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†Secretaries.

THE OCTAGON

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The American Institute of Architects

To the Members of the Institute:

THERE are many calls from non-member architects, from other societies, and from laymen who want to know What the Institute is, Why it is, and What it is doing.

To answer those inquiries a document was printed some years ago. It has been kept current, and is in almost daily use.

It seems to the Secretary that in these parlous times all members might well brush up on the Institute's program, and also renew their allegiance—by reading all of this document. Therefore, it is

reprinted below. The type will be used later, to renew the supply of the document in separate form.

If you cannot read all, then read the last few paragraphs under the titles "Why Support the Institute?" and "Today and Tomorrow."

Criticisms on the statement—as a picture of The American Institute of Architects—and suggested amendments, will be welcome. If you have such please send them to The Octagon within the next thirty days.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,
Secretary.

Objects and Program

THE American Institute of Architects is the national organization of the architectural profession, bearing to architecture a relation similar to that of the American Bar Association to law and of the American Medical Association to medicine. Founded in 1857, its influence on American architecture and the practice of the profession has been profound and today its counsel is truly national.

Organization

The Institute is composed of individual architects, grouped locally into Chapters. Its government is based on the Chapter as a unit. The United States has been divided into districts, each of which becomes the territory of a Chapter. Every Institute member residing in the territory of a Chapter automatically becomes a member thereof upon election. Institute and Chapter memberships are co-existent and co-dependent. The Chapters are self-governing and self-determining so far as affairs within the territory of the Chapter are concerned, subject only to the broad national policies fixed annually by the delegates of the Chapters in Convention assembled. Elections to, and terminations of, active memberships in the Institute and Chapters are by Institute and not by Chapter action. The Chapters, however, elect their own Associates and Honorary Members.

Government

The Institute's long life of effectiveness has been made possible by the democratic procedure through which the will of the membership is expressed in the governing agencies of the body. The delegates from the sixty-seven Chapters, assembled in annual Con-

vention, constitute the highest authority in the organization. They elect Officers and Directors and determine all policies of the Institute in professional matters. The Board of Directors governs the society between Conventions and holds three meetings a year, one immediately preceding and one immediately following the Convention, and one in the late fall. Customarily there are two meetings of the Executive Committee of the Board, one in February or March, and the other in August or September. The reports and activities of the Officers, the Standing and Special Committees, and the Secretary's office are reviewed by the Board, or its Executive Committee. The Board thus keeps in close contact with the work as it develops, and it exercises the right of constructive criticism as well as general control. The Board reports to the annual Convention on all activities, and makes its recommendations thereon.

The Office of the Secretary, the headquarters of the Institute, is in Washington, D. C., in the historic colonial building known as The Octagon, which is owned by the Institute. This office conducts the organization work of the Institute and serves as a clearing house for the Chapters and the Committees. A large part of the administrative work of the Officers and the Board is carried on through the Secretary's office. The reasonable and prompt service of that office is at the call of all members of the Institute.

Objects

The objects of the Institute are to organize and unite in fellowship the Architects of the United States, to combine their efforts so as to promote the

aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession, and to make the profession of ever increasing service to society. The members of the Institute represent every phase of the profession. They work together year after year in Conventions, in Chapter meetings, and in general conference. They have patiently and painstakingly harmonized the diverging manners of architectural practice, stabilized the methods of that practice, pointed the way to minimize those things which are harmful and costly to it, and spread an understanding of the art and service among the people, in order that the profession shall give to the people a finer art and, year by year, a more scientific and efficient service; that the training of students in architecture shall be more sound, and that the people shall steadily increase their knowledge and appreciation of beauty and the arts.

Functions

The functions of the Institute are directed to the accomplishment of its objects. In brief, it serves the architect and society through the activities which are briefly described in this document.

The Institute is in constant touch with every phase of professional activity. It is alert to every opportunity to bring architecture to its true importance and relationship to the building industry and the public mind. Each of its sixty-seven Chapters is constantly studying local practices and problems. The Institute Committees assemble these studies, correlate and coordinate them, study their effects with other national organizations and the federal agencies, study their past histories, and finally refer their findings and suggestions back to the Chapters. When the Chapters make their conclusions, the Institute publishes them to its members. Year by year this goes on; new methods, new materials, changing business relations make it necessary to study the phases over and over again and every conclusion reached can be temporary only—for we live in a moving age.

These studies and conclusions are of great value to every practicing architect. They are necessary to his business life and success. They reach the members through the Proceedings of the Conventions or through *THE OCTAGON*, a monthly journal of the Institute, which every member receives. The subscription price of *THE OCTAGON* is included in the annual dues.

Books—Documents

The Institute issues the standard contract documents, and other contract forms, which are in widespread use throughout the country. These documents cover all of the business relationships of the architect, the owner, the contractor, and the sub-contractor in building operations. It issues a series of ethical documents which state the position of the

Institute with regard to principles of professional practice, to competitions, to a schedule of proper charges, and to similar subjects. It issues books on architecture and architectural education, and a Handbook on Architectural Practice.

Education

The Institute through its Committee on Education, in cooperation with the Architectural Departments of the leading Universities, is devising methods for improving and extending architectural education, not only in the Universities, but in the lower schools. It issued, under the auspices of the Committee on Education, "The Significance of the Fine Arts." The object of the book is to awaken the interest of the layman and student in the true importance of art in our daily life. The Waid Education Fund, the Henry Adams Fund, the Delano and Aldrich Travelling Scholarship Fund, and other funds and endowments are administered by the Institute.

The Allied Arts

The Committee on Allied Arts has in development a program which will bring about collaboration, mutual regard, between the Architect, the Landscape Architect, the Painter, the Sculptor, and the Craftsman—to the end that the Architecture of America may become true to all of the arts in which good Architecture has its being. The Committee proposes to develop a national clearing house for the purpose of disseminating information regarding the executed work of the Landscape Architect, the Painter, the Sculptor, and the Craftsman. This same Committee, in cooperation with the Committee on Education, is studying the educational systems of the colleges and universities to see if collaboration in the fine arts can be made basic in the education of the young men and women, in place of the unrelated and sometimes conflicting methods now in vogue.

The Structural Service Department

The Structural Service Department of the Institute in collaboration with the Bureau of Standards, the American Standards Association, the American Society for Testing Materials, the National Fire Protection Association, and similar organizations is giving to members accurate data concerning materials and methods of construction. As a result of its collaboration with the national organization of producers—The Producers' Council—the national advertising of the makers of building materials and products has been revolutionized, standardized in size and indexed ready for the architect's files. The Structural Service Department has developed an architectural index and filing system, and answers thousands of inquiries regarding methods and materials of construction.

Registration Laws

The Institute is developing a model law for the registration of architects and assists its Chapters in securing the enactment of proper registration laws. Already registration laws are in force in thirty-seven States and Territories. The Committee on Registration Laws assists Chapters and individuals with its advice and information.

The Committees

The Institute has active standing and special Committees on Contracts, on the Allied Arts, on Public Works, on Education, on Competitions, on Public Information, on Structural Service, on Preservation of Historic Buildings, on City and Regional Planning, on Registration Laws, on Relations with Foreign Architects, on the National Capital, on Industrial Relations, on Health and Safety, on Standard Accounting, on Honor Awards, on Building Practices, on Roadside Structures, on Economies of Site Planning and Housing, on Information for Prospective Building owners, and on the Economic Value of Architectural Service. There are other standing and special Committees whose duties relate to internal affairs.

Public Information

The Institute has under way a comprehensive program for informing the public of the value of the architect's service, from the aesthetic as well as the practical point of view. It has established, under the direction of a Committee on Public Information, a public information service, with the object of informing the public about architecture and architects. It has issued a Circular of Advice for the prospective builder which tells what the architect does and how he earns his commissions. More than fifteen thousand copies were distributed free or at nominal prices, in the first eight months of issue, to architects and prospective builders.

The Schedule of Charges

The Institute has not tried to create a privileged class of the profession bound to maintain a uniform wage rate for architectural services (the Schedule of Charges has never been mandatory). It pledges its members to maintain standards of professional behavior; it does not bind them to maintain a price standard.

Membership in the A. I. A.

There are some 10,000 practicing architects in the United States. Of this number a few more than 3,200 are now members of The American Institute of Architects. The Institute must continue to be representative of the architectural profession as a whole. It desires to be able to say to the National Government, to the States, to City Councils and

Commissions, and to the Public, that when it speaks as a National Society, or through one of its Chapters, it is speaking for the architects of the country. This does not mean that standards of admission are lowered, and that unqualified architects are admitted. It does mean that the architect who is qualified to render that full measure of professional and architectural service which the client is entitled to receive, and who practices his profession honorably, should seek admission to the Institute through the Chapter of the Institute in his city or state.

There are many graduates of the leading architectural schools and there are many well qualified architects trained in the offices of long established firms, who are eligible for membership in the A. I. A. Their qualifications, and their integrity, not only qualify them for admission to the national society of their profession, but impose upon them the duty of making that contribution to the general welfare which Institute membership implies. The Institute cannot question non-members as to their qualifications. Every man knows in his heart what his qualifications are, and what his duty is to the profession and to the public.

Why Support the Institute?

The question is sometimes asked "What is the meaning and the worth of the A. I. A.?" If the inquirer will imagine for a moment what conditions in the architectural profession would be now with respect to competitions, with respect to professional fees, with respect to the whole code of professional ethics, and with respect to the solidarity of the profession if there had been no Institute in the past he will have a convincing answer to this question. The Institute is primarily responsible for the establishment of the profession in its present position, where it commands respect for its ideals and its accomplishments. This has resulted from the continuous and untiring efforts of hundreds of its able and devoted members, ever since its foundation.

The fruits of this work are enjoyed by every member of the profession and should constitute an obligation on each one to make some contribution of service for the common good.

Today and Tomorrow

In these times of economic stress the Institute, as the national organization of the profession, is maintaining its essential activities unbroken. Its Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairmen are working constantly to that end, and their enthusiasm and determination are strengthened by present difficulties. The most vital thing the Institute has done and is doing is to function as the rallying point for the architects as a professional group. It is waging a long and persistent battle for the recognition of the architect in public work. It is keeping the name of the architect before the public, and before those

governmental agencies which are charged with the erection of public buildings.

The work of the Officers, of the Board of Directors, and of the many Standing and Special Committees goes on—in all cases with reduced funds, but in no case with lessened enthusiasm or determination. The Institute, through its representation on the Construction League, on the National Conference on Construction and on various Federal commissions and bodies is seeing to it that the position of the architect is maintained, and that recognition of architectural service is accorded when due.

The Chapters of the Institute are in good condition. Their regular meetings are being held, and their programs in general are being carried forward. Notwithstanding three years of adverse conditions, not a single Chapter of the sixty-seven which compose The American Institute of Architects has even contemplated a surrender of its charter. In fact, some of the Chapters report that their memberships

have been drawn closer together, and that the solidarity of the profession in the community has improved in recent months.

The President of the Institute, in a recent statement said, "Those who serve in this profession have chosen a jealous mistress. The choice was made, in most cases, for reasons of sentiment—as architecture in itself is not a lucrative calling. They follow architecture because they love it and because of the many rewards which cannot be measured in dollars. During the past three years no architect has escaped those hardships, those discouragements which come inevitably to those who give first place to the idealism of creative art. The splendid courage with which those hardships have been met is to me final proof of the enduring place to be held by the architectural profession in the future life of our country. . . . It is the duty as well as the privilege of each one of us to carry on without faltering the traditions of the profession we have chosen."

Convention Story

of

The State Association of California Architects

Acknowledgment is made, with appreciation, to the State Association of California Architects for the following high lights of its Fifth Convention, held in Del Monte on October 7th and 8th. This summary should be of interest and value to every Chapter of the Institute and to every State Association.

THE FIFTH CONVENTION

WHEN the 1932 convention is written into the history of the Association it will probably be known for its quality rather than the greatness of the attendance. But no reasonable person could expect a record registration at this time.

For the appropriateness of program, balance of Association business and diversion, and restraint in the amount of material scheduled, the fifth annual convention at Del Monte might well set a standard to be aimed at for future conclaves. A large share of the credit for this success goes to Harris C. Allen, who excels at such things. The program of music which he arranged for the annual banquet was in itself worth attendance. And for the after-dinner speakers his balance of the blunt, pointed advice of James Dean, with the frivolity of Abe Appleton, and the brief sincerity of David Witmer, all under the able toastmastership of Louis J. Gill, was masterful.

The idea of but one guest speaker for the convention was a fortunate one. William I. Garren deserves the thanks of those present for having provided such an outstanding speaker as Mr. Rowell.

Perhaps the business sessions were boresome, but it simply can not be avoided that certain routine matters such as amendments to the constitution and by-laws must be taken care of. Probably there was some disappointment that the opponents of the unification plan did not make a better showing in the way of parliamentary battle. True, they didn't have much to stand on, but they might have made it more interesting. Some day it may be known what this opposition is really all about.

THE UNIFICATION PLAN

With but one dissenting vote among those present, the convention adopted the plan for the unification of the Association with The American Institute of Architects and authorized the Executive Board to petition the Institute for state association membership. Upon receiving the report of the credentials committee showing that the officers of the Association had 451 proxies which had been solicited on the basis of support of the plan, and upon the showing of the report that the known opposition had only 40 proxies and one Northern group of nine proxies which were said to be pledged to the opposition—after

this showing the presiding officer allowed the vote of those present to decide without polling the proxies.

Edwin Bergstrom, Treasurer of the A. I. A., who was present during part of the convention, advised that due to economic conditions the Board of Directors of the Institute would not meet until spring and that the petition could not be considered until then. Speaking informally, he said that he knew of no reason why such a petition would not be acted upon favorably and that, to his mind, it would be the beginning of a very happy relationship between the two organizations.

FACING THE INEVITABLE

The address of Chester H. Rowell before the architects and guests at the Del Monte Convention was so apropos as regards the attitude of many architects toward any collective endeavors either within or without the profession as to be quite startling. For those practitioners whose attitude is that the individual architect should be the sole judge as to what the architect's full measure of service (and charge) to the public shall be, how the rules of conduct as between architects shall be applied, and what shall be the amount of regulation and restriction imposed by governmental agencies either as to the use of property, materials or methods or vocational restrictions—for those architects it is to be regretted that space here will not permit of a stenographic report of Mr. Rowell's remarks. But having neither the verbatim report or the space, only the highlights can be given:

"It is not what we like but what we are. The sunrise is inevitable. It may interfere with my individual desires; but if it does I will have to adjust myself to it. I can not change the sunrise. And so with the problems of collectivism. Jefferson and Hamilton did not like curbs upon the individualism of their day; but they had to accept them."

"That we have not adjusted ourselves to this condition is indicated in the inconsistency between the slogans and the actions of business groups. They say: 'Let there be more business in government and less government in business,' and, at the same time, they maintain lobbies in Washington and Sacramento seeking legislative regulations on business. They say there are too many laws, and yet every group wants a law. Probably you architects have some to propose yourselves!"

"Our lives are standardized. We have standardization in our schools. We have produced

a mass production of culture. Teachers are all drilled alike to drill pupils alike."

"Even the fashions of 'unfashion' are just as standardized as the old academic standards. My impression of modern art is that the standard is no matter how well you can draw, you mustn't!"

"In the past days of the log cabin and the simple farm house it was physically impossible to build unduly bad architecture."

"It is well established that offenses of sound and smell are common nuisances, but the constitutionality of prohibiting offenses to the sight can not be sustained. There is no question about preventing a glue factory being operated in a residential district; and you can not disturb your neighbors by singing in the night—even if you sing psalms. But there seems no way to prevent the incongruous in architecture—good in itself but out of harmony with its surroundings."

"When the individual exercises his rights in building a tall building facing on a narrow street which is unable to take care of the traffic from his building he imposes upon the community the obligation to build a three-story street."

"Architects should welcome certain results of standardization. They should welcome building laws because sound construction is not underbid by unsound construction because the government prohibits the unsound."

"The development of the 'set-back' architecture of tall buildings is an instance of regulation giving an opportunity for great architects to exercise their individualism."

"The medical profession is the most individualized. Doctors sought to carry this individualization into the operation and management of hospitals. The result was that only the rich and the poor got the service. The business side of any profession can not be individualistic. It must be standardized. The doctors don't like it; they say they don't want it. But it is inevitable."

"A lawyer once said that he could always be an individual, as he had nothing to sell but himself. But since his death his office has been operated like a department store selling services."

"The engineer is bound by the laws of nature—of gravity and of stress and strain. But he uses these laws as his tools rather than his limitations in his individualistic conception of even so rigid a thing as a bridge."

"Raphael took the rigid facts as to the size and shape of certain wall spaces in the Vatican and so skillfully handled his frescoes thereon as to make it appear that the wall spaces had been created for the frescoes."

"By adopting the pose of the figure to the limitations of the marble, Michelangelo created his colossal statue of David out of a block of marble which was the wrong size and shape."

"No one architect can produce a building of any magnitude, doing all of the planning and construction work himself. A collective organization of great magnitude is required. In some instances even the client is a great collective unit such as a public utility. And there is government regulation to be considered. Nobody cares whether the architect likes these conditions or not. He must adjust himself to them."

"I much prefer the individualistic journalism of Watterson and Greeley to the standardized newspapers of today. I don't like it but I'm not going to do anything about it—I can't."

"We can not go back to the old way. We must learn to deal with the problem as it is."

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

Robert H. Orr, Los Angeles, is to be the President of The State Association of California Architects for the ensuing year. Mr. Orr's service as President in 1930-31 bespeaks the wisdom of the Southern Section of the Executive Board in returning him to the office this year, especially for the consummation of the unification plan as between this Association and the

Institute. Mr. Orr serves on the Executive Board as an appointee of the Southern California Chapter, A. I. A.

Harris C. Allen, as Vice-President of the Association, will head the Northern Section. Appointed to the Executive Board by the Northern California Chapter, A. I. A., Mr. Allen is a past president of that body, was a member of the organization committee for the Association, and has served on the Executive Board during the greater part of the life of the Association.

To the positions of Second Vice-Presidents have been appointed Louis J. Gill, appointee of the Southern District of the State Board of Architectural Examiners, and Henry C. Collins, who was elected to the Executive Board by the Advisory Council to fill an unexpired term. Mr. Gill served as a Second Vice-President last year.

The new Secretary of the Association, Ellsworth E. Johnson, San Francisco, and Assistant Secretary, Lester H. Hibbard, Los Angeles, are new faces on the Executive Board, having been elected thereto by the Advisory Council.

Harold E. Burket, Ventura, appointee of the Santa Barbara Chapter, A. I. A., will serve another year as Treasurer; and the Assistant Treasurer will be Chester H. Miller of Oakland, appointee of the Northern California Chapter, A. I. A.

The remaining members of the Executive Board, Northern Section, are Albert J. Evers and Henry H. Gutterson, representing the Northern District of the State Board of Architectural Examiners; Ernest L. Norberg and Dodge A. Riedy, who were elected by the Advisory Council; and Frederick H. Meyer, Regional Director, A. I. A., who continues as an ex-officio member.

The remaining members of the Southern Section of the Executive Board are A. M. Edelman, appointee of the Southern District of the State Board of Architectural Examiners; and Herbert J. Mann, J. A. Murrey and George D. Riddle, who were elected by the Advisory Council.

Building Men at Last Begin to Knit Together an Industry

That great, sprawling congeries of professions, trades, and businesses engaged in the thousand and one activities that converge upon the single construction job is beginning, after all these centuries, to crystalize into something like a cooperative body.

It is just a beginning, but the trend seems unmistakable. It is possible that "the construction industry" may become something more than a figure of speech; signs are apparent of a consciousness of common problems, and of cooperation to solve these problems.

In Washington met during the same week the

Construction League of the United States, the National Conference on Construction, and the Associated General Contractors.

The Construction League of the United States is some 18 months old. Headed by Robert D. Kohn, New York architect, it gathers together in rather a compact organization engineers, architects, contractors, materials supply interests, and machinery men. It has, during its brief existence, made considerable strides toward arousing in these groups a new consciousness that they have common problems and common interests.—(From the "Business Week.")

Construction League Meeting

THE Policy Committee of the Construction League of the United States held its fall meeting in Washington, D. C., on October 12. Robert D. Kohn, Past-President of the Institute, is General Chairman of the League, and various members of the Institute are active on its Committees.

The Policy Committee is composed of the Officers of the League and representatives from each of the constituent members. In addition to the members of the Committee, there were a number of guests present, including representatives from the architectural and engineering publications, several Government bureaus, and non-member organizations who are contemplating membership.

The General Chairman reviewed the purposes for which the League is organized and made a report on the work of the National Committee for Trade Recovery, an organization functioning in New York as a Committee of the League.

Those matters considered by the Policy Committee, of special concern to architects, were—the National Conference on Construction, and the reports of the Committees on Employment, on Correlation, on Research, on Trade Recovery, on Public Relations, on Legislation at the coming session of Congress, on Code of Practice for the

Building Industry, on Large Scale Housing Projects, on Shopping for Bids, on Standards for Safety Construction, on Structure Insurance, on Certified appraisals, and on Certified Purchases.

The next meeting of the Policy Committee will be in Detroit, Michigan, in connection with the Highway and Building Congress to be held in that city during the week of January 16, 1933. That Congress, the first of its kind to take place in the United States, will feature a number of exhibitions showing accomplishments, new developments, and technique in general for the entire construction industry. Many organizations have scheduled their conventions or board meetings for the week of January 16 in Detroit.

It is the intention to make this Highway and Building Congress a biennial affair, and to gradually develop a great meeting and exhibition devoted to the interests of the entire construction industry.

At the present time the Construction League has fourteen constituent members, including The American Institute of Architects. Each member is a national organization representing a major group in the construction industry.

The National Conference on Construction—Conclusions

ON October 13 and 14, in Washington, D. C., there was held a general meeting of the National Conference on Construction.

The Secretary of Commerce, Honorable Roy D. Chapin, acted as Temporary Chairman. After the opening session, Mr. Julius H. Barnes acted as permanent Chairman.

The entire construction industry was represented at this Conference.

The reports were well prepared; were digested by the Chairmen of the Committees which made them; were referred to a Special Committee; and were acted upon after recommendations from that Committee.

The architects were well represented by Robert D. Kohn, a Past-President of the Institute, who spoke on the objectives and program of the Construction League of the United States; and by N. Max Dunning, former member of the Board of the Institute, who was Chairman of the session devoted to the consideration of economic relationships in the construction industry.

While the findings of the Conference make a long record, there is hardly one of the subjects covered which is not of concern to the practicing architect, or the architect who hopes to be practicing in the near future. Therefore, the entire report of the Resolutions Committee is reprinted here.

It becomes more apparent each day that improvement in our economic affairs is closely linked with improvement in construction of all types, particularly building construction. At this time the subject of construction as a whole and the welfare of those groups engaged in that industry are receiving more than usual attention from the economists, the politicians and the public press.

Members of the Institute, who are sufficiently interested in the larger view, are invited to read the findings of this Conference on Construction and to express their views thereon, by direct letter to the Institute or to the Construction League of the United States, of which Robert D. Kohn, 56 West 45th Street, is General Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS

Relation of Construction to Business Stability

Construction can be made a great stabilizer of business activity. While over-expansion in any industry produces difficulties, over-expansion in construction introduces elements of danger for all business endeavor. Similarly, violent contraction in construction tends to produce more widespread effects than contraction in any other line, stagnating endeavors in multiple directions. Orderly and healthy development of construction, freed from wide fluctuations, is essential to economic stability.

The possibility of securing such development requires reexamination in the light of our present situation. The immediate pressing problem is to hasten in all practical directions the restoration of confidence which will release private capital and credit into construction and other trade invigorating channels. But scarcely less urgent is the related problem of discovering practical ways and means for obtaining an orderly and balanced volume of construction, efficiently produced and reasonably adjusted to the country's needs for private building, for utilities, and for public works.

The solution of these problems necessarily will call upon the best abilities of many interests, public and private, and especially for coordinated action in all communities and nationally of financial and other business interests in cooperation with the industries producing construction materials and the groups engaged in construction operations. The National Conference on Construction pledges its best efforts to stimulate such coordinated action and to encourage a step by step program aimed at renewing construction on a more stable basis, in the interest of the construction industry, the business community, and the public.

Real Property Inventories

It is suggested that cities with a population of over 100,000 should keep some form of continuous inventory of supply and demand for real property. The amount of detail necessary for making inventories of construction adequate to be of use in determining construction needs depends on the size of the city and other factors. The larger cities need more inclusive studies. Cities whose industrial position subjects them to severe fluctuations are particularly in need of an inventory of broad scope and great frequency.

Although continuous inventories are not equally necessary in the smaller communities, periodic studies should be made in all communities. Cities with less than 100,000 population will find

annual occupancy-vacancy surveys an invaluable check on changes in their construction needs.

It is recommended that the Conference endorse the principle of a continuous construction inventory, along lines suggested in this Committee report, as an essential part of any coordinated effort in larger cities to stabilize the construction business, through the establishment by voluntary action of recognized standards for measuring currently the need for new building construction.

That the Conference authorize the Executive Committee to take appropriate steps to encourage the setting up of continuous construction inventories in the larger cities; including furnishing information on methods which experience shows to be successful in organizing such an activity; that the Conference itself continue its study of such inventories, particularly the practicability of including in them information concerning the need for other types of construction in addition to building.

The Construction Census

The Conference recommends that the Bureau of the Census be urged to set aside a sufficient appropriation to keep a minimum staff employed in order to preserve the experience gained in connection with taking the last Construction Census.

It is recommended that the staff and committees of the National Conference on Construction cooperate with the staff and officials of the Construction Census in developing uses for this Census and working out improvements to be incorporated in any future surveys that are made, to make the information of the greatest value possible to the construction industry.

It is recommended that the Conference transmit the suggestions of the Committee with reference to the Construction Census to the Director of the United States Census Bureau for his information.

Construction Employment Statistics

The Conference finds that the cost to the contractors of collecting the information for the Construction Employment Index is slight and that there is an obvious national interest and an appreciable benefit to the building industry, in collecting and publishing this information. It is recommended that this Conference approve the continuing collection and publication of construction employment statistics by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Conference authorizes the Executive Committee to publish and distribute the report on Construction Employment Statistics, prepared by the Committee on Business Reports, Statistical and Trade Information, to those interested.

Principles of Statistics

The Committee on Business Reports, Statistical and Trade Information has prepared a memorandum on principles of statistics as applied to construction, which may be used as a guide to the value of any statistical information.

The Conference endorses these principles of statistics as applied to construction, and authorizes the Executive Committee to give them appropriate publicity.

Index of Construction Statistics

The Committee on Business Reports, Statistical and Trade Information has prepared, in cooperation with the Division of Building and Housing of the Department of Commerce, An Index of Construction Statistics.

The Conference authorizes the Executive Committee to provide for the publication of this Index.

Accident Prevention

The Conference approves the suggestions in the report on Reduction in Construction Costs Through Accident Prevention, of the Committee on Elimination of Wastes and Undesirable Practices; that the Conference emphasize the importance of accident prevention work; and that it authorize the Executive Committee to publish and distribute the report on accident prevention and urge all construction groups to cooperate with insurance companies in further reducing accidents and to impress upon superintendents and foremen their duties in this respect, and to record additional and continuing data and information in such manner that it will be brought clearly to the attention, regularly, of the executives in charge.

Sound Trade Relations

Permanent success comes only to that business enterprise which, by strict adherence to the principles of integrity and fair dealing, builds for itself a foundation of confidence, in the minds of competitors and of the public alike.

Recognizing the fundamental soundness of this proposition, the National Conference on Construction urges upon all individual units in the construction industry the need for common action in promoting higher standards of business conduct throughout the construction field. Each industry here represented should seek, through the process of self-regulation, to eliminate from within its ranks every form of unfair and wasteful practice and trade abuse in which its members now engage, to the end that all representations whether to customers or to competitors shall be scrupulously observed and rigidly fulfilled.

The Conference believes there is need to provide trade associations with the power, properly

safeguarded, to adopt enforceable basic rules governing the conditions under which their industries shall be carried on.

In furtherance of this program, the Conference heartily endorses the legislation now pending in Congress to legalize the trade practice conference procedure of the Federal Trade Commission as a means well adapted to raise the standards of competitive conduct and promote the well-being of American industry and commerce.

Seasonal Operations

The Conference approves the suggestions contained in the report on Seasonal Operations, of the Committee on Elimination of Wastes and Undesirable Practices that the Conference emphasize the need for further vigorous action in lengthening the construction year; that it authorize the Executive Committee to publish and distribute the report on Seasonal Operations, urging the National Association of Real Estate Boards and other realty groups, and the National Association of Building Owners and Managers to give consideration to the staggering of leasing dates.

It is recommended that the National Conference on Construction use the facilities at its disposal to promote the adoption of these recommendations and to assist the local groups in their efforts.

Apprentices

The Conference authorizes the Executive Committee to publish and distribute to interested organizations the report on Training of Apprentices, prepared by the Committee on Elimination of Wastes and Undesirable Practices.

Building Codes

The Conference recommends that each community set up some agency having authority to consider appeals on building code matters and to recommend the acceptance of new products and methods of construction.

Simplification

The Conference recommends further use of materials made in accordance with industry standards agreed upon in cooperation with the Division of Simplified Practice of the United States Bureau of Standards. Designing and specifying authorities should specify products standardized as to dimensions and quality. Catalogues of manufacturers should specify which materials are standardized to conform to such procedure.

American Materials

The Conference recommends that during the present business emergency preference be given

whenever practical to American materials for use on all public works construction and on projects for which the Reconstruction Finance Corporation grants loans.

Credit Bureaus

The Conference recommends that all branches of the industry support the Bureau of Contract Information. This Bureau, which has been in operation for several years, has demonstrated the possibilities of bringing about improvement in bonding practices through making available reports on established credit standing and past performance of general contractors. The Bureau is cooperating with the leading bonding companies, with awarding authorities and financial institutions and has the support of the contractors' organizations. A similar service covering sub-contractors is desirable.

Appraisals

The Conference recommends that there be further study and discussion of appraisal practices, with a view toward securing the techniques and organizations which will have the support of all branches of the industry.

Uniform Mortgage Act

It is believed that the present chaotic state of mortgage laws throughout the country would be materially improved by the widespread adoption of the Uniform Mortgage Act approved by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

Local Organizations

It is urged that the suggestions contained in the Outline of Conclusions of Survey of Local Organizations in the Construction Field be brought to the attention of the interested groups and be considered by the National Conference as a guide in its relations with local organizations in this field.

It is recommended that the Conference cooperate actively with these groups and serve, if desired, as a clearing house of information between them. It is also recommended that the National Conference assist in the formation of new local organizations of this type in cases where local groups have expressed a desire to effect such organization.

Defects in Relationships

It is recommended that the Outline of Defects in Relationships in the Construction Industry be called to the attention of the related groups.

Bid Peddling

The National Conference on Construction expresses the belief that bid peddling, or bargaining on prices after the official opening of written bids, is a reprehensible practice that is working serious harm to the industry and to the general public. While the present adverse economic conditions make it difficult to eliminate unfair competitive practices, we believe that every effort should be made to establish the principle of adhering to original bid prices in relations between contractor and owner, general contractor and sub-contractor, contractor and materials supplier, and urge the support of all measures to insure the maintenance of fair practices by all groups participating in the Conference.

Assembly of Plots

The Conference recognizes the general advantages to the community of certain types of large-scale operations, such as sound projects for improvements in blighted areas. It recommends further study of proposals for facilitating the assembly of large plots under united ownership or control, at the same time conserving the interests of all property holders.

Sharing Work in the Construction Industry

It is recommended that the National Conference on Construction through the Chairman of its Executive Committee request the Secretary of Labor and other members of the President's cabinet directly affected, to meet with representatives of this group and representatives of the various unions of the American Federation of Labor in the hope of effecting for the period of this emergency, the suspension of such rules and regulations as might prevent the success of the "Share The Work Movement" in the construction industry.

WHEREAS, the National Conference on Construction was organized several years ago to survey construction problems resulting from the economic depression and to study the various relationships of construction to finance, real estate, transportation and commerce; and

WHEREAS, the work of the Conference to date has had most gratifying results, both of a practical nature, and in bringing about a better mutual understanding between the groups engaged in construction and related groups in the field of finance, real estate, transportation and commerce, and has shown the outstanding need for carrying forward efforts of a similar type; and for making the most of the headway already gained; and

WHEREAS, since the formation of the Conference there was organized in September, 1931, the Construction League of the United States, designed to handle the internal problems of the construction industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in order to avoid duplication of effort and expense, it be recognized that the internal problems of the construction industry are within the sphere of the Construction League and that study of the external or inter-industry problems of the industry can be most effectively coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States through the National Conference on Construction or some similar method.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chairmen of the five general committees of the Conference, together with representatives of the Executive Committee of the Conference, and such others as the Chairman of the Conference's Executive Committee may designate, be constituted a committee to formulate a program for contin-

uing the work of the Conference, this committee to report to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and that pending such report this committee continue this coordination of the current inter-industry activities of the construction industry.

The thanks of the construction groups are extended to the Secretary of Commerce, the United States Department of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, and those national leaders who have given generously of their time and ability in their endeavors to serve this Conference since its inception.

This report and resolutions offered by the following committee were adopted:

F. P. BYINGTON, *Chairman*; W. T. CHEVALIER, RAYMOND T. CRAGIN, H. S. CROCKER, N. MAX DUNNING, A. E. HORST, JAMES T. MADDEN, H. U. NELSON, OSCAR REUM, W. A. SHARP, A. C. TOZZER, CHARLES WARNER.

Report on Planning Conference.

BY FRANCIS P. SULLIVAN, A. I. A.

THE Bicentennial Conference on Planning, Parks, and Government was held in Washington from September 18 to 25 inclusive.

The organizations taking part in the conference were: The American City Planning Institute; the American Civic Association; the D. C. Commission, George Washington Bicentennial; the American Institute of Park Executives; the American Legislators' Association; National Association of Civic Secretaries; National Council for the Protection of Roadside Beauty; National Municipal League; and the Proportional Representation League.

The American Institute of Architects was invited to participate in this conference. President Russell designated Frederick Bigger, Chairman of the Institute's Committee on the Economics of Site Planning and Housing; and Francis P. Sullivan, President of the Washington, D. C., Chapter, to represent the Institute for this purpose, the object of this representation being to forward the plans announced in the resolutions adopted by the Bicentennial Conference on the National Capital, and confirmed by the Sixty-fifth Convention of the Institute.

The program of the Conference included both special sessions by particular organizations de-

voted to discussion of such features of the general subject of the Conference as were of interest to their members, and general meetings at which all the organizations took part.

The principles of City Planning, Civic Government, and the financial basis of the municipal Government's support were discussed in a well-coordinated series of papers. The vast scope of the subjects covered in these discussions, and the exhaustive character of the treatment which they received, make it impossible to attempt to summarize them intelligibly.

In general, the Conference attempted rather to discuss the themes proposed than to take action upon them by means of resolutions or otherwise, so that there is no tangible step to report toward carrying out the policies indorsed by the Institute at its Sixty-fifth Convention.

It may, however, be said that the tendency of such discussions is so favorable to the advancement of the ideals underlying these policies, that the representatives of the Institute felt that the purpose of the Institute and of the resolutions adopted by it, with relation to the development of the Federal City, were furthered by the Conference.

The Structural Service Department

F. LEO. SMITH, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

Devoted to the advancement of knowledge of materials, methods of construction, and equipment for buildings, and to a better understanding of the art and science of architecture.

Structural Service—What It Is and How to Use It

The value of the professional service which the architect renders to his client is based upon his personal knowledge and ability acquired through education and experience. As the human mind is capable of retaining but a very small portion of the information requisite for the intelligent solution of building problems, the architect must supplement this comparatively meager store of facts by constant reference to published data from various sources—the recorded work and experiences of others; reports on research, tests and investigations; articles in trade and professional journals; careful study of executed work; and, last but not least, properly prepared trade literature free from exaggerated claims and self-laudatory statements, with definite, useful information regarding the products and processes described.

Advancements in the technique and science of building, developments in materials, methods and devices, and the greatly increased size and complexity of modern structures, have placed upon the architect an ever-increasing demand for a broader and more comprehensive knowledge of available building products and their appropriate application. The architect must be informed regarding the best and most economical methods and materials, protecting his client from misrepresentation of facts regarding inferior products which have been tried and found unsuitable and new products which are untried and unproven.

The mere reading of existing literature would be a tremendous task. Published data on current developments is so extensive that no architect can devote sufficient time to its perusal to gain more than a very superficial knowledge of the information presented. The value of this information is recognized, necessitating its preservation in permanent files properly indexed for future reference in connection with specific problems.

The Standard Filing System

The Structural Service Department of the Institute was created jointly by architects and producers of building materials for the express purpose of improving the quality of the service rendered to their common client—the public. Realizing the need for the elimination of waste in advertising, one of the first results of this

cooperative effort was the adoption by the Institute of recommendations regarding the size and character of advertising matter intended for preservation by the architect together with a standard filing system to encourage the pre-marking and orderly indexing of trade literature and to enable the architect to readily locate desired information.

Every architect is confronted with the problem of filing manufacturers' trade literature which often contains valuable and useful data. Uniformity in size and the use of standard file numbers for identification has greatly simplified this problem. In addition, advertising directed to architects has been greatly improved in character and dependability.

An adequate office record should contain reliable data on all of the various products and processes involved in building construction—technical data; reports on authoritative, disinterested tests and investigations; typical specifications of proven merit; standard details of construction; building codes and regulations, in addition to trade literature. A file which does not yield required information is worse than useless, occupying valuable office space, wasting time and effort in filing and in futile searches for material which cannot be found. The manufacturer fails to secure the attention of the architect to his product at the time when a choice or decision is being made and the desired objective of advertising is lost.

Cooperation with Other Groups

Since its inception, the activities of the Structural Service Department have been expanded to include cooperation on more than ninety projects of national technical groups and governmental subdivisions. Official representation on committees designated for this work, entitles the Institute to a voice in matters of vital importance to the building industry and the architectural profession. The establishment of national standards for certain materials and methods of construction is of direct benefit to the practicing architect, eliminating the necessity for much independent research and investigation, the cost of which would be prohibitive, and making available standard specifications and test methods to which the architect can safely refer without the necessity for covering in detail

those items for which definite standards have been adopted and accepted by the industry.

A comprehensive record of developments in the construction field is maintained by the Structural Service Department at the Octagon for the convenience of Institute members. Direct contact with the Bureau of Standards and other governmental agencies, together with the accessibility of national technical groups and trade associations, facilitates the procurement of valuable information and data.

Service to Institute Members

An increasing number of Institute members are availing themselves of this opportunity to obtain disinterested, authoritative information on many subjects.

The Public Works Committee of one of the Chapters of the Institute is at present engaged in the study of the heating and ventilating of school buildings for the purpose of preparing a code for submission to the State Legislature. This Committee was particularly interested in present codes and practice in foreign countries. Information on this subject has been obtained by the Structural Service Department through the Foreign Construction Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, United States Department of Commerce. Foreign offices of the Division have cooperated in the work.

Institute members are assisting in the preparation of a building code for a city in a mid-western state. This Department received a request for data which might be used in connection with the work and took the matter up with the Secretary of the Building Code Committee of the Department of Commerce. Copies of recommended codes and standards were obtained, together with an offer of assistance from the Secretary of the Committee.

Numerous requests for authoritative information on specific problems have been received from architects. Abstracts have been prepared—based on available data and published reports, and information obtained through personal contact with the Bureau of Standards and other technical and governmental agencies.

Specific examples of service rendered to Institute members are: answers to inquiries relating to the possibility of galvanic action between dissimilar metals in contact, with recommendations for suitable connections between roof surfaces of metals of two or more types together with flashing; comparative data on the relative merits of red lead and sublimated blue lead for the protection of structural steel in buildings; plaster failures, with reference to their possible causes and correction; comparative data on natural and petroleum asphalts for use on built-up roofing; data on glaziers' putty; corrosion of lead in con-

crete; materials and methods of construction best adapted to the construction of open air dance floors; concrete floors in dairies; sweating of concrete buildings as to possible causes and correction; bulging and warping of ceramic tile flooring; and many other similar questions.

Certain specifications, standards and recommended practices, as prepared and promulgated by the Bureau of Standards, Divisions of Simplified Practice and Trade Standards, National Committee on Wood Utilization, National Electric Light Association, Association of Electricians-International, and other groups, have been made available to Institute members without cost, through the cooperation of the Structural Service Department with those organizations.

Members are urged to avail themselves of this opportunity for service to which they are entitled. The Structural Service Department also welcomes reports on materials and methods which have proven either exceptionally good or unsatisfactory, for the purpose of building-up an experience exchange.

Graphical Symbols on Drawings.

A tentative draft of Proposed American Recommended Practice for Graphical Symbols to be used on Drawings has been prepared by the subcommittee on Graphical Symbols on Drawings of American Standards Association Sectional Committee Z-14 on Drawings and Drafting Room Practice.

This proposed American Recommended Practice covers 44 symbols for plumbing fixtures, 17 symbols for conventional rivet layouts, 21 symbols for heat-power apparatus, 32 symbols for electric power apparatus, 27 symbols for pipe and pipe fittings and 23 symbols for heating and ventilating layouts. The subcommittee propose to add to the above list a group of graphical symbols for welding.

The symbols for plumbing fixtures, which were originally proposed by the National Association of Master Plumbers of the United States, have been reviewed by the Structural Service Department of the Institute. Symbols for conventional rivet layouts were developed by a subcommittee on Line Work. The Advisory Committee on Steam Turbines of the International Electro-Technical Commission submitted and recommended for approval symbols on heat-power apparatus. These symbols have also been endorsed by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Committee on Power Test Codes.

The symbols for electric power apparatus form a part of the recommendations formulated by A. S. A. Sectional Committee Z-10 on Scientific and Engineering Symbols and Abbreviations.

Bevan Jones, A. I. A., represents the Institute on this Committee.

The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers' standard symbols and the German Industrial Standards were used as a guide in the preparation of the list of symbols for heating and ventilating layouts, and for pipe and pipe fittings.

The Proposed American Recommended Practice, Drawings and Drafting Room Practice Graphical Symbols has been published for comments and criticisms and is available as a loan to those interested, upon request to the American Standards Association, 29 West 39th Street, New York, N. Y.

Painting on Concrete Surfaces

The architectural possibilities of decorated concrete surfaces has created a demand for authoritative information regarding the problems involved in obtaining results which will meet the architect's requirements for form, color, texture and

permanence. Effective decorative treatments can be produced by painting or staining, ranging from solid colors and simple stenciled designs to the most elaborate murals. How to obtain these effects, with some degree of assurance that the pigments will not fade or the paint peel or disintegrate, is a question which must be definitely answered before the architect will consider their use.

The September issue of the Journal of the American Concrete Institute presents the report of A. C. I. Committee 407, on the Painting of Concrete Surfaces. This report was compiled by F. O. Anderegg, Chairman of the Committee, from information received from a large number of manufacturers, users and others interested. It covers clearly and briefly the factors arising from the concrete and the nature of its surface, the various painting materials that are being used and the best probable practice in their application to produce satisfactory decorative coatings.

With the Chapters

EXTRACTS FROM CHAPTER MINUTES AND REPORTS

Baltimore Chapter—September Meeting

The Secretary read a letter received by the President from the General Manager of the National Lime Association, offering to furnish the Chapter free of charge with a lecturer who would speak to them on the penetration of moisture into masonry walls, its causes and remedies. After discussion it was moved by Mr. Hopkins and duly seconded, that the Secretary be instructed to arrange for this lecture, to take place at the Builder's Exchange in the near future, and that invitations be extended to the General Contractors and members of the Trowel Trades Association to attend. The motion was passed without dissent.

Chicago Chapter—October Meeting

The October meeting of the Chicago Chapter, held at the Architects Club, was attended by one hundred, twenty-eight members and guests.

William J. Smith, Chairman of the Program Committee reported that the subject of the November meeting would be "Architecture as a Business" and that the subject would be presented by Elmer Jensen, Chairman of a Special Committee on Architectural Practice, assisted by other members of that Committee. Mr. Smith also indicated that the December meeting would be in the nature of a social and that it would be held at the Ann Rutledge Tavern in the Century of Progress grounds.

President Farrier read an invitation from the Electric Association inviting the members of the

Chapter to attend the dedication services of the Electrical Group of the World's Fair.

The speakers of the evening were introduced by President Farrier. The speakers were Messrs. Edmund Giesbert, Louis Skidmore, Emil Zettler, Donald Nelson and George L. Barnum.

Connecticut Chapter—Fall Meeting

The first meeting of the season was held on October 12th in New Haven and attended by an unusually large number. Following our now well established custom, the afternoon was spent in visiting recently completed buildings and buildings under construction. The first building visited yesterday was the new Whitney Gymnasium at Yale University, which was previously visited during course of construction. * * * The Yale building program has progressed to the point where there is already much of the physical glamor of Oxford and Cambridge—in the quadrangles, in the streets and as evidenced in the distant sky-line.

There is under way an organization of engineers and architects for the purpose of establishing joint or parallel legislation for the registration of those two professions. The organization is by counties and promises to be state-wide and effective.

The question of irregular competitions for state work, which has been such a thorn in the flesh to the chapter and its members, seems to have found a natural solution without legislation. The Commission for the State Veterans' Home recently held a

most exemplary and satisfactory competition under the professional direction of Mr. Carl Malmfeldt of Hartford, for which the profession owes him much. The fourteen competitors were chosen on the basis of photographs exhibiting past work of a class comparable to the very extensive project in hand—only Connecticut architects were invited, but unfortunately without compensation, except for the prize winners. The make-up of a jury was announced in the program, and included Dean Meeks, a physician, a construction expert from the Federal Veterans' Bureau, and two laymen of high standing. Dean Meeks reported one of the finest lot of competition drawings which he has ever seen. The Commission promptly accepted the report of the jury and Douglas Orr was given the first prize and the commission. This is a great event for Connecticut Architects, who, through the Chapter, have for years been endeavoring to bring about either the direct appointment of architects or the holding of proper competitions. Except for the omission of compensation, the procedure followed closely that set up in a bill introduced some years ago into the Legislature by the Chapter. It should give encouragement to those in other communities who are working against discouragements.

Following the business meeting, Professor Stanley R. McCandless, A. I. A., a member of the Chapter and a national authority on architectural lighting and illuminating, gave an illustrated paper on the "plastic" use of lighting as a new and controllable element of design, stressing the error of the growing tendency to would-be efficiency through diffuse over-lighting, and failure to appreciate the efficacy and the aesthetic value of spot-lighting and contrast.

Detroit Chapter—October Meeting

President Gamber outlined some of the work before the Chapter in the year ahead in his address as the new president of the Chapter. He complimented the profession as a whole for the courage its members had shown during the past few years in the face of most unfavorable conditions in the building industry, and assured the meeting that, in his opinion the immediate future would show at least slight signs of improvement.

Mr. Cordner announced the completion of a new draft of the Michigan Housing Code by Walter Blucher, of the City Plan Commission, under the direction of the Michigan Housing Association, patterned after the present New York Housing Code and designed to enable Michigan to use Reconstruction Finance Corporation money for housing developments in Michigan. The draft, he stated, was being studied by various interested parties and when it has been thoroughly scrutinized, and revised if necessary, would be introduced in the State Legislature for adoption.

Kentucky Chapter—Home Loan Banks

This entire meeting was devoted to the hearing of an address by Mr. L. A. Hickman, President of the Greater, Louisville Savings and Building Association, who was secured by the Programme Committee to explain to the Chapter the workings of the Home Loan Bank Act, recently passed by Congress. Mr. Hickman presented a very interesting address covering the history of this Act, its many purposes and its far-reaching possible results.

At the conclusion of the address some of the members asked questions about the Act which were answered by Mr. Hickman.

President Grimes thanked Mr. Hickman and expressed to him the Chapter's pleasure for having him as its guest.

Minnesota Chapter—September Meeting

At the regular meeting of the Chapter held September 5, nineteen members and two guests were present.

Mr. Tusler reported the slowness and difficulties of the Allied Construction Industries organization in functioning and recommended no action involving the Chapter until after January 1.

Mr. Dorr reported good progress on the new state registration amendment.

Mr. Dunham read letters from candidates for governor relative to the architectural work on state building projects.

Oregon Chapter—October Meeting

Linn Forrest, recent holder of the Ion Lewis Scholarship in Architecture, gave a screen talk on his experiences and impressions in Europe, covering the ground from Sicily to Finland, and showing a number of photographs, water colors, and pen and ink sketches.

In the absence of Chairman Bean, of the Building Laws Committee, Mr. Howell reported that considerable progress had been made, working with a similar committee from the Registered Architects of Oregon, in formulating a state building code.

Philadelphia Chapter—Radio Show, Etc.

President Bencker asked Harold T. Carswell to report on the Architectural and Civic Activities exhibit at the Electric and Radio Show. Mr. Carswell, after stating that the Joint Exhibition Board felt it most impractical to hold an architectural exhibit and that the Electric and Radio Show, under the direction of D. K. Boyd, would help to offset, so far as the public is concerned, the lack of an architectural exhibition.

President Bencker then asked Mr. Boyd to describe the exhibition. Mr. Boyd outlined the different groups of activities which are on display, and which are as follows:

- (1) Historic Background
- (2) Growth and Development
- (3) Neighborhood Problems and Program
- (4) Planning
- (5) Dwelling Types and Studies
- (6) City Planning and Zoning
- (7) Modernization
- (8) Architecture of the Night

Mr. Boyd asked Sydney E. Martin, who represented the Chapter at the opening of the Electric and Radio Show to report on this function. Mr. Martin said that he had attended the ceremonies at which the Mayor had played a part, and that he felt this exhibition with the fact that the Chapter had been represented at the opening, was a definite indication of the wider spread interest in architecture and architects on the part of the people as a whole. Messrs. Silverman, Bright and Kelsey all spoke enthusiastically of the exhibit.

President Bencker introduced Mr. E. J. McLaughlin, of the Membership Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce, who briefly outlined what the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce was doing, and what it further proposed to do, and urged that the Chapter take out a membership in the Chamber. Mr. McLaughlin then retired from the meeting while the subject was discussed.

President Bencker explained that the Chamber of Commerce had for sometime been requesting that the Chapter join it and that the Executive Committee of the Chapter had been favorably inclined but wished to lay the matter before the Chapter as a whole. Mr. Duhring moved and Mr. Abel seconded the motion that the Chapter take out a yearly membership in the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Considerable discussion ensued * * * and at the call for the question the motion was carried.

Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapter—Program

Good reports on Chapter programs for the coming winter are beginning to reach THE OCTAGON. We are gratified indeed to hear from the Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapter.

In a letter of almost even date, the Secretary, Searle H. Von Storch, says "You may be interested to know that we have organized for the coming winter season and are building up a program on public education. We expect to have a speaker at each of our meetings, on some topic pertinent to the building industry, and we also hope to increase our membership this winter."

South Carolina Chapter—Membership Program

The following statement is taken from a report, containing an outline of Chapter accomplishments and a program of future activities, which the South Carolina Chapter has made to the

Executive Committee, which will meet in Washington on November 18-19:

Steps have been taken to endeavor to recruit the membership in the following manner. It has been found that the non-Institute members of the profession, even if invited, do not attend Chapter meetings or if they do, it is with a good deal of reserve and all of the feeling of an outsider. Hence the opportunity to sell the Institute or Chapter is therefore very poor. The present intention is to have a meeting, under the auspices of the Architectural Department of Clemson College and without any reference to the Institute or Chapter, of all the registered architects of the state. These are to gather at and inspect the activities of the Architectural Department, which is state maintained and is the only architectural school in this state. The Chapter will meet a day in advance of this general meeting in a nearby place, settle its own questions, and then adjourn to the general meeting of the college. Meeting thus on neutral ground, we trust by wholehearted efforts to recruit our membership. When the time of this meeting, either in late winter or spring of 1933, is determined we feel the Chapter should make an effort to persuade some prominent member of the Institute, outside of the state, such as an officer or director, to attend and address the joint gathering, thus forwarding our own efforts without local influence being too apparent.

St. Louis Chapter—Recent Meetings

"The meeting was held at the house of merriment in St. Charles, Missouri, located on the banks of the 'Big Muddy.' The location is ideal, with the tranquil Missouri flowing by and at the time of the meeting a beautiful sunset casting its spell upon the dignified and austere members of the profession. That is, they were dignified and austere, but upon entering the quaint dining room the spirit of the place soon prevailed and, laying aside the weighty cloak of dignity and the awe-ful responsibility of the architectural profession, the members indulged in a good dinner, etc.

"The saturation point soon reached, brought forth strains and I mean strains literally of 'Ole Black Joe,' 'Swanee River,' 'Working on the Railroad,' and other boyhood songs all rendered with much feeling.

"Amidst the din of several renditions, i. e., tearing apart of songs, the secretary tried to read the minutes of the last meeting. He was nearly overcome with feeling, but after several starts and with the cooperation of those present did finally read the

solemn document. We hope the august national secretary forgives whatever errors might have crept in. At any rate the minutes were approved as read.

"Bartholomew feeling the urge and being helped in this by the insistence of the members related several stories—all good.

"Other members feeling the pressure of the impending political atmosphere delivered several orations—topics not important.

"And thus the evening passed into a memory of a good meeting. The crooked bridge over the Missouri on the return was much more warped than on the outbound journey, * * * and just for once at least the depression was left far, far behind."

Editor's Note: This is good evidence that the St. Louis Chapter can see other than the serious side of life, even under present conditions.

Washington State Chapter—Publicity; Association for Public Works

A report was made for the Committee on Public Information by Victor Jones, the Chairman, presenting an offer made by the Seattle Times of a half-page in their Sunday Rotogravure Section, to show schemes for the future improvement of various sites, commercial and otherwise, in Seattle. This offer was made through Chapter member John Graham, who had prepared illustrations showing a site twenty years ago, at present, and as it would appear with future development.

It was voted that the Executive Board express to the Seattle Times the Chapter's appreciation of this valuable offer.

The President outlined plans that had been made through a Chapter Committee to form an association of the architects of the State of Washington to design the federal buildings allocated to the State, and called on A. M. Young, Chairman of the Committee, to further explain the proposal. Mr. Young outlined the study that had been given to the method of getting participation by local architects in federal work with particular reference to the expenditures for buildings provided under the recent Federal Relief Act. Conferences had been held with the State Society of Architects, the Tacoma Society, and the architects in Spokane, resulting in the proposal to form a State association for the purposes above outlined, designated as the Washington Architects Incorporated. Mr. Young explained with the help of a graphic representation the proposed basis of organization to insure effective action with wide representation of the architects of the State and explained the proposed general plan of operation.

After a full expression of opinion and discussion, resulting in amendments to the resolution increasing the scope of activity of the proposed organization to

include Alaska and providing that proposed articles of incorporation be presented to the Chapter for approval before filing, the resolution was unanimously adopted. To facilitate organization it was voted that President Holmes represent the Chapter on the Executive Board of the new Association.

North Texas Chapter—Program

This Chapter is making a valiant fight against unusually adverse conditions in the northern part of its State. Regular monthly meetings are being held and a special effort is being made to hold the membership of the Chapter together.

The Chapter has vigorously endorsed and obtained support for the Institute bill requiring the employment of private architects by the Federal government. It secured petitions from building organizations, material men, and the labor groups in its section which were sent to the Texas delegations in both the House and Senate.

To encourage renewed building in Dallas and other cities in northern Texas, the North Texas Chapter is now supporting the formation of a local building congress. It is believed that such a congress, composed of all elements of the building industry, will be able, at least a limited extent, to bring about a renewal of construction work.

West Texas Chapter—Recent Meetings

Mr. Phelps read a letter addressed to Mr. L. A. Wood, newly elected Superintendent of Public School Education, asking that he receive a committee desiring to interview him in regard to the discontinuance of plan service offered by the State Department of Education. A reply from Mr. Wood indicated that he would be glad to receive the committee at any time at his Waco Office.

The committee appointed to interview Superintendent of Education-elect, L. A. Wood, reported that they had received a very sympathetic reception at a conference with him at Waco and Mr. Wood assured the committee that he would make every effort to discourage and discontinue the making of schoolhouse plans by the State Department of Education. This same committee also visited United States Senator Tom Connelly at Marlin and discussed with him the possibility of the next Congress taking the government out of business particularly in reference to the competition developed by the government with private architects throughout the nation. This committee was composed of Leo Deilmann, Raymond Phelps, Carlton Adams, Robert Ayres, and Harvey P. Smith and was given a vote of thanks and appreciation for its efficient and strenuous services.

Items of Interest

Executive Committee Meeting—November 18

As a measure of economy, it is probable that a special meeting of the Executive Committee will take the place of the customary semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

Call has been issued for such a meeting, to be held in Washington, D. C., at The Octagon, beginning at 9:30 A. M. on November 18. Thereafter sessions will take place on the 18th, 19th, and 20th, or until the business program is disposed of.

The Chairmen of all the Special and Standing Committees of the Institute have been called upon to submit preliminary reports and to ask for any additional instructions or information which they may need in developing their work for the year.

Chapter Presidents have been requested, in President Russell's letter which appeared in the September number of THE OCTAGON, and later in a direct communication, to advise the Institute concerning their activities, the steps which they are taking to advance the common interests of their members, and any problems of unusual difficulty with which they are confronted.

Any members or Chapters wishing to address communications to the Executive Committee of the Institute should send them to the Secretary at The Octagon on or before November 15.

The Agenda is made up as of that date. Letters received thereafter cannot be formally listed thereon, and must be taken up as new items of business.

E. J. Russell—Director Federal Home Loan Bank

Mr. Russell, President of the Institute, has been appointed by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board as a director of the Federal Home Loan Bank, to be established at Des Moines, Iowa (8th District). Mr. Russell is appointed as one of the two directors representing the public and not required by law to be connected with the home financing business.

Dunning and Wright—R. F. C. Appointments

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation has appointed N. Max Dunning, A. I. A., and Clark C. Wright, A. I. A., both of Chicago, as a Committee of Architects advisory to it on matters relating to applications for loans on low-cost housing and slum clearance projects.

Recognition of the Architect

It is gratifying to note—in these times—instances in which influential groups outside of the building industry have publicly recognized the architect, or the significance of architecture.

One example is that set by the Crocker First National Bank of San Francisco. That organization,

cooperating with Harris C. Allen, Chairman of the Public Information Committee of the State Association of California Architects, has recently inserted an advertisement in all of the leading San Francisco newspapers.

To show what can be done, and to show what at least one good bank thinks of the architects, a part of the advertisement is quoted below:

Again San Francisco Turns to Her Architects

Whenever San Franciscans, with a civic zeal reminiscent of the Florentine citizens of old, have wished to enhance the charms of their city, it is usually to the architects they turn. The influence of this happy combination of community pride and practical art is seen on every hand in schools, churches and civic and commercial buildings.

Now again San Francisco has turned to her architects, and there will rise on historic Telegraph Hill the newest symbol of community pride wrought through the architect's craft * * * the Coit Memorial Tower, soon to rear its column high above the city to give first welcome to all voyagers who come to us by water, land, or air.

Favored by nature with hills overlooking the sea and by a beauty-loving people with an appreciation of noble things, these architects have had a rare medium in which to work. To the everlasting glory of San Francisco they have made the most of it!

Belonging to one of the great professions, architects practice a code of ethics in keeping with this calling. This code dictates that they must first serve the interests of their clients and it constrains them from engaging in any collateral activity connected with the building industry from which they might profit at the expense of their clients.

In New Orleans, the American Bank and Trust Company, we believe with the encouragement of Moise H. Goldstein, A. I. A., has urged in an advertisement in the New Orleans papers that people consider the wisdom of buying or building a home at the present time. It points out that such a revival will directly improve the many groups which compose the building industry, among them the architects, the landscape architects, the contractors and the sub-contractors.

Public information committees of all chapters may find in these two examples—which speak well for the vigor of San Francisco and New Orleans

architects—some ideas which could be applied in their own districts.

Unemployed Architects—Relief (New York)

Seventeen cash prizes were recently awarded to unemployed architects who were successful in a competition conducted for their benefit by the Architects Emergency Committee of New York City, of which Julian Clarence Levi, F. A. I. A., is Chairman.

Competitors were required to submit designs of a combination news and information booth intended for a space in the center of the main hall of an exposition of international importance, and were urged to allow their imagination full play in use of television, motion pictures, and modern lighting effects to carry out the purposes for which the booth was intended.

The first prize—\$75—was awarded to William Jensen; second prize—\$50—to Morris D. Sornik; third prize—\$35—to Arthur Martini; and prizes of \$20 each were awarded to fourteen others who had been selected by the Jury of which Frederick Charles Hiron, A. I. A., was Chairman.

National Committee for Trade Recovery—Announcement

The National Committee for Trade Recovery, 330 West 42d Street, New York City—an organization representative of the entire construction industry, and sponsored by the Construction League of the United States, recently made the following announcement:

Members of those organizations interested in a revival of the construction industry are urged to make contact with State Chairmen of the Committee for Trade Recovery, with a view to assisting those Chairmen in the promotion of sound, self-liquidating public works projects and the forwarding of applications for loans on same.

The Engineers' Advisory Board of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is now considering such applications, as well as those relating to housing projects which come within the provisions of the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932.

The stimulation of trade depends on the initiative taken by our public officials. The State Chairmen of the Committee for Trade Recovery stand ready to assist in every possible way the forwarding of loans on sound projects and they will welcome the cooperation of the architects to that end.

Any Chapter officials not advised concerning the State Chairmen of the National Committee for Trade Recovery, should write or telegraph the Secretary of the Institute at The Octagon. The information will be sent promptly.

Small Loans—R. F. C.

Applications for small projects are just as welcome to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation as applications for projects requiring large amounts of money, according to statement issued by Harvey Couch, a Director of the Corporation:

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation desires to correct a false impression which seems to exist in the minds of some people to the effect that the Corporation is not interested in making small loans for self liquidating projects.

It is the policy of the Corporation to look favorably upon all applications regardless of the amount involved, if the projects meet the requirements of the Act as to eligibility, self liquidating character, soundness and sufficiency of security, and will create employment.

It has been called to our attention that some applicants have deferred filing applications because of the extensive requirements of Circular No. 3, Mr. Couch said. "The Directors of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation hope that applicants immediately will send such information as is available and accompany the application with an agreement to furnish the data not readily available in due course."

Do You Read THE OCTAGON?

THE OCTAGON is the official means of communication between the Institute and its Membership. It is not an architectural magazine. It is in the nature of a bulletin issued at very low cost and sent each month to every Fellow, Member, Associate and Junior.

Within the limitations imposed by the specifications, THE OCTAGON ought to be of some interest to each member—each month. Of course, it is conceded that many members do not read it and that many of those who do, think that it could be greatly improved.

The purpose of this inconspicuous paragraph is to see if THE OCTAGON is read as closely as it should be; to explain to Members the limitations involved; and to ask their criticisms and comments.

The cost of printing and distributing THE OCTAGON is arbitrarily fixed by an annual appropriation in the Institute Budget. The contents each month are developed from the reports and communications which come to the Secretary of the Institute, and no money is spent for articles and papers.

The Secretary would appreciate letters from Members, telling him frankly what they think of the present form and substance of this bulletin, what they like about it, what they do not like about it, what they would like to see in it, what they would like to see left out, and what they would do if they were editing it.

All communications will be gratefully received and carefully considered.

Committee on State Societies—Central States Representative

In the Committee lists for the year 1932-1933, which were printed in the August issue of THE OCTAGON, no representative was named on the State Societies Committee for the Central States Division.

Since that time President Russell has appointed, as representative on this Committee for the Central States Division, Theodore L. Eschweiler, of Mil-

waukee, who has accepted this service for the Institute.

Architects Are Qualified to Do Appraising

Some time ago announcement was made in the Bulletin of the Michigan Society of Architects that a new field for the architect would be discussed at one of the weekly luncheons—the suggestion was brought about through a letter from Clarence Cowles of Saginaw, in which he stated that his firm had been doing appraisal work. Several Detroit architects have been working along this line and the following by H. A. O'Dell should be of interest:

There is an opportunity in every architect's office today to do a real service for his clients and be paid a fee for it. As I mentioned at the last Tuesday luncheon, I happened to discover that a client of mine had been carrying the same amount of insurance on a building over a period of years, with no change in the policy allowing for depreciation, obsolescence and replacement value. I called this to his attention and he is now paying insurance on \$33,000.00 instead of \$48,000.00, thereby effecting a saving of \$186.00.

I then wrote my clients, also a list of acquaintances, a letter calling their attention to this fact, and that a substantial saving in insurance can be made by having their buildings appraised, that the fee was small, that insurance companies advocated it, and the client should be told that in case of loss by fire he is paid on the basis of today's values, regardless of the amount he is insured for.

It is my opinion that all building appraisal should be done either by architects or general contractors, as they are the two groups who are in constant touch with costs of all the building trades. The appraisal companies, of which there are many large ones, must get their information from one of these two sources, so it is a case of our furnishing information and the other fellow getting the fee.

We have had some new stationery printed to which we have added the word "appraisals" and would suggest other architects doing likewise.

I would like to see every architect do as I have suggested because it will mean a source of additional income, as architects are well qualified to do this work, so that eventually, if the matter is pushed and given publicity, the future work of appraising would come back to the office of the architect, where it belongs.—(*Weekly Bulletin—Michigan Society of Architects.*)

Sketch Competition—Washington State Chapter

The Committee on Education of the Washington State Chapter has announced to all draftsmen in the States of Washington and Idaho, the Chapter's annual Sketch Competition.

Programs of this type are believed to be of special value in keeping the younger men interested in Chapter work, which in turn keeps them in close touch with the Institute and its work for the profession.

Washington University—Givens Hall for Architecture

Givens Hall, Washington University's new \$300,000 building for the School of Architecture (St. Louis), which is in use for the first time this year was formally opened on October 22. Short ad-

resses were given by Ernest J. Russell, President of The American Institute of Architects, on "The Ethics of the Profession," and by Meyric R. Rogers, Director of the City Art Museum, on "The Relation of Architecture to the Other Arts."

Givens Hall is understood to be one of the best equipped structures of its kind in the United States. Besides such general advantages as modern insulation, excellent ventilation, semi-direct lighting, and adequate space, Givens Hall has unique library equipment and other innovations. It has been decorated throughout with valuable paintings and prints from the University's \$1,000,000 collection in the City Art Museum.

Architects and Producers Joint Meeting

Following the general practise of other cities wherein Chapters and Producers' Council Clubs hold forth, one joint meeting is held annually and November 10th has been selected for the first annual meeting in Detroit.

The Producers' Council Club of Detroit was organized last January and is an active club for its age.

The main object of the first annual meeting is to get all architects of both societies personally acquainted with the Producers' Club members—there are 28 in all.

With this in view the two programme committees with Mr. Winter and Mr. Ditchy as Chairmen are whipping into shape a programme that none will want to miss.

The meeting is to be held in the form of a smoker, Mr. F. W. Morse, the National President of the Producers' Council has promised to be with us, an outside speaker will have something very interesting to tell us and you know Claire's ability as a playwright. The entrance fee within the reach of everyone, but we must not tell you all, more will be given in our coming issues.—(*Weekly Bulletin—Michigan Society of Architects.*)

The Burnham Library of Architecture

Exceptional facilities are offered to architects by the Burnham Library of Architecture, Chicago, Ill. This library has an interesting collection of books and magazine articles on modern architecture in the various countries. It subscribes to twenty-three American and eighteen foreign periodicals. Its Photograph and Lantern Slide Department has a large collection of photographs which may be taken out at five cents each per week.

A library of the character of the Burnham Library is of great advantage to architects in the Chicago area, and it would be well if similar libraries, or architectural departments in local libraries, could be established wherever there is a sufficient number of architects or students interested in architecture to make it practicable.

Everett V. Meeks—Appointment on Building Committee

The Chairman of the Building Committee, D. Everett Waid, announces that since the publication of the Committee personnel in *THE OCTAGON* (August number), Dean Everett V. Meeks, of the Department of Architecture at Yale University, has been appointed by President Russell as a valuable addition to his Committee.

Special Offer on Handbook

It is believed that the following special offer—in effect until December 31, 1932—will be of particular interest to many architects not now possessing a copy of the Handbook.

When the quantity of Standard Contract Documents ordered amounts to \$7.50 or more, one copy of the *Handbook of Architectural Practice* may be included for the additional sum of \$2.50; on each order for documents amount to \$1.50 or more, one copy of the Handbook may be included for an additional sum of \$3.50.

Confidence Needed

"Reduce the curve of fear and finally eliminate it." In these few words Stephen F. Voorhees, speaking recently before the New York Building Congress, stated succinctly what he called the starting point for a solution of such a period as the present. "We must recover confidence and faith," he declared. "We have all lost something, and correspondingly we have lost confidence and faith," but he added: "We have not lost our skill. We have not lost our capacity to build, our capacity to create, and certainly we know that there are millions of people who want better housing and really need proper shelter. My suggestion is that we do what we think has a chance of success; that we do it jointly, as is done in the New York Building Congress; and, I believe, whether the specific results

are entirely a measure of the value of the effort or whether they are not, at least we will have set this foundation of confidence among ourselves, which is after all, the starting point from which we move onward."—(*The Building Witness*.)

The Younger Men

Any organization to attain its object must be progressive, active and have the whole-hearted support of its members. Few organizations have an abundance of workers, men who can initiate, men who can publicly express themselves and men who have the natural ability to make them leaders. There are hundreds of young men with good educations, good ideas on organization work who are not assuming a part of the burden of carrying on. They should be drafted and should be given some part of the organization activities, they should be encouraged to help; every organization has within its ranks men of this kind, bring them out into the open, give them a leading job on some committee and they will respond if called upon and will perhaps produce the much needed punch in organization. ("Indiana Building Industry," the Official Bulletin of the Indiana Building Congress.)

Shall I Resign Now?

"I hear some members of business bodies talking, these days, about the possibility of resigning from the organization, with the object mainly of supposedly saving money. I can think of nothing more dangerously extravagant than that—a wasteful squandering of that invaluable asset of good team work at the very time when collaboration is absolutely vital. When you are out in the mid-Atlantic in a bad storm, do you see any body shoving off from the big liner in a row boat by himself to save passage-money?" (Excerpt from a Radio Talk by Dr. Julius Klein, Assistant Secretary of Commerce.)

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