle of the Greek revival. Naturally he found fault with Thornton's modified Roman inspiration, just as he complained that Thomas Jefferson, with whom he was in constant consultation about the Capitol, would not forget the Roman orders and realize that only in the Greek was true beauty to be found. But Naturally also, he matched the exterior of Thornton's wing exactly. And then, in 1814, while the construction of the great rotunda between these two completed sections was still little more than foundations, the British sailed up the Potomac and did their best to burn it all. The interior was gutted but the outer walls stood solidly. Only the cornice and balustrade at the roof line were wrecked and where the flames licked through the windows the exterior was scorched and smoked. The exterior was quickly restored just as it had been, and tradition says that like the White House, which was also burned, it was then repainted to hide discoloration. But inside all was to rebuild, and all the interior architecture became modified Greek in style.

The New England Crown.

In 1817 Latrobe stepped aside, and Bulfinch the master architect of Boston, the first American born professional, was called in. He executed the central eastern portico as Latrobe had planned it, with stylistic mannerisms of his own; he completed the rotunda and crowned it with a wooden dome much less "Classical" than Latrobe had intended, and he built the western extension in the center wholly

according to his own design. The curious spacing of the columns there recalls most strikingly his portico on the Boston State House. Finally in 1830 the Capitol was completed, and Bulfinch went back to Boston. His characteristic touch is neither so Greek as Latrobe's nor so Roman as Thornton's, a little more naive than either but harmonizing beautifully with both.

A President to the Rescue.

For twenty years while the country grew, the building stood unchanged, admired of all. At last both legislative bodies had increased to such extent that enlargement became obligatory. Mills, then Architect of the Capitol, suggested a large addition to the east, forming a Greek cross, but President Fillmore, anxious to preserve the building which had become a venerated symbol, would have none of this. So Mills resigned and Walter took his place. He too suggested a great eastern extension, which Fillmore promptly condemned, but also submitted an alternate plan in accordance with the requirements. "It was desirable," said the President, "not to impair the harmony and beauty of the present building, which as a specimen of architecture is so universally admired. Keeping these objects in view, I concluded to make the additions by wings detached from the present building, yet connected with it by corridors. This mode of enlargement will leave the present Capitol uninjured."

The composition, now practically three separate buildings, extended twice as far from north to south as it had done before, and Bulfinch's little dome was quite inadequate as a central motive. So Walter included a large new dome as part of his original composition. And he designed it most masterfully, not as a separate thing resting upon the roof of a building less than half its height, but taking as its base the central colonnaded portico of Latrobe and Bulfinch and building up from that in diminishing rings to the great hemisphere. So that the whole grows in one majestic pyramid, straight from the ground to the crest of the Goddess of Freedom. In this respect, there is no large dome like it in the world. I do not think there is any more beautiful.

The Monumental Snivy.*

But the problem of constructing such a dome was difficult, for the walls on which it must rest were

* This word is not to be found in any dictionary.

built for a much smaller mass, and without tearing out the whole interior and building new and heavy foundations in the unstable hillside, a masonry structure was impossible. Walter here showed ingenuity to match his artistry. He adopted the only possible material, iron. He placed the upper drum and the dome itself directly above Bulfinch's circular wall; the lower ring of columns was carried on iron brackets cantilevering out from it; and around the base he set an octagonal wall or podium of iron, entirely free from the inner construction, to act as a transitional member between the circle above and the rectangular portico below. This iron skirting is purely stage-scenery, it carries nothing and rests as chance will have it, just on whatever walls it happens to cross. It is entirely meant for visual effect, and in this it is entirely successful, also it is perfectly secure. But it happens that the front portico below is very deep, about 32½ feet in fact, so that while the face of the skirting is well back of the face of the front line of columns and the pediment, it is actually 12 feet 10 inches in front of the back wall underneath. This discrepancy shows clearly in a section of the building, but actually in elevation it is very hard to see. Only from points far around to the side and close to the face of the building is it apparent. I doubt if anyone has ever noticed it unless it was called to his attention. Yet this is the much discussed "overhang of the dome" which has served as the ostensible reason for later proposed alterations to the facade.

Walter's wing buildings are of marble, unlike the central part of the building and the dome, which are uniformly painted. Turned at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the central part, they create a broad and shallow court in front, and at the rear project a little less than Bulfinch's central mass. In general effect they are quite classic. Walter had been to Europe and doubtless was much influenced by the classic revival in Germany, for his fluted columns and low pediments have the somewhat dry correctness of scholarly classicism, which Bulfinch's more Jeffersonian portico lacks. But again the new work, though slightly different, harmonizes excellently with the old.

The Perfect Blend.

In 1865 the Capitol was completed just as it stands today. And as it stands it shows two

miracles. The first is aesthetic; it is almost unbelievable that a succession of building operations, by such various hands, could have resulted in anything but a hodge-podge, quaintly picturesque at best. Instead the outcome is by common accord one of the most beautiful buildings in the world, dignified, simple, well proportioned, harmonious in its varied detail, unique in composition. It is certainly finer than any of its architects could have planned, if he had been left wholly to himself.

The Historical Miracle.

The second miracle is the picture of its history which it presents. For by extraordinary luck and thanks to the watchful eyes of successive presidents, nothing of its various building periods as shown on the exterior has been lost, save Bulfinch's wooden dome. It stands today as it stood at the end of the Civil War. If in the mind's eye one blocks out the wings and the dome, it is to be seen as it was completed by Bulfinch in 1830. If then the hand be held to hide the central portion, it stands as Latrobe left in it 1817, the two low domes bespeaking his interiors. Remove these last and we see it as the British found it when they burned it in 1814. Remove the left hand part in turn and it appears as it was in 1800 when Washington became the capital city of the United States. And this is not just the appearance of successive stages that we see, it is the actual substance of the masonry. Closer inspection reveals in many details the various masters' hands; Thornton's pilasters have entasis, those of Bulfinch have simply sloping sides, while those of Walter are vertical in the classic manner. The capitals show where one man's work stopped and another man's commenced. It is the visual history of American architecture for any who can read it, and it is the only building in this country that tells its story as the cathedrals and palaces of Europe do.

From the aesthetic and from the historical point of view it seems incredible that any architect should wish to change it. And yet almost every architect that has been connected with the Capitol has wanted to try his hand at it.

Gilding Refined Gold.

Walter, himself, was the first. When he had finished his work he was not satisfied. What architect is satisfied with his finished work? His

thoughts returned to his first design, he wanted a great central mass projecting eastward. Doubtless the older work seemed to him less stately than his own, in detail and material. He drew up a plan to do it all over in marble and bring the center out as far or farther than the wings. Later he drew another scheme practically filling up all the court. These are what are spoken of as "the architect's original designs for completion of the building." Fortunately there has never been any serious thought of executing any of them, even the present plans ignore them, except as argument for changes of a different sort.

Extramural Repercussions.

Since Walter, the titular Architects of the Capitol have not been designers; they have rather been engineers, admirable constructors supervising the execution of other men's plans. Thus when the next expansion became necessary, through the shocking congestion of the library, it was not the Architect of the Capitol who provided the design but the firm of Smithmeyer and Peltz. And this time the addition was not made to the Capitol, itself, but the library was moved bodily outside and given a building all its own. And in accordance with earlier history, when the new library was finished the architects felt that the Capitol was out of harmony with it and drew plans for doing it over to conform with their own creation. The new design had eight little cupolaed towers, like minarets around the central dome, producing somewhat the effect of a modified classic mosque. But, fortunately, the design was never executed.

Echoes of the Columbian Exposition.

Then a little later, to provide more room for the overcrowded quarters of the legislative bodies, the House and Senate office buildings were erected, again expanding the Capitol outside itself, and again not from designs of the Architect of the Capitol, but this time from those of Carrère and Hastings. And when their work was done, did Carrère and Hastings draw plans for the alteration of the Capitol? Of course they did, though the initiative came from a congressional committee, Carrère and Hastings being called in to devise ways of "correcting the overhang of the dome" and to replace the painted sandstone with marble. The architects categorically condemned Walter's proposed east-

ward extension and presented two new schemes, "A" and "B". By the first, the whole eastern wall of the old building was to be brought forward 12 feet 10 inches, just enough to catch the overhang of the dome. It was all to be done in marble with Walter's rhythm substituted for Thornton's in the decoration of the walls, Walter's fluted columns substituted for Bulfinch's plain ones, and the width of the central motive increased by two columns so that it should be larger than the entrances to Walter's wings, with the pitch of the pediment changed from Bulfinch's style to Walter's. Scheme "B" was like "A" in elevation, only the facade was brought forward 32 feet 6 inches, so as to provide office room within and a corridor connecting Walter's wings on the second and third floors. But Carrère and Hastings very strongly advised against adoption of this second scheme, as they said it would fill up the shallow court, one of the most attractive features of the present composition. And in fact they seemed to have such appreciation of the building as it stood that they questioned whether it would not be wisest simply to reface the existing walls in marble in their old position. Again, fortunately, neither design was executed.

The last extension has been to remove the Supreme Court from its old quarters to a vast new building facing the Capitol. The architect, Cass Gilbert, died before he had time to realize how little in accord the design of the old structure was with his new marble temple. And so we have no recommendation from him that the work of Thornton, Latrobe and Bulfinch should be given the Gilbertian touch.

Second Growth.

Since then, the extensions themselves have been extended, the House Office Building in a new structure by the Allied Architects of Washington, the Senate Office Building in additions by Wyeth and Sullivan and the Library in an annex by Pierson and Wilson. As traditionally proper, the Architect of the Capitol has now been assisted in drawing plans for the current projected reformation of the old building. Again, as Carrère and Hastings discarded Walter's suggestions, so now Carrère and Hastings' vehement warnings against filling the court are disregarded, and it is proposed to bring the facade forward as much as 40 feet!

Such is the history of the building. It has been eloquently epitomized by Charles Moore in his introduction to Glenn Brown's *History of the Capitol*:

"Historically, the Capitol at Washington is the most important structure in the United States. Other buildings, such as the Old South Church in Boston and Independence Hall in Philadelphia, are connected with important episodes in the history of the country. The Capitol is unique in that it both typifies the beginning and also marks the growth of the Nation. Like the great Gothic cathedrals of Europe, its surprising merit is not its completeness but its aspirations."

And I may add that it is notable also in that as it has grown, the new work has never entailed the destruction of the old, except for Bulfinch's little dome, and that recently all its growth has been in widening rings outside itself. From the historical point of view it is amazing that any architect should wish to start the destruction now.

The Death Sentence.

The present bill before Congress makes destruction mandatory. It does not create a committee of Congress to study and report, but a committee which, with the aid of the Architect of the Capitol and such architectural advisers as it may choose, shall proceed to the extension of the eastern front "in substantial accordance with either scheme A or scheme B" of Carrère and Hastings' studies, and the substitution of marble for the original sandstone. Regardless of whether aesthetic or utilitarian gains are to be had from the proposed changes, it is certain that all the exterior stone work of Thornton, Latrobe and Bulfinch is irrevocably doomed to destruction once the bill becomes law. That is incapable. The form may be retained, on the west at least, but new stone of a different character will be substituted for the original work throughout.

And All for What?

What are the gains that could warrant such a sacrifice? Those claimed are three: 1. Provision of a visible support for the scarcely visible projection of the skirting of the dome; 2. Substitution of marble for painted sandstone, as a more durable material and to make the central portion match the wings; and 3. Provision of extra committee rooms within the building and, if the extension be brought

far enough eastward, a gallery on the third floor connecting the new House and Senate wings.

In all the hearings, the proponents of the change have emphasized the fact that increased internal space is not a primary incentive, but a secondary desideratum. It is, however, the factor which to many architects might seem decisive. But before undertaking such a change most architects would wish to know how much space was needed and where it would be most useful. So far as we know, no thorough study of these matters has been made, and none is contemplated under the terms of the bill, which calls for extension only according to a predetermined plan. If added space is vital, it is not at all impossible that it could be found by internal reorganization without any extension, or by removing some of the subsidiary activities outside the building, as has been done when space was needed heretofore. Or if room cannot be found within the present walls, it might be possible to extend Walter's wings to the east or to make additions to the north and south of his work in such manner as to be practically invisible from the front. The alteration would then be to the newest and least interesting, rather than to the oldest part of the building. If the corridor in the upper story, seemingly of use chiefly to members of the press gallery, were necessary, it might be added with less disfigurement on the west side than on the east. But no such alternatives, or any others, can be considered by the terms of the bill.

Major Operations for Minor Ills.

Again if the "overhang of the dome" is intolerable to those who know about it, it could be cared for by simply bringing forward the face of the wall beneath, under the portico, reducing the depth of the latter to 20 feet; or the whole portico, or simply the central part of it could be brought forward 12 feet, using the same material and leaving Thornton's and Latrobe's work untouched. But no such alternatives can be considered by the terms of the bill. Aesthetically such moderate changes, though hardly warranted, would undoubtedly be preferable to moving the whole facade eastward, for as Carrère and Hastings emphasized, moving the facade lessens the depth of the shallow court, and moving it 40 feet, as is contemplated, would almost wholly destroy the court. Even an appreciable eastward movement of the portico alone, would somewhat

diminish the present unity of the central mass rising from ground to dome.

The Dream of Marble Halls.

The substitution of marble obviously admits of no alternative except to preserve the old painted sandstone. This change is the one, perhaps the only one, which might have general popular appeal, for there is no denying that marble is the more expensive material. But aesthetically, as well as historically, there would be a loss rather than a gain. For Thornton's detail is much more interesting than Walter's, yet it is sandstone detail and could hardly be copied in marble without losing its effect, as one can hardly copy pine furniture in rosewood without absurdity. If marble is to be used, marble detail should be adopted, as Carrère and Hastings planned, thus making Walter's wings in all respects the oldest instead of the newest parts of the Capitol.

The change of material would entail an even more serious aesthetic consequence. The dome is of iron, painted; it will always be so. At present the substructure from which it grows is also painted, and there is unity of color and texture throughout the central mass, the wings being frankly appended units. If the central portion be made of the same material as the wings the effect will be quite different. There will be then an extraordinarily long low marble building, ten times as wide as it is high, on top of which the dome, of another color and texture and twice as high as the walls below, will rest. The unfortunate appearance of the result need hardly be stressed.

My capacity in The Institute is primarily concerned with history. Yet, as an architect, I realize that historical values must be sacrificed sometimes to aesthetics and aesthetics to utility. But these necessities must be very compelling to warrant such sacrifice in the case of so rare a monument as the Capitol. At present no major utilitarian necessities are advanced, and aesthetically, the changes seem bound to produce a loss rather than a gain. To sacrifice the present very beautiful composition which embodies the history of American architecture, simply to make it more academically correct, or just for a love of marble, seems to me frankly a piece of parvenue vandalism. If this be Architecture, then Architecture in America is not the goddess I have thought her, but a hussy who would swap her honor for a new spring hat.

CHAPTERS AND OFFICERS

PRESIDENTS (*) AND SECRETARIES (†) LISTED AS OF April 30, 1937

- ALABAMA**—*Moreland Griffith Smith, 40½ Commerce Street, Montgomery, Ala.; †Henderson L. Holman, Jr., 58 Newton St., Ozark, Ala.
- ALBANY**—*Gilbert L. Van Auken, Delmar, N. Y.; †August Lux, 100 State Street, Albany, N. Y.
- ARKANSAS**—*Harry Wanger, 1816 Donaghey Bldg., Little Rock, Ark.; †Lawson L. Delony, 2407 Louisiana St., Little Rock, Ark.
- BALTIMORE**—*D. K. Este Fisher, Jr., 1012 North Calvert St., Baltimore, Md.; †Francis H. Jencks, 118 West Mulberry St., Baltimore, Md.
- BOSTON**—*Henry R. Shepley, 122 Ames Bldg., Boston, Mass.; †Stanley E. Davidson, 185 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass.
- BROOKLYN**—*Stephen W. Dodge, 198 Broadway, New York, N. Y.; †Ralph M. Rice, 655 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.
- BUFFALO**—*Paul H. Harbach, 506 Franklin St., Buffalo, N. Y.; †Roswell E. Pfohl, 204 W. Huron St., Buffalo, N. Y.
- CENTRAL ILLINOIS**—*E. L. Stonuffer, 258 Administration Bldg., Urbana, Ill.; †F. M. Lescher, 804 Architecture Bldg., Urbana, Ill.
- CENTRAL NEW YORK**—*Conway L. Todd, 815 Alexander St., Rochester, N. Y.; †Walter V. Wiard, 315 Alexander St., Rochester, N. Y.
- CHICAGO**—*John O. Merrill, 338 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.; †Carl E. Heimbrodt, 20 No. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill.
- CINCINNATI**—*H. P. Van Arsdale, 1024 Dixie Terminal Building, Cincinnati, Ohio; †George F. Roth, Jr., University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- CLEVELAND**—*A. C. Robinson, National City Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio; †J. Elmer Reeb, 1508 Terminal Tower, Cleveland, Ohio.
- COLORADO**—*Frank W. Frewen, 1015 Midland Savings Bldg., Denver, Colo.; †R. Ewing Stiffler, 816 12th St., Denver, Colo.
- COLUMBUS**—*Kyle W. Armstrong, 203 East Broad St., Columbus, Ohio; †Ralph Chas. Kempton, 50 West Broad St., Columbus, Ohio.
- CONNECTICUT**—*Charles Seranton Palmer, 75 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.; †Herbert Gibson, Jr., 904 Main St., Hartford, Conn.
- DAYTON**—*Chifford C. Brown, 1129 Reibold Bldg., Dayton, Ohio; †Geo. T. Neuffer, 437 Ludlow Arcade, Dayton, Ohio.
- DELAWARE**—*E. William Martin, du Pont Bldg., Wilmington, Del.; †Albert Kruse, 212 Gilpin Ave., Wilmington, Del.
- DETROIT**—*Alvin E. Harley, 1507 Stroh Bldg., Detroit, Mich.; †N. Chester Sorensen, 2201 Industrial Bank Bldg., Detroit, Mich.
- EASTERN OHIO**—*Wm. H. Cook, 33 North Hazel St., Youngstown, Ohio; †Ella M. Keppel, 506 Second National Bank Bldg., Warren, Ohio.
- FLORIDA CENTRAL**—*Geo. Foote Dunham, P. O. Box 205, Orlando, Fla.; †Frank A. Parsiale, 412 Robertson Bldg., Ocala, Fla.
- FLORIDA NORTH**—*H. J. Klutho, 2980 Main St., Jacksonville, Fla.; †Lee Roy Sheftall, 305 Main St., Jacksonville, Fla.
- FLORIDA SOUTH**—*Phineas E. Paist, 1136 Ingraham Bldg., Miami, Fla.; †George H. Spohn, 980 Seybold Bldg., Miami, Fla.
- GEORGIA**—*Samuel I. Cooper, 827-30 Forsyth Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.; †J. Warren Armistead, Jr., 1330 Candier Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.
- GRAND RAPIDS**—*Harry L. Mead, 901 Michigan Trust Bldg., Grand Rapids, Mich.; †John P. Baker, 702 Building and Loan Building, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- HAWAII**—*Charles W. Dickey, 405 Damon Bldg., Honolulu, T. H.; †Raymond L. Morris, 300 Boston Bldg., Honolulu, T. H.
- INDIANA**—*Walter Scholer, 801 Painters and Decorators Bldg., Lafayette, Ind.; †John R. Kelley, 1034 Architects & Builders Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.
- IOWA**—*Edwin H. Wetherell, 506 Shops Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa;
- KANSAS CITY**—*A. W. Archer, 916 Pioneer Trust Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.; †Maurice Carroll, 1320 E. A. Long Building, Kansas City, Mo.
- KANSAS**—*Arthur R. Mann, 721 Wiley Bldg., Hutchinson, Kan.; †Raymond A. Coolidge, 1178 Fillmore St., Topeka, Kan.
- KENTUCKY**—*Thomas J. Nolan, 311 Kentucky Home Life Bldg., Louisville, Ky.; †Ossian P. Ward, 1002 Washington Bldg., Louisville, Ky.
- LOUISIANA**—*F. Julius Dreyfous, 600 Maison Blanche Bldg., New Orleans, La.; †H. Mortimer Favrot, 401-2 Nola Bldg., New Orleans, La.
- MADISON**—*Arthur Peabody, State Capitol, Madison, Wis.; †Edward J. Law, First Central Building, Madison, Wis.
- MAINE**—*John P. Thomas, 537 Congress St., Portland, Me.; †Josiah T. Tubby, 537 Congress St., Portland, Me.
- MINNESOTA**—*Louis B. Bersback, 702 Wesley Temple Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.; †Edwin W. Kraft, 715 Rand Tower, Minneapolis, Minn.
- MISSISSIPPI**—*Frank P. Gates, 601 Millsaps Bldg., Jackson, Miss.; †Robert J. Moor, Box 507, Greenwood, Miss.
- MONTANA**—*Fred A. Brinkman, Kalispell, Mont.; †W. R. Flew, Bozeman, Mont.
- NEBRASKA**—*Linus Burr Smith, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr.; †N. R. Brigham, 5404 Western Ave., Omaha, Nebr.
- NEW JERSEY**—*Kenneth W. Dalsell, 41 Maple St., Summit, N. J.; †Clement W. Fairweather, Metuchen, N. J.
- NEW YORK**—*Hobart B. Upjohn, 5952 Grand Central Terminal, New York, N. Y.; †Frederick G. Frost, 144 East 30th St., New York, N. Y.
- NORTH CAROLINA**—*Walter W. Hook, 1205 Commercial Bank Bldg., Charlotte, N. C.; †Erie G. Stillwell, Hendersonville, N. C.
- NORTH LOUISIANA**—*Edward F. Nellid, Shreveport, La.; †Seymour Van Os, (Acting) Ricou Brewster Building, Shreveport, La.
- NORTH TEXAS**—*Walter C. Sharp, 707 Construction Bldg., Dallas, Tex.; †Geo. L. Dahl, Insurance Bldg., Dallas, Tex.
- NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**—*Will G. Corlett, 1801 Bank of America Bldg., Oakland, Calif.; †James H. Mitchell, 369 Pine St., San Francisco, Calif.
- NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**—*G. Wesley Stickie, 227-3 Commerce Bldg., Erie, Pa.; †J. Howard Hicks, 124 W. 7th St., Erie, Pa.
- OKLAHOMA**—*Joseph Edgar Smay, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla.; †Leonard H. Bailey, Colcord Bldg., Oklahoma City, Okla.
- OREGON**—*Leslie D. Howell, 404 U. S. National Bank Bldg., Portland, Ore.; †John T. Schneider, 1009 Spalding Bldg., Portland, Ore.
- PHILADELPHIA**—*Walter T. Karcher, 1520 Locust St., Philadelphia, Pa.; †Roy F. Larson, Architects' Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.
- PITTSBURGH**—*Raymond M. Marlier, Empire Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.; †Ralph M. Reutti, 5941 Baum Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa.
- RHODE ISLAND**—*Wallis E. Howe, 1014 Turks Head Bldg., Providence, R. I.; †J. Peter Geddes, II, 840 Hospital Trust Bldg., Providence, R. I.
- SAN DIEGO**—*Frank L. Hope, Jr., Bank of America Bldg., San Diego, Calif.; †Sam W. Hamill, Bank of America Bldg., San Diego, Calif.
- SANTA BARBARA**—*William A. Edwards, 116 E. de la Guerra St., Santa Barbara, Calif.; †Ralph W. Armitage, 235 West Victoria St., Santa Barbara, Calif.
- SCRANTON-WILKES-BARRE**—*Searle H. Von Storch, Waverly, Pa.; †Arthur P. Coon, Union Bank Bldg., Scranton, Pa.
- SOUTH CAROLINA**—*J. Whitney Cunningham, 2 Pierson Bldg., Sumter, S. C.; †G. Thomas Harmon, III, Valley Road, Hartsville, S. C.
- SOUTH GEORGIA**—*Henrik Wallin, 408 East Bay St., Savannah, Ga.; †Percy Sugden, 125 East 49th St., Savannah, Ga.
- SOUTH TEXAS**—*Addison Stayton Nunn, 212 Scanlan Building, Houston, Texas; †James Ira Campbell, 6481 Main Street, Houston, Texas.
- SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**—*Ralph C. Fiewelling, 614 Architects Bldg., Los Angeles, Calif.; †George J. Adams, 818 West 8th St., Los Angeles, Calif.
- SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA**—*John Hunter, Jr., 3601 8th Ave., Altoona, Pa.; †James W. Minick, 506 North Second St., Harrisburg, Pa.
- ST. LOUIS**—*Benedict Farrar, 1367 Arcade Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.; †Arthur E. Koelle, 318 N. 8th St., St. Louis, Mo.
- ST. PAUL**—*Stirling Horner, 715-360 Robert St., St. Paul, Minn.; †Roy H. Haslund, 1509 Pioneer Bldg., St. Paul, Minn.
- TENNESSEE**—*Jos. W. Hart, 602 Hitchcock Bldg., Nashville, Tenn.; †H. C. Parrent, Jr., American Trust Bldg., Nashville, Tenn.
- TOLEDO**—*John N. Richards, 518 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, Ohio; †Mark E. Stophlet, Security Bank Bldg., Toledo, Ohio.
- UTAH**—*John Fetzer, 506 Templeton Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah; †Leslie Hodgson, Eccles Bldg., Ogden, Utah.
- VIRGINIA**—*M. C. Lee, Federal Housing Administration, American Bank Bldg., Richmond, Va.; †W. R. Crowe, 610 Kruse Bldg., Lynchburg, Va.
- WASHINGTON, D. C.**—*Frederick V. Murphy, 1413 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.; †E. Philip Schreier, 1517 H St. N. W., Washington, D. C.
- WASHINGTON STATE**—*L. E. Gowen, 304 Textile Tower, Seattle, Washington; †William Bain, 814 Textile Tower, Seattle, Washington.
- WEST TEXAS**—*Carleton W. Adams, Insurance Bldg., San Antonio, Tex.; †Bartlett Coeks, Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Tex.
- WEST VIRGINIA**—*C. C. Wood, (Acting) Lowndes Bldg., Clarksburg, W. Va.; †C. E. Silling, Box 851, Charleston, W. Va.
- WESTCHESTER**—*Kenneth K. Stowell, 28 Tanglewilde Ave., Bronxville, New York; †Robert H. Scannell, 80 Palmer Ave., Bronxville, New York.
- WISCONSIN**—*William G. Herbst, 1249 North Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.; †Alexander C. Guth, 1249 North Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

