

ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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THE MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects will be held at the Architects Club, Chicago, on the evening of March 27.

The Society's guest for the evening will be Professor Thomas E. O'Donnell of the University of Illinois, who will discuss "Early Architecture of the Old Northwest from Ohio to Illinois." The lecturer will make use of a very large selection of lantern slides.

Every member of the Society is urged to attend. Be sure and make dinner reservations for yourself and guests.

THE BUILDING SITUATION

March opens with the building situation just about as it was reported in our January issue—only more so.

The volume of contracts awarded in the Chicago territory is diminishing. Inquiry of many architects' offices indicates that there is but little work in contemplation that will probably be proceeded with. A visit to the permit divisions of the various departments of the City Hall having to do with building construction discloses the fact that but few plans are being filed. The permit clerks volunteer the information that there are less plans being filed than since the World War.

The Editor still maintains that any owner needing new construction will find it to his economic advantage to proceed with construction at an early date. Building costs are lower now than they have been for many years and until

the entire industry has been reorganized, it is difficult to find any reason why average building costs can be materially lower than they are today, unless the building trades mechanics volunteer a very material reduction in their wage rate, which is, of course, improbable and unthinkable.

To illustrate the spirit of pessimism that prevails in certain directions, the Editor while calling on the president of a Chicago bank a few days ago overheard a telephone conversation which will illustrate the point.

It was evident that a large customer of the bank was negotiating a loan by 'phone and was offering as collateral a number of high grade listed stocks and apparently wanted to learn how much he could secure on these stocks as collateral. The bank president told him that they would loan up to 60% of the quoted value of these particular stocks and said "that in his opinion that the selling value of all listed stocks might and undoubtedly would be lower within the next three months by at least thirty points and that the bank insisted on having at least a ten-point margin beyond the point at which he believed the price of stocks might recede."

This is only another illustration of how the business, as well as the prosperity of the nation, is primarily in the control of our banking system. But few business men will proceed with plant extensions or business enlargements without discussing the matter with their own banker, as in most cases they must secure additional financial support, and when the bankers of America are as pessimistic regarding the near future as the president of the bank above quoted, What Price Prosperity?

ARCHITECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The December 1927 Bulletin of the Illinois Society of Architects published a quotation from an article by A. T. North in the November issue of the Western Architect, entitled "The Passing Show," in which he damned to the lowest depths of Hades, Mr. Platt's design for the new Gymnasium at the University of Illinois. So utterly condemnatory was Mr. North's criticisms of this very dignified and efficient building, that I was compelled to carefully read his entire article mentioned above just to see what he was driving at.

It is difficult for a mere architect to understand Mr. North's point of view as he condemns the A. I. A., the Beaux Arts Institute of Design and the entire system of architectural education in America. It is all wrong so why discuss it? In view of the fact that since the War the Royal Institute of British Architects has been sending its traveling scholars to the United States, instead of to Greece and Rome as heretofore, and that France, the most conservative of European countries, is now sending many of her sons to study architecture in America, not only we but Europe also is wrong which brings up again the much-mooted question—"Who did win the War?"

Mr. North writes as an alumnus of the great University of Illinois, "located on our finest prairies," but does he ever think of the people who crossed the mountains under almost super-human difficulties to settle in the prairie country and build up the civilization of which we Middle-Westerners are so justly proud? If I read history correctly these pioneer forefathers of ours came mostly from those families who had settled and built up New England and made the United States a possibility. Being human, they loved and cherished their traditions and taught their children to love them. It is true life in Illinois is very different from life in New England but our traditions and human instincts

are the same. It was the New England belief in education which brought about the establishment of those State Universities which have grown to be the strongest forces in our educational life.

When the University of Illinois cast off its swaddling clothes and began to be the great institution it now is, the ugliness of the hodge-podge of buildings scattered at random over the prairies became depressing to the popular mind and a change was demanded. At that time Professor James M. White, who has given his life to the highest development of the University of Illinois, was as he is still, University Architect. To Professor White was entrusted the task of attempting to co-ordinate the buildings already standing and work out a plan for the future growth of the University which should be beautiful, efficient and true to the best traditions of America. Mr. White devoted some years of study to the consideration of his problem before taking any definite action. Having convinced himself and the Governing Body of the University that the best type of building, in a country where stone is scarce and expensive was the Georgian or Colonial style, a style capable of great diversity of expression and of inexpensive materials but a style which had been used by the first builders of this country and has become more closely identified with American history and American traditions than any other. The Board of Trustees, at Professor White's suggestion, called into consultation Mr. Charles A. Platt of New York City who has done more than any other living architect to preserve and develop Georgian Architecture in America. Together these two men have worked out a scheme for the whole future development of the University and the new Gymnasium is one of the integral parts of this scheme. Other buildings which have already been erected in this style are the Library, the Commerce Building, the Agricultural Building, the Architectural Building, the Stadium and the completion of the Armory. The scale of these buildings is so large and so free that any one of them would be utterly out of place in any New England community; there is nothing feminine (Mr. North calls it "lady-like") about any of them. They are big and vigorous and, which is best of all, they are refined in the way we want our big, vigorous American youth to be refined. Let us hope that the University of Illinois, in spite of captious criticisms from garrulous alumni, may continue to uphold that fine American tradition which it has started out to express in its buildings until the whole great western campus is completed giving to the youth of the State a living example of architectural harmony and dignity.

ALFRED GRANGER, F.A.I.A.

THE BAR ASSOCIATIONS WAKE UP

The right of banks and trust companies to engage in the practice of law is questioned in disbarment proceedings brought in the Illinois Supreme Court recently by the Illinois State Bar Association and the Bar Association of Chicago.

It is asked that a certain prominent Chicago bank be cited and forbidden to collect fees for legal services performed by its attorneys and that all other banks and trust companies be similarly enjoined.

The object of the proceedings is to break up a practice which has recently rapidly developed in financial institutions of having their lawyers perform services in connection with customers' transactions.

The efforts of the Bar Associations will be followed by architects with considerable interest in view of the quite recent growing practice of architects to incorporate their businesses. While the Supreme Court of the State has ruled that a corporation as such may contract to supply the services of a registered architect or engineer and may collect the fees for such services, yet the court holds that the corporation as such is not responsible for the actions of the architect or engineer who actually performs the services.

It might be noted that in connection with another profession—that of medicine and surgery—that most hospitals are incorporated. But—who ever heard of a hospital rendering a bill for the personal services of a physician or sur-

geon, or who ever heard of a hospital as such writing a prescription or assuming any responsibility to anyone occupying any of its wards? The physician in charge is the only one recognized to be responsible, and everyone who has had any experience knows that the individual physician is the one who always renders a bill for his professional services. It is never the hospital.

The wisdom of forming corporations to render professional services is a most questionable one. Instances may be pointed out where the office employees of nationally known and successful architects, recently deceased, have incorporated, using the name of the dead in their corporate name in an evident attempt to give the impression to prospective clients that the same kind of service would be given as was formerly given by the master.

The Editor believes that this practice is exceedingly questionable from an ethical standpoint, and that the forming of corporations to do professional work is bad professionalism. In the very nature of things, any professional service is a personal service and personal service cannot be rendered by such an intangible entity as a corporation.

What do our readers think about this?

The Chicago Daily Tribune in commenting upon the petition of the Bar Association says:

"The petition is interesting as revealing the somewhat antiquated attitude of the bar, if not of all lawyers, toward their profession. This attitude is not shared outside the profession. The ordinary man feels, and rightly, that he is in better hands when dealing with an established bank than in going to some lawyer with whom he is acquainted or to whom he has been recommended. We believe the public interest would be served if law firms were incorporated like other business establishments. In this way the formation of stable houses, with excellent traditions, would be encouraged, and the man in need of legal services would be in a better way to get what he needs promptly and at a cost commensurate with the service."

If the suggestion of the Tribune should finally become a general practice, the same procedure would undoubtedly be followed by other professions so that in time individual personal service in any profession would be a thing unheard of.

Having in mind the rapidly extending functions of the various departments of national, state and city government, when today it is pointed out that one family out of each fourteen is supported directly by salaries or wages received from some department of the government, it will not be very long before everybody will be employed either by a governmental agency or by corporations.

It might be a good idea to incorporate the entire architectural profession and give everybody a salary, and if every architect received a salary in proportion to what he was actually worth to the community, it is quite probable that some architects now supporting expensive cars and winter homes in Florida, would be living in a kitchenette apartment and driving a "flivver."

SUPERVISING CONSTRUCTION

The following communications from three of the most prominent and well-known members of the Illinois Society of Architects should be read by every member of the Society:

February 3, 1928.

Mr. F. E. Davidson,
53 W. Jackson Blvd.,
Chicago.

My Dear Davidson:

I have read over the article on the rear page of the Bulletin relative to supervising construction. It makes me smile.

It might be a first rate scheme to make the contractor pay for any delays, but I think it should work both ways and if the contractor could match up the delays in finishing his building with the delays he, himself, has in following up his work due to architect's failure in furnishing proper drawings, details, and information promptly, the chances are the balance would be in favor of the contractor rather

than the architect in a great many cases. I think the contractor has a real grievance on the score of incomplete drawings and specifications and unreliable information for which the architect, himself, is responsible.

I am not much in sympathy with the desire of a great many architects to find pegs on which to hang some extra charges. In truth, the service which a large proportion of the profession renders is mighty well paid for. If the time was devoted to discovering ways and means to render the client a real service, to get value received for the money he spends, it would be much better employed.

Yours truly,

J. C. Llewellyn.

February 4, 1928.

Editor, Monthly Bulletin:

I read with interest the article regarding "Supervising Construction" in the January, 1928, issue of the Monthly Bulletin.

I am heartily in sympathy with the proposition that definite provision should be made for architects to be reimbursed their expenses when completion of an operation is delayed for reasons beyond their control.

Concretely, I make the following comments on the suggested paragraph entitled, "Delayed Completion," which appeared in the January 17th Weekly Bulletin, "Michigan Society of Architects":

- (1) Architect should be reimbursed his additional expenses but he should be paid therefor by the owner and not the contractor. The contractor should be charged by the owner for what he, the owner, pays the architect due to delayed completion, except, however, when extensions of time of completion are granted which are due to the fault of the owner or architect. The owner and not the contractor should bear the architect's expenses of delay due to such causes as strikes, fire, unseasonable weather, etc., or for additional work. The owner is the one who benefits by the work contracted for and should bear all costs of such risks or additional work.
- (2) Recommend charge to be two and not two and one-half times architect's payroll. To stipulate two and one-half times indicates that either exact costs are actually known, or that it is a bargain price. It is unwise for an architect to profit from such circumstances, or even appear avaricious: the basic idea should be to reimburse the architect for all of his actual expenses, but nothing more.
- (3) The paragraph in question should be incorporated in "General Conditions to the Contract" and "Professional Practice of Architects" so that owner as well as contractor will understand the arrangement and both agree to same.

Very truly yours,

Richard E. Schmidt.

February 10, 1928.

To the Editor:

In regard to the article in the January "Bulletin" on the question of value of architect's services for superintending, I am inclined to say let well enough alone.

The ratio of proportional value of the architect's subdivided work is quite good and on the whole very equitable and has become well established. The man who wants more for his supervision probably would not be willing to allow nearly as much if there were to be no supervision.

It is only an occasional job where the time of completion of a building is unnecessarily prolonged, and even then probably the architect is much to blame, for it is always to the builder's benefit to finish his work promptly.

I certainly would take exception to the proposal as reported from Mr. Sukert of Michigan, for one of the strongest points in the ethics of our profession is that the architect shall not receive remuneration from the contractor. If the building has been unduly delayed I consider the architect has a legitimate claim of extras against his client. Then

the client can, if he wishes, include this item against the contractor.

However, the small loss the architect sometimes has to stand on account of delays is not sufficient to warrant the risk of displeasing his client or agitating the contractor. Far better charge it to profit and loss on your books and watch the next job a little closer.

I think the architect is quite prone to overlook his own errors in not completely cooperating with the contractor. We delay furnishing all the necessary working details promptly, or do not follow up closely enough with the several items that may not be included in the General Contract, and in this way are often directly the cause of serious delays. What would happen if the contractor should charge the architect for delays that he is directly responsible for and which is so often the case?

The contractor certainly has his troubles. Why add to them?

Respectfully submitted,

H. B. Wheelock.

The American Contractor of February 11 contains an editorial on the same matter, which we quote in full:

"The Michigan Society of Architects are considering ways and means of increasing their compensation, particularly in the event the contractor fails to complete the work within the time specified. A suggestion along this line is given by Lancelot Sukert, writing in the Bulletin of the Michigan Society. He suggests a clause in contracts which would provide that in the event the building is not completed within the time set, the contractor shall reimburse the architect for supervisory services to the extent of 2½ times the architect's payroll and shall further pay the architect for all expenses incurred due to the additional time required for such services.

"The chief feature of Mr. Sukert's suggested clause is the fact that he assumes that all delays are due to the contractor. In fact, he goes further by inserting in the proposed clause the following: 'Hereafter (completion date), any supervisory services rendered by the architect shall be considered as made necessary by the negligence of the contractor.'

"The unfairness of such a view is manifest when it is remembered that 75 per cent of delays in building construction can be traced either to architect's or owner's changes; inadequate plans and misinformation contained in plans. Evidently the proponent of this clause would have the contractor pay the architect even for his (the architect's), own mistakes.

"But aside from the above, would it not be just as fair to make the architect pay the contractor when a delay is made in completing a project due to changes in plans, unknown soil conditions or one of the dozens of things that are not the fault of the contractor who must bear the expense?

"On the whole the suggestion of Mr. Sukert may be classed with such clauses as:

"The work covered by this specification will be as called for by the plans and be for a complete job, whether shown on the plans or not."

"All materials and labor, whether specifically or not designated, shall be provided by the contractor."

"And dozens of other absorbing sections that make the contracting business an interesting one."

THE AMERICAN CONTRACTOR IS AGAIN RIGHT

"Twenty-one general contractors were recently asked to submit proposals based on a set of plans and specifications which upon analysis show that 40 alternates are provided for and specifically mentioned. Some of the 21 contractors will certainly be good hearted enough to furnish the architect responsible for these plans and specifications the cost data that he so evidently is anxious to get.

"The project valuation, roughly guessed at, would not range far from \$100,000, and roughly guessing at a proposal and then filing that proposal in the safe would be about

the proper thing for a contractor to do with regard to this project.

"Among the first several alternates called for are the substitutions of cast stone for Bedford stone, metal cornice for stone cornice, steel joists for concrete joists on either the first or second floor or both and the omission of stone quoins from all windows.

"Such substitutions and alternates necessitate, of course, the redesigning of the building, not only structurally, but architecturally, if any contractor is determined to put in a bid that is at all intelligent. It is clear on the face of matters that the architect has little or no intention of awarding a contract on the basis of bids submitted from such plans and specifications. What he asks for is cost data and it may be inferred with reason that once he gets this cost data he will have enough confidence to sit down and design a structure that will come within the appropriation of his client.

"There is no sin in an architect needing cost data and having a deep desire for a comparative analysis of the costs of various designs. Ignorance of specific costs is not rare even among the best of architects. It is the unfair, uneconomic and underhanded method that is used by this architect to get his information that rouses the editorial ire in this flagrant case. How much better, simpler and honest would it not be if the architect in question called in a good responsible contractor from among those he knows and ask for his cooperation. The data that he needs could be expeditiously given him with a minimum of effort, waste and expense. The architect would learn the value of the service a contractor could render, and by all rights the architect should pay for that service.

"Instead of thus efficiently securing his information in a businesslike manner, the architect intends to put 21 general contractors to the expense of figuring his 40 alternatives, redesigning his building in at least a dozen ways, wearing out the patience of from one to three hundred subcontractors and material firms and altogether to saddle the industry with an overhead that, estimated conservatively, will equal many times the amount of any possible profit that might reside in the job if it went ahead. We ask you, is this architect clever?"—**The American Contractor.**

The Editor will now tell one:

Recently a representative of one of the very prominent sub-trades in Chicago told the writer that their concern had been requested by seventeen different general contractors to submit preliminary estimates on a speculative apartment hotel that was contemplated in the new North Side Apartment district.

He further volunteered the information that an examination of the architect's plans disclosed that they were in a most preliminary state. There were no specifications accompanying the plans and an inquiry disclosed that proposals were being solicited to arrive at the approximate cost in order that a loan might be negotiated. That as a matter of fact, while these bids were solicited some weeks ago, the project has not yet been financed and in all probability the building will never be constructed.

Can our readers realize the absolute economic waste in connection with such practices?

To prepare an intelligent estimate of the cost of the project meant a cost to each of the general contractors of at least \$500.00. The cost of preparing all of the various sub-bids which each general contractor must necessarily have secured (based upon custom, it is probable that each general contractor secured from three to five bids on each subtrade), it would be safe to estimate that the cost of preparing these preliminary estimates for the information of this alleged architect could have been not less than \$20,000.00.

Any experienced architect can estimate the cost of any structure designed under his general direction within a limit of from 5% to 10%, and these figures should be accurate enough for financing purposes; in view of the fact that every loan broker and every financial institution making building loans have their own valuation committee—usually composed of an architect or engineer, a builder and

a real estate man, who prepare their own estimate of the cost of the structure independent of any figure submitted by Architect or Owner.

Of course, the building industry as a whole must carry this burden. The man who actually builds must help pay the cost of such unbusinesslike and unprofessional practices. Is it any wonder that in some quarters the average architect is held in disrepute?

If the average architect would occasionally use his head and conduct his professional business along business lines, building costs might be considerably reduced. Remember, that the owner who actually builds must pay his share of the cost of all blunders and unbusinesslike practices.

A NEW ONE

Architects specializing in speculative work are, of course, familiar with the requirements of the recent state law regarding the equity which must be pledged as security for mortgage loans.

In order to swell the paper value of the security, statements showing value of land, cost of improvements, etc., includes a minimum of 6% for the Architect, which is, of course, as it should be, if the architect was receiving 6%, but an instance had been reported where the dumb architect for a two million dollar project actually agreed to prepare sufficient plans to secure a building permit for a fee of less than two thousand dollars.

How about the ethics in this instance and who profited? In cases where the architect was actually employed to prepare complete plans and specifications and supply complete supervision at the minimum fee recommended by the Institute, why should he not be paid in full as well as the contractor who actually constructs the building?

The Editor is advised that recently bond houses have insisted that before a loan was approved that the Architect execute a formal waiver of lien for all services performed or to be performed, and have suggested that it is up to the Architect to make a new agreement with the owner for such fees as he can get. In some cases the only recompense the Architect could secure at all was to accept third mortgage paper, which is of questionable value and may never be paid.

After all, why dwell on this particular phase of architectural practice if the Architect is not business man enough to protect himself? If he finds after laboring for weeks or months on speculative projects putting his working capital, as well as off-times his life savings into the expense of getting a big job out, only to find that he is holding the bag, he certainly has no one to blame but himself. It is well known that there are many real estate operators who encourage this sort of thing and after literally bankrupting a young architect by the production of unproductive sketches, estimates, etc., are always able to find another sucker.

What many architects really need today is not more business, but a guardian. There is enough of real architectural work to keep the entire profession employed at a living income if all buildings and structures were designed and built in accordance with the laws of the state, if all architects received for service performed the minimum fee recommended by the Society and the Institute.

Much has appeared in the recent architectural press regarding free plans. The item of so-called free plans is inconsequential to the item of free professional services or professional services not rendered, but which is supposed to be rendered by the requirements of the statutes of the state.

CHICAGO RETAIL LUMBER DEALERS ASSOCIATION

The general acceptance of American Standard lumber sizes by the lumber industry has made considerable difference in the loads that may safely be imposed upon joists and beams because of the changes in actual sizes to which lumber is now manufactured.

Safe loads based on the strength values in the Chicago Building Code and the actual sizes then being furnished were published in table form in the 1919 edition of the

Illinois Society of Architects Handbook. These tables have been recalculated for actual sizes now being furnished and are available in blue print form by application to the Chicago Retail Lumber Dealers Association, 30 North La Salle Street, telephone Randolph 6873.

Chicago Architects have already taken advantage of the many kinds of service made available to them by the retail lumber dealers of Chicago. The value of the service, however, depends largely upon what the Architects make it. The specification of a species and grade of lumber that will effectively serve its intended function has not, in the past, been made easy for the specification writers, nor have Architects always been convinced they were getting what was specified. Unforeseen difficulties occasionally have arisen some time after a building has been completed and occupied and have caused some dissatisfaction.

The service made available to Architects by the Chicago Retail Lumber Dealers Association is intended to minimize all of these difficulties and will be extended to include other phases of lumber specification and use as developed by the demands of Architects.

Cooperation is now available in the following major subjects:

Preparation of specifications for lumber so that the most suitable species and grade may be specified.

Lot inspection on jobs under construction so that an opinion may be given whether the lumber as a whole is suitable for the purpose.

Complaint inspections to determine the reason for dissatisfaction in buildings completed and occupied.

Construction information service. Intended for the unusual job or use.

Architects are urged to submit subjects or problems for research or to make suggestions as to ways of making this service more valuable to them.

ANOTHER WAY

A reading of the transcript of the testimony given in a recent trial in the courts of Cook County would seem to indicate that there is more than one way for an architect to secure needed working capital other than to insist upon payment for services rendered as the work progresses or to marry a wealthy woman.

In the case above referred to, it appears that the architect was commissioned to prepare plans and specifications for a very large undertaking and evidently finding himself short of the needed cash to meet his payrolls, office rent, and other items of overhead, called in a leading contractor in each branch of work and solicited a cash donation of approximately 10% of the cost of his branch of work, explaining to the contractors that he needed the money in order not only to cover his own expenses in connection with the job, etc., and promising each of the contractors, "who came across" that when the contracts were awarded that he, the architect, would see to it that the contractor so donating would receive the contract for his branch of the work, and that he could add the sum donated to what his bid would be under ordinary conditions.

As Barnum well said, "There is a sucker born every minute," and a number of contractors fell for this particular project, but when the contracts were awarded, the architect forgot his promise with the result that he was sued for the funds so donated or advanced. The result of the particular trial in question being that the court found against the architect and the contractors recovered their money.

A COMMITTEE OF THE HOLE

Recently a committee of the City Council of the City of Chicago was appointed to investigate why there were so many holes in the pavements of the boulevards and streets of Chicago. This committee wants to know what has become of the millions that are annually collected from owners of automobiles, which, under the law, is supposed to be used for the maintenance of the pavements of the city.

Recently, a radio announcer mentioned that a certain well-known boulevard was as a whole in good condition. He probably meant that this driveway as a "hole" was in good condition.

If the Committee of the "Hole" can locate the hole where this vast sum of money was holed up, their efforts will be worth while. Anyone familiar with the boulevards and streets of Chicago knows that they are rapidly deteriorating and in general, may be termed a "series of holes."

The approximately five million dollars annually collected on the wheel tax should fill at least a million holes.

ENFORCING THE ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION ACT

The attorney for the Illinois Society at the request of the Public Action Committee addressed the following letter to the Corporation Counsel of the City of Highland Park:

"Mr. Bowen E. Schumacher,
Corporation Counsel for the
City of Highland Park,
112 West Adams Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

My Dear Mr. Schumacher:

The Public Action Committee of the Illinois Society of Architects has requested me, as its counsel, to express my opinion in connection with the position taken by your Honorable Mayor, Mr. Benjamin Lewis, to the effect that building permits should not be issued except upon plans prepared by a duly licensed architect in every case where the Statutes of the State of Illinois require such plans to be prepared by a licensed architect.

Chapter 10-A of the Revised Statutes of the State of Illinois provides in substance that it is unlawful for any person to practice architecture without having obtained a Certificate of Registration from the Department of Registration and Education and as provided for in the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois (Section 1): defines the practice of architecture as including "the planning and supervision of the erection, enlargement or alteration of any building or buildings or of any parts thereof, to be constructed for others." (Section 2); and then proceeds to **except** from the operation of the foregoing laws.

- (a) "Any structure outside the corporate limits of any city or village where used for residential or farm purposes or buildings auxiliary thereto";
- (b) "Any building, remodeling or repairing within the corporate limits of any city or village where the total cost of said building, remodeling or repairing does not exceed the sum of \$7,500.00." (Section 4.)

It is my opinion that it is the duty of all public officers, including Building Commissioners, to aid, so far as they can possibly do so, in the discharge of their respective duties, in the enforcement of all laws of the State of Illinois, including the laws above referred to. It is my opinion with respect to the foregoing laws which are specifically referred to, that a Building Commissioner who refuses to issue a permit upon plans which have been prepared in violation of Section 4 above is by all means discharging his legal and moral obligation as a public officer.

Respectfully submitted,

ALEXANDER H. MARSHALL,

Counsel for the Public Action Committee
Illinois Society of Architects.

It does seem so strange that so many officers of the incorporated cities and villages of the State do not recognize the fact that it is their duty to enforce state laws as well as municipal regulations.

The supervision of buildings is just as much the practice of architecture as the planning of buildings and the question of the professional supervision of buildings is being given serious consideration by the officials of many of our larger cities.

The time will undoubtedly come when city authorities in self-defense will conclude to enforce the state law and compel the professional supervision of all structures costing more than \$7,500.00.

RENTING PEAKS

At the February meeting of the Society, Mr. Oliver S. Turner, representing the Chicago Home Economics Council, delivered an address on the work of the Council and its efforts to change the practice of terminating leases on the

first of May and on the first of October so that leases would expire on the date made, and spoke of the many advantages which would accrue from changing the present practice.

At the conclusion of the address, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, the endeavor of the Chicago Home Economics Council to eliminate the annual May and October rental peaks and to create an all-year renting season will be of benefit to the City of Chicago,

"AND WHEREAS, by the elimination of the peak renting seasons will eliminate the high cost of moving, high cost of completing buildings, and the necessity of oft-times accepting inferior workmanship at one of the two renting peaks,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois Society of Architects endorse the work of the Chicago Home Economics Council."

HOUSE BILL No. 6091

At the February meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects the following resolution recommended by the Board of Directors was unanimously adopted:

"RESOLVED: That the Illinois Society of Architects recommend the passage of the McSweeney-McNary Bill, known as House Bill No. 6091 and Senate Bill No. 1183."

EXPLANATION: This Bill is virtually a legislative and fiscal plan for forestry research in the Department of Agriculture, including the Forest Service, the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Bureau of Entomology, the Biological Survey, and the Weather Bureau. Instead of the fluctuating annual appropriations heretofore prevalent, this Bill lays down a ten-year Budget which will stabilize effort and bring greater results per dollar invested. All Federal Forestry Research now under way and all that is contemplated in the near future is covered. The Bill carries no actual appropriation, but it sets up maximum authorizations, one for each of the various sections or subjects. If enacted, these authorizations will serve as a guide to the Agricultural Department, to the Budget, and to Congress in making regular annual appropriations for Forestry Research.

GENERAL EMPLOYMENT AND PROSPERITY

It is axiomatic that there always has been and always will be a direct relationship between general business prosperity and general employment. If a large share of both skilled and unskilled labor is unemployed, the purchasing power of the community is reduced in like proportion. There is a direct relationship between the capacity to consume and general employment.

If the statements recently made in the United States Senate regarding the volume of unemployment are even approximately true, it is quite evident that the political party in power will have a great deal of explaining to do, between now and the November election.

APPRECIATION OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICE

Statistics compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation would seem to indicate that there is a growing appreciation of the value of architectural services. Their statistics indicate that in 71% of the total construction of the United States, there was an architect employed. This shows an increase in such employment of 31% between January 1, 1925, and October, 1927.

Correspondence

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION, Inc.

Editor of the Bulletin:

I note in your always welcome Bulletin of the Illinois Society of Architects, January, that you make reference to the recent alleged statement of Sir Edwin Lutyens. This statement appeared in the New York papers of December 8, 1927, and was broadcast by the Associated Press. The following cablegrams were exchanged:

New York, December 9, 1927.

Sir Edwin Lutyens,
17 Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster, S. W.,
London, England.

What is basis for your statement concerning steel work Madison Square Garden and American skyscraper construction?

American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc.

London, December 10, 1927.

LCO American Institute of Steel Construction:

Statement not authorized by me. Please accept my sincere regret.

Lutyens.

No further explanation has been received from Sir Edwin Lutyens. The regrettable thing is that such statements are untrue and are a disparaging reflection on the entire American building industry—architects, engineers, contractors and owners, as well as the steel industry. It was a reckless statement that has brought to us echoes from many American and European cities.

Some two years ago an English architect who practiced in New York for quite a number of years, now residing in London, started an agitation about the integrity of steel construction. It had wide publicity. The American Institute of Steel Construction challenged him to name specific cases. He mentioned one, about which he "understood," etc. The president of the bank involved came back with expert evidence to the contrary and advised him to be less careless of the truth and not to make such a statement public.

On page 5, you mention a case of corrosion in the sub-basement of a loop structure. I would like to have further information as I am collecting all possible data on the subject. It is the intention to publish this, giving the cause and suggesting means for proper protection. I have some photographs furnished by Mr. Gerhardt Meyne, the well-known Chicago contractor, showing some corroded steel found in the coal compartment of a loop structure. The Illinois slack coal was wet down and the water leached through it and took up certain chemicals, penetrated the fireproofing and corroded the steel. This was but natural. This trouble could have been avoided by covering the structural floor and walls with a chemical-resisting, membrane waterproofing to be protected by a wearing surface of concrete or paving brick.

A very exhaustive survey of the corrosion of structural steel was made in 1926 by Mr. Frank W. Skinner, formerly editor of the ENGINEERING RECORD, in which but very few and always unusual cases of corrosion were discovered. It is the extraordinary conditions that we must consider. The general ordinary conditions appear to have been very adequately provided for during the past forty years by our architects and engineers. I would appreciate receiving all possible data on the subject to be used for the good of the building industry.

Referring again to the Bulletin, I was especially pleased to read Jillson's letter to the Editor of the Chicago Tribune. It was a worthy effort to debunk the usual references to architecture in the daily press.

Arthur T. North.

January 31, 1928.

Messrs. Editors Illinois Society of Architects:

I have read the statement in the January Bulletin attributed to Sir Edwin Lutyens, British Architect, to the effect that, "Skyscrapers, if allowed to stand more than forty years, will certainly tumble down."

I question if Sir Lutyens' statement was based upon steel construction in buildings as generally practised throughout this country, especially in our larger cities. Many of us can recall instances where the structural steel of buildings has been stripped of the tile or concrete covering many years after the building was constructed and the steel found entirely free of corrosion.

NOTICE

THIS VOLUME IS INCOMPLETE

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES ARE ON ORDER:

Vol. 12 No. 10 April 1928

NOTICE

THIS VOLUME IS INTERESTING

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF ORDERS

Vol. 12, No. 11, April 1928