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THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Note the date of our November meeting—Tuesday, November 26. An address will be given by Edward H. Bennett during which stereopticon views will be shown of the proposed plan for the development of the City of Washington.

At this meeting the members of the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A., who are not members of the I. S. A., will be our guests.

OUR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

Members of the I. S. A. and our subscribers outside of the State are advised that the next issue of the Bulletin will feature the extensive direct mail publicity campaign of advertising the profession of Architecture that has been authorized by your Board of Directors and is being carried forward under the direction of your Publication Committee.

The first brochure entitled "Just What Does An Architect Do For His Client?" has been mailed with an accompanying letter to a carefully selected list throughout the State, going to Judges, members of the Chicago and Illinois Bar Associations, members of Real Estate Boards, Building Commissioners, and States Attorneys.

Additional brochures will be sent out monthly until a total of ten has been issued.

The campaign is already attracting widespread attention. "Pencil Points" magazine has requested permission to reproduce the first brochure. Inquiry has also been received from the Secretaries of the Michigan Society of Architects, Indiana Society of Architects and the New Jersey Chapter, A. I. A.

"GIVE THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR A CHANCE!"

Your Editor recently noticed a plea to "Give the Contractor a Chance," published in the September number of "Nations Business." It seemed necessary that this article should be promptly answered and with that in mind he

requested two of our well known architects to write a reply to Mr. Flagler, whose article should have been headed to give the **general** contractor a chance.

[The "Nation's Business" has full permission to reproduce either one, or both, of these letters.]

A REPLY—CORRECTING MR. FLAGLER

By George C. Nimmons, F. A. I. A.

Mr. Leon E. Stanhope,
Editor, Bulletin of the Illinois Society of Architects,
55 East Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Stanhope:

In response to your request of the 19th, I shall undertake to give you my reaction to the criticism against the practice of architects in general made by Mr. Flagler, president of the Associated General Builders of America, in an article recently published by the magazine, "The Nations Business."

Mr. Flagler criticizes the architect's specifications and the manner in which architectural working drawings are made. First, in regard to specifications, Mr. Flagler says—

"Mr. Average Man has an implicit but often misplaced confidence in the so-called specifications. This mystic document consists of from 50 to 250 or more pages, frequently copied from previous specifications, old text books, and literature put out by energetic manufacturers and material vendors."

and, secondly, in regard to the making of plans, he says—

"Not one set of plans out of a hundred is made entirely by the architect and his men. Usually the structural frame of the building is the work of an outside engineer. Occasionally the design of the frame is left to the bidder.

"If there ever was a case of hitching the cart before the horse, this is it. Instead of leaving the design of the frame to the last, as is the present practice, it should be the first and most important consideration after the preliminary layout of the room arrangement. If I had a small part of the money that could be saved by fitting the architectural ornamentation to a carefully designed frame instead of trying to design a frame into a mass of architectural effects, I would be a rich man."

By these statements anyone who is not familiar with the facts would gain the impression that, generally speaking, specifications issued by architects are defective and not well adapted for best results, and that the manner in which drawings are usually made is also wrong. There are undoubtedly good, bad and indifferent architects in practice just as there are good, bad and indifferent building contractors, but to imply that the architectural profession has sunken to the low level of incompetent architects is a charge that could not be sustained and is most unfair and unjust in every way.

Referring to Mr. Flagler's statement about the manner in which specifications are prepared, he says that they are copied from previous specifications, old text books and literature put out by energetic manufacturers and material vendors. This statement shows a surprising ignorance of the object which they undertake to accomplish and the best sources from which the architect gains information and useful experience in the writing of specifications.

In the first place, the American Institute of Architects spent six or seven years in collecting together the best ideas of architects, builders and lawyers for producing a set of general clauses to fix the proper relations among the three principal parties to a building contract, that is to determine the relation, duties and responsibilities of architect, owner and builder. These general clauses have been tried out in the Courts and have been pronounced the best governing clauses generally used by architects, and when used they relieve the architect of any need to define further in his specifications the relations, duties and obligations of the

parties concerned. He is free to direct his attention to the specific matters concerning the building in each case to be described. The balance of the specification undertakes to specify, in a general way, the particular work to be done, the materials to be used and the manner of doing it. The manner of doing it involves, in a general way, a description of the processes and methods by which the work of the various trades or crafts involved is to be executed. In other words, the architect describes the craftsmanship of the various crafts involved.

Craftsmanship for modern buildings is standardized and naturally an architect uses the descriptions of craftsmanship as are built up by his own experience, the information afforded by the best authorities in these crafts and by standard forms that have been specially prepared for use in specifications. Among these is a most excellent set of forms recently gotten out by the New York Building Congress, which describes craftsmanship in the various trades better than any single architect or builder could possibly do out of his own experience, as these forms have been prepared by men who are the highest authorities on these subjects. In addition to this, architects have standard forms of their own which are used very generally for the description of craftsmanship in their specifications and undoubtedly are in every case better than any which an architect could create every time he had a specification to write. Besides this, an architect's description of craftsmanship is built up very largely by his contact and conference with the craftsmen themselves and the contractors who employ them, who in most cases are past masters of the trade which they represent. In fact, the more the architect will collaborate with the various contractors and craftsmen who really create a building, the better his specifications are bound to be, as building is a cooperative undertaking and not one in which an architect should try to originate and direct the work from entirely within himself. In fact, when one reads back over Mr. Flagler's statement about specifications, it is difficult to see in the light of the above facts where the fault lies with the architect in this respect.

Mr. Flagler's second objection in regard to the making of the plans is, that the structural framework of the building is done by an outside engineer. It is strange that he sees an objection in this because this is the way plans have been made, ever since modern steel and concrete construction came into use, by architectural firms who did not have an expert engineer in their firm or in their employ.

For the last forty years, architects who did not have in their firm or their employ an expert structural engineer have erected buildings under this plan very successfully, and there has never been serious criticism against it to my knowledge. In fact, since steel and concrete construction came into use, there has been so much mathematical and scientific knowledge required to design and detail the structure of a building that a class of men have originated who are experts in this particular work and more competent to do it than anyone else. Some firms of architects include a structural expert of this kind in the firm, others employ men of this kind and those architects whose practice is not large enough to employ one continuously, find it quite possible and feasible to call in any one of many men in this line of work who can collaborate with him and work out the structural frame of a building in the most economic and competent manner. This condition has naturally come about by the development of the very wonderful and complicated building construction of our day. What is wrong about this or how it could be changed for the better is beyond my comprehension.

As to the other part of the question concerning when the design of the framework is to be determined in reference to the design of the building is a strange criticism, in my opinion, for this man to make, because evidently he does not know that every architect when he creates a design or form for the building takes full account of its possible structure at the same time. If one was to picture a designer designing first a framework after the plan of the building had been determined and then arranging to add his architecture afterwards it would undoubtedly produce a structure to which, what the critic calls, architecture would be attached to it by bolts, rivets or a system of anchoring. Nothing is more repellent to an architect than to consider the design of his building so entirely artificial and so entirely fastened on afterwards without having the true relation which the design should have not only to the

structure but the very soul and spirit of the building itself.

I do not think that the architectural profession will in any way suffer from this criticism or similar ones so poorly founded on facts as these are, but it would be well if the public generally would know, as they probably do not, that the preparation and training given an architect today to practice his profession is finer and better than it ever was before in the history of the world. This country now leads the world in architectural training. It has twenty-six accredited schools of architecture in which men are given instruction in design similar to that which they formerly received only at the Ecole de Beaux Arts in Paris. In addition to this, architectural students in this country are given a good general education and a thorough training in all the other branches of architecture which involve the practical things in the practice of the profession, such as the various forms of building construction, a knowledge of the building crafts involved, a training in the writing of specifications, estimating, letting of contracts and supervision. The training in architecture in this country is now considered so good that relatively few students go abroad to take a course in architecture. They get their training here as a rule and then go abroad to travel and study the masterpieces of art.

The present is a critical time in architecture. The whole country is launched upon a transitional period of design. The styles of architecture used in this country in the past are universally changing to something new. This country is now engaged in creating a style of architecture of its own. The old classic and middle-age styles of architecture are only used as a rule for monumental or institutional buildings. On account of the great modern movement that has just begun, it is most fortunate for this country that the younger generation of architects just coming into practice are, as a rule, better educated in their art and better trained to practice their profession than any architects ever were before.

A REPLY TO "GIVE THE CONTRACTOR A CHANCE?"

By Herbert E. Hewitt, A.I.A.

Fellow Architects, did you read it—I mean a story entitled "Give the Contractor a Chance"? If not, dig up the September number of "Nation's Business" and inform yourselves as to what the President of the Associated General Contractors of America thinks of us. His name is Thomas Thorne Flagler and what he says about us, or implies, isn't entirely complimentary. If you have any red blood in you, you will in all probability get mad—but wait a minute—perhaps there is a bit of truth in his indictments for some of us. And Mr. Flagler is evidently the type of person who writes the way he talks, which is an exceedingly dangerous habit, but one which often exaggerates the writer's real attitude.

Most of us are not guilty of the things he charges us with, and other things he castigates us for are things that he does not seem to understand. He is evidently unable to distinguish the difference between architecture and building. His text is full of generalizations and half-truths, so that the picture he draws of the architect is unfair and misleading. He insinuates that the architect is a dumb bell, a nitwit, or worse because he allows himself to be guided by other considerations than the practical in the selection of materials and the design of the steel frame of the building. I cannot help but wonder whether Mr. Flagler has any appreciation of architecture or the true functions of an architect.

Listen to this:

"I have seen in a specification prepared by a Chicago architect a provision that Vermont granite was to be used in the rough stone work of a building to be erected within sight of Stone Mountain, Georgia, one of the finest deposits of granite in America. To pay the freight from Vermont to Georgia on this granite would be obviously ridiculous."

It might be ridiculous—(isn't that a nice, charitable word, guilty or not guilty)—probably would be to Mr. Flagler, under any circumstances. Granite is granite to Mr. Flagler.

Here is another one:

"If there ever was a case of hitching the cart before the horse, this is it. Instead of leaving the design of the frame to the last, as is the present practice, it should be the first and most important consideration after the preliminary layout of the room arrangement. If I had a small part of the

money that could be saved by fitting the architectural ornamentation to a carefully designed frame instead of trying to design a frame into a mass of architectural effects, I would be a rich man."

All architectural design is not good, and some of it that requires special framing to carry it out might better be omitted. But to literally carry out the implications of the above statement would not only make most buildings aesthetically impossible, but make them practically inefficient as well. Even in modernistic design where "form follows function" the placing of the steel is dependent on the location and proportions of the component parts of the design.

You can imagine the effect of such a statement on Mr. Tycoon when he reads the article. He is a business man and you can't blame him. But isn't it unfortunate for a man who essays to speak for the general contractors of America to have so childish an understanding of architecture?

An editorial in the October number of "Pencil Points" makes the statement that "though his criticisms are honest and have a good bit of justice in them, they may not, unfortunately, be correctly understood by his audience—." This seems to me exactly to the point. Many of the things Mr. Flagler says, if addressed to the architects themselves are good and salutary, but said to a body of clients or constructive clients, are confusing and distinctly unfair and damaging to the profession. Instead of cooperation, Mr. Flagler evidently believes in knocking. If ever there is a need of cooperation it is in the designing and erection of a building. The owner, the contractor and the architect are each striving (or should be) toward the same goal, viz.: to get the best possible results, practically and aesthetically within the economic limits of the project. This cannot be accomplished without a sympathetic understanding of each for the others' problems and viewpoint. Architects and contractors are perhaps equally at fault. Mr. Flagler, certainly, seems not to show any understanding whatever of the architect. He (the architect) is a boob that would much better be outside the picture.

The general contractor when he renders a real service and is not merely a broker, is an important cog in the building machine. But Mr. Flagler does not endear his kind to the profession. After misrepresenting and belittling us most grievously, he still has the temerity, near the close of his article, to ask our assistance in eliminating irresponsible bidders, which seems to be one of his great grievances. He shall have it, too, so far as I am concerned. If he thinks the architects are partial to irresponsible bidders, he is quite mistaken. It is a certain type of client that likes the irresponsible bidder—and then expects the architect to get blood out of a turnip.

Not in the way of heaping coals of fire, but rather as a frank expression of the personal view of the writer, based on more than thirty years of experience, it is my judgment that an owner does well to select and call into consultation his general contractor at the same time he calls in his architect. This is conditioned, of course, on the assumption that the owner is endowed with sufficient judgment to pick a contractor of character and brains. The three come into the problem on a basis of equality, each intent upon his own part, but, at the same time big enough to listen to the other fellow. Under such an arrangement real cooperation can be had and as nearly 100% in the results as is possible in this imperfect world.

The reader of Mr. Flagler's article would hardly gain from it the conclusion that the conscientious architect is his own most severe critic and that it is more difficult for him to please himself than to please his clients; and yet I believe this to be true. And I also believe that the percentage of conscientious architects is at least as high as the percentage in other professions.

Thomas Hastings, the designer of the New York Public Library, died the other day. He left in his will the sum of \$250,000, for the purpose of making changes in the facade of that building. To correct his mistakes? Not at all. Rather to carry out to the nth degree the loving care with which he attempted to create a thing of beauty—a beauty which, even after the work of years in making study after study and model after model, never satisfied the cravings of his genius. What more convincing commentary could we have on the real spirit of the profession! But Mr. Flagler would seemingly have the frame designed first, covered with ornament (machine cut) and call it architecture!

Give the contractor a chance? He has had his chance and now, it seems to me, "Nation's Business" should give the architect a chance to tell his side of the story.

IN DISCUSSION OF THE HOLLYWOOD REPORT

A Letter from Howard F. Baldwin, Architect, of Baltimore

"In reading with interest, if not avidity, the matter relating to the general subject of Adequate Compensation for Architects I am struck by the fact that those writing on the subject, including even the Hollywood organization, invariably seem to have overlooked a vital point throughout the whole discussion, viz.: Competitive Bidding. This is a gospel worth while to preach, for the simple reason that no layman is capable of obtaining competitive bids, even on the basis of an architect's drawings and specifications. Much has been said regarding the value of an Architect's design and supervision, how these things insure the Owner his money's worth and boost resale value; but very little, if anything, seems to have been brought out about actual cash saving possible only for the Owner through Competitive Bidding.

"It might help a prospect to understand why your fee seems high to take him wading through pages and pages of elaborate cost data, but what is there to keep that from driving him into the arms of the cut-rater or the real estate promoter with a house ready-built? The simple statement that an architect's services save the Owner an amount in cash equal to two, three, or four times the amount of his fee would seem far more effective in the war against the cut-throat, the promoter and the speculative builder.

"The point seems yet to be brought out that in securing from six to a dozen competitive bids on a job these bids will vary as much as from twenty to fifty per cent; if the Architect's fee is even eight per cent, what a small price to pay for getting the low bid! Without competition what price ignorance!"—Pencil Points.

BUILDING DECREASE HAS NATIONAL TREND

With Chicago recording a decrease in its building volume of \$86,340,150 for the first nine months of the year, when compared with the same period during 1928, it is of interest to have S. W. Straus & Company announce that the decline here is not the result of local cause, but of a national trend, affecting practically every large urban community. During September building permits to the amount of \$11,316,200 were issued in Chicago. This was a decrease of 42.52 percent from the same month of last year, and carried the city's construction work for the year to a decline of 35.2 percent when compared with the first three quarters of 1928.

Official reports from 596 leading cities and towns in every part of the United States, showed a total of building permits issued in September of \$218,344,506 compared with \$251,193,426 in September last year. The loss from August was 13 percent and from September, 1928, was 20 percent. The figures were without special significance, excepting that they indicated a continuation of the downward trend in urban building activities that has been in existence throughout the greater part of the year.

The figures mark the fifth consecutive month that the Straus Survey has revealed losses in the volume of building permits in the leading centers of the country. As compared with the same months a year ago, the loss in May was 19 percent, in June 29 percent, in July 13 percent and in August 18 percent.

It is to be noted that the decline in the largest centers of population was somewhat greater than in the smaller cities. For example, building permits issued in the fifteen largest cities totaled \$96,920,607 compared with \$136,107,473 in September, 1928, a loss of 29 percent. The heaviest falling off in this group was in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore.

In the group of twenty-five cities reporting the largest volume of permits filed for the month, the total was \$121,603,158, compared with \$147,026,152 last year and \$164,108,497 in September, 1927. The loss from last September was 17 percent and from September two years ago 26 percent.

Buffalo was included in this list, ranking fourth with a total of over \$7,000,000 permits issued for the month. Aside from that city, Newark, Cincinnati, Oklahoma City, Cambridge, Mass., Cleveland, Kearny, N. J., Jersey City, N. J.,

Portland, Ore., Flint, Mich., and Louisville revealed gains over the corresponding month of the preceding year.

It is estimated that \$222,571,382 have been spent for building construction in Chicago and its suburbs during the first nine months of the year. Of this amount \$159,021,900 was accounted for in the city and \$63,549,482 in the suburbs. The city figures indicate a decrease of \$86,340,150, or 35.2 percent, compared with the \$245,362,050 for the corresponding period of 1928.

A gain of 13 percent was shown by permits issued in forty-four comparable suburbs during September as compared with the previous month. The total volume for last month was \$5,608,748, a gain of \$641,371 over the \$4,967,377 for August.

Individual cities that showed gains in this comparison include: Lake Forest, 626 percent; Gary, 375 percent; Cicero, 179 percent; LaGrange, 146 percent; Berwyn, 94 percent; Evanston, 50 percent; Oak Park, 23 percent, and a dozen with smaller gains.

In a comparison with the figures for September, 1928, last month does not fare so well, but instead shows a loss of \$2,927,881, or 34 percent. About one-fourth of the towns reporting indicate gains in this column. Greatest of these increases were in Gary, Cicero, Harvey and LaGrange.

During the first nine months of the year the forty-four comparable suburbs spent \$63,549,482 for building, as against \$90,009,653 for the similar period of 1928. This was a decrease of \$26,460,171 or 29 percent.

"It is notable," points out the survey, "that losses are generally distributed among the larger suburbs, such as Aurora, Elgin, Joliet, Gary, Oak Park, Evanston and Waukegan."

Those towns which have reported gains are, with one exception, industrial centers. Thus, East Chicago, with \$4,014,042 for the nine months, shows an increase of 46 percent. North Chicago reports a 139 percent gain; Blue Island, 22 percent; and Cicero, 9 percent. Gary, while still far from equalling its 1928 mark, is showing appreciable betterment.

October 24, 1929.

Mr. Talmage C. Hughes, Editor,
Weekly Bulletin, Michigan Society of Architects,
2613 Joy Road, Detroit, Michigan.

My dear Mr. Hughes:

I always get a kick out of reading your Bulletin and this morning when I looked over No. 1 of Volume 4, your editorial "Another Milestone" was read with rather mixed feelings, and as I review in memory conditions that existed in the industry and particularly as affecting the profession "when you were on my payroll" with what they are today, I am wondering if after all as a profession we have made very much progress.

I am attaching herewith an extra copy of the last issue of the Illinois Society Bulletin and beg to call your attention particularly to the last page with accompanying circular. Our Society is trying something. Whether or not it will do much good is a problem.

Permit me to congratulate you and the Michigan Society of Architects on your fourth birthday. You certainly are a lively youngster.

Very truly yours,
F. E. DAVIDSON.

MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

Office of Talmage C. Hughes
DETROIT, MICH.

October 25, 1929.

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Thank you for your letter of October 24th and felicitations to the Society and myself.

I believe I understand what you mean when you wonder if we have made very much progress since "I was on your payroll." Yes, I think we have, though very slowly and through such men as yourself we may hope to continue the process of evolution. It is a process of evolution for what you are doing now will not benefit you so much as it will those who follow.

No child can ever repay his parents for all that has been done for him. The only way he can compensate in any measure is to pass it on to the next generation, and so it

is with the profession of Architecture. We must pass on the good things that have been done for us.

I am very much interested in your new venture of informing the public on what an Architect does for his Client. It is an interesting coincidence how closely your body is becoming concerned with issues that interest us.

The only reason we have not launched such a venture is a financial one. Your idea I think is beautifully executed, to the point and very dignified.

May I congratulate those responsible and express the wish that we in Michigan may in time add our bit until the movement becomes national.

Cordially yours,
TALMAGE C. HUGHES.

SOME BIRTHDAYS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

This year we are celebrating Light's Golden Jubilee. The incandescent lamp was a wonderful achievement. We are glad that the inventor, Thomas A. Edison, has lived for half a century after making this invention and that he is able to see the wonderful advancements which his invention made possible.

Architects and builders should realize that many of the building materials and building utilities which are common to us today are really new.

We have been impressed with the youth of the incandescent light. Let us stop a moment to consider some other youngsters in the pages of history.

Seventy-five years ago the first wrought iron beams were rolled in America, 1854.

Forty-six years ago the first skeleton constructed building was built. This was the Home Insurance Building, designed by William LeBaron Jenney, Architect, and erected in Chicago in 1884.

Forty-six years ago the first steel beams were rolled. They were used from the seventh floor up in the Home Insurance Building, and were rolled by the Carnegie Steel Company.

Seventy years ago the first passenger elevator was put into operation in New York in 1859. This elevator was built by Otis Tufts of Boston.

Fifty-three years ago the first reinforced concrete building was built, a two-story residence.

Fifty-two years ago the first reinforced concrete factory was built in the United States. It was two stories high, built in 1877 by Ernest L. Ransome.

WALTER A. McDOUGALL.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR. MARSHALL

October 23, 1929.

Messrs. F. E. Davidson and Leon E. Stanhope,
Editorial Staff, Monthly Bulletin of
Illinois Society of Architects, Chicago, Illinois.
Gentlemen:

Your reference on page 2 under the title "Another Legal Opinion" of the October Bulletin is somewhat incomplete and therefore not entirely accurate.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter of September 9th addressed to Mr. Wheelock re the cases of People v. Raimier, et al, the last paragraph of which refers to the Attorney General's opinion, a copy of which is enclosed dated August 31, 1929.

Perhaps it would be advisable to run a copy of both of these enclosures in your next Bulletin. The matter is certainly of great importance.

Yours very truly,
ALEXANDER H. MARSHALL.

September 9, 1929.

Mr. H. B. Wheelock,
Chairman, Public Action Committee,
Illinois Society of Architects,
64 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois.

In re: **People v. Raimier, et al.**

My dear Mr. Wheelock:

The writer, in accordance with your directions, was present at Danville, Illinois, on September 3rd in connection with the cases which were then before the court.

Conference was had with State's Attorney Elmer Furrow, who is prosecuting the cases, and Mr. Cogshall, the indefatigable investigator who had worked up these cases for prosecution and trial.

The State's Attorney requested me to present the arguments in his behalf as State's Attorney of Vermillion County, which I did. There were five cases on the docket, to-wit:

People v. Raimer, Information 12029 (a case arising out of several buildings being constructed obviously for sale to the public, without the use of plans prepared by a licensed Architect.)

People v. Charles M. Lewis, No. 12028 (a case of an Architect practicing without license.)

People v. Linne, No. 12027.

People v. Watson, No. 12030.

People v. Zillman, No. 12031.

the last three being cases of construction without plans prepared by a licensed Architect.

On the general legal proposition of violation in these cases, the court took our point of view; but the Informations which had been prepared by the State's Attorney were in my opinion faulty (in all cases except the Lewis case) and I frankly told the court that I preferred to have them amended and new Informations filed rather than have the case finally disposed of on a technical question rather than the legal merits.

In the Lewis case a not guilty plea was filed without any question raised as to the Information.

In the other four cases in which counsel for the defendants had made motions to quash the Informations, leave was obtained to amend the Informations and the writer assisted the State's Attorney in preparing new Informations in those cases.

Eleven counts were prepared against Raimer; two counts against Watson; and one count each against Linne and Zillman. Some of the counts were based upon **construction** without plans prepared by a registered Architect; some were based upon **supervision**.

The State's Attorney has agreed to advise me when the cases come up for hearing and trial.

I am pleased also to enclose a copy of opinion prepared by Attorney General Rodenberg at Springfield, file No. 2164 following our having submitted to him our brief in the Woolworth case. I am gratified to note that he has accepted our construction of the law as we have applied it in the Raimer case.

Respectfully submitted,
ALEXANDER H. MARSHALL.

August 31, 1929.

File No. 2164

Miscellaneous:

Architects.

Hon. Clyde I. Backus, Assistant Director,
Department of Registration and Education,
Springfield, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of August 15th in which you state that a contractor is constructing for immediate sale on lands owned by himself and a realty development company of which he is the managing head, residences costing more than \$7,500; that the working drawings of such construction are signed by the contractor and that no licensed architect is on the work; and that the realty company is advertising the sale of these homes.

You desire to know whether said contractor is violating the statute.

In reply I will say that there are several provisions of the statute which affect the question, namely: sections 2 and 4 of the act regulating the practice of architecture. Section 2 of said act, being paragraph 2 of chapter 10½, Smith-Hurd's Illinois Revised Statutes, 1927, provides in part as follows:

"Any one, or any combination, of the following practices by a person shall constitute the practice of architecture, namely: The planning or supervision of the erection, enlargement or alteration of any building or buildings or of any parts thereof, to be constructed **for others**. * * *

Section 4 of the act, being paragraph 4 of the same chapter, provides in part as follows:

"* * * Nor shall anything contained in this Act prevent persons, mechanics or builders from making plans, specifications for or supervising the

erection, enlargement or alteration of buildings or any parts thereof to be constructed by themselves or their own employes **for their own use**, provided that the working drawings for such construction are signed by the authors thereof with a true statement thereon of their relation to such construction and that the makers thereof are not architects."

The latter section also provides that the act shall not apply to any building within the corporate limits of any city or village where the total cost thereof does not exceed the sum of \$7,500.

In the case of **People v. Rodgers Co.**, 277 Ill. 151, 155, our Supreme Court held that,

"The real purpose of the statute is the protection of the public against incompetent architects, from whose services damage might result to the public by reason of dangerous and improperly constructed buildings and by badly ventilated and poorly lighted buildings."

It is a rule of construction that every statute must be construed with reference to the object intended to be accomplished by it. It seems clear that if residences are being constructed for immediate sale, the public generally would have an interest in their construction, and, therefore, the services of a licensed architect would be required.

In my opinion, the provisions of section 4 would not apply to the facts set forth in your letter. The words "for their own use," as used in section 4, clearly have reference to buildings of which the owner makes exclusive personal use. In other words, the exemption therein provided is not based upon mere ownership of property but rather its use. To construe the act to mean that the owner of property may construct any sort of a building irrespective of its use, without the services of a licensed architect, would be to nullify the purpose of the act.

From a consideration of the foregoing, I am of the opinion that the residences mentioned in your letter are for the use of others and, therefore, the provisions of section 2 would apply, and the contractor would be subject to the penalties of the act for practicing architecture without having a license so to do. While the wording of the statute is awkward and somewhat obscure, I think this construction harmonizes with the policy and purpose of the act.

Yours very truly,
OSCAR E. CARLSTROM,
Attorney General.

BRIEF OUTLINE OF PROGRAM OF THE ARCHITECTS SMALL HOUSE SERVICE BUREAU

By William Stanley Parker, A. I. A.

In considering the matter it should be borne in mind that the Bureau is limited in its activities to small houses of not more than six major rooms and 30,000 cubic feet. It is in connection with small houses within those limits that the Bureau Program is designed.

The subject may be divided into three main elements, Design, Construction and Supervision, Financing, considering first present conditions and then those changes of procedure that will tend to correct the present difficulties.

Design

A small percentage are designed by architects under direct employment by the owner. Probably only 10% are built by the owner for himself, and only a small percentage of this 10% employ full architectural service, the balance building from some form of stock plan. Most of the houses then are built from some form of stock plan. How do they originate? Many magazines interested in home development offer them. Mail order houses sell plans or even complete houses based on their plans. Ready cut lumber concerns have their own plans. Newspaper clinics with plan service are a part of every large newspaper. All these plans are variously produced, some by qualified architects, most appear to be designed by draftsmen of small ability. The results fair as would be expected from such origins—some good—some fair—mostly poor.

Construction and Supervision

The only small percentage that are built under full architectural service get full supervision. The balance get practically no supervision, because the source of the plans is

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interested only in selling materials and make no effort to arrange for supervision or to emphasize the need of it.

Equally the loan agencies have in the past made no requirements either as to the adequacy of design, of the plans by which it is illustrated or the supervision of its construction.

The speculation builder who produces 90% of the product does not desire the interference of any supervision.

Financing

In the past as stated above no standards have been created by which to determine and protect a loan, either in design, plans or supervision. Financing by a reputable loan agency has been no guaranty of the soundness and inherent value of the house.

The buyer of a small home urged on to such an investment by the "Own Your Own Home" movement puts into it a larger proportion of his capital than anyone else puts into any single security and is investing it in a very dangerous commodity, that may prove seriously defective in its elements of location, design and construction value, and cause a serious loss if re-sale becomes necessary.

The above briefly outlines present conditions which should be clear.

Design

So far as stock plans are desirable they should be carefully designed by competent architects. The Bureau represents a method created by the profession to prefer this function in the field of very small houses where individual architectural service is, for the present at least, impracticable.

If material dealers and other agencies need stock plans they should secure them from the Bureau or from individual competent architects, not from inadequately trained draftsmen.

There is evidence that some material interests who have rendered stock plan services in the past are coming to see the responsibilities involved and to desire to pass that responsibility to those who are technically trained to meet such responsibilities.

Supervision

Supervision is more important to the small home owner than some slight elements of individuality in design. He should be made to realize this and a method devised to furnish it at a reasonable cost.

Sub-dividers should see to it that intelligent supervision of the ground layout and selection of house types be provided as well as supervision of actual construction.

Loan agencies should be made to see not only the security for their loan which supervision will secure, but the need of providing the ultimate purchaser with some guaranty of the soundness of the structure he is buying. There is evidence of a growing appreciation of this among the loan agencies. It is clear that they must exercise control and demand supervision as a condition of the loan as the speculation builder will generally desire to avoid any control over his methods.

Supervision should be by men trained to provide it, which means either an architect or those trained in construction processes apart from designs, and which latter case they should be supplemented by the broader supervision of a trained architect.

Financing

The loan agencies hold the whip handle and can control the type of house to be built and the character of its construction. They should develop some minimum standards below which loans will not be made. Some loan officials of loan agencies hold that they have no moral or other responsibility for the design of the houses on which they loan. Others take an opposite point of view and are supporting the Bank Service offered by the Bureau which is a first step in cooperation between the loan agencies and the profession.

The Bureau Program is an educational one in which the stock plans are an incidental feature, their use being one of the results of the success of their major educational program and not the end and aim of it. The Bureau seeks to develop, on a national scale, cooperation by the profession, through the Bureau, with the loan agencies and the Realtors, and with the material producers and retailers, with a view to a better distribution of responsibilities, and the provision of adequate service by those qualified to render it in the various branches of effort involved in the design, construction, financing and sale of small homes.

Mr. F. E. Davidson,
Illinois Society of Architects,
Editorial Offices,
53 West Jackson Blvd.,
Chicago.

Dear Mr. Davidson:

The personnel of the Board of Art Advisors, generally known as the State Art Commission, is as follows:

Thomas E. Tallmadge, 160 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Architect; Lorado Taft, 6016 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Sculptor; Edwin H. Clark, Winnetka, Ill., Architect; Rexford Newcomb, Prof. Architectural History, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, Architect; Albin Polasek, 4 East Ohio Street, Chicago, Sculptor; John W. Norton, 207 East Chestnut, Chicago, Painter; Otto Schaefer, Urbana, Illinois, Landscape Architect; Walter S. Brewster, Lake Forest, Illinois, Layman.

Unhappily we haven't any veto power but we are going to do our best to get the Chicago Park boards to consult us in regard to the design of monuments, bridges, etc., built in the parks. As you well know some awful things have been perpetrated. The Doughboy in Lincoln Park is only one instance.

Sincerely yours,
THOMAS E. TALLMADGE.

A RULING FROM THE SMOKE INSPECTOR

November 8, 1929.

Illinois Society of Architects,
Chicago, Illinois.
Gentlemen:

The department of Smoke Inspection and Abatement daily receives plans of buildings containing power and heating plants which do not contain sufficient information as required under the ordinance for their approval.

Section 5 of this ordinance requires that all building plans submitted for approval have the following information shown on blue prints and that a copy of same be filed with this office:

Type of Installation	Boiler, Kind and Make
Fuel Burning Apparatus.....	{ Hand fired, type
	{ Stoker, type and make
	{ Oil fired, make

Amount and kind of fuel to be used.

Amount of work and heating to be done.

Show all provisions made for the purpose of securing complete combustion of the fuel used for the purpose of preventing smoke.

Dimensions of the boiler room with layout showing location of boilers, heaters, incinerators, etc., stack, breeching and elevation of same.

In the future, plans submitted to this department must contain the above information, otherwise approval will be refused. I would appreciate your advising the members of your organization to this effect so that it will not be necessary for the department to return plans submitted by building contractors for approval to architects for revision.

I am also enclosing a copy of a ruling effective at once pertaining to the installation of hand fired heating boilers. I believe that this is a matter of interest to members of your organization and would appreciate your advising them of its contents.

Special Ruling

Statistics of the Department of Smoke Inspection and Abatement show that smoke from heating plants is a major factor in contributing to air pollution of the City. Believing that this source of smoke can be greatly reduced by eliminating the use of surface burning type of heating boilers for burning both bituminous and semi-bituminous coal the department is promulgating the following ruling. This is adapted after a careful study of the situation and has the approval of the Advisory Smoke Abatement Board of Engineers.

Section 5 of the Smoke Ordinance requires that proper provision for the purpose of securing complete combustion of the fuel to be used and for the purpose of preventing and abating smoke shall have been made before a permit is issued for the installation of any fuel burning plant for producing power and heat or either of them.

The Department of Smoke Inspection and Abatement will not approve or issue permits for the installation of low pressure heating boilers or hot water heaters of the surface burning type for burning coal, in sizes larger than those

having a capacity to supply steam to 1200 square feet of direct steam radiation or its equivalent or to supply hot water to 2000 square feet of hot water radiation.

The surface burning type of coal burning furnace is defined as a hand fired furnace in which the fresh fuel is thrown directly on the hot fuel bed.

Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter, I remain,

Very truly yours,
FRANK A. CHAMBERS,
Deputy Smoke Inspector in Charge

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS SOCIETY MEETING HELD OCTOBER 29, 1929

Regular monthly meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects was held Tuesday evening, October 29, 1929, at the Architects Club of Chicago.

President Alfred Granger presiding. Minutes of the September meeting read and approved.

Letter from Electric Association thanking the Illinois Society for postponing their regular meeting of October 22nd in order that members of the Illinois Society of Architects could attend the dinner of the Electric Association.

There being no further business, Mr. R. F. Norris, Acoustical Engineer of the Burgess Laboratories of Madison, Wisconsin, was introduced and gave a very interesting and entertaining talk on the technical side of acoustics.

The next speaker, Mr. W. J. Hodge, read a paper prepared by Mr. R. V. Parsons, Chief Acoustical Engineer of Johns-Manville, Inc., regarding the practical side of acoustics.

The President thanked both speakers on behalf of the Society and adjourned the meeting.

WALTER A. McDOUGALL,
Secretary.

MILLION FAMILIES LIVE IN CHICAGO

Chicago's position as a home community is reflected in figures just released by The Chicago Association of Commerce, showing more than 1,030,000 families now resident in the metropolitan district. Of these, approximately 790,000 live within the city limits.

Of the families recorded in Chicago itself, 190,000 reside in single family homes. In addition, the city boasts 6,000 apartment houses, many of them having accommodations for more than a hundred families each, while other dwellings, including the "two flats," are estimated at better than 550,000.

The working population of the city is placed at more than 1,095,000 men and 370,000 women. These include the 525,000 industrial workers discussed in the study of factory employment, announced by the Association of Commerce last week, and all others including retail store proprietors and clerks, servants, city employees and all classes of wage earners.

I. S. A. BULLETIN QUOTED

The current issue of the Building Construction Employers Association Monthly Bulletin reprints the I. S. A. Bulletin Editorial from our January issue. For the benefit of our readers we are reprinting our own Editorial.

The Building Situation

"During recent weeks there has been a general slowing up of contemplated improvements due in a very large measure to the impossibility of financing speculative projects. The investing public is in the stock market and apparently is not interested in real estate bonds, and of course the bankers cannot afford to carry real estate bonds with an interest rate from 6% to 6½%, as their surplus funds may be also invested in the call loan money market or otherwise that will net a much larger return, as well as being invested in more liquid assets.

"What is urgently needed in Chicago is a real estate bond exchange, similar to the exchange planned for New York City. At present the average net return on real estate investments is greater than the average return of even the best listed stock based upon present market prices. The difficulty is that real estate bonds are not liquid and there is no way in which these bonds may now be disposed of except by private sale.

"The plan being developed in New York City will be watched with great interest by all interested in a continuation of prosperity in the building industry."

DETROIT ARCHITECTS IN POLK DIRECTORY

Several Architects upon being solicited by the R. L. Polk Co. for contracts listing their names in black-face type under the heading of "Architects" have refused to renew their contracts on the ground that several names under that heading were not registered and were therefore using the title in violation of the State law.

The matter was brought up at a meeting of salesmen and executives of Fred L. Polk & Co., held in Detroit recently, with the result that Mr. William H. J. McPharlin, an official of the Polk Co. and chairman of the Committee on Classification Headings of the Association of North American Directory Publishers, has ruled that no such contract will be accepted without the applicant being registered. This same rule applies to all other States where a registration law exists. In fact this is one of the printed rules on classification published by the National Committee and has been observed in other States. We have assurance from the R. L. Polk Co. in Detroit that the rule will be observed here. Mr. Glenn V. Mills, a local salesman, has personally taken his time to straighten out the matter.

—M. S. A. Bulletin.

PENCIL POINTS

419 Fourth Avenue
New York

October 25, 1929.

Mr. Emery Stanford Hall, Chairman Publication

Committee,
Illinois Society of Architects,
Chicago, Illinois.
Dear Mr. Hall:

Our hats are off to the Illinois Society! Your direct mail publicity campaign which has just been started will turn out to be, we are sure, a big step in the right direction, and we certainly hope that it will bring about a better understanding of the position of the architect in society and lead to more and better business for the practitioners of your group.

We would like to let the architectural world know what you are doing and intend, if possible, to reproduce your first folder in the December issue of PENCIL POINTS. If we can secure your permission to do this we will reproduce the two type pages of the folder on two pages of PENCIL POINTS and will also devote our publisher's page in December to a discussion of what you are doing.

Yours most sincerely,

(Signed) KENNETH REID,
Associate Editor.



Do not "bargain hunt" for your architect, but rather go to him as you do your doctor or your lawyer, only when you are satisfied as to his integrity and ability. Then pay him what is generally accepted as being commensurate with his duties and responsibilities.

HIGH INTEREST RATES AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

The building commissioner of Chicago reports a decided slump in building in the first six months of 1929. In the first six months of 1928 permits were granted for buildings to cost \$180,000,000; in the corresponding period this year the figure had fallen to \$115,000,000. The gravity of the situation is emphasized by the fact that the decline has been progressive, 30 per cent for the whole period but nearly 50 per cent for June alone.

The importance of building construction in maintaining the prosperity of the nation needs no emphasis. The building trades directly and indirectly employ hundreds of thousands of men. A slump in building means widespread unemployment and a sharp reduction in purchasing power for the nation as a whole. It means unemployment not only

of bricklayers, plasterers, steel erectors, painters, carpenters and members of other trades employed directly on the job, but in addition it slows up the steel mills, the cement mills, the lumber mills, the quarries and the brickyards, to mention only a few of the industries immediately affected. There follows a reduction in the market for the goods and services which almost every one in the American economic scheme has to offer. **It is generally conceded that about the best way to start a business slump is to depress the building industry.**

The slump in building in Chicago is, of course, not an isolated phenomenon. Chicago is at least as well off as most of the other metropolitan communities and the Dodge reports show it is far better off than many of them. The slump can be attributed in some part to recent overexpansion, but that is only a part of the story. A much more important factor is the tightening of credit.

In this connection a statement recently made in the London Statist, a financial journal of standing throughout the world, is illuminating. We quote from a leading article of May 25 entitled "The American Credit Situation":

"Quite frankly, what the banking authorities in the United States are now intending to do is to cause a general recession in business and thereby to reach their objective of checking speculation in the stock markets. This method promises to be quite effective; but is it not a little too ruthless? Will it not prove unduly expensive? American business conditions are admittedly sound, but even they are not proof against a steadily falling level of prices, and this appears to be the inevitable corollary of the dearer money policy which is being pursued."

That indictment of our federal reserve policy has been heard before, but we do not recall that it ever was stated more bluntly. The board is charged with deliberately seeking to depress American industry and trade in order to lower security prices in Wall street. The thing sounds fantastic, but to sustain it we have not only the figures of a slump in building but also the recent slump in wheat prices.

"It is probably the high cost of accommodation," the Statist continues, "that has forced the pools to throw the large unconsumed stocks of wheat upon the market to the serious detriment of prices. The consequent losses will be borne by farmers and middlemen and they will seriously encroach upon the purchasing power of the agricultural community which is so potent a factor in the industrial prosperity of the United States."

We do not wish to be alarmist, but we would fall short of our duty if we did not draw attention to the possibilities inherent in the present credit situation. Like the reserve board, we are not in favor of unlimited speculation, largely for the reason that the period of boom is almost certain to be followed by a period of depression. There is this difference, however: the reserve board, if the Statist is to be believed, is committed to a policy of bringing about depression in order to avoid it. This is not cutting off one's nose to spite one's face; it is cutting off one's nose for the sake of cutting it off.

It is no answer to say that the reserve board will release the brakes before serious consequences ensue. If that were the policy, the brakes would have been released already. Perhaps, too, the board will not find it much easier to halt a depression than to halt a boom. The period of inflation which the board encouraged by its unwise reduction of the discount rate at the request of Montague Norman of the Bank of England continued over a period of years; is it to be followed by another mistake of the reserve board which will create a correspondingly enduring period of depression?

We do not wish to do an injustice to the reserve officials. They may be cornered, as Prof. Lionel Edie of the University of Chicago believes. It is his judgment that the present federal reserve law and the practices of the board under it have forced higher interest rates by restricting too narrowly the creation of credit. He has calculated that if prices are to remain stable under present relations of gold to credit the normal expansion of business the world over will require an expansion each year on the average of something like 2.7 per cent of the world's total monetary gold stock. For 1929 that would mean an increase of \$322,000,000 in gold if the correct figure of expansion is as large as 3 per cent or \$215,000,000 if the correct figure is as small as 2 per cent. In fact, Prof. Edie estimates in his most recent monograph, "Capital, the Money Market and Gold," that the world's

monetary gold stock has been increased of recent years only \$122,000,000 a year. He concludes that credit stringency, high interest rates and lowered prices are an inevitable consequence.

Professor Edie Says Federal Reserve Act Inadequate

The federal reserve act, Prof. Edie says, was designed to provide an elasticity of credit to meet the seasonal and cyclical requirements of the country's business. The law makes no adequate provision, in his judgment, for the gradual but steady increase in the requirement for credit over the years as the business of the country expands in volume.

"That limitation," he says, "constitutes a serious flaw in the federal reserve act. The flaw has been concealed up to the present largely by virtue of the growth of the gold stock of the United States (during and immediately after the war). When the world for the most part found itself back on the gold standard in 1928 the adequacy of the gold stocks to meet existing demands was put to a test for the first time since 1914."

If this is, indeed, the real difficulty, the reserve board is apparently unaware of it. As long as the reserve board does not confess its helplessness and obtain relief in legislation it cannot avoid responsibility for any business depression which ensues.—Editorial, Chicago Tribune.

SHALL WE CHOOSE A WINTER OF UNEMPLOYMENT?

By William Trufant Foster and Waddill Catchings

Note—Dr. Foster, eminent economist, is head of the Pollak Foundation for Economic Research; Mr. Catchings, renowned banker, began his career as a law clerk. The two have studied economics in all its phases, from the scientific viewpoint and from the practical. The keynote of their writings is: Prosperity can be made permanent.

No country in possession of its senses deliberately chooses to have a period of falling prices. Nothing is so discouraging to business. Trade languishes, factories are shut down, new enterprises are postponed and men are thrown out of work.

For proof of the waste of human labor, the poverty, enmity, despair and crime that follow in the wake of deflation of prices, we need look no further than the recent experience of England.

In our own country prices have been falling lately at an alarming rate. Early in the summer the index of commodity prices, based on 100 as the average for 1926, was 99.2. Since then the index has fallen down to an early October level below 96. If nothing is done toward stopping this fall in prices there will be every reason to expect a serious business depression before next spring.

But is any one able to stop the fall?

Yes, the federal reserve board can stop the fall whenever it decides to do so—provided it decides soon enough.

There is no mystery about the matter. Prices are falling because the supply of bank credit is not enough to maintain the growth of business. The supply is insufficient solely because the reserve board has made it insufficient. The present gold reserves are ample, under the law, to support about double the present volume of bank credit.

If the fall in prices does continue, if the result is another hard winter of unemployment, the cause will not be a real dearth of credit, for the credit stringency has been **deliberately created.**

The cause will not be a defect in our monetary system, but mismanagement of the system.

The business depression, if it comes, will be wholly monetary, artificial and unnecessary.

And any man who loses his job merely because times are "hard" will know who brought about the conditions which made times "hard."—Reprinted by permission. (Copyright, McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

In Memoriam

HENRY L. NEWHOUSE
October 26, 1929

WILLIAM H. PRUYN
October 28, 1929