

# MONTHLY ILLINOIS SOCIETY « OF ARCHITECTS » BULLETIN

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## A Bird's-Eye View of the 72nd A. I. A. Convention

American architects convened in Louisville, Kentucky in the Brown Hotel on Tuesday morning, May 21, and carried on to the close of the banquet on Friday, May 24, at 11:30 P. M. The convention was a hard-working convention, where criticisms of earlier ones had been heeded in that the program offered more opportunity for discussion of live topics than at previous conventions, because more of the routine bearing on amendments to the by-laws, and the like, had been threshed out in committee, submitted to the Board of Directors in advance, and consummation of these matters facilitated thereby in the convention sessions.

Affiliated organizations, such as the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, National Architectural Accrediting Board, Conference of State Associations, had convened earlier, some as early as May 18, in order to have any action that these bodies felt required the attention and endorsement of the Institute ready for the convention. The sessions of the State Associations were lively and ended with the session late in the afternoon of May 21.

Hubert G. Ripley of Boston read the dedication on Tuesday morning, followed by the welcome of the Mayor of Louisville, in person, and that of the Governor of Kentucky by Hugh Meriwether of Lexington, President of the Association of Kentucky Architects. Announcement of scholarships, honorary membership, and the conferring of Fellowships followed. Twelve Fellowships were awarded, making a total now of 307. Three Fellowships fell to Illinois: Miles L. Colean and Philip Maher of the Chicago Chapter, and Dean Rexford Newcomb, University of Illinois, of the Central Illinois Chapter.

The Delano and Aldrich Scholarship for 1939 was awarded to M. Bailleau; the Henry Adams Scholarship to Arthur P. Herrman for travel and study of ecclesiastical architecture of the Middle Ages. Another award from the Adams Fund goes to Professor Bannister to assist in the issuance of his Bibliography of Medieval Work. The 1940 Edward Langley Scholarships go to: Addison Erdman, New York; William V. Cash, Washington, D. C.; David Douglas Red, Houston; Raymond J. Martens, Omaha; John Bernard Langley, Ontario, Canada; Ronald Morse Peck, Wolfville, Nova Scotia; Edward Frederick Gunnill, Jamestown, N. Y.; Henry L. Kamphoefner, Norman, Oklahoma; and Charles A. Dornbusch, Chicago.

The first session closed with the address of Past-President Maginnis on "The Profession of Architecture." It was up to Mr. Maginnis' high standard in the use of masterly English, and thought provoking. The afternoon was devoted to a tour of the City of Louisville. Many fine pieces of architectural work, old as well as new, roused the interest of the visiting architects. In the evening came the President's reception and dinner-dance at the Pendennis Club.

On Wednesday morning came the President's address, to be published in the "Octagon." Reports of the directors, credentials committee, treasurer, were all presented and accepted, and the present incumbents of the offices were all renominated and re-elected by acclamation.

Lunch tables were provided for groups having various interests and cordiality reigned. The ladies were not forgotten and on this afternoon a garden trip was arranged for them by the ladies of the Kentucky Chapter. The men were expected to tend to business so they dispersed themselves to the various round tables scattered through the hotel, where discussions of different subjects were carried on.

At Table B, "The Architect's Equipment for Housing," Miles Colean, presiding; Table F, "The Relationship of the Architectural Profession to Society," Edmund R. Purves, presiding; Table E, "Rural Practice," William L. Steele, presiding. Table A met at 8:30 P. M. on Wednesday. Its subject was "The Fields of Architectural Practice," John R. Fugard, presiding. Under this head came (a) Federal, with a paper presented by Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, Washington, D. C. (b) State and Municipal, papers by Paul Gerhardt, Jr., City Architect for Chicago, and Raymond T. Ashton, Salt Lake City. (c) Schools, papers by William B. Ittner, Jr., Saint Louis, and William Jones Smith, Chicago. (d) Local Housing Authorities, with papers by Howard Dwight Smith, Ohio State University, and Walter R. MacCornack, Dean, School of Architecture, M. I. T. (e) Real Estate Field, with papers on Land and Home Development by Edward D. Pierre, Indianapolis; Appraisals, Eugene Fuhrer, Chicago; Property Management, Stephen F. Voorhees, New York.

The round tables were very well attended and after the heavy fare, the architects were glad to accept juleps and fried chicken at the reception in Henry Clay Hotel by the Association of Kentucky Architects. But the round tables still had work to do and at 8:30 Table D discussed "Regional Enhancement," Frederick Bigger, presiding, and Table C discussed "Incomplete Architectural Services," Charles F. Cellarius, presiding. Among the papers presented was one on the Architect and the Housing Authority by James Edmunds, Jr. of Baltimore; another on The Architect and The State by A. N. Langius, Division of Buildings and Construction of the State of Michigan; a paper written by Albert Kahn on The Architect and Industry; another by S. B. Marston of Pasadena, Cal., on Pitfalls and Losses Resulting from Partial Service.

On the morning of the third day, May 23, the President presiding, reports of the chairmen of the various round table meetings were received and action adopting them was done in routine fashion. Various resolutions were presented and action taken on them.

The speaker of the morning session was Dr. Constantine E. McGuire, Economist, introduced to the convention by



Stephen F. Voorhees. Dr. McGuire, with the appearance and manner of a cloistered scholar, read his paper, "Trends of Our Time and the Trend of Our Times." His audience hung on every word. He made a profound impression and all listeners on leaving the hall secured printed copies of his impressive address. Bulletin readers desiring copies should address The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

The afternoon and evening were devoted to what was probably considered a high-light of the convention. This consisted of a horse show at Rock Creek Riding Club and a barbecue dinner served at 6:00 P. M. An interesting show was presented by some charming and lovely horsewomen and the barbecue was well set on its way by liberal application of Kentucky's famous drink, the mint julep. One was able to meet a confederate or confrere on equal terms and understanding. Some of our austere members even forgot themselves and burst into song on any occasion. It was a very refreshing event.

Friday morning, the 24th, with the President presiding, brought final action on the Board's report. One resolution that might be touched on was that of the Architects' Preparation in the Preparedness Program of the United States. A telegram was sent to the President of the United States tendering services of architects in connection with the defense program of this country.

A resolution was presented, coming from one of the round table sessions, asking the Federal Housing Administration to recognize only licensed architects as proper authors of plans for projects to receive mortgage insurance. It should be added at this time that a resolution sponsored by the Illinois Society of Architects relative to changes in by-laws, dealing with various classes of membership, including draftsmen, was presented in such a fashion that the result and action by the Institute recognized the autonomous rights and privileges of each state society in its own jurisdiction. This is the only logical answer for this situation and was the only one that could honestly have been arrived at. The program of unification is an excellent idea, but must not be one of absorption. Each state has its own methods and modes and the people of that jurisdiction are privileged to fight with each other to their heart's content, but like the usual quarrel between man and wife, woe unto the neighbor who attempts to serve as peacemaker or take sides. If the Institute is looking for American strength, and such is the definite opinion in many centers, let it proceed along the accepted American ideas which are still fitting and proper and very much in order in this country, despite the ideas and actions and self-appointed planners and experts and experimenters. Each state should be permitted a representation in the Convention for its non-Institute members, such as club members enjoy, but the non-Institute members shall have no right of vote in the disposition of Institute property, as they have not the same interest as has a corporate member. The Institute can flourish and prosper only if it is willing to recognize the other fellow's point of view and his position, and is willing to cooperate with him for a common end.

Next followed a symposium on Architectural Education and Registration, led by John Bakewell, Jr., Chairman of

the Committee on Education, who was assisted by Richard Koch, Chairman of the Committee on Allied Arts, and C. Julian Oberwarth, Chairman of the Committee on Registration Laws. Mr. Oberwarth gave a very interesting presentation and, you might say, argued pro and con for registration laws. He pointed out the benefits conferred by registration laws and also the disadvantages incurred by them. He made one definite point or observation and that was, as he stated, that he was of the opinion that architects were only interested in the big projects and showed little or no interest in the small projects. This, of course, is not a new situation, but becomes an aggravated point of discussion in each convention and usually centers around the "Small House." He pleaded for the better understanding of the small project problem and stated that it, in a collective sense, is a far larger problem than the so-called big project. It will take unending effort and paramount patience for the architects to even dent this problem, and until they are willing to view it in some other fashion than "the skeleton in the closet," no progress will be made in this field. Surprisingly, the Chairman of The Small House Project, which had the cooperative effort of the Producers Council, reported that this effort had succeeded in producing 127 projects throughout the country. It might be interesting to compute the time, effort, and money devoted to this effort to produce these 127 small houses, and if all these items could be added up to cost of these buildings and called the cost of producing them, they would represent a tremendous square foot and cubic foot cost for these buildings.

Next followed symposiums by representatives of Armour Institute, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Florida, the University of Minnesota, the University of Southern California, the University of Texas, the University of Washington, and the University of Pennsylvania, on the points of view of their schools on the training of architects. This ended the morning session. A joint meeting of the Producers Council in the ball room for luncheon, was followed by a symposium on New Materials with Richmond H. Shreve, presiding. The pros and cons of Glass Blocks were presented by A. W. Varasse, Architectural Relations Department, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company; Exterior Decorative Metals was presented by Dr. Bruce W. Gonser, Supervisor, Division of Non-Ferrous Metals, Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio; Architectural Plywood was presented by L. H. Meyer, United States Plywood Corporation; and Plastics was presented by J. Roger White, Formica Insulation Company.

The Institute closed its convention with a banquet on Friday evening attended by 150 ladies and gentlemen. The musical program during the dinner concentrated on southern songs and instrumental compositions, closing with three of Stephen Foster's melodies for string quartet and the singing of "My Old Kentucky Home" by Mary Frances Duane. President Bergstrom announced there would be no speeches, though William T. Warren, architect, of Birmingham, Alabama, was encouraged to tell negro stories in dialect, which he did with aplomb.

He was followed by President Bergstrom's announcement that the Institute Board had authorized the letting of contracts to build a new administration building in Wash-

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**Editor Monthly Bulletin**

ARTHUR WOLTERS DORF, 520 NORTH MICHIGAN AVE., CHICAGO

The unification of the architectural profession into one national organization is advancing on a sound basis. There are those who are somewhat impatient for final concrete results of this movement, and who cannot readily appreciate why certain apparent obstacles cannot be ignored, if not otherwise overcome. However, mature thought must admit of sound progress. Evolution can succeed; revolution has doubtful merit.

The recent meetings at Louisville indicate the trend of thought among the leaders of our profession and, if interpreted correctly, can be stated as a general agreement that one strong professional organization representing the architects of the United States as a whole is essential to the existence of the profession, and that the American Institute of Architects, already representing a majority of the organized portion of the profession, and whose object was stated in its constitution and by-laws "to organize and unite in fellowship the architects of the United States of America" must and will adapt itself to such an extent as to properly and equitably represent the entire body of architects on a national scope, guiding not only aesthetically but economically as well. It is further agreed that this national body should be so administered as to permit full autonomy of local affairs to the State groups, such as the currently functioning State Associations which, in turn, may or may not be further subdivided as conditions require.

Since the formation of guilds in medieval times, men in a particular craft or profession have found it to their economic advantage to band together for their mutual interest. The more effective the bond and the more cooperative the action, the stronger and more influential became the guild, craft or profession.

While we have had the American Institute of Architects representing our profession for the past eighty-three years, it has not been as effective as certain other national organizations for the reason that it actually represented but a small portion of the whole, both in number and scope of interests. We are living in a modern business world and any organization to compete with conditions must be aggressive and persistent. It should be noted that the Institute has become increasingly active, along with numerous of the State Societies or Associations, in improving the general standards of the profession through registration laws, standards of practice, recommended fees, competitions, and

numerous other services.

Many State Associations or Societies exist and seem self-sufficient, but it is folly to assume that their position is not made stronger, and the services to their members extended, by a national organization. A case in point is the recent meeting of the State Associations prior to the American Institute of Architects Convention. The exchange of experiences, discussions of publicity programs, legislative problems, and the like, brought out considerable mutual interest. So much so that particularly the Mid-West group, consisting of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois, with Missouri, Kentucky and Iowa to be invited, have found their interests so common that a general call is being planned for all architects in this region for some week-end the middle of September, with Cranbrook as the suggested meeting place, at which meeting it is hoped to establish a definite and detailed program of mutual cooperation in the interests of us all.

It is interesting to reflect that this movement toward unification has taken but relatively few years to gain the momentum it now has. It will be recalled that, although broached from time to time, it was not until 1935, in the American Institute of Architects Convention in Milwaukee, that now President, Edwin Bergstrom of California, formally offered a complete scheme of full unification of the profession. Unfortunately, the Institute was not yet ready for this development and consequently the progress has been more gradual. It has always been admitted that two national organizations would be unfortunate in that both would be weak whereas one national body might be a strong influence for good. Needless competition not only for members but also in aims and activities can be eliminated for the common good.

There is still evidence of prejudices both on the part of certain "Institute" men, as well as "non-Institute" men, as to the desirability of the American Institute of Architects being the national body around which this unification program is to be centered. It is believed that considerable progress has been made in overcoming this unjustifiable attitude. As opposed to this position, there are perhaps an equal number of both "Institute" and "non-Institute" men who feel that the American Institute of Architects is not going as far nor as rapidly as it should in meeting the State Associations demands or requirements. Mandatory requirements other than those affecting corporate property and Institute codes or standards are inconsistent with the term autonomy and must be eliminated.

It has become clear that all localities cannot be dealt with through a single method of organization. However, the ultimate goal is similar. Chapters in their present sense are inadequate in that they tend toward isolation, having insufficient interest in national or State affairs, or in the welfare of the profession as a whole. Attempts to allocate the fields of activity and responsibility of the present local chapters and the State organizations have not met with success.

Summarizing the present status of the consolidation of interests in the architectural profession, in a national form, it may be said that unification rather than affiliation is the watchword. The Institute, as at present constituted, will gradually adapt itself to prevailing conditions, and will ultimately represent all reputable architects through local associations or chapters, which will be autonomous within their own geographical limits, and will be non-competitive with one another. Let us all strive to hasten this result, for then only will the profession of architecture receive its due recognition and respect.



## April and May Illinois Society Meetings

Coincidental with the Illinois Society of Architects' meeting falling on April 23 was the Walter Curt Behrendt illustrated address on "Principles of Modern Architecture" presented before the School of Liberal Arts of Northwestern University in Harris Hall, Evanston campus. So the Society's efficient program committee appropriated the Evanston program as part of its April meeting, the diners being transported by bus to Evanston immediately after the short business meeting following the dinner. It was a speedy ride along Lake Michigan's shore to the classic shades of Evanston.

Thirty attended the dinner and business meeting. In the absence of the secretary, no minutes were read. President Paul Gerhardt, Jr. introduced Dr. Walter Curt Behrendt, Technical Director of Planning Research Station, University of Buffalo, New York and Buffalo Planning Association, Inc.; also Professor J. C. Webster of Northwestern's Department of Liberal Arts, who lectures on the history of architecture.

President Gerhardt told his audience that a new engineers' bill was drafted for presentation before the state legislature which was as obnoxious as a similar bill presented by the engineers before the last legislature. This bill proposes that any registered engineer, regardless of classification, shall be entitled to design and carry out any class of building in the State of Illinois. The bill, if passed, would make the architects' license law null and void. One cannot believe that this bill would be a constitutional law. However, President Gerhardt asked cooperation of members to defeat such a measure.

The question of amendments to Chicago's new building code again was raised and nothing decisive accomplished. Henry K. Holsman was reminded of a story about a man and a barrel.

At 7:20 the company broke up and took their places in the waiting bus at the Art Institute to go to Evanston. At Harris Hall more than two hundred people were assembled, some architects with their wives living along the North Shore who had not attended the dinner, some University people, and quite a large contingent of young men and women students in the College of Liberal Arts. Professor Webster, in introducing Dr. Behrendt, paid his respects to the Waid Memorial Fund and the A. I. A. under whose auspices the lecture was taking place. He referred to Dr. Behrendt's book, "Modern Architecture."

Dr. Behrendt was interesting and his professional audience would have appreciated an opportunity to inject questions as the lecture proceeded with pictures. This, of course, in so large a company and not all professional men, could not happen. Dr. Behrendt spoke of the new order and traced it back 116 years to Karl Friedrich Schinkel (1781-1841), famous German architect, whose masterpiece, *Das alte Museum*, Berlin, was thrown on the screen. In 1824 Schinkel visited England, then in the first phase of the industrial age. He visited Manchester and other industrial towns, making sketches of factory structures, housing of the workers, and the like. He recognized, as shown in his diary, that the old order was passing and that industrial and business structures must not be hampered by the idiom of classic orders as then very generally used in Renaissance and Baroque designs, but must make the architectural language subservient to the needs of the day. And so he designed ideal structures, one of which Dr. Behrendt illustrated. This was an extensive two or three story department store, U-shaped in plan. It had very large openings for light and air and display.

The Doctor illustrated by plan and photograph palatial homes of the 18th century where symmetry took precedence over logic and convenience. This was followed by an example of an ambitious country house in Thomas Jefferson architecture, by McKim, Mead and White, built on the New England coast crowning a rocky cliff. An escape from this house one compared mentally to the flight of Monte Cristo from his Mediterranean rock fortress, or a prison escape from Alcatraz.

He jumped from this example to others about 1900 and came to the Tribune Tower, about 1925, where the executed design was illustrated and criticized. It was compared to the Walter Gropius design in the Tribune competition, and Sullivan's Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co. building came into this comparison. Saarinen's second prize design was not even mentioned. But to this reporter's mind, the good Doctor took no heed of the difference in fenestration necessities between an office building, a great warehouse, and a factory. A factory building designed by Mies van der Rohe was shown, which after all

was nothing more than an engineer's disposition of columns and floors, the latter being cantilevered to the wall edges and then surrounded by continuous strip windows. The Tugendhat house shown has a continuous lower story wall of plate glass. One wonders whether this expanse of exposure is not so excessive that the family housed here must protect itself by an inner wall of Venetian blinds. To let in sunlight is a good thing, but to lack protection against sunlight may produce excessive discomfort.

Much more might be said. Dr. Behrendt ruled that there was a change in principle in architectural design; that for the time being there was a uniformity around the world in the results achieved under the accepted new principle; and that the rise of a new vernacular is awaited.

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To the Illinois Society of Architects' May meeting on the 28th at Mather Hall, Art Institute of Chicago, came twenty-five members to dinner; five more came later, including Howard Cheney, architect in the Procurement Division, Washington, D. C. After the brief minutes of the April meeting by Secretary Fairclough, came the appointment of two nominating committees whose duty is to lay before the membership by letter-ballot names of candidates for offices in the Society. The regular committee carries the names Schmidt, Urbanek, Capraro; Members Committee: Fox, Flaks, Lewin.

Program Chairman Weissenborn announced that a feature of the June 26 meeting would be the appearance and talk, after an absence from Chicago of twenty-five years, of Mrs. Walter Burley Griffin. It will be remembered that Mrs. Griffin is an architect who married the late Walter Griffin. The two entered the international competition for building the new capital city of Canberra, Australia. They won this competition and moved to Australia where they functioned as architects for buildings at Canberra and other places on the island continent. Within the last five years they had moved to India, where Mr. Griffin died at Lucknow.

President Gerhardt granted Herman Palmer the floor to tell of his encouragement by professors of architecture he had met at the Louisville A. I. A. Convention to have practicing architects address the higher classes in high schools and academies on architecture and its practice in this country. Mr. Palmer thought that such addresses would help those young men, who looked toward architecture as a career, form more correct and wholesome ideas on what might be expected of them in this field.

Richard E. Schmidt, a faithful member and at present Commissioner of Buildings for the City of Chicago, spoke on the zoning ordinance and its proposed changes, and the Chicago Plan Commission whose special charge is the land use survey.

Arthur Woltersdorf was called upon to give a resumé of the national convention of the A. I. A. at Louisville which closed May 24. President Gerhardt, the Illinois Society's special representative at this convention on unification, who was at the same time a Chicago Chapter delegate, dwelt upon the pre-convention meetings of state societies, and the work on the floor of the convention in the interest of affiliation of the societies with the A. I. A., all under the heading of unification of the profession. Mr. Gerhardt spoke further on the subject of publicizing the architect and commended highly the publicity work of the architects in Southern California in presenting to the public interesting talks over the radio and well written articles in the public prints on building the small house.

Andy Anderson, an architect who has become an enthusiastic photographer, showed moving picture films in kotochrome of Cedar Breaks, Bryce Canyon, Grand Canyon, and other scenic spots in the Rockies. He injected a film taken at the 1937 Boston A. I. A. Convention showing many well-known figures of the profession as they moved about in the New England landscape. A considerable number of these men have passed to the Great Beyond and the company viewed these pictures with much interest.

A book "Engineers and Engineering in the Renaissance" by the distinguished engineer William Barclay Parsons, published posthumously, erects a new monument to the amazing engineering feats of the Renaissance period. The book is considered a classic in its field.

In China, the butterfly is a symbol of immortality.



## Chicago Chapter April and May Meetings

Forty attended the dinner and meeting of the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A. at Mather Hall, Art Institute, on April 10, and twenty more came after the dinner for the meeting. With the dinner liquidated, President Roberts—in the absence of the Secretary—read the minutes of the March meeting. The President announced the last work in architecture of Thomas E. Tallmadge, deceased, was now finished and inspection invited. This work is the Bard Memorial Chancel, First Presbyterian Church, Highland Park, Illinois.

The President introduced J. O. Merrill, past Chapter President, as the sponsor for the evening's program. The program was "Rehabilitation of Existing Housing." Mr. Merrill introduced as the special speaker on this subject Newton C. Farr, conspicuous figure in Chicago Real Estate circles, Past-President, Chicago Real Estate Board, and now President, National Association of Real Estate Boards. Mr. Farr has recently returned from California. In that state the building of houses that sell with the land for from \$3000 to \$5000—attractive small homes—interested Mr. Farr and he went into detail about them. What this country needed, said Farr, was sanitary low-cost housing for the underprivileged by private capital. Realtors had followed with interest and concern the public housing produced under PWA and other agencies and the National Association of Real Estate Boards had come to the conviction that housing carried out with public funds should be stopped, except under the four following conditions laid down by N. A. R. E. B. 1. Public housing should be confined to slum clearance. 2. USHA should use existing sound houses wherever possible. 3. USHA should build for the lowest income groups only. 4. USHA should pay regular real estate property tax that other owners are subject to.

Mr. Farr passed on to review the rehabilitation in housing carried on in Philadelphia by Arthur W. Binns who has gone into buying up extensive areas of old houses, putting them in sanitary, rentable shape, and has made them pay. The realtor, said Farr, must see that the money put into the property comes back and produces some interest in the meantime. Angels (in the theatrical sense), he said, are very scarce in real estate.

To borrow money in larger sums for such rebuilding, the FHA recommends the formation of limited dividend corporations to whose lenders, after careful examination of plans and figures, FHA will insure loans up to 80% of the cost of the improvement where that corporation includes in the same neighborhood sixteen or more units under the proposed borrowing. A condition of the loan is that 50 per cent of that sum must go into new work and equipment. FHA has published a pamphlet on such rehabilitation loans. Mr. Farr was confident that with proper planning and forethought the successful rejuvenation of older buildings in our cities can be done profitably.

Mr. Merrill then introduced the guests of the evening composed of HOLC and FHA staff members. Chief among these was Percy C. Wagner, Zone Rental Manager, Federal Housing Administration, Chicago. With preliminary remarks disposed of, Mr. Wagner invited questions from the company for which he supplied answers.

The closing feature of the program was the sound picture "The City." Fine as this picture is as a symphony beginning with the pre-Revolutionary New England village with its dominating church spire and houses set in lawns and gardens along the village street, with its handicraft and home industry, then moving on into the industrial period with human beings living closer and closer together, into the machine age with its coming slums, houses passing from the original owner-builders down lower and lower until they reach the hopeless slums with disorder and disease all about, culminating with a few pictures of recently completed housing projects set in lawns among shade trees with playgrounds for happy children, it is of value chiefly as an historic document to be placed in the records with the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee pictures and those of the Durbar. It is not teaching the architect anything new. He has been subjected for the last eight years to speeches, lectures, discussions, moving pictures, and even housing jobs, making all the picture tells old stuff to him. However, this film, on which Frederick Ackermann and Robert Kohn of the A. I. A. cooperated actively, and which was produced through a grant of the Carnegie Foundation and first shown in the

New York World's Fair, holds one's interest even though it has been seen before.

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The call for the Chicago Chapter's May 1 pre-Convention meeting at Normandy House was responded to by twenty members and one guest. The guest was Leigh Hunt, Secretary of the Wisconsin Chapter and State Association member on the Board of Directors, A. I. A. He had come from Milwaukee at the request of his Chapter in the hope that the Wisconsin Chapter could concur in the Chicago Chapter's resolutions for presentation at Louisville.

The reading of the Secretary's minutes of the previous meeting disposed of, President Roberts turned to the special business of the evening, namely, presentation of resolutions for submission to the A. I. A. Convention. There were four of these. First, to prevent professional engineers from usurping the architect's place in the practice of his profession by the introduction of state laws granting such usurpation. Second, that the Institute leave state societies or associations of architects free in the matter of associate membership for non-licensed architects. Third, that the Institute use its good offices to have the profession more actively represented on governing bodies of the nation, the states, counties, and cities. Fourth, that the Institute Convention endorse the efforts of Thurman Arnold and the Department of Justice in protecting the public against machinations of labor or capital in the building industry.

Mr. Benedict moved that the Chicago delegates to the Louisville Convention be instructed to vote favorably upon the ten recommendations advanced by Henry Churchill and his group at a meeting in Philadelphia on February 17.

Jerrold Loebl proposed a resolution to request the A. I. A. to endorse the National Resources Board in their work of collecting data on planning American cities and offer them the service of the A. I. A.'s City Planning Committee.

## Changes in Chicago Building Code

| Section Number                  | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Date              | Council Journal Page |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 52-33 and 52-34                 | New Sections<br>Raises the permissible area of a garage from 2000 to 16,000 square feet before two ramps are required and increases the permissible grade of the ramp in all cases to 20%.                                  | 2/21/40           | 2009-10              |
| 55-21                           | Amended<br>Reduces the required distance between entrance doors on toilet rooms for men and women from 20 feet to 10 feet.                                                                                                  | 4/3/40            | 2273                 |
| 80-10                           | Amended<br>Excepts from the requirements of a smoke pipe or vent on a gas operated cooking appliance only those having an input exclusive of the top burner section of not to exceed 50,000 British thermal units per hour. | 2/21/40<br>4/3/40 | 2019<br>2273         |
| 80-24.1 to 80-24.7              | New Sections<br>Provides regulations for the installation of domestic gas hot water heaters.                                                                                                                                | 3/20/40           | 2167-68              |
| 90-37 to 90-42                  | Repealed<br>Eliminates the requirements for the installation of emergency gas shutoff valves in buildings.                                                                                                                  | 2/21/40           | 2018-19              |
| 7 Zoning Ordinance (See 194A-7) | Amended<br>Eliminates the authorization of retail shops in hotels and apartment houses as auxiliary uses in the 4th and 5th volume district.                                                                                | 4/10/40           | 2320                 |

The Elgin marbles, sculptures from the Greek Parthenon which were bought by the British government in 1816, have recently been cleaned, thereby arousing controversy over the best way of handling such precious art relics.



## Architectural Concrete for Any Climate

In a discussion entitled "Monolithic Concrete Construction for Variable Climates" in the April-May Bulletin, the statement was made that a concrete job that is really good in a moderate climate is good in any climate. While no evidence was presented to prove the statement, careful examination of engineering structures in all parts of the country and many examples of concrete used as an architectural material that have been in service for 30 to 50 or more years, convinces one that architectural concrete is suitable for any extremes of climate. In those localities subject to wide variations in temperature and to many cycles of freezing and thawing, the precautions to secure a durable job must be more rigidly observed than in milder climates. Even in the milder climates, however, the precautions to be observed are much the same, if good appearance is to be secured.

Assuming an adequate structural design, it is important to provide a uniformly dense concrete having an attractive surface. As has been so often said, the important factor in providing dense, durable concrete is proper control of the water content in relation to the cement content (water-cement ratio). In the northern part of the United States the water content should not exceed  $6\frac{1}{2}$  gallons per sack of cement. This may be increased to 7 gallons in the southern States. Since the aggregates, particularly the sand, carry some free water, the actual amount of water to be added at the mixer will be less, exact amounts depending on the amount of free water in the aggregates.

Plastic, workable mixes are essential for hand placing. With the thin, high walls further complicated by reinforcement, spreaders and tie rods generally used in architectural concrete, more plastic mixes than customary for much structural work are desirable. Aggregate should be graded up to as large a size as it is practical to use. For nearly all these walls aggregate up to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches can be used. A proportion of about 40 per cent sand and 60 per cent coarse aggregate by weight generally gives good results. To secure uniformity the coarse aggregate should be provided in two sizes,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch and  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, and recombined for each batch. Of the total coarse aggregate, about 40 per cent  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch and 60 per cent  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, usually gives a good combination. In all cases the engineer or superintendent on the job should be permitted to work out the proportions of the materials to be used to provide a plastic mix which will not segregate in placing.

An important item in securing good appearance is the grading of the sand. At least 15 per cent and preferably about 20 per cent of the sand should pass a 50 mesh sieve and 3 to 8 per cent should pass the 100 mesh sieve. These fines are necessary to give a plastic concrete that will not permit water to separate from the mix. Such separation results in sand streaking on the surface and porous concrete at the top of each lift. Too rapid placing also promotes separation of water from the mix. In walls the rate of placing should be limited to not more than two feet per hour vertically.

Horizontal construction joints are sometimes poorly made, resulting in a poor appearance and providing a point of attack by weathering. It is just as easy to build them right as wrong. The preferred method is to have the form sheathing stop in a true level line exactly at the elevation of the construction joint. Concrete should be permitted to settle at a level a foot or so below a construction joint and any excess water should be removed. The form should then be filled with concrete stiff enough so that it can be thoroughly compacted without water rising to the surface. The concrete should be heaped up above the form and after it has stood for 30 minutes or so the excess should be struck off. The surface between the outside form and the reinforcement should then be screeded. The following day the concrete back of the reinforcement should be wire brushed to expose the aggregate before resuming form construction for the next lift. Top sections of parapets and window sills should also be filled in with stiff concrete, well puddled into place, with no excess of water on the top surfaces.

Careful placing is required to secure uniformity. The practice

of dumping concrete directly into the forms, in a more or less hit or miss manner, should not be tolerated in architectural concrete work. Metal tremie pipes, in varying lengths by increments of 2 feet, should be used permitting no more than a 2 foot free drop of concrete. These can be made in rectangular sections to fit between the curtains of reinforcement bars and should be provided with hoppers at the top. The concrete should be placed in uniform layers not more than about 18 inches high, each layer well spaded into place. Segregation of the materials will thus be avoided and a uniform wall produced.

Adequate curing is an important factor in building up the resistance of concrete to weathering. One of the best means of curing is to leave the forms in place as long as possible, a minimum of 3 or 4 days and longer if practicable. When forms are removed, the concrete should be covered with wet burlap or should be sprinkled so that it will not dry out for at least the first week after placing.

Control joints to allow for shrinkage which takes place upon drying are an effective means of relieving stresses and should be incorporated in every building regardless of location. These are very inconspicuous and can be made to fit the architectural design. They are made by tacking wood or metal strips to the forms which leave narrow vertical grooves in the concrete at opposite points on the inside and outside of the wall. One-half of the horizontal reinforcement is stopped off or cut at the section to further aid in forcing any tendency of the wall to crack to occur in the joint. The narrow groove on the outside face of the wall is filled with non-staining, concrete colored calking compound to prevent penetration of moisture.

It is difficult to give definite rules for the location of control joints. It is customary to locate them 15 to 25 feet apart in exterior walls and in exposed, cast-in-place interior walls. In walls where there are window or door openings, the joints are usually located at the center line of the opening. The extra reinforcement normally placed at the heads and sills of the openings should be stopped off or cut at the joint. Where there are steel columns embedded in the walls which may weaken the wall section even more than nearby openings, joints should be placed in the plane of the columns. Joints should begin at the top of the wall footing and should extend on the outside face of the wall to the top of the parapet, over the top and down the back of the parapet to the raggle strip. On the inside face the joint should extend from floor to ceiling.

From the standpoint of appearance the design and construction of the forms are of paramount importance, for it must be remembered, fresh concrete is a plastic material and, when hardened, will bear direct imprints of the forms. Leaky forms, of course, will permit loss of mortar leaving a porous area around the leak and a poor surface, often exposing the aggregate. Tight forms are therefore essential. All corners must be firmly locked so that they do not open under the pressure of the concrete when the forms are filled. Sheathing studs, wales, and ties must be adequate to retain the desired shape and size when filled with concrete. Form design and construction is a large subject that cannot be fully discussed here but there are good publications available covering the subject for those interested.

Good workmanship is such a shopworn phrase that one hesitates to use it. The range between the good and bad workmanship in concrete construction is so wide, however, that it must be given consideration. Contractors for architectural concrete should be selected for their ability and willingness to produce the results planned by the architect and not on the basis of price alone. They must be impressed with the fact that the job is not a reinforced concrete structure which is to be covered with some other material, but that the concrete is to be left exposed and appearance and durability are of primary importance.

—A. J. Boase, C. E. Manager, Structural Bureau  
Portland Cement Association



## Building at Dearborn and Washington Gone

When I learned that the owners of the seven story building at the southwest corner of Washington and Dearborn Streets proposed to raze it, I was reminded of my initiation to architecture in the offices of a firm of architects located in this building, then known as the Equitable Building, 108 Dearborn Street, Chicago (old number). It was a five-story and basement building. The basement had shops accessible from the street by steps. The fifth story where our offices were located was a mansard story, in which the window sills were about six feet above the floor on the wide cornice.

When I was admitted into the office on the first Monday of September, 1881, the building was only seven or eight years old. In or about 1892 the mansard was removed, three stories added, and a first floor established at sidewalk grade.

There were only about three hundred telephones in the city. "Our" office had none; consequently, I had to deliver letters and other messages throughout the city. However, the city was only seven miles long, six miles wide, and had an area of 35 square miles, whereas today the length is 26 miles, and the area 212.816 square miles. Occasionally I had to run over and telephone in a La Salle Street bank; more often I had to deliver written messages after office hours, in directions opposite to that of a two-mile walk to my home. The office hours were from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M., so that I enjoyed (?) a cold supper when I finally sat before it.

When I came into the office, all copies issued were hand traced. During my second year a 30" by 40" hectograph was purchased. Washing it was another disagreeable chore for the office boys, but the chores were well worth doing in exchange for tuition in a fine course in drawing and the mechanics of the architect's office, tracing small scale working plans, full-size details, copying specifications and contracts in long hand. The firm directed my reading, free-hand drawing, and occasional attempts in design.

I read Bötticher's *Tektonik der Hellenen* and drew many sheets of its details in pencil and ink, also every plate of Collin's *Gothic Ornament*, which I rendered with a goose quill. These drawings were made by eye measurement, no tracing or instrument measurements permitted.

At that time we were acquainted with other tenants, as we were with everybody living in the neighborhood of our homes. The studios of C. P. Ream, a painter of still life, and C. P. Thomas, architect, were also in the mansard story. In Mr. Thomas' office I met Louis Piquenard, an accomplished architectural draftsman, whose father joined John L. Cochran in the competition for the State House at Springfield. Undoubtedly Piquenard was its designer. Other architects' offices in the immediate neighborhood were T. V. Wadskier's and L. G. Quackenboss'.

Brick segmental arches on iron beams was the construction of the original lower floors; hollow tile arches and a steel frame of the stories added in the early nineties.

The name of the architect is not known to me and as the design and detailing are unlike that of any other building in the city, it is my guess that he was an Easterner.

—Richard E. Schmidt, F. A. I. A.

## Chicago Architects Honored

The Fifth Pan-American Congress of Architects, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, March 4 to 9, 1940, was attended by 386 delegates from the Western Hemisphere. The Congress voted to honor Chicago architects for achievement in their profession, as follows:

Silver Medal and Diploma: Holabird & Root for Chicago Daily News Building; Holabird & Root for U. S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin; Ernest A. Grunsfeld for Adler Planetarium, Chicago; Schmidt, Garden & Erikson for St. Francis Nurses' Home in Pittsburgh.

Honorable Mention: John L. Hamilton, Chicago, and Aymar Embury II, New York, for the Winnetka Congregational Church; Bennett, Parsons & Frost for the Federal Trade Commission Building in Washington; Howard L. Cheney for the post office at Miami Beach; Holabird & Root for the A. O. Smith Engineering Laboratory at Milwaukee.

## Minnesota Reduces Labor Strikes

Governor Stassen of Minnesota on April 22, 1939 signed the bill passed by the legislature in the interest of labor peace. Of the man-days of work lost and of the wages lost in each of the years 1936, '37, and '38, the year 1939 lost but 13 per cent of the man-days of work and 15 per cent of the wages. Labor disputes in the first year were settled by the Labor Conciliator's Office, the administrative division created by the Labor Act.

The Minnesota Labor Relations Act provides "the avoidance and settlement of labor disputes and the promotion of industrial peace." There is no state labor board under the Act. Instead Minnesota has a State Labor Conciliator. His chief job is to prevent strikes and lockouts by bringing about non-violent settlements of disputes.

It is unlawful in Minnesota for an employer to institute a lockout except after the notification, conciliating, and waiting procedure. It is unfair and unlawful to discharge a worker for signing a complaint or giving information under the Act, to spy upon labor activity, or to blacklist workers. It is also unfair and illegal for any employee or labor organization to call a strike in violation of the Act's procedure; to conduct a sit-down strike; to picket any place of which the person involved is not an employee, unless a majority of the pickets are employees; to threaten or coerce any person to join or not to join a union. These prohibitions place on labor's shoulders some responsibilities similar to those business has long been carrying.

Between the enactment date of the labor law and the beginning of this year, the Conciliator received 362 notices of intended strikes or lockouts. Only 20 strikes and 2 lockouts took place. More than 200 were settled by the Conciliator and his staff. The rest were worked out by the parties themselves.

Minnesota is moving toward labor sanity.

## The Government's Book "Public Buildings"

The Federal Government which today lays so much stress on what it is doing to bring art before the public publishes a volume of over 600 views of buildings—postoffices, court houses, schools, etc.—erected from public funds (derived, be it said, from taxes to which even the architects are compelled to contribute) and yet there is no single mention in this volume of any architect whose skill designed these buildings. The majority of them are admirably designed, some conspicuously so; they represent both the Traditional and Advanced School; but once again the reader is led to believe that these monuments have sprung into being by spontaneous construction. This could not have happened in any country that lays claim to a native culture, for in all such countries architecture is recognized as an art and the recognition of the artist widely distributed.

If the achievements of the architects received in our widely read publications the same discussion and recognition that are given to painting or sculpture—a recognition they richly deserve—it would be an immense stimulus to the culture of the present day. A eulogistic obituary gives no encouragement or satisfaction to a dead architect.

—William Adams Delano, F. A. I. A., in the *New York Times Magazine*.

Harrie T. Lindeberg delighted the gathering with an account of his visit to the widely publicized house at Poissy by Le Corbusier. Having discovered the entrance with some difficulty, Lindeberg and his little dog were admitted by a caretaker. The family was away, escaping the summer heat; in the winter they sought a summer climate to escape the cold. "And you?" asked Lindeberg. "I have to live here—I am paid to do so," said the caretaker, inviting him in. Ascending a ramp to the second floor, the great openness of the plan and the abundance of glass at once proclaimed the modern manner—so much so that the dog, not really knowing whether he was indoors or out, and finding plenty of free-standing lally columns about him, was obviously misled.

—From Henry Saylor's *Diary in May Architectural Forum*.

Indian artists are painting twenty-four scenes of Indian life on the walls of the Department of the Interior cafeteria.



## What's Ahead in Construction?

This question is discussed in the April 11 "Engineering News-Record" by Abel Wolman, consulting engineer and Professor of Sanitary Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. Professor Wolman should be well qualified to discuss this subject from his experience before 1937, when he joined the faculty of the University. For seventeen years he was chief engineer of Maryland State Board of Health before becoming Regional Administrator for Maryland and Delaware of PWA.

The following are extracts from Mr. Wolman's article:

"What has been the construction experience since the World War period? Since the expenditures in which we are interested rest heavily upon federal, state, and local tax revenues, it is of importance to recall that in 1938 the total tax collections from these sources amounted to \$14,811,000,000. This figure represented \$114.09 per capita and amounted to 21.8 per cent of the average of the estimated income for the calendar years 1937 and 1938. In 1915 the total new public construction activity in the United States was only \$715,000,000. It reached a peak in 1930, of \$2,770,000,000. In 1939 public construction reached a probable figure of \$2,800,000,000. The total value of all construction during 1939 is estimated to have amounted to slightly less than \$10,000,000,000—this being more than two and one-half times as large as the low value reached in 1935. Total expenditures on construction in 1939 were less than three-quarters of those attained in the peak years of 1926 to 1929, although the physical volume of construction last year was probably as much as seven-eighths of that reached at the peak, if adjustment is made for changes in construction costs.

"The statistical measures suggest that the average annual physical volume of construction per capita over long periods has not changed appreciably during the past sixty years. In the light of the accumulated repair work, the great amount of urban street reconstruction which would be undertaken, and the requirements which arise from the growth and shifting of populations, the construction needs of the next five years are of a magnitude at least equal to the actual construction of the late 20's.

"The future will require a more satisfactory advance programming for public works than has been generally provided in the past. Less than a dozen cities in the United States have so far developed an orderly process for long range budgeting in the public works construction field.

"In summary, it can be said that there is no reason to suppose from the past history of construction that there will be any important abatement of such work in the next two decades. Sufficient backlog of construction necessities, normal increases in population growth, reasonable demands for increased standards of living, more satisfactory budget programming and fiscal practices, should all lead to current improvements and extensions in general works construction."

(Continued from Page 2, Column 2)

ington, D. C., fronting on New York Avenue, adjoining the original Octagon property. On the screen were thrown plans, elevations, interiors, and an exterior perspective of the proposed 2-story and basement building. The money for this structure is provided by the D. Everett Waid Fund. The architects of the building are the late Dwight James Baum and Otto Eggers. This announcement was a happy surprise and elicited enthusiastic applause.

The President of the Kentucky Chapter expressed appreciation and thanks to the Institute for having held the convention in Kentucky. President Bergstrom replied fittingly and the *au revoir* came at 11:30.

A keynote sounded by the President of the Institute was whether the architect should remain solely a professional man, or permit "business" to inject itself into his realm. Whether we like it or not, we are obliged to recognize that business is playing a more and more important part in our profession. Portions of the profession that business controls or dominates have been taken over by interests

of a business nature and it is just a question whether the architect is going to permit the "fifth column" to continue to concentrate and eventually control, or whether he intends to fight fire with fire and become conversant with and projected into the business phases of his profession. Viewing the profession from inside and from without, I do not see a very happy future for the strict professionalist.

—Carl E. Heimbrodt, A. I. A.

## Decreasing Populations

The fifth decade of this century, commencing next January, will almost certainly witness a slight decline in the total numbers of various peoples in Europe offset so far as the whole European population is concerned, however, by the likelihood of a continuation in the increase of the Slavic peoples.

So far as the United States is concerned, the census of 1940 will probably bring us some rather startling surprises. The population predominantly of European origin in the United States will be found in all likelihood to be at or just below the level of true reproduction; in other words, before the fifth decade of the century has ended, the population of European origin, that is to say, what we call loosely the white population of the United States, will witness for the first time an excess of deaths over births. . . .

You have witnessed, no doubt, in some of the larger cities, the already striking decline in the so-called school population. Ten years from now places for qualified teachers will fall substantially below the supply, and that condition is likely to be aggravated in subsequent years. The number of hospitals and institutions generally available for those physically or mentally afflicted is certain to increase in inverse ratio to the decline in the demand for school facilities; for one of the definite consequences of the prolongation in the duration of life is the survival of a great number of persons who are hovering near the edge of permanent disability, physical or mental, and who eventually become wholly dependent upon public or private institutional maintenance. But it is primarily in its effect upon the shift in dwelling accommodations that this gradual transformation of the composition of the population is of primary interest to your profession. As the median age—that age above and below which you have the same number of population—rises, and the number of children in each household tends to decline, the requirements for dwelling space are likewise less, however much this shrinkage in the need of or desire for space is retarded by a large per capita national income. Whether or not marriage is delayed, the tendency to seek individual household accommodations rather than to be satisfied with relatively small housing facilities in multiple dwelling units is likely to become the dominating characteristic, particularly of larger communities. This does not show, naturally, in the rural areas in anything like the same fashion that it does in cities of the first, second, and third rank.

The metropolitan area has from time immemorial been conspicuous in its relative sterility. Calculations were made some years ago for Berlin, the result of which was to show that if the population of that city were to maintain its same rate of replacement and its same mortality rate for one century and none of the persons in the city were to leave it and none other to enter, at the close of that century its present population of more than four millions would have shrunk to less than one hundred thousand. Comparable calculations could be made for other great cities, including metropolitan New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington. In proportion, of course, as countries tend to be industrialized and a steady smaller number of the total population lives in rural areas, there are fewer sources from which migration can start into the big cities to keep up their numbers. The pressure from outside, therefore, in demand for housing facilities tends, so far as the demographic side is concerned, to diminish.

—From the address of Dr. Constantine E. McGuire, Economist,  
before the 72nd A. I. A. Convention at Louisville.

The heating plant installed on the larger airline transports for passenger comfort is big enough to heat a ten-room house, W. W. Davies of the United Air Lines Transport Corporation told the National Aeronautic meeting.