

THE OUTLOOK FOR BUSINESS

By Dr. N. R. Whitney, Economist

I said a few minutes ago that we are in a boom. There is no other way you could define it when you have practically full employment and you have the highest commodity prices on record, the highest production index on record, and so forth.

If you are in a boom, there is only one way you can go. If you are on a peak or pinnacle, you can only go down.

The effort to expand beyond that level results in strains and stresses, which lead into a recession, and in some cases into a depression.

During the past sixty years the amount of capital required per worker has increased about two per cent a year. If we should get back to the prewar ratio of \$2 of capital, including inventories, of course, for every \$1 of annual output, which was the ratio that prevailed for years before the war, \$2 of capital for \$1 of annual output, we would need 50 billion dollars of additional capital right at this time. The rapidly rising prices which we have all experienced up to very recently also lead to strains and stresses. These strains and stresses lead to distortions in the national economy.

Costs of production have risen very rapidly, and that has resulted in encouraging and maintaining inefficient work, since the rapidly rising prices have made it possible for high-cost producers to remain in business, whereas earlier they might have been eliminated.

Those that have the least margin tend to be at a disadvantage in the competitive market, and as competition begins to get more serious they fold up and have to quit producing. An increase in the prices of the raw materials or the semi-finished goods which you have to buy leads to a great increase in the amount of capital that you need to carry even the same physical amount of inventory that you carried before.

This leads to a tight bank situation and to higher interest rates. The banks have been putting pressure on some of their borrowers, who have very large inventories, urging them to bring down their loan, and in order to do so, to sell some of their inventory and not to buy any more. So that again is a distortion that is putting pressure on the economy.

Farm and food prices represent about 40 per cent of the price structure, so the very high rate of increase in those products and the similar rapid increase in raw materials represents another very serious influence tending to unbalance the whole economy.

The danger of a collapse in our booming export trade is suggested by the fact that the shrinkage in dollars in the hands of foreign buyers is going on rapidly. To buy in this market, the British, the French, the Dutch and the others all have to have dollars at some time or other. The supply of dollars available in the rest of the world is shrinking very rapidly. The same situation is found in the other countries. They are using up their dollar purchasing power very rapidly, and unless we go on making additional and larger loans all the time, or unless we are willing to give them the goods without having them pay for them, sooner or later—and when I say sooner or later, I mean probably within another year or 18 months — our export trade will undoubtedly have to shrink very materially.

We are now exporting at the rate of 14 billion dollars a year, and we are importing only at the rate of 5 billion dollars a year. There is excess that the foreign nations owe us of nine billion dollars a year. With our exports now running three times the value of imports our foreign trade is in a very unsound and unhealthy condition.

It is impossible to believe that we can go on very long without having a break-down somewhere. The question is, where and when? If we are collecting around 7 or 8 billion dollars more than we are spending, we should be concerned with the deflationary effects.

Building contracts awarded in the first half of May were down 30 per cent below the corresponding week of 1946, and residential contracts were down 40 per cent. There is a tremendous need for industrial and residential construction, but that is temporarily slowing up now because of these inequities. The promise of some tax reduction federally is hopeful, whether we get it this year or not until nearer the election date. That should be very helpful.

In conclusion, what I said as to the pattern and the outlook for the remainder of 1947 and 1948, we are, or will be pretty soon, in a gradually downward movement which will carry probably up to the middle of '48, with a decline of probably not more than 30 per cent in total industrial activity, a decline of perhaps nearly that much in prices, but no likelihood of any decline in hourly wage rates.

After this developing mild recession is concluded, the national economy will be on a sound basis for some years, and new high levels of prosperity will be reached. The developments of science and technology are constantly widening the horizon for both produc-

tion and consumption. Over the next 10 years the outlook is that output per man hour will be 20 per cent greater. We are in an economy which is constantly expanding. Regardless, therefore, of the business fluctuations which are occurring all the time, the long-run basis for a growing national pro-

To Harmonize The Capitol And Surroundings, Washington, D. C.

William Drummond, Chicago architect and member of the Illinois Society of Architects, is author of a 24 page 8"x10½" book which includes 6 pages of illustrations. The title of the book is "OUR NATIONAL CAPITOL — An Architect Proposes Additions and Environmental Changes."

The introduction mentions President Washington and Architect L'Enfant's plan; then jumps to the last decade of the 19th Century when Senator MacMillan's Committee appointed Daniel H. Burnham and his Committee of Architects, Landscape Architects and Sculptors to revive and perfect the plan of Washington.

The author then proceeds with an analytical study of the Capitol suggesting designs for added features. To the west facade he would add a colonnade to screen the deep-set courts, which he finds give the building an air of unreprieve. He would increase the height of the parapet around the central portion, introduce massive piers to supplement the mass. He would place a fill of stepped seating between the broad stairways to the lower terrace. The lower terrace obstructs good views. This he would build to a higher level and enrich with fountain pools, adding carved obelisks to give echo of the Washington Monument. The Hill offers an outstanding opportunity for landscaping. Here he proposes a circlet of gardens.

To the Peristyle and Dome he would add ordered rhythm, drawing the building's frontal masses into harmonious alignment and break into pleasing pattern the foil of the deep-set courts. He would smooth the troubled face of the Dome in order to lift more lightly the figure of Freedom above. He would add a broad parapet above the peristyle and would add graceful lines of leaf and stem and flower to the surfaces and moulded parts.

The East Facade is discussed next. He finds lack of planning where a large auto parking lot now exists with street runways to the very steps of the Capitol. This he proposes to change by providing ample underground parking space with connections to the new roadway.

Then come paragraphs on new tower walls, House and Senate entrances and the author goes into detail at the steps of the Capitol where he says "The tower and entrance additions and the tie-together parterre and platform would lend large scale unity to the three buildings casually set in a row." In the rotunda he proposes carrying out in paint or mosaics picturization of Niagara, Grand Canyon and mountain and prairie harvest scenes. Then the buildings surrounding the Capitol are discussed. The Congressional Library Building should have its pretentious and incongruous dome removed. The Supreme Court Building, through widening of East Capitol Street, would lose its south wing, exposing the higher main part requiring a remodeled facing. The House Annex Office Building shows "no regard for unity or harmony in group planning."

Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues are discussed, as well as Constitution and Independence Avenues. A new traffic

perity is a sound one, and except for temporary setbacks we shall continue to have employment for more and more people all the time.

—Excerpts from the Address of Dr. N. R. Whitney, Economist for The Procter & Gamble Co., before the 58th Annual Convention of the H. P. & A. C. C. N. A.

way, the Mall, the National Galleries and finally L'Enfant Gardens are taken up.

He closes his argument with L'Envoi, where he says he proposes to prepare Congress to carry the work along through technical operations of engineering and planning for appraisal and discussion.

The last page of the book is given over to forms to be filled in and addressed to National Capitol Publishers, 5645 Division Street, Chicago 51, Illinois; one form to be sent with \$1.00 for a copy of the book and the accompanying form, also filled in by signature, residence and remarks which the publishers will forward to Senators and Representatives in Congress.

"Grand Central"

A Book, Reviewed Below

"GRAND CENTRAL" by David Marshall
(McGraw Hill Co. Inc.)

An interesting story of the building of the Grand Central Depot in New York City, begun in 1903 and completed in 1913. It tells the reason for its location, arrangement, and the innovations that furnished aid and comfort to the traveling public.

The work is written for the lay reader; however, architects will find the solutions of the many difficulties interesting and profitable, whether or not they are designing a large city railway station.

The profession knew that Chas. Reed and Allen Stem, partners in the firm of Reed & Stem, Architects in Minneapolis, were employed as architects and that Mr. Reed became a resident of New York. Before a scheme had been adopted or developed the firm of Warren and Wetmore became Associate Architects.

Upon the death of Mr. Reed, about a year before the completion of the station, Warren & Wetmore were given, or took charge of the work, whereupon the Estate of Charles Reed sued Warren & Wetmore in the Supreme Court of New York County, which awarded the Estate and Stem several hundred thousand dollars.

Thereupon a New York Chapter, A.I.A. Committee charged Whitney Warren with having violated paragraph nine of The Institute's Canons of Ethics, and reported its finding to the Judiciary Committee and Board of Directors, which, after meticulous consideration of the evidence and long deliberation, terminated his membership in the Institute.

Time-and-Motion study of site fabrication of small homes has been started by the Small Homes Council of the University of Illinois. The research project, which is being carried on in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Commerce, is designed to advance the technology of small house construction and to increase the efficiency of the contractor.

Six houses of the same plan and design will be built by the Small Homes Council as part of the study. The houses will be constructed two at a time—one frame and one brick. After one pair is well under way, another pair of identical houses will be started.

Airplane fare across the Atlantic is about 9.5 cents a mile.

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The Architectural History of Today

We have been wondering what the historian of architecture writing in the year 2000 will have to say regarding architectural efforts and achievements in the western world (Western Hemisphere and Europe) in the day in which we live.

No doubt he will dwell upon the many classes of specialized buildings, their advancement in comfort and service through invention in steam, electricity, insulation, synthetics. He will tell of mechanized labor-saving devices introduced in homes, hotels, office buildings, factories, laboratories, hospitals — in every class of structure — things undreamed of a hundred years before.

He will tell of conquests in practical planning in this mechanical age; how the modernistic school of thought would have nothing they believed had precedence, that architecture of the past was a stumbling block in the path of progress.

But we surmise our historian will find something lacking that is vital to architecture. We refer to the esthetic and the spiritual, elements necessary in civilization. The recent Princeton Conference on planning placed greater emphasis on the spiritual and aesthetic needs of individuals than on the materialistic.

The Eocene period in geological time is the "Dawn of the Recent," when dinosaurs had become extinct and the earth became overrun with smaller but smarter warm-blooded animals, mammals.

Crosby Hall, London — Cathedral Hall, Chicago

Older architects in Chicago probably know that the impressive banquet hall, Cathedral Hall, atop the University Club of Chicago Building, corner Michigan Avenue and Monroe Street, traces its ancestry to Crosby Hall in Bishopsgate, London, England, completed in 1466.

Holabird & Roche were the architects of the Chicago building with Martin Roche of that firm its designer. Mr. Roche, about 1908, visited London and absorbed the beauty and grandeur he found in Crosby Hall. It had been razed from the old site and reerected in Cheyne Walk in west London.

John Crosby, London alderman and affluent merchant, was the original owner of Crosby Hall. Here he was knighted by Edward IV. The structure became the residence of the Duke of Gloucester, later Richard III. Sir Thomas More lived there. Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon were feted there. Today it is the dining hall of the International Federation of University Women.

Cathedral Hall is wider and longer than Crosby Hall. The London Hall is ablaze with color—blues, bright reds, shining gold. Armorial carvings, tapestries and mural paintings enrich the walls. The ceiling is gilded and painted.

Never in history has more painstaking exploration been made for the beginnings of talent, from baseball to poetry, than are made today. Scholarship scouts for the university go scurrying through lumberyards and coal mines. Children's aesthetic triumphs from the age of five are placed on exhibition. Everything is examined—except the obvious.

—Republic Ramblings

San Francisco, Calif. has a new building code that was approved the end of June, 1947. Director of Public Works Harry C. Vensano is proponent of the new code since the committee of engineers, architects and contractors failed to come to an agreement on many points. Director Vensano assures the code "can easily be amended if it proves a real barrier to the erection of tall buildings."

"I have no patience with manufactured design or lack of design, motivated by a desire to do something that has never been done before. It is often no more than an advertising stunt, as bad as the radio 'commercial' that introduces strange noises to attract attention . . . I am firmly convinced 'Styles', ancient, medieval, Renaissance, Colonial, modern, Modernistic, mean nothing as long as they are in harmony with the problem to be solved. What is important is the emotional urge of the artist, and if he has none he should not pose as an architect."

—John V. Van Pelt, F.A.I.A.

in the September '47 Journal of the A.I.A.

Illinois Society September Meeting

To the meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects, held in the Art Institute Club Rooms on September 23, came 40 to dinner, supplemented by about 12 architect students of the University of Illinois at the Navy Pier, who came after dinner.

The meeting following the dinner was opened by a few words of welcome by President G. Harold Smith, who then called upon Secretary Koenigsberg to read the minutes of the July meeting. These were approved as read.

The President then introduced Messrs. Fred Vibelius and Amund F. Jortoft, both new members. He then presented Prof. Harold B. McEldowney, Society member, and accompanying him Prof. Josef M. Gutnayer, both teaching architecture at the Navy Pier school of the University of Illinois. Another guest introduced, though well known to many members, was Gerald Palmer, Jr., Midshipman First Class, U. S. Naval Academy.

The President next referred to a letter from the Chicago Association of Commerce received by the Society, bearing on evidence on the restriction in freedom of action on building. Mr. Smith invited the members to address their answers and ideas on this subject to the Financial Secretary, H. L. Palmer, who would then reply to the Association of Commerce in a letter approved by the Board of Directors. Secretary Koenigsberg had no new correspondence of interest to the Society to present.

The President then referred to arrangements now being made for the statewide meeting to be held at the LaSalle Hotel, Chicago, on October 11 and 12, due notice of which will be mailed to all members at the proper time.

The decks being cleared, President Smith now introduced the speaker of the evening, Colonel Harry A. Musham. The Colonel is a Major, United States Regular Army—retired; Lt. Colonel in the Reserve Army and qualified for Colonel; Chairman of the Fort Dearborn Memorial Commission; and Naval Architect by profession, whose services were enlisted in preparing men for service in the Armed Forces for the last war. He lectured at Northwestern University.

The subject of the Colonel's address was Old Chicago Buildings. The address began with pictures on the screen, starting with the first coming of white men to America. "For," said the Colonel, "Chicago was known as a port at the foot of Lake Michigan by the earliest French voyageurs coming through Canada, and to fur trappers and traders who followed immediately after." This was a painting looking towards shore from the Lake at a point where the Chicago River issued. Another picture was that of the house of John Kinzie in the second decade of the Nineteenth Century. The house had been built by previous owners though Kinzie had added a porch.

Then followed a perspective drawing made by Captain Whistler of the U. S. Army who came to Chicago to build the first Fort Dearborn in 1803. It stood immediately south of the present Michigan Avenue bridge. The second Fort Dearborn, built in 1814-15, of log cabin construction, was shown. This was abandoned later by the Government. Early in the 1830's came settlers from the east, largely from New York, Vermont and Massachusetts. Among these was William B. Ogden, whose one brother had preceded him. William B. was not for the moment impressed, but soon changed his mind when his brother made clear to him the possibilities of Chicago. William B. Ogden became Chicago's first mayor. He brought John M. Van Osdel of New Jersey who became Chicago's first and most prominent architect, and John M. Van Osdel, induced George Washington Snow, likewise from New Jersey, to come to Chicago. Snow was a carpenter and

conceived the idea of balloon frame construction which he introduced and which became universal practice for frame houses in the Middle West and West.

Col. Musham's pictures now turned to early photographs of Chicago. The extraordinary growth and increasing financial strength in the late '30's and '40's became evident in the increasing size and importance of the buildings. The Near North Side, from about Grand Avenue to Chicago Avenue, and from near the Lake to west of Clark St. was a naturally wooded section where homes of the wealthy were built and where they lived. From this section Chicago received the sobriquet, "Urbs in Horto" but other fine sections sprang up on South Michigan Ave., Calumet and Wabash Avenues.

The Widow Clark house, originally built at 16th St. and Michigan Ave., was architecturally highly creditable. A pretentious house, built for Clybourn, an early slaughterman and other residences of distinction were shown. Business structures of the '50's and '60's, growing to five and six stories and spreading over much downtown land, were shown carrying on to the great Chicago fire of October, 1871.

The Colonel explained the origin of the fire, how it spread first to the northeast and on the south side of town turning to the south as well as to the north. He said that, by and large, Chicago was a tinder box, furnishing food for flames. His closing remarks were in the nature of advice to his architect listeners. The bombing of Hiroshima in Japan and the bombing in Europe should teach architects a lesson. German cities were destroyed, not through their masonry walls collapsing, but through the destruction of roofs and floors below. The Colonel thought that architects should consider for future planning walls suggesting pyramids in their tapering crowned by roofs of masonry that could repel attacks from bombs.

The President's suggestion of questions, and answers by the Colonel, did not meet with much success. The company was being very much interested but it was now after 10:30 P.M., so the meeting was adjourned.

The Report of the President

For the last several months preparation for the State-wide meeting in October has been the only matter of consequence before the Board of Directors.

This meeting will be held Saturday, October 11th, at the La Salle Hotel in Chicago. The after-dinner speaker that evening will be Rexford Newcomb, Dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Illinois. His subject will be "The Architecture of the Midwest" and will be illustrated. His talk is an interesting and informative one. You will be surprised, as I was, at the excellence of some of our early midwestern architecture and how widely spread it was. On Sunday it is planned to take our out-of-town members and guests for a bus ride around the city, finishing at the Adler Planetarium.

The following have been elected to membership in the Society; Amund Fjortoft, Edward Eichenbaum, Wallace Miles, Fred N. Vibelius, Otto Monberg, William C. Pehta, Harry K. Bieg, Rudolph Carl Sandberg of Rock Island, Robert R. Hauser and William T. Herzog.

—G. Harold Smith, President, I.S.A.

German Lightweight Concrete

Engineering News-Record announces the sale by the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C. of two reports on German Lightweight Concrete. 1: Foamed concrete made by the hydrogen-peroxide process. It can be used with any type of cement and under ordinary temperature conditions. 2: Other German foamed concretes

made with Iporit (I. G. Farbenindustri product) and with the Asmus process.

Another outstanding building material found in Germany is the 'Schaefer slab, a precision-made composite concrete different from material used in this country or Britain; used in floors, roofs and walls providing good insulation and resistance to dampness.

The reports available are: "Slag Cement and Lightweight concretes" (PB-67458; photostat, \$4; microfilm, \$2; 59 pp.). Also: "Technical Developments in Prefabricated Housing" (PB-60897; photostat, \$5; microfilm, \$2; 62 pp.).

At midnight September 2, deadline for entrants in the preliminary national competition for a design for the proposed Jefferson National Memorial at St. Louis, Mo., there were 43 designs submitted, though more than 200 were expected. The final competition will be between the authors of the five designs judged best in the preliminary competition.

Prizes for the five best are \$10,000 each; for the winner in the final competition the prize is \$40,000 and a recommendation for execution (the design, that is) to the Department of the Interior. The board of judges consists of seven architects.

Refrigeration in reverse uses the heat taken a little at a time from below frost level to warm winter-chilled homes. Condensation makes heat. Same system cools house in summer.

Chicago Building Congress Meeting

More than 200 assembled on September 18 in the Builders Club for dinner, followed by the first of a series of meetings instituted by the Congress for the discussion of what is to be known as the Chicago Building Industry Forum. The theme of this initial session was "Chicago Builds." President Charles W. Nicol presided, welcoming the attendants and then introduced Howard L. Cheney, Chairman of the Program Committee. Cheney introduced H. Everet Kincaid Executive Director, Chicago Plan Commission, as presiding officer of the evening.

Members of the panel who discussed the plans for four improvement projects scheduled for completion in Chicago were Mr. Kincaid, who, acted as moderator of the discussion; Dr. Henry T. Heald, chairman, South Side Planning Board; J. S. District Judge Walter J. LaBuy; Carl L. Gardner, Director, Planning Division of the Chicago Plan Commission; and Joseph Burgee, architect, Holabird and Root. Specific proposals presented were the creation of a government center near the Loop, the re-development of two badly-lighted areas in Chicago, and the further improvement of the area surrounding Michigan Avenue north of the Chicago River.

Mr. Kincaid pointed out that a government center is needed in Chicago to symbolize its position of rank. "Chicago has made great progress," he said, "and the future holds promise of even greater achievements. There are still things to be done before Chicago can reach its true destiny. An outline of the things yet to be done is set forth in the Comprehensive City Plan of Chicago.

"It is proposed as part of the City Plan that the future development of the Central Business District include provisions for a government center wherein the functions of federal, state, county and municipal departments may be grouped for greater efficiency in the conduct of public business.

"If Chicago is going to be an even greater city tomorrow than it is today, we should begin to think now of creating a government center which will permit the execution of broad privileges and the discharge of exacting responsibilities of leadership in a manner that will command the respect due it."

Mr. Kincaid said that the site bounded by Madison and Wells streets, the Congress Expressway, and the Chicago River is now being studied in order to determine its suitability as the location of a government center.

Members of the Building Congress heard Dr. Henry T.

Heald declare, "The need for redevelopment of blighted areas is Chicago's most pressing problem." Dr. Heald said the Institute has initiated a program for re-developing a 100 acre site between 31st and 35th streets, Michigan Avenue, and the New York Central railroad tracks on the south side of the city.

Dr. Heald outlined the Institute's 15-year expansion and redevelopment program which was announced in 1940 but was delayed of accomplishment by the war. Work on two new class rooms and a laboratory building is now underway west of State Street. New housing for members of the faculty and the student body also is being planned for erection between State Street and Michigan Avenue.

Dr. Heald had thrown on the screen proposed plans as well as deplorable tenements which should have been destroyed long ago, and finally showed pictures of new Institute buildings completed and under way.

Federal Judge LaBuy told the members of the Building Congress that practical solutions for the multiple problems presented by urban blighted areas can be found if the residents of a community are organized in support of large-scale redevelopment programs. In connection with his experiences as chairman of the Near Northwest Side Redevelopment Council initiating a redevelopment program in the area bounded by Ashland, Chicago, Ogden, and Grand avenues, LeBuy said, "The residents and civic leaders who are supporting the redevelopment plan conceived for this neighborhood by the Chicago Plan Commission are determined that no obstacle shall prevent successful accomplishment of this program.

"It should be remembered, however," Judge LaBuy cautioned, "that the success of a redevelopment plan in this now-blighted area will benefit the city as a whole and not alone this neighborhood.

"The best way to arrest the progress of blight in Chicago is through a corporate approach toward redevelopment. Let municipal authorities plan comprehensively for redevelopment within the city, and then let private and public enterprise supported by the residents of blighted communities join forces in the accomplishment of redevelopment programs."

Mr. Gardner said of the Near Northwest Side Redevelopment Council's plan, that the Plan Commission's study embraced a natural neighborhood unit of 27 square blocks which cover about 118 acres. Approximately 10,800 people are now living in the area. The character of land use in the neighborhood is a haphazard mixture of commercial, industrial, and residential dwellings. All forms of local transit are convenient to the area, and these facilities will contribute to the creation of a desirable neighborhood after it has been redeveloped.

According to Gardner, "The provisions of the redevelopment plan call for the construction of 2,980 dwelling units as compared with 3,180 which are now located in the area. These dwellings will accommodate about 10,000 people."

In conclusion, Gardner said, "While the proposed plan is designed specifically for this neighborhood, its principles can be applied conveniently to the objective of redeveloping all of Chicago's blighted and near-blighted land. Whatever redevelopment program is adopted for this Chicago neighborhood and similar areas throughout the rest of the city, the scope of planning included therein should be broad enough to dominate and renew the character of an entire neighborhood.

Following the discussion of redevelopment problems, Joseph Burgee explained the purposes and objectives of a plan conceived by Arthur Rubloff, realtor, who is representing a group interested in the creation of a "magnificent mile" development along Michigan Avenue between the Chicago River and Oak Street. He emphasized that the plans for the further improvement of these 11 blocks of Upper Michigan Avenue properties are in conformity with the recommendations of the Comprehensive City Plan of Chicago.

Burgess characterized the proposed project as imaginative but practical, and a thoroughly feasible development. He compared its scope and importance with Rockefeller Center in New York City.

Escape Into Decentralization

Decentralization, though it possesses some of the glamour of a philosopher's stone, as well as the apparent utility of a cure all, isn't necessarily a part of modern urban trends nor a solution to city planning problems, Svend Riemer, visiting professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, declared.

Professor Riemer spoke on "Escape into Decentralization" at an afternoon session of the Institute of the Society for Social Research, held on the Midway campus.

"Current plans for decentralization are frequently supported by references to already existing trends. Attention is called to the fact that urban development, in recent decades, has favored peripheral extension rather than nuclear concentration. Population increase has been greatly confined to the metropolitan suburb. The unincorporated areas have increased their populations at a higher rate of speed than the inner circles of the city.

"Growth, in the history of the rapidly expanding communities of the United States, has always been peripheral growth. Incorporation procedures have always lagged behind the actual expansion of the urban community as defined in terms of functional relationships between the residents.

"Population increase in the outskirts is," Riemer said, "a simple phenomenon of growth and does not indicate a new or revolutionary trend toward decentralization. The trend is actually one toward better residential districts which—due to unfortunate circumstances—are available only at the outskirts of the city, and accessible only at the cost of long commuting distances.

"Spacious and low-density housing at the periphery of the city has provided new vistas of achievement in the accommodation of family needs. There can be no doubt either that living conditions in the suburban fringe is much more desirable than the residences in dilapidated sections closer to the center of town.

"However, as we climb over each other to gain access to the open spaces, we leave behind ourselves the ruin of urban blight, a wasteland of earlier and now self-defeated decentralization. Decentralization as such is, truly, not an answer to the problem posed by urban blight. It is, at best, an escape—an escape for a few only, and far worse, it can never be more than a temporary escape."

Any planner favoring either decentralization or concentration as values in themselves misses the point, Riemer warned. He suggested that the basic task of housing, neighborhood and city planning should be to provide for a physical setting which accommodates conveniently and efficiently occupational as well as private lives. Decisions in regard to planning, Riemer said, must be based on factual information, rather than emotional or aesthetic preferences:

"We need information on the reasons which induce the population to move to the periphery of our large urban centers. It may be that people move there simply because that is where they find adequate housing facilities to suit their needs, that vacancies are more abundant in the periphery. There are no comparative studies which investigate the relative advantages of family living in either peripheral or central urban locations, in either mixed or relatively homogeneous neighborhoods.

"No information is available upon family housing histories. If it were possible to find out where young couples tend to drift when they establish a household, where they move when their children want to take advantage of specialized educational institutions, if we knew where the aging couple tends to move once the children have left home, if information of this type were available, we should be able to consider the entire metropolis as a potential residence for the individual family and plan housing and neighborhood conditions accordingly.

"We know too little about commuting, which should be taken into consideration as a basic guide to city planning activities. With present economic conditions in mind, it is most unsatisfactory if labor is entirely dependent upon employment in one plant only.

"Perhaps the population should move into the rehabilitated center of the city and commute to the periphery for work. This possibility has not even been offered for discussion, although it provides a great number of advantages in this age of high labor turnover and occupational mobility between generations."

Professor Riemer emphasized the necessity for central rehabilitation in long-range city planning. "As long as we remain satisfied to follow the beckoning of the emotional plea for decentralization which promises to all of us—promise which it scarcely can keep—the suburban paradises and are swayed by one-sided descriptions of a way of life which is not more than a way to spend your leisure time, we may lay ourselves open to the criticism of running away from our main task, that of urban rehabilitation.

"Escape into decentralization may simply mean following the easy way of contemporary real estate development which builds on and on to a sprawling urban conglomeration, oblivious to the consequences. Decentralization as such cannot be raised to the dignity of a basic principle of city planning. Decentralization may take its place in the plan for the future city only after it has been considered with the interests and the needs of the people in mind who are to move into the distance of the urban fringe," he concluded.

The College Library of Today and Tomorrow

In the summer of '47 issue of Illinois Public Works, published by the state's Department of Public Works & Buildings, appears an illustrated article by Joseph F. Booton, Chief of Design in the Division of Architecture and Engineering titled as given above.

Two proposed buildings shown in exterior perspectives are Library for Northern Illinois State Teachers College, De Kalb, Ill. and Eastern Illinois State College, Charleston, Ill. Seven half tones picture exterior and interior details of Illinois State Normal University, built at Normal, Ill.

The concluding paragraphs captioned "Architecture will be Changed," say: "Thus we see the contents of the library of the future will change, for in addition to the storage of books, books-on-backs-of-cards, films, phonograph records, slides, Kodachromes, sound tracks on film, wire recordings and other mediums as yet unheard of, there will be reproducing and viewing machines. The new techniques of storage, repair, cataloging, viewing, hearing, feeling and perhaps smelling and tasting as well, will call for new construction features and library planning. This, in turn, will create a new type of library to serve the new needs and objectives adequately. The problem for the architect will be to incorporate these highly technical and mechanized processes in a quiet and dignified building, to provide the maximum of personal privacy. In order to absorb knowledge, distractions must be reduced to a minimum.

"But whatever happens in the future, even if it becomes possible to reproduce a New York Times on a postage stamp, books and book shelves will never vanish from libraries. Let us hope that they never become so involved that they lose the quiet and dignified character associated with those of the present day. The surroundings are just as important as the contents, and in their own way contribute to the students' education, well being and inspiration."

The Bulletin of HP & ACCNA says: "This year it looks as though the record would be 1,700,000 fires with 11,000 Americans killed and a much larger number injured."

U.S. Department of Labor reports an increase of 26 per cent in the number of building trades apprentices since the beginning of 1947.

Plenitude begets indifference. I dare say that a man who traveled with an extra set of teeth would be without teeth before he got to Europe.

Zoning in Chicago

The Chicago Common Council Committee on Building and Zoning meeting was held September 12th at 10:30 A. M. in Committee Room, 202 City Hall for the purpose of re-mining the Chicago Zoning Ordinance.

The number of amendments and variations to the Chicago Zoning Ordinance which have been presented in the last several years indicate that a complete survey and general revision is necessary and it was for this purpose that the meeting was called.

It was pointed out that at present the authority is scattered among the zoning board, the building commissioner, the courts and the City Council. After some discussion a representative of the Metropolitan Housing Council urged that rezoning be deferred until the Chicago Plan Commission completes its final city plan.

Uderman P. J. Cullerton, Chairman of the meeting, then authorized the appointment of a committee of aldermen and interested organizations to study the zoning problem. The membership includes representatives of the council committee, Association of Commerce, Illinois Society of Architects, Chicago Real Estate Board, Chicago Plan Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals.

City Must Match Funds

Of the \$20,000,000 set aside by the state of Illinois, only \$66,667 of housing money is free to the cities for the asking, in the ratio of their populations. To qualify for the remainder, interested cities must put up equivalent funds, dollar for dollar, secured from bond issues or surplus for clearance and housing. In the case of Chicago, which is most at stake, it is the city bond issues, therefore, which provide the base upon which the entire program hinges. Before they can be submitted for approval, however, the City Council must pass ordinances authorizing the bond issues.

Changes In Federal Housing Agencies

All principal permanent federal housing organizations are now merged into one body known as the Housing and Home Finance Agency. President Truman has appointed six men to head this new agency.

Constituent parts in the new agency are (1) A Home Loan Bank Board to administer the former work of the Federal Savings and Loan Corporation, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, and the functions of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board; (2) A Federal Housing Administration with the same functions as now provided by law for that agency; and (3) Public Housing Administration which takes over the functions of the old United States Housing Authority and certain emergency housing activities now being liquidated.

Raymond M. Foley is appointed administrator of the top agency. Franklin D. Richards of Utah is commissioner of the new FHA. Dillon S. Meyer of Ohio, an agronomist, is president, heading PHA.

Members of the Home Loan Bank board are: John H. Hey of Massachusetts, chairman; Nathaniel Dyke, Jr., of Kansas; and J. Alston Adams of New Jersey.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics gave a wholesale price index on building materials of 89.6 for August 1939 and of 8.8 for April 1947.

Notice is given of the dissolution of the firm of Chicago Architects Shaw, Naess & Murphy, and the creation of the firm of Shaw, Metz & Dolio, architects and engineers; the latter firm becoming Naess & Murphy, architects and engineers, on September 20, 1947. Naess & Murphy will retain offices at the present location, 1661 Railway Exchange Building. Shaw, Metz & Dolio have located at 208 S. La Salle Street, 11th floor, Chicago.

San Francisco Will Celebrate

In the next three years California will celebrate several centennials—the discovery of gold in 1848, the gold rush in 1849, the admission of the state to the Union in 1850, plus many associated events.

The first of the three will center at San Francisco by the Golden Gate. That city wants to rouse the interest of Bulletin readers in the event and sends historical date calling for the "big parade." Of these the Bulletin reprints the following high spots.

On September 17, 1776 the San Francisco Presidio was founded and on October 9 of that year the Mission de los Dolores de Neustro Padre San Francisco de Asis was founded.

In 1834 the town's population consisted of 500 Indians. Construction of homes and other buildings began in 1839. The town was called Yerba Buena until January 30, 1847, when the first alcalde, W. A. Bartlett, issued a proclamation changing the name to San Francisco.

American rule came to San Francisco on July 8, 1846. Commodore John Drake Sloat and his men raised the Stars and Stripes. Close behind came the first real settlers, a party of 200. In January 1847 the population numbered about 300.

In the gold rush of 1848-49, "the madhouse of the world" lost practically all able bodied men when they dropped their work and raced to "the diggings". More than 400 vessels in the Bay lost their crews in this mad rush.

By the end of 1849, San Francisco's population was 20,000. The port recorded 697 vessels rivaling Philadelphia.

The city has had seven devastating fires including the earthquake and fire of 1906.

The construction of the Central Pacific Railroad in the sixties.

The invention of cable cars.

Discovery of the Comstock lode, lush Bonanza days and the crash that followed.

In 1879 the first public service of an electric generating plant, antedating Thomas A. Edison's Pearl Street Station in New York.

The Panama Pacific International Exposition in 1915 in celebration of opening the Panama Canal.

Construction of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge.

Golden Gate International Exposition in 1939 and 1940.

The United Nations Conference in 1945.

Today San Francisco's population is approximately 800,000.

Fred Langhenrich, architect, offers his services for first class work to other architects on design, perspectives, working drawings, structural and mechanical engineering, plant layout, details, specifications. Registered in Illinois and Michigan. Twenty five years experience in work mentioned. Tables and spaces for 8 men. 4541 Washington Boul., Chicago. Phone: Estebrook 4541.

Ralph E. Abell, 67, architect of Elgin, Illinois, died in Columbus Hospital, September 17. Mr. Abell had designed a number of public buildings in Elgin, including the Masonic Temple and a municipal high school.

John F. McCoy, 99, pioneer architect of Danville, Ill. died in that city August 29. Mr. McCoy was born in Carlisle, Pa. and was a Union soldier in the Civil war. For 74 years he was a resident of Danville where he designed many of the city's buildings.

