

The AMERICAN ARCHITECT

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Architect, Lewis H. Lovering
Contractors, L. H. & P. W. Lovering

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Baltimore; Contractors, Burn-
ham & Co.

North Shore Golf Club,
Chicago, Ills.

Exposition Building, Erie, Pa.
Architect, Joseph Lee
Contractor, William Siegrist

Grace Baptist Church, Bing-
hamton, N.Y. Architect, E.H.
Bartos; Contractor, William
Ray.

Residence, Rear Admiral Chad-
wick, Twin Oaks, Newport,
R. I.

Rensselaer County Hospital,
Troy, N.Y. Architects, Pem-
ber & Camnaign.

The Practice of Architecture

MANY things give indications of changes in the making. Through conversation, correspondence or reading these signs are constantly recurring testimonies, and a tabulation is unconsciously made of them until the ideas become insistent in their presence. To verify the general impression, a systematic collation of all the evidence is in order.

In arriving at a conclusion by this mental process, it will be found that among the diverse problems demanding attention at this time, one of manifest importance is that of the attitude of the public toward the architect and of the architect in his relations to himself and others.

The practice of architecture is probably today, more than ever before, a matter of barter and trade. The monies invested in building structures demand a return service which represents full value. This value is measured in the adaptability of the structure to its use, its durability and its appearance. These three factors are the fundamentals of correct planning and to render adequate service it appears to be essential that the architect should fully qualify himself to meet these basic requirements.

An analysis has been made of a great amount of data pertaining to this subject and the majority opinion has been condensed into the following five paragraphs which embrace the most common of the points developed. This brief consensus of opinion is not intended to cover the multitude of conditions that exist in such relations, but it is thought that possibly it comprises the basic factors.

1. The business of architecture is inseparable from the profession of architecture. Together they comprehend the originating, promoting, designing, planning, directing and controlling the construction of buildings and their appurtenances.

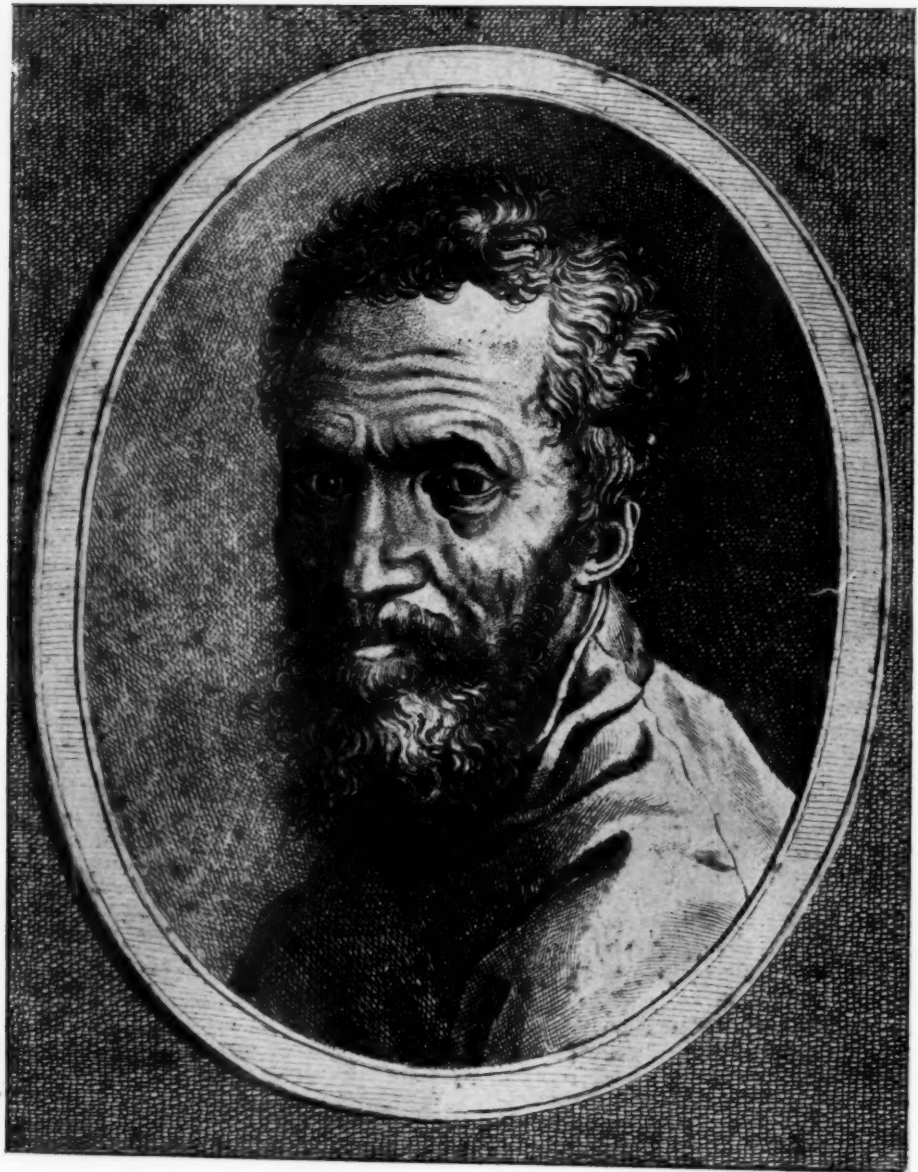
2. To develop a general demand for architectural service—without which only limited opportunities for practice will be presented—the architect must, as an individual and collectively, employ proper and effective means to create a universal appreciation of its intrinsic value.

3. To fully perform his function, the architect must organize, equip and operate his business so as to render complete service in the production of plans and specifications for everything embraced in the construction, equipment and furnishing of buildings.

4. He must furnish complete and detailed supervision of construction and be closely identified with it. He must be responsible financially, as well as morally, for all of his acts, including the correctness of design, the completeness and accuracy of plans, specifications and details, and the construction of the building in accordance therewith; his responsibility to be contingent only on his being accorded freedom in deciding all matters of structural design, mechanical equipment and the selection of materials and workmen.

5. He must control and regulate the business affairs of the building operation so as to safeguard all interests. He must be just and impartial in deciding all controversies within his jurisdiction, but where his own interests are involved he must submit the controversy to arbitration.

(Reprinted from issue of November 27, 1918)



MICHEL ANGELO

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

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The Nashville Convention

Noteworthy Results Attained at Fifty-Second Annual Meeting of the American Institute of Architects, Held April 30 to May 2

THE FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

THAT the fifty-second annual convention of the American Institute of Architects, held at Nashville, Tenn., April 30, May 1 and 2, was to be primarily a discussion of principles as set forth in the program of the Post-War Committee, was at the outset foreshadowed in the brief address of President Kimball. Every other matter taken up for consideration was only of relative importance in its bearing on that important program.

When, on the morning of April 30, the convention was called to order by President Kimball, there were present more than 130 delegates. The sessions were held in the Assembly Chamber of the State Capitol building, designed by William Strickland. Not for many years past has the Institute held a convention amidst surroundings so well suited to its purpose.

The delegates were welcomed to Nashville by Mayor Gupton. He said Nashville was at all times ready to extend a welcome to any organization whose work was in the interest of progress. He welcomed the architects to "The Athens of the South" and to a city noted for its good architecture. He expressed in a most cordial way the desire of the City of Nashville to show the very essence of Southern hospitality.

In the opening address by President Kimball, an address that was received with much satisfaction, some very important matters were outlined. He spoke as follows:

PRESIDENT KIMBALL'S ADDRESS

In order that all the time possible may be devoted to the work of the Post-War Committee on Architectural Practice, the President's address will be extremely brief.

In view of certain signs of the times and in deference to some of my own pet prejudices, I shall not wholly yield to—though I sympathize with the Post-War Committee's well-earned right to every moment that can be spared from the imperative routine of the Convention.

On every side we meet the word "professional." It

crops up in most unexpected and unaccountable places, and strange associations. In the circular of our Post-War Committee we find it used in connection with and to define a recently assumed attitude of the contractor toward his work, wherein under the guise of a growing professional tendency he seeks to disguise a desire to shirk old and irksome responsibilities. Almost over night our friends the brokers in real estate have put on, together with a general clean-up, new paint, etc., the title "Realtor" and a claim to complete graduation into the class professional. I call this a sign of the times and a distinctly unpromising one—one I attribute to those among us who, for the sake of a theory more Utopian than purposeful, would have us believe that commerce itself is in line to take on the garb of unselfish service, in spite of the margin of profit for which it exists.

I would sound a warning against the tendency for which this post-war sign seems to stand. If professionalism is to be protected from such exploitation, indeed if it is to endure—I believe its disciples must awake to this and the other menaces of the all-absorbing commercial tidal wave that seems to be upon us, and which, if history really does repeat, should warn us of that never-failing visitation of force that is the only answer when the selfish control of necessities of life reaches higher water mark.

It is a pet fancy that it might pay to oppose to the commercial menace through organization—the one thing that has never yet been organized—the one thing that by reason of its essential character, is, and always must be, absolutely non-commercial—I mean *simon pure* professionalism.

Why not gather for this defense all those callings where skilled service unselfishly rendered to others is the qualifying requisite? Not so small an array when you realize that standing up to be shot at for one's country at thirty dollars per month qualifies and that khaki is the hallmark of preparation and skill.

Those versed in figures told us, some years ago, that by virtue of the sleeplessness of interest—the money (78 per cent of all there is) at that time in the hands of one per cent of the people—would draw to itself the remaining twenty-two per cent within fifteen years of which some six years have already passed. This money means bread and when all of it has come under the control of one per cent of those to whom bread means life, is it unreasonable to look for one of those sanguine outbreaks of force that have, I believe, always resulted under those conditions since history began to be written? It is the thought of this which makes it seem worth while to try to oppose organized selfishness by unionizing for that purpose the one thing that has, I believe, never yet submitted to the fetters of organization.

I offer this as a post convention thought, and really—I ask you—is it such an impossible idea that the combined

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intelligence which the professions represent might—acting together—parallel and in one and the same direction—result in a power worthy to be pitted against any human force—yes even this one that constitutes the menace from which the world trembles today?

In order that we may have a worthy part in such an effort, or for that matter, in any other post-war destiny that may include architects—I submit that we should no longer be satisfied with a membership that barely reaches ten per cent of those who practice the calling we profess.

With all my will I urge you to see to it that not less than a thousand be added to our membership in 1919. This, I think, is by no means a hard task. With the imminent return of building activity, of which the Committee on Institute Publications believes it has ample evidence, it should be but a short time before the dues can be materially reduced and that deterrent obstacle removed. To this end, enabling legislation in the shape of by-law changes is being suggested to this Convention.

Recent correspondence with some thirty professional organizations supports my belief in the possibility of a brotherhood or league of professions by the show of keen interest in the subject and a readiness to join in its further consideration.

A careful survey of the situation leads me to feel certain that a bigger and a better institute is immediately attainable.

Moreover, I am confident that architecture—the Art I mean—can never come into its own until some way has been found to make it easier for the young man in the profession to earn an honest living. Surely he can not hope to contribute much to art while 90 per cent of his time and energy is required to keep the wolf from the door.

A league of professions, an institute—really national in size and scope, and a vigorously and fully supported Post-War Committee on Architectural Practice—each offers possibilities. For the first I ask your post-convention interest; for the second, the greater institute, your help and for the Post-War Committee I bespeak your most generous and unqualified support.

Treasurer Waid's report was then presented. The cash receipts for the year were set down as \$36,000 and the expenditures at \$32,000. He announced that there was \$4,300 in the reserve fund. A summary of the budget for the ensuing year was contained in the Treasurer's report.

In the report of the Board of Directors, presented by Secretary Parker, it was urged that members engage in the fullest discussion of the matters that would be put before them.

In this report the Board of Directors submitted a resolution for permission to borrow from the reserve fund a sum not to exceed \$10,000 to meet expenses of the budget, the amount to be restored to the fund with 5 per cent interest added.

This report referred at length to the valuable individual services in war work rendered by members of the Institute.

The total membership of the Institute was now 1,499, a net gain of eight for the year.

Among the honorary members who died during the year was Theodore Roosevelt. The members stood during the reading of this part of the report as an expression of respect.

New Chapters were reported as organized in Nebraska and Tennessee.

The report contained a recommendation that the convention go on record with reference to a National Convention on Housing.

The report also urged that the Institute go on record as favoring a national Victory Memorial Park and Forest at or near Washington.

The question of State licensing laws was discussed in this report of the board and all of the Chapters in States where such laws are not now in force were urged to use every effort to secure the passage of adequate legislation.

It was announced that a committee of the Institute had been named to meet a committee of French architects which is soon to come to this country to discuss some problems of rebuilding the devastated areas in France. The Institute has pledged the most thorough co-operation in any matters which the French architects might desire to discuss.

The board recommended the election of Jean Paul Alaux of Bordeaux and Paris as an honorary corresponding member of the Institute, in recognition of his work in France and co-operation with American architects. M. Alaux was elected.

The Institute medal was awarded to Samuel Yellin of Philadelphia for his work in the Allied Crafts.

AFTERNOON SESSION, FIRST DAY

The most important matter that was brought to a conclusion during this session was that of members' dues. After a somewhat protracted discussion it was resolved and carried that the annual dues of both Fellows and members be fixed at \$20.

The amendment to Article V, Section I, of the by-laws, referring to the initiation fee, was very fully debated.

The board of directors, in its report, suggested that there should be a low limit of ten dollars, in place of fifteen dollars, as now. The debate on this amendment brought out some interesting expression of views as to just what was and what was not a dignified attitude in the matter. Some delegates advanced the contention that a low initiation fee made for a poor class of membership and the possibility of the admission of men that were not sufficiently of good standing to be desirable. Others took a more democratic stand.

The motion was put and lost.

A proposed amendment to Article 12 of the by-laws, omitting the name of the Committee on Public Information, which would work a discontinuance of that committee, was seriously opposed by D. K. Boyd, former chairman of the Committee on Public Information.

It developed during the debate that it was the opinion of a majority of delegates that the contin-

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uance of a Committee on Public Information was favored, as its duties might properly be carried forward by the Committee on Publications.

This marks the end of a committee that was organized at a time, or, more exactly speaking, while the Tarsney Act repeal was being acted on by committees of Congress. The daily press throughout the country was full of the most misleading statements as to the practice of architecture. It was then the opinion of THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT, and it is yet of the same opinion, that there should be a committee of the Institute to set abroad a propaganda of education and by personal appeal to publications that were guilty of misstatements seek to correct them. This committee is now dead, and its history is that it never was made by those placed on it, what it was really intended to be, a committee on the formation and dissemination of correct information of the public. During the past two years this committee, if it had conceived a proper idea of what it really was brought to life for, would have been able to give a valuable service.

A series of documents and resolutions were presented to the convention and on motion referred to appropriate committees.

Among these was the matter of a resolution concerning the architectural improvement of farm buildings, in which the board of directors in its report expressed warm approval. George W. Maher, chairman of the delegates from the Illinois Chapter, and prominently identified with this movement, addressed the convention. Mr. Maher's contention was that the subject of farm buildings was a distinct one and should not be confused with matters of industrial housing or town planning. A motion providing for a separate committee on farm buildings was put and carried.

At half-past-four the convention adjourned to accept an invitation to view a collection of portraits and objet d'art assembled in the Parthenon in Centennial Park by the Nashville Art Association. About one hundred delegates, many accompanied by their wives, made the journey to the park, where they were received and entertained by a special committee.

The Parthenon is located in a picturesque park in the environs of Nashville. Here the Art Commission has gathered an interesting collection of portraits, mainly of historic interest, and many relics and heirlooms of the oldest families of the State of Tennessee.

In order that the discussion of the Post-War Committee's program might be carried forward apart from the routine convention business, it was arranged that the various sessions should be held in the evenings, commencing at eight o'clock.

The importance of these meetings is such that they will be reviewed in following issues of THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT.

EVENING SESSION

The evening of the first day was given over to a meeting of the Post-War Committee. Mr. Milton B. Medary, Jr., presided.

That the work of this committee is considered of first importance by the delegates is shown in the fact that with few exceptions every one was in attendance. The debate on the various topics taken up was a serious and thoughtful consideration of elements of architectural practice that are now considered the vital things in the reorganization of the profession.

In his opening address Mr. Medary briefly outlined the reasons that were put forward by those who were responsible for the creation of this important committee. The movement has extended outside the membership of the Institute and every effort has been made to attract architects everywhere to the discussion of these important problems.

Preliminary to the discussion as planned, Mr. John Bell Keeble, a distinguished member of the Bar of the State of Tennessee, was introduced. Mr. Keeble spoke on the Relationship of the Professions.

President Kimball next addressed the meeting. He spoke on Professional Principles. He said:

In considering the professional aspect of the Post-War Committee's inquiry, we are by its circular invited to treat the subject as one of relationship. "Are we in right relation with those we serve—the public?" "Are we in right relation with those with whom we serve—all those who help us to build?" "Are we in right relation with those who parallel our service in our own and our brother professions?"

It is my province to point out the part professionalism does, and may, play in all this. That we may arrive at something tangible, we must, at least for argument's sake, come to common ground on the thing we are talking about. What is this principle we call professional, and which we are all so willing to have associated with architectural practice? To me it is what remains after you eliminate the art we have chosen to patronize, and the commerce which we are forced to practice in order to patronize that art. It is the third corner of the architectural triangle.

ART—our art—Architecture—gives its name to our calling and the objectives to our life's study, and to some the very God we worship.

COMMERCE—That life may be sustained, we serve with great fidelity that corner of our *cadre* which has to do with the *quid pro quo*, and in its service we are forced to cultivate a side of us that can but be destructive of the thing on which our art depends. Here I find the great paradox that we are living—living with such indifferent success; both elements as intensely selfish as they are involving, the one working to the limit to nullify the other. It is a good example of that "cancellation of effort" which accounts for much professional ineffectiveness.

There remains the third corner—the professional element—universally approved and respected, meagerly understood, however, and but weakly followed. As a principle it seems

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to me all that is unselfish in our vocational lives, all which has to do with the welfare of those in whose service our lives are spent—our clients and the public.

A glance at any of the recognized professions will show, I think, that each has its own titular objective that corresponds to our art of architecture, and each, by virtue of necessity, its destructive, though essential, commercial corner, which in each case is balanced by this unselfish counter-irritant—its professionalism.

In medicine, law, engineering, in fact in any profession, as in architecture the titular objective is always essentially selfish and full of the limitations of selfishness but in no other particular are these objectives at all alike nor do they offer any common interest; while in the commercial and professional elements all professions seem to be clearly alike—the one element an undesirable, and the other a most desirable, common factor to all, and so of surpassing importance, it seems to me, in this matter of inter-relationship which we are considering.

It is to the possibilities of the professional element as a democratizing influence within each profession, and as common ground between all professions, that I wish to direct your attention.

Art—through its exclusiveness tends to disorganize, to separate into *cliques* and then to sub-divide them, a process that results in impotence. This is why art affords no bond that binds, and why its associations are so often ineffective and short-lived.

Commerce—on the other hand has long since recognized the importance of effective organization, which makes it such a terrible thing with which to contend, and results in such a secondary rôle for Art, where they assume to practice as partners. On the other hand in his professionalism, the least among us or among any of our brother professions, may aspire to be the peer of the greatest in the purity of his profession, and in his joy in its practice. It is for this reason that the professional principle stands high as a possible bond of union among and between all those who aim to render skilled service for a fee shorn of contingent profit, and where the interests of client and public are cared for first.

I referred a moment ago to "professional ineffectiveness." What I had in mind was the condition resulting not only through the failure to help each other, but sub-consciously, perhaps, through the habit of interference with the successes of each other, that characterize the relationships of professional men,—a condition brought about, I think, quite naturally as a result of professional intelligence which clearly discounts the assumptions and presumptions in others that it condones in itself. A perfect familiarity with,—in fact the profession of,—some fifty odd sciences, each worthy a man's life study, is an architectural assumption or presumption that may well explain the discount with which Medicine and Law are apt to receive our professional advances; while between law and medicine the assumption is as aggravated and the discount as complete—witness the past ten years of futile effort at closer association between those two great representative professions. While many will fail to accredit the truth of this, my latest assumption, I doubt if any will deny the prevailing custom among professional men to indulge in tales of discomfiture to and of each other and before audiences prone to be more interested than discerning. To me the story that begins "once there was an honest lawyer,"—like those which exploit the disasters which result from our own traditional weakness in the matter of estimating costs,—have caused our respective professions to lose enough legitimate patronage to explain the full difference between success and failure in countless professional lives.

If through professionalism as a common factor we could reach an inter-professional understanding based on helping instead of hurting each other, the result to the young man in the profession would, I think, be beyond price. If only some one of our brother professions would catch from our Post-War activity a kindred self-questioning desire, and from his example others might follow,—is it too much to hope that from some broad-minded doctor or brilliant

exponent of law, may not come the suggestion of a brotherhood of professions based on this common factor—this professional principle of—skilled service to others? A brotherhood or league not of a chosen few, but of all those callings that can qualify as practicing professionally; and in such an event might we not find recompense sufficient to have fully justified the creation of our Post-War Committee?

This idea of a Brotherhood or League of Professions is a very pleasant one to me, with its measureless program of accomplishment and its limitless possibilities. First the suggestion—followed by the response of all those who really are professional—gathering together to decide what the professional principle really is, and who shall carry its banner—followed by organization, perhaps of a permanent Ethical Court with which to safeguard its future, and whereby each profession may, with the help of the brother professions, do what alone we have all so far failed to do—really clean house.

I am so obsessed with this idea that I do not stop at anything short of an intellectual power capable of doing the undoable thing,—namely, setting a limit to the advance of that organized selfishness we call commerce, something that, it seems to me, must be done if there is to be preserved to mankind this priceless thing—the professional principle.

At all events such a brotherhood could not fail to result in eliminating all that cancellation of inter-professional effort that now obtains, and that alone would give to the professional beginner including the young architect, his chance to acquire a competency honestly, and before the juices of life are so dried up as to preclude his making any worthy contribution to the art to which he has devoted his life. After all, it is the welfare of this young architect which interests me, and which I had in mind when I asked the Board to create the Post-War Committee on Architectural Practice.

Following Mr. Kimball, N. Max Dunning, chairman of the Post-War Committee, very lucidly outlined the work of his committee. He stated that the mass of information that had been placed at the disposal of the committee was so great that in view of the impossibility of digesting it so soon it would lead to no definite good and would be unprofitable of results to endeavor to formulate an opinion at this time.

Mr. Dunning further stated that in his judgment two important things have been emphasized by our war experience; the value and necessity of organization and the proper appreciation of the value and nobility of service. These remarks were received with much applause, indicating that the chairman of the Post-War Committee had exactly stated the views of those present.

In opening the discussion, Mr. Magonigle said:

It is rather difficult to know just where to begin with this tremendous program and I suppose I may as well plunge in about the middle.

I should say in answer to the queries, Has the architect laid too much stress on the aesthetics and too little on the other values of his service? Has the architect been led to believe that architecture is the art of designing monumental buildings and Has he kept in touch with industrial methods? I should say that that would depend largely on the architect himself and upon his individual training and upon the district in which he was born, the district in which he was trained and the district in which he ultimately practises. Our whole social life is so complex, we are spread out in a measure so thin, our profession at least is

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so thin, over so tremendous an area, that the problems of my city are not those of another's, and I think we shall have to look for the answer to all of these questions in just precisely the kind of discussion that we should carry forward throughout the discussions that we now propose to hold. In other words, these discussions will, I think, should, take more or less the form of experience meetings. It will be by interchange of personal experiences without biographical details, perhaps, that will help other men to see where they perhaps have not entirely succeeded in solving their own problems.

I think another thing too, to remember in the course of this whole discussion that we are here for the purpose of inquiry calm dispassionate inquiry into the various ills that are said to beset our profession. We are not here in the spirit of acrimonious debate. We are here to listen sympathetically to the story of the man on the other side of the country who has a totally different public, who has a totally different problem from ours. I have noted in reading through these documents, as I have a number of times, that queries have evidently come out of an atmosphere with which I am not at all familiar and with which, in some respects, I am not at all sympathetic. I hope to be before the discussion is over.

To me, the question as to whether I shall engage in building enterprises and financing enormous undertakings have not worried me a bit. Perhaps this is a worry I still have to face. I hope it is not. But by listening, speaking for myself, by listening to the problems of others, I shall probably learn a great deal that will help me in my own work and it is by the accumulation of all this great mass of detail and its reduction finally to its lowest terms that

we shall be able to make progress in the immediate future.

I note here this sentence: "Granting that it is essential to attempt to secure an aesthetically satisfactory solution of every building problem, should not the architect also accent the value of his services from the point of view of wise economy, adequate and practical planning, safety, and the most advanced building methods?"

I suppose he should accent that service, the value of that service, if he is fitted to perform that service. Otherwise I should say that he should not accent it. I think he ought to pass over that. I find here too a sentence which I think must have been written by me on the profession, a professional humorist. All of the professions have been criticized for doing work primarily in the interest of one class to the neglect of others, that he serves the moderately wealthy, and to a lesser degree, or not at all, the poor. If that applies to architecture, if not, to see how we would have been able to pay our fares to Nashville if we had not worked for the rich and moderately wealthy, for a little while at least.

I do not think that architects have been educated to believe that architecture is the art of designing monumental buildings. That depends entirely on where you come from. Nor do I think in some sections of the country does the architect lay too much stress on aesthetics. And, finally, does the public need to be educated? I would propose quite seriously that we do not debate that question at all until we have determined first whether our own education is as perfect as it might be. The work of the Post-War Committee will be one of the very best media for finding out whether we are as well educated as we might be. When we are then let us take up the public.

Convention Notes

Commenting on the fact that William Strickland, the architect of the Tennessee State Capitol, lies buried in the northwest corner of the building, while the builder reposes in the northeast, a delegate was moved to remark that it presented a decidedly good example of both the architect and the builder keeping in touch with the job.

* * *

The very active and often aggressive part taken by the delegates from the Illinois Chapter in the proceedings moved a perhaps jealous delegate from another Chapter to suggest that it should be called the *Illinois* delegation.

* * *

The attention extended by the Nashville Society of Architects was in every respect so perfect an example of Southern hospitality as to call from every delegate the most hearty expression of appreciation. There could be nothing finer.

* * *

The little fortune teller's tent on the Hermitage grounds was frequented by delegates who were enthusiastic over the auguries handed out. Some of the guests on this occasion were so thoroughly satisfied with the reading of the palm of one hand that they returned to have the other scanned.

A remarkable convention in the absence of acrimonious debate. From first to last every session was a harmonious discussion of the topic.

* * *

The following advertisement by an architect was discovered by one of the delegates in the Senate Library in a copy of a Nashville paper dated Jan. 29, 1820. It reads:

ARCHITECTURE

The subscriber has moved his family to this country and fixed his residence in Nashville, where he offers his services to design and execute public and private buildings. Gentlemen in the country can be furnished with ground plans and elevations by sending the size of the intended building.

Hugh Roland,

Opposite the Presbyterian Church.

N. B.—H. R. will execute in the country or furnish details on a large scale for the carpenter.

We are acquainted with H. Roland as architect of the Masonic Hall and are of opinion he is adequate to any business in his line.

W. Tannenhill,
M. Norvall,
Duncan Robertson.

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In presenting his motion that a committee on the Improvement of Farm Buildings be appointed, President Maher of the Illinois Chapter incorporated a recommendation that the plan as outlined in an editorial in *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT* of March 12 be followed. The resolution was adopted.

* * *

The promptness with which the \$10,000 was voted to defray the expenses of the Post-War Committee indicates the strong approval of the convention in the efforts of this efficiently working group.

* * *

Many delegates who never before had visited this section of the South were enthusiastic in their

comments on the country and its people. There was to be noted everywhere an unadulterated Americanism in strong contrast with some of our Northern cities.

* * *

The unanimous election of the officers of the Institute shows an absence of factionalism that indicates a successful future.

* * *

The Post-War Committee is off to a good start. The amount of detail work that its members will have to undertake is so voluminous and so essential to best results that the committee should be authorized to bring to its assistance competent clerical aid.

The Committee Reports

Fifty-Second Annual Convention, American Institute of Architects

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

It became evident, during the reading of the report of the Committee on Education, that the convention considered it of the very highest importance at this particular time.

As a discussion of just what is wrong with our present methods of architectural education, and a presentation of well-considered measures of correction, this report is worth careful reading. It is, therefore, with slight omissions, printed herewith as originally presented to the convention. The report was drawn by Messrs. Frederick L. Ackerman, Dwight H. Perkins and Milton B. Medary, Jr., acting as a committee. It states in part:

The first problem presented to the Committee was naturally that of establishing a basis of judgment. The question at once arises as to who is competent. If we consider seriously the character of our entire architectural environment, particularly in our urban centers, it appears that irrational purposes are clearly revealed as the dominant characteristic of modern life. Hence, public opinion, born of and nourished by irrational purpose, cannot be safely accepted as a criterion as to what should constitute the aims of the architectural profession. The purpose of architecture is to promote and support rational living; the great mass of architecture in our urban centers does not. For this condition the responsibility is general. In it the architect shares, for the profession as a whole has accepted the conditions and the program for buildings which are now developed by industrialism and capitalism.

It must be apparent, therefore, that we are presented with a dilemma. What should constitute the aims of education, both as to the creation and appreciation of architecture? The profession must either educate itself to conform to a standard and practice of building which is largely irrational—thus forfeiting its claim to real leadership—or the profession must educate itself actually to combat these

forces as the only possible means of developing a rational architectural environment. The profession has failed, thus far, to make this choice and in consequence the aims of the active profession and of vocational education in architecture have become both vague and uncertain.

Generally speaking, educational policies have come more and more under the direct control of business men who naturally have a personal and pecuniary interest in the product of education, both general and vocational. Among the results of this condition we witness a narrowing of the field of general education and the throwing of an ever-increasing emphasis upon the assumed value of narrow vocational specialization. Thus the larger social purposes, which should appear as the aims of the profession, have been lost sight of, while the possibility of really effective collaborative effort among closely associated vocational groups has been almost completely defeated.

Early architectural education in America emerged in what may be termed an aristocratic atmosphere, though, strangely enough, it was launched under engineering auspices in schools of "higher learning." The relatively recent exodus of American students to Paris and the journeying of the well-to-do to Europe gave an impetus to the production of better architecture and a new slant to educational policies and methods. These influences, it may be said, however, have not very materially affected, as yet, the character and the quality of that great mass of structures designed each year by those who are not recognized as belonging to the "educated" profession.

The character and quality of a relatively few buildings in our environment cannot furnish any clue to the average state of professional competence; nor can they be used as a basis of evaluating our system of vocational education. The degree of professional competence and the value of a system of vocational education must be judged in final analysis, by the quality of all buildings.

Over the total mass of our architectural environment and its orderly arrangement in the planning of towns and urban centers, it may be said that the profession has exercised almost no control. Hence it may be assumed that our education, both general and vocational, has failed to accomplish what should be its major purpose.

In particular is this true of general education, including

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in this our institutions of higher learning, for it is to general education that we must look, not only to furnish the basis of intelligence upon which to develop vocational competence in architecture, but also that criterion of judgment and taste on the part of the public which will demand that the character and quality of all buildings be such as at least to promote rational living in our urban centers.

In our architectural schools the introduction to the vocational work is not so arranged as to insure the stimulation of individual growth and development; the introduction is in the nature of an abrupt change in direction. Practically all of the former experiences of the student are cast aside and a study of architectural forms belonging to an aristocratic culture of the past is substituted. This automatically establishes a criterion of taste utterly unrelated to modern life. Thus it appears to the student that the practice of architecture is a cultural activity completely removed from the affairs which concern the mass of people.

This introduction to professional activity, and the scale of values thereby established, very largely explains why the majority of the "educated" profession take but slight interest in offering advice on community or political action which has nothing directly to do with commissions. It follows, as a matter of course, that the public and government officials do not ask advice.

The almost universal practice of teaching design without any contact whatsoever with the world of reality, and of imposing purely academic judgments upon the work accomplished by the student, develops a set of utterly false values with respect to architecture and the function of the profession in the community. The majority of problems do not even represent genuine situations, they are not related to actual experiences; and the student thus engaged is never afforded the opportunity of actually testing his ideas by application in order to determine for himself their validity. Responsibility of thinking is thus completely suppressed by these false and artificial methods of rating or appraisal.

It is this artificial practice, rather than the omission of lectures upon ethics, contracts, the architect's responsibility, and sundry other matters related to the technique of practice, which accounts for that atmosphere of irresponsibility which is generally admitted to surround the writing of specifications, the submission of estimates, and the making of contracts, particularly by those who are young in their practice.

In general, what is known as "subject matter" used in the problems represents situations which are remote from any immediate social interest of the student. Thus architecture is made to appeal to the student as an arrangement of forms rather than an expression, *in form*, of a dynamic society having social aims and purposes. Is it not reasonable to assume that this condition in education shows largely why, in practice, the architectural profession seems somewhat isolated?

In many of our schools, vocational education is carried on in closely related subjects, but there is little evidence to indicate that collaborative effort is considered of any importance whatsoever. Professional antagonisms are actually fostered through academic jealousies. Vocational education, as now organized, is in a large measure responsible for the great diversity of aims which we find among architects, landscape architects, decorators, and engineers. The academic institutions, particularly those teaching subjects related to art, very generally condemn the products of the world of industry; but no action whatever is taken toward aiding the student to gain an understanding of our industrial problems which so vitally affect the production of architecture. This condition, in a large measure, accounts for the fact that the profession as a whole has left to other groups and to individuals the work of developing that condition in industry in which the instinct of workmanship may find free expression, without which the production of art is utterly impossible.

Modern education revolves about a system of examinations, ratings, degrees, prizes, scholarships and medals. These fixed artificial and secondary aims have been pushed

into the foreground of educational activities and thus furnish the actual focus of the student's interest.

The result of this is that resourcefulness is suppressed rather than developed. And when we take into account the entire field of activities and interests which go to make up what we term the vocational education of the architect—the traditional classic introduction to the work, the subdivision of activities into "subjects," the theoretical study of construction, the paper programs, the "problems" developed exclusively through empirical criticisms, the elaborate renderings, the examinations and judgments imposed by others and the aims of study as represented by "mentions," medals, and prizes, and the all-important fact that *not one of these educational experiences takes place in the world of reality*, where the architect must gain an honest livelihood—when one takes all of this into account, is it not fair to conclude that about all that we have accomplished through this artificial educational mechanism is the development of clever draughtsmen who follow, not lead?

But we cannot allow this matter to rest with this destructive conclusion. How should we recognize education? It is futile to attempt to establish a general criterion of taste or an appreciation of art through vocational training in architecture, or for that matter, by the teaching of drawing in schools and by the inclusion in general education of courses in "fine arts." In nothing less than a complete revision of general education lies our only hope. As a profession and as individuals we might acquaint ourselves with what such a revision means in terms of action to such educational leaders as John Dewey, and we might push this work along. Such a study would have, also, a great advantage in that it would give us an insight into educational technique which we might apply to our own education.

What we need above all, in the vocational field, is a restatement of aims; we cannot educate a profession by simply telling students about their responsibility to the client, the public, and the nation, or by telling them about office methods, or by training them to be skillful draughtsmen. Were we to include within our schools such courses as would relate to the subjects above suggested our students would become merely clerks and office assistants, narrow with respect to aims, and irresponsible with respect to their functions.

What we must have—absolutely must have—is an education so staged that the student will learn by experience and contact with the work-a-day world as to what is actually meant by responsibility. He must be induced to find things out for himself and, as a result of his experiences, to come to his own conclusions. Is it possible to bring these actual experiences of the world into the schools of architecture? No one can possibly answer that question until it has been attempted.

And, above all, we cannot make the problems of the modern world vivid to the student by first drilling him in copying classic architecture. All such subject matter as relates to this phase of architecture must be made to appear as material of reference to be made use of whenever occasion demands. Were we to introduce the student to his vocational experience by making use of his immediate architectural environment, and by stimulating his inquisitiveness concerning its derivation, and the possibilities which are inherent in the problem of making that environment more accurately expressive of a social ideal which he is quite capable of creating if given the opportunity—if we were to bring him into actual contact with real problems and the difficulties encountered by the architects in developing our architectural environment, we would begin at least to develop an architect instead of a draughtsman. Confronted with real problems, he would attempt to find a real solution if we so organized the work that the judgments were real and not artificial.

We cannot dispense with specialization. The educational problem suggested, therefore, is: Who is to organize the specialized vocations concerned with building? Is it to be the business man or the architect? Surely, if it is our purpose to act as the organizer of that phase of building enterprises which have to do with design and construction,

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then one of the principal purposes in education would be to give the student an opportunity to gain his experience through actual collaboration with others, and so he would not work in isolation but in conjunction with those other professions which have to do with building. It is senseless to assume that we can effect collaboration by talking about it. It must be real, an integral part of education, for by no other means can the various professional aims be integrated and the spirit of common purpose developed.

And lastly, we must do away with the examinations and imposed judgments based generally upon presentation. The true aims of the profession should be clearly expressed by the tests which are set to win scholarships leading to further study. They should not all focus upon a single objective; opportunity should be afforded in a school of research for the architectural student, in collaboration with others, to study architecture and art, industry and government, and the complex forces with which we must contend in directing the growth of our environment.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The efforts of the Institute to secure a governmental Department of Public Works have been carried forward for the past two years. The report of the Committee on Public Works, as presented to the convention, states that in view of the fact that the subject matter is of such magnitude and the data available so meagre, the report is confined to the establishment of a few fundamental principles and to an outline of such recommendation as will establish a sound application of those principles. The report states:

When we glance over the many activities of the Central Government, and note the number of Departmental branches that have been created and have expanded from year to year with such constructive force that their recommendations became accepted dogma by the great mass of our people, we wonder why a department regulating the construction of public buildings and public works has been overlooked for such a long period.

The report then directs attention to numerous departments and bureaus of the Government, specifically directs attention to the great good these have accomplished, and adds:

If, then, it has been possible by proper selection of competent supervision to bring such activities to a high standard of efficiency, and almost beyond the pale of adverse criticism, we ask ourselves why a Department of Public Buildings and Public Works cannot be organized, which would gradually gain the public confidence and establish itself with the same excellence of service that we find in the other departments.

Such great impositions were being inflicted on the Government in the District of Columbia by apparent profiteering at the expense of the Government that even the Congress in 1916 was aroused to a sense of duty and it created a commission known as the Public Buildings Commission under an Act approved July 1, 1916, the purpose of which was substantially "with a view to ultimately providing permanent quarters for all the Governmental activities in the District of Columbia in buildings owned by the Government."

This report, with plates, appendix, and index, covers more than 600 pages of printed matter. It is a most illuminating document.

Each Department of the Government has been carefully analyzed, showing the space occupied in Government-owned buildings and the spaces rented to meet the growing needs.

The whole report is a comprehensive study of the

building situation in Washington as of January 1, 1917, and where there may be some divergence of opinion as to whether the recommendations made will give the best results, it is manifest that the situation as it existed at that time certainly required the attention of Congress.

The commission expresses earnest desire to alter an aggravated condition, and we believe was prepared to make drastic recommendations looking to a change in the public building policy.

Unfortunately, our active participation in the War diverted the attention of Congress at that time; we must therefore hope that a return to peace will bring about a thorough discussion of this report.

We have been unable to secure a report of the Supervising Architect's Office, but excerpts read from this report at different times indicate that, following the system now in vogue, this Department is unable to meet the demands of the country. It has gradually fallen behind its work. We understand that in 1917 it was nearly seven years in arrears of appropriations for public buildings entrusted to its care.

That the war has materially lessened its efficiency, no one can doubt, but if we are to interpret the attitude of Congress toward this Department by the recent so-called Omnibus Public Buildings Bill, known as H. R. 15987, it is manifest that at least the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, is really to ignore completely its existence and return to the employment of private architects under provisions similar in result to that obtained some years ago under the Tarsney Act.

Your committee feels that it could now be of material assistance to the Congress, and it is the opportune time to apply for a sound, sane and businesslike policy in dealing with public works.

CONTRACTS AND SPECIFICATIONS

The Committee on Contracts and Specifications has had in hand the further development of a form of agreement between contractor and owner on the basis of a cost-plus fee and the development of the Handbook on Architectural Practice.

In its report the committee pays a very graceful tribute to the late Frank Miles Day, who for a number of years was the guiding spirit of this committee. Continuing, the committee sets forth:

The Form of Agreement on a Cost-Plus fee basis has been further developed during the past year and a fourth tentative draft, together with an amended Circular of Information in relation thereto, is appended hereto and submitted as a progress report.

The Committee feels that this method of executing work, so amply justified as a feasible way of executing emergency work by the Government during the past year, will secure in the future a larger occupation as a sound basis for executing any work in peace times. It is by no means standardized in its details, but much has been learned through the experiences of the past months with Government work. It involves a more professional relationship between the Contractor and Owner which vitally affects the work and the construction of contract documents for work so executed.

The draft as now submitted is but another step in the development of the subject and the Committee advises such circularization of it as shall be best calculated to secure further constructive suggestions. It refers this matter to the careful consideration of the next Committee.

The Handbook of Architectural Practice was issued by Mr. Day in its preliminary form and had been largely revised by him in the light of suggestions received. The Committee advises that it be published as intended by him, in its present form, as a supplement to the Institute Journal, at such time and under such arrangements as the Board may approve. The results of such publication,

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in the way of criticism and suggestion, should be referred to this Committee for the purpose of further revision, in the hope that the book may be ready for issuance by the Institute at an early date in a form that shall be considered satisfactory for a first edition. It is inevitably a book that will be subject to later revisions in the light of future developments in the practice of the profession.

SCHOOL BUILDING MEASUREMENTS

The Committee on School Building Measurements, of which Wm. B. Ittner is chairman, has presented a valuable and comprehensive report.

For the purpose of obtaining and setting forth comparable data upon the educational utility and cost of school buildings, they have been classified, measured and defined as educational, construction and cost units. In the decision of the cost of school buildings four general items are set forth: Cost of land and grading, cost of building, cost of furniture and fixed equipment, and the cost of architects, engineers, brokers and supervision services.

The report sets forth in detail the various composition of the classifications.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Committee report is, naturally in view of the cessation of building operations during the war, but a brief statement of work accomplished.

Among the greatest of achievements of the Institute during recent years has been its valuable influence in the development of the Lincoln Highway.

The conditions presented during the war insistently showed the great economic importance of a well developed and efficiently maintained arterial highway. In fact, there are many and well authenticated instances where this National road has played a most important part in our war activities.

LINCOLN HIGHWAY

The Institute Committee on the Lincoln Highway read a report showing in what respects it had effected co-operation with the Lincoln Highway Association.

It is a satisfaction to learn from the report of the Committee on Preservation of Historic Monuments that the Institute, and through it the various Chapters, has been active and alert to stay the hand of the despoiler, and by a generous expenditure of professional effort is doing all that can be done in the accurate restoration of our cherished buildings.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

While for a number of years the many details that comprise the problems of community planning

have held large interest to architects the demand during the period of the war was so great and so insistent that the subject has to many men who practice architecture become the all-important one.

The Institute Committee on Community Planning presented a concise and interesting report to the convention. It stated in part:

The community plan deals with three main classes of structures or areas:

First.—Human habitations.

Second.—Structures and areas devoted primarily to spiritual and recreational uses.

Third.—Structures and areas devoted primarily to industrial uses.

In the planning of a community these three divisions must be kept constantly in mind in order that the scheme should lend itself readily to future changes. The plan, to be of lasting value, must contain within itself the possibilities of growth of each division with due regard to their several requirements. Otherwise it is still-born.

The subject must be approached with a full understanding of the order of importance of its three main divisions. The home is first; the things of the spirit are second, and buildings for commerce are so emphatically last that they may be considered as having no other reason for existence than to render possible the enjoyment of the home and the amenities of life. And lastly, there can be no successful scheme which fails to proportion accurately the part each one of the main classes of construction plays in the intricate pattern of a community life.

But alas! first things do not always come first. We have applied our major efforts to the development of our factories, wharves and railways. We have created a small group of experts, called architects and engineers, and have demanded of them that they apply their knowledge almost exclusively to the solution of problems relating to commerce. Our achievement lies open before us. There has been success and failure, but it is of tremendous significance that there has been no lasting triumph where the common good has been sacrificed to private profit.

Our transportation systems and the form of our cities are largely the result of individual initiative and daring, traits of character admirable in themselves. Private corporations and railways are accustomed to appropriate to themselves the entire water fronts of great ports, a policy which sooner or later strangles commerce and results in huge losses to the public as well as to themselves. Without a plan we are like men groping in the dark. In our cities the wealth created by the erection of buildings is not safeguarded against destruction caused by the bad placing of newer buildings. We move in a vicious circle. We erect gargantuan buildings, so badly shaped and located that to an undue extent they deprive the surrounding thoroughfares of light and air. The sin lies but incidentally in their bulk, primarily in their plan and silhouette. Prosperity smiles upon our efforts until the super-gargantuan building makes its appearance, initiating a fresh cycle, repeating on a larger and more devastating scale the former errors. It is individualism pushed to its logical conclusion, and the resulting over-crowding and gloom of the streets, transformed into canyons, react disastrously upon real-estate values. Indifference to public rights, imputable in various degrees to municipal authorities, owners, and designers, is responsible for this state of affairs. The sunlight, belonging to all, has been treated as private property. Failure is the natural result of each individual acting only from selfish impulses, and it is fitting that the causes of the failure can be so clearly traced to the violation of the principles of humanity and justice.

Housing is the most serious phase of all our building problems and no effective progress can be made in its

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Engineering Conference at Chicago, April 23-25, Favors a National Department of Public Works

THE conference of engineering and architectural organizations held in the assembly hall of the Western Society of Engineers at Chicago, April 23-25, met in response to a call issued by Engineering Council, New York. This call was made to function by the National Service Committee of Engineering Council, M. O. Leighton, Secretary, 502 McLachlen Bldg., Washington, D. C. The engineering and architectural organizations that responded to the call were 76 in number, with a membership of over 98,000 persons, and were represented by 70 delegates. In addition the Engineering Council was represented by 7 members and the National Service Committee by 2 members. The architectural organizations that participated in the conference were the American Institute of Architects represented by Past-President Irving K. Pond of Chicago and W. D. Blair of New York; the Engineers and Architects Club of Louisville, represented by Warwick M. Anderson; the Illinois Society of Architects, represented by Charles H. Hammond of Chicago and the New York Society of Architects, represented by Arthur T. North, Western Editor of *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*.

As all sections of the country responded to the call by sending delegates from organizations interested in every phase of engineering and architectural activity, the conference was a truly representative body. There was a decided unanimity of purpose and ideas prevalent and the lively and extended debates developed none of those factional differences that possibly might have been expected where so many diversified and specialized organizations were gathered. This can be accounted for by the sincere desire of all the delegates to lend every possible aid to the purpose of establishing a National Department of Public Works. All submerged any desires of preferment for individual or special activities in the purpose best to serve the country first and engineering and architecture as a secondary proposition.

This attitude on the part of the delegates well exemplified the great lesson of the war—that service to the country must always have preferential consideration. Another striking feature of the conference, was the absence of any discord between architects and engineers. This has not always been the case in the past and it may be the result of the events of the past few years. The ability of all branches of engineering and architecture to do big

things in a large way has taught that lesson of dependence which is measured only by individual or group limitations. The old time antagonisms between engineering and architecture must have been the result of a lack of understanding and a correct measure of the true and proper function of each. Indeed, many architects claim that there is no definite line of demarcation between the two professions when considered in the broader aspects of the case. It appears certain that the rapid progress in all matters pertaining to building construction will make it increasingly difficult to attempt such a differentiation.

A careful reading of the declarations, resolutions, scope and plan of the proposed National Department of Public Works and the personnel of the committees named, will indicate the close relationship between engineering and architecture that has been established in setting up the machinery with which to accomplish the objects of the conference. Should these objects not be ultimately realized, the friendly and respectful intercourse between the two professions there established will well repay the expenditures of effort that were made in carrying out the conference program.

The conference was organized by the selection of M. O. Leighton as chairman and E. S. Nethercut as secretary. Seven sessions of the conference were held and a complimentary banquet was given by the General Committee of Technical Societies of Chicago to the delegates. An extended discussion of principles and scope of a National Department of Public Works resulted in the adoption of an expression favoring the establishment of such a governmental department. The result in form of resolution follows:

This conference of the delegates from engineering and related organizations respectfully recommends to the public and to the Congress that legislation be enacted covering the following principles:

1. That the services and bureaus of the National Government having to do chiefly with matters of engineering and architecture be grouped in one department, to be known as the Department of Public Works.

2. That the Department of Public Works comprise those works which are built and operated for the use of the public.

3. That the Department of Public Works be made available when desirable for the performance

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of special engineering and architectural work for the use of other Government bureaus.

4. That there be a systematic classification and organization of engineers, architects and other employees whose status shall be such that they may be recruited and maintained on merit.

Under leadership of the Committee on Government Engineering Activities an extended discussion was had in which the limits of the proposed department were considered. As the Department of the Interior employs at this time more engineers than any other department in the world, it was decided that that department was the one most adaptable to being transformed into a Department of Public Works. To this department it was proposed to transfer the various bureaus now operating in other departments and to detach many of the bureaus now included in the Department of the Interior.

The difficulty of securing an additional department and cabinet member was well understood and the proposed plan follows the line of least resistance. A vote was taken on the various factors entering into the proposed scheme for the guidance of the Committee which at a subsequent session presented the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES:

To the Chairman and Members of the Conference:

Your committee charged with a consideration of the question which Government activities should be co-ordinated in a National Department of Public Works, recommends:

1. That the establishment of a National Department of Public Works should be accomplished by grouping those Government bureaus, services, commissions and other activities whose functions are predominantly of an engineering or architectural character, in what is now the Department of the Interior and thereafter designating that Department "The Department of Public Works."

2. That the transfer of any bureau, service or commission from any other department to a Department of Public Works should be accomplished without change in personnel, compensation and general plan of organization, leaving the co-ordination of the several activities; the simplification of organization and the establishment of additional bureaus, such for example as a Bureau of Chemical Engineering, to be effected as the need for the same may from time to time become apparent.

3. That in transferring river and harbor and other work non-military in character, but now in charge of the Engineer Corps of the United States

Army, to a department of Public Works, the relation of the Army engineers to such work be not changed that there should be no relinquishment of non-military duty by the Army engineers now on such duty until the transfer of these engineers to military duty can be made without detriment to the public interests.

Your committee finds that among the bureaus, services and activities which logically belong in a Department of Public Works are the following:

A Bureau of Public Roads.

The United States Reclamation Service.

The Alaskan Engineering Commission.

The Construction Division of the U. S. Army.

A Bureau of River, Harbor and Canal work, including such functions as are now exercised by the Mississippi River Commission, and the California Debris Commission.

A Bureau of Architecture.

A Bureau of Surveys, including the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

A Bureau of Mines.

The Geological Survey.

The Forest Service—at least until the same is divorced from the supervision of water powers and road building.

The Bureau of Standards.

Your committee believes that it would be unwise to determine at this time to what extent the proposed Department of Public Works should control the engineering activities of the General Land Office; of the National Park Service; of the Bureau of Lighthouses; of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and of the Public Health Service and of various commissions, such as commissions on buildings and grounds, and therefore suggest that such matters may well be deferred for consideration to a later date, preferably until the department has been organized.

(Signed) C. E. Grunsky,
J. Parke Channing,
James H. Herron,
Irving K. Pond,
Baxter L. Brown,
P. Junkersfled,
Frederick K. Copeland,
W. O. Hotchkiss.

It was decided that this conference should not attempt to draft a bill, for presentation to the Congress, establishing a Department of Public Works. The care and labor involved in such an undertaking was fully appreciated and the efforts of the con-

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ference were restricted to indicating the plan and scope of such a department.

The following resolution was adopted:

"That this conference be known as Engineers', Architects', and Constructors' Conference on National Department of Public Works, that it continue in existence until dissolved by its own action, and that its officers and committees be empowered to further the development of a National Department of Public Works."

As indicated in the resolution, the organization of the conference was made permanent and its termination provided for. This enabled the conference to appoint an Executive Committee, Committee on Text of Bill and a Campaign Committee. The Executive Committee, with power to create a Finance Committee and add to its members consists of:

M. O. Leighton, Chairman, Washington, D. C.	P. Junkersfeld, Boston
Francis Blossom, New York	C. F. Loweth, Chicago
Frederick K. Copeland, Chicago	Phillip N. Moore, St. Louis
Daniel A. Garber, New York	F. H. Newell, Urbana, Illinois
Cass Gilbert, New York	M. C. Tuttle, Boston
C. E. Grunsky, San Francisco	W. O. Winston, Minneapolis
	C. B. Burdick, Chicago
	W. H. Nichols, New York

The Committee on Text of Bill:

M. O. Leighton, Chairman <i>ex-officio</i>	Irving K. Pond, Chicago
John W. Alvord, Chicago	Isham Randolph, Chicago
A. S. Baldwin, Chicago	Gardner S. Williams, Detroit
Lincoln Bush, New York	Horace S. Winchell, Minneapolis
W. K. Hatt, La Fayette, Ind.	Charles T. Main, Boston
E. H. Lee, Chicago	

The Campaign Committee, which the Executive Committee is empowered to increase:

W. C. Armstrong, St. Paul	Louis Mullgardt, San Francisco
Willard Behan, Cleveland	D. W. Brunton, Denver
C. H. Blackall, Boston	F. W. Bradley, San Francisco
E. G. Bradbury, Columbus	J. C. Greenway, Bisbee, Ariz.
Baxter L. Brown, St. Louis	Hennon Jennings, Washington, D. C.
J. Parke Channing, New York	R. A. F. Penrose, Philadelphia
H. S. Crocker, Denver	R. H. Fernold, Philadelphia
F. L. Cranford, New York	Morris Knowles, Pittsburgh
Geo. W. Fuller, New York	Robt. Sibley, San Francisco
W. B. Gregory, New Orleans	H. W. Buck, New York
J. L. Harrington, Kansas City	E. F. Scott, Atlanta
W. O. Hotchkiss, Madison	L. C. Datz, Birmingham
W. H. Hoyt, Duluth	Wilmer Waldo, Houston
J. B. Lippincott, Los Angeles	Fred A. Jones, Dallas
E. J. Mehren, New York	Geo. A. Damon, Los Angeles
A. T. North, New York	W. D. Blair, New York
W. A. Rogers, Chicago	J. C. Ralston, Spokane
E. J. Russell, St. Louis	R. C. Gemmell, Salt Lake City
L. B. Smith, Kansas	J. J. Knoch, Fayetteville, Ark.
R. D. Kohn, New York	J. F. Coleman, Mobile
R. H. Thompson, Seattle	S. B. Earle, Clemson College, S. C.
T. U. Taylor, Austin, Texas	C. E. Ferris, Knoxville, Tenn.
Chas. F. Swigert, Portland, Ore.	Julius Stieglitz, Chicago
P. N. Norboe, Sacramento	
W. L. Huber, San Francisco	

During the conference the interests of contractors and producers of all kinds of construction materials and equipment was appreciated and their co-operation in the establishment of a Department of Public Works is expected. This same co-operation by real estate boards and all agricultural organizations is expected, as the construction of water power plants, public roads and other public works has a great influence on realty values and the transportation of commodities. The personnel of the committees indicates the broad aspect assumed by the conference towards the whole project.



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VOL. CXV MAY 7, 1919 No. 2263

The Nashville Convention

THE fifty-second convention of the American Institute of Architects was probably the most constructive and productive of actual results that has been held for many years past. The great changes that have been brought about during the past two years have seriously affected everything with which as a profession architects have to deal. Many problems that were never dreamed of as affecting the practice of architecture have developed, and in their development have brought radical changes in the point of view.

Architecture, at one time carefully guarded as an art and nothing else, has become broadened into the proper channels through which it should properly run its course. It has been difficult to instil this new thought in the minds of many members of the profession. These men have from a purely aesthetic point of view jealously guarded the profession from any contact with the more prosaic or practical elements which other men declared properly belonged to it. There is nothing more dangerous than the fanaticism of the purely intellectual, nothing that can so greatly retard the development of any movement toward its reconstruction on a basis of present well matured thought.

The program of the Post-War Committee was the first pronouncement on the part of the Institute that the "new thought" had invaded the councils of the profession. The fact that the sessions of the convention were along lines of elucidation and development of that program proves how thoroughly the delegates were in sympathy with this scheme for placing the profession just where it belongs. Naturally with so great a number of important matters for consideration and so limited time to give them, many things were postponed for another year or referred to proper committees with power to act on them.

The most significant statement as to just how the Institute proposes to set about the work of becoming thoroughly a representative organization is to be found in President Kimball's address on the opening of the convention. He said, "we should no longer be satisfied with a membership that barely reaches ten per cent of those who practice architecture," and made a strong appeal for an addition of at least a thousand to the membership during the coming year.

This, in view of the present attitude of the Institute toward the profession as a whole, should not be difficult of achievement.

From first to last this was a working convention. Not merely one that was filled with words and expression of noble aims that, while highly creditable, are often unattainable, but good, hard, earnest constructive work.

The regular sessions of the convention were supplemented by the meetings of the Post-War Committee. In fact, one intermeshed with the other to an extent that it will be correct to say that the meetings really developed into a most enthusiastic discussion of principles that are the basis of the Post-War program.

The machinery of the convention moved along in the most admirable manner. The interest was at all times maintained, and the large attendance of delegates at all the sessions showed that so earnest were they as to the matters in hand that even the many attractions of that delightful "blue grass" section held no allurements while the convention was in session. The lofty assembly hall in the State Capitol made an ideal place for the meetings and the wide corridors were thronged during intermissions with groups of delegates.

Taking it all in all, the American Institute of Architects may be said to have placed itself squarely in the van of the general movement of progress and to have proclaimed to all the world that the profession of architecture proposes to assume, and assuming, maintain, all of the best ideals of its honorable profession.

Plan for National Department of Public Works

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OUTLINED BY CHICAGO ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

The plan for a Federal Department of Public Works, which has taken tangible form as the result of the Engineering Conference recently held in Chicago and reported elsewhere in this issue of *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT*, presents interesting possibilities and a number of novel phases which are likely to arouse more than passing interest.

Inasmuch as most of the argument thus far heard in connection with this proposal has been advanced by its proponents, it might seem that general assent may be taken for granted and that the suggestions which came out of the Engineering Conference are certain eventually to form the basis of a somewhat radical change in one of the government departments. Any attempt at the analysis of the program laid down, however, must take into account the fact that far-reaching changes in the character and scope of existing governmental departments can be forced only by an absolute preponderance of evidence supporting their desirability. The American people have had nearly their fill of tinkering with the government. Moreover, they are beginning to turn away from their leaning toward federal centralization of authority; the belief is becoming more and more prevalent that the legitimate business of the federal government is to govern, to confine its functionings within the scope, or nearly so, of the powers conferred by the Constitution. Increasing numbers of people are coming to believe that the growing control of the federal government over business in all of its phases means a gradual drifting toward a degree of paternalism that most Americans deem obnoxious.

These points are relevant in connection with the proposed creation of a Department of Public Works only in the event that such a department may be expected to assume powers not now existent in government agencies or to bring together in dangerous aggregate powers which, though now existent, are not dangerous as at present segregated.

It does not follow on the suggestions which came out of the Chicago conference that such dangers underlie the plan. A Department of Public Works, sanely and conservatively constructed, might prove a forward step in federal administration. It is a well known fact, however, that the tendency of governmental agencies is to seize power and to exercise it. It is equally obvious that where existing agencies of government whose present powers are sufficient and yet harmless are per-

mitted to pool their powers the result may be a menace to national welfare. Recent experience has demonstrated that the pooling of power over the railroads makes possible gross misuses that could not occur when the railroads were separately managed.

It seems, therefore, that the details of any plan for a Department of Public Works ought to be worked out with such care that we shall not see the possibility of the building industries eventually coming under the domination of a bureaucratic organization in Washington that, at any time, may develop inclinations and tendencies based solely on partisan ambition.

The functioning of such a department, moreover, should be definitely limited to control over purely public works. It should not be permitted to acquire any measure of influence or control over private enterprises or over state or municipal building projects, except that measure of influence which might be derived from the conduct of scientific research and the resulting establishment of standards based upon demonstrable scientific certainties, the use of such standards to be left to the discretion of those they affect.

A department so constituted and so circumscribed might and doubtless would prove of material benefit to the entire country. Properly planned and conducted, it should tend to increase efficiency and reduce waste in the conduct of the government's own business. Its development out of the present Interior Department would possess the very distinct advantage of avoiding any increase in the amount of political machinery in Washington—a point which most unbiased students of our form of government will commend.

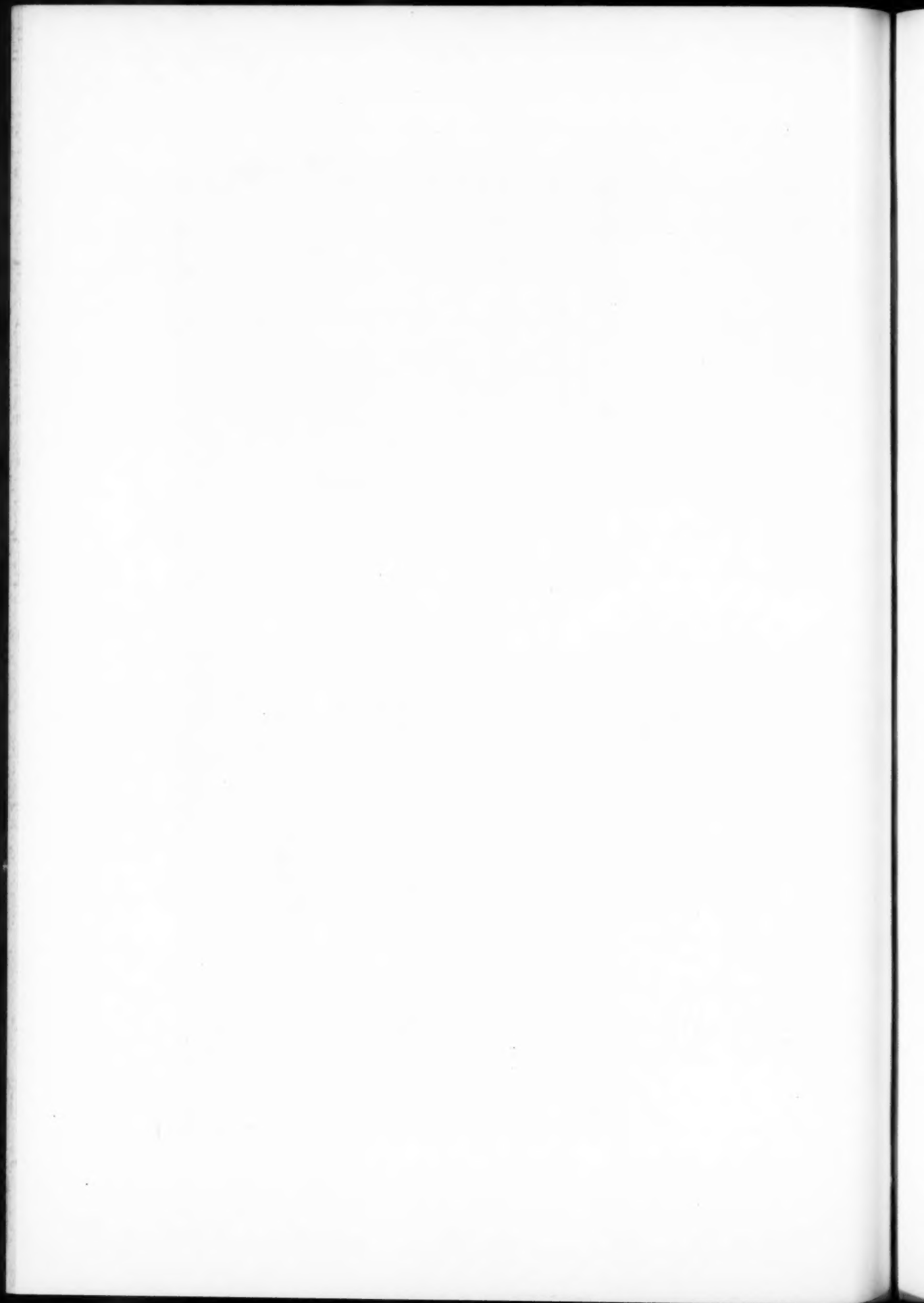
Certainly the present situation with regard to the government's control over its own building business and other public works of national character is in vast need of improvement. The plan proposed by the Engineering Conference is by far the most constructive thus far advanced. It deserves the thoughtful consideration of every good citizen and particularly of architects, engineers and others whose professional interest is involved. It seems, however, that the taking apart of so intricate a machine as the government in Washington is a sufficiently precarious undertaking to warrant extreme caution and that the freest possible discussion is desirable before action shall be taken. For this reason, *THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT* will appreciate expressions of the views of architects generally and more especially of those architects who, either during or before the war, had experience in Washington or elsewhere in connection with some class of government work.



PLATE 147

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA BARBARA, CAL.

ROLAND F. SAUTER, ARCHITECT





THE PATIO FROM CLOISTER LOOKING TOWARD ENTRANCE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

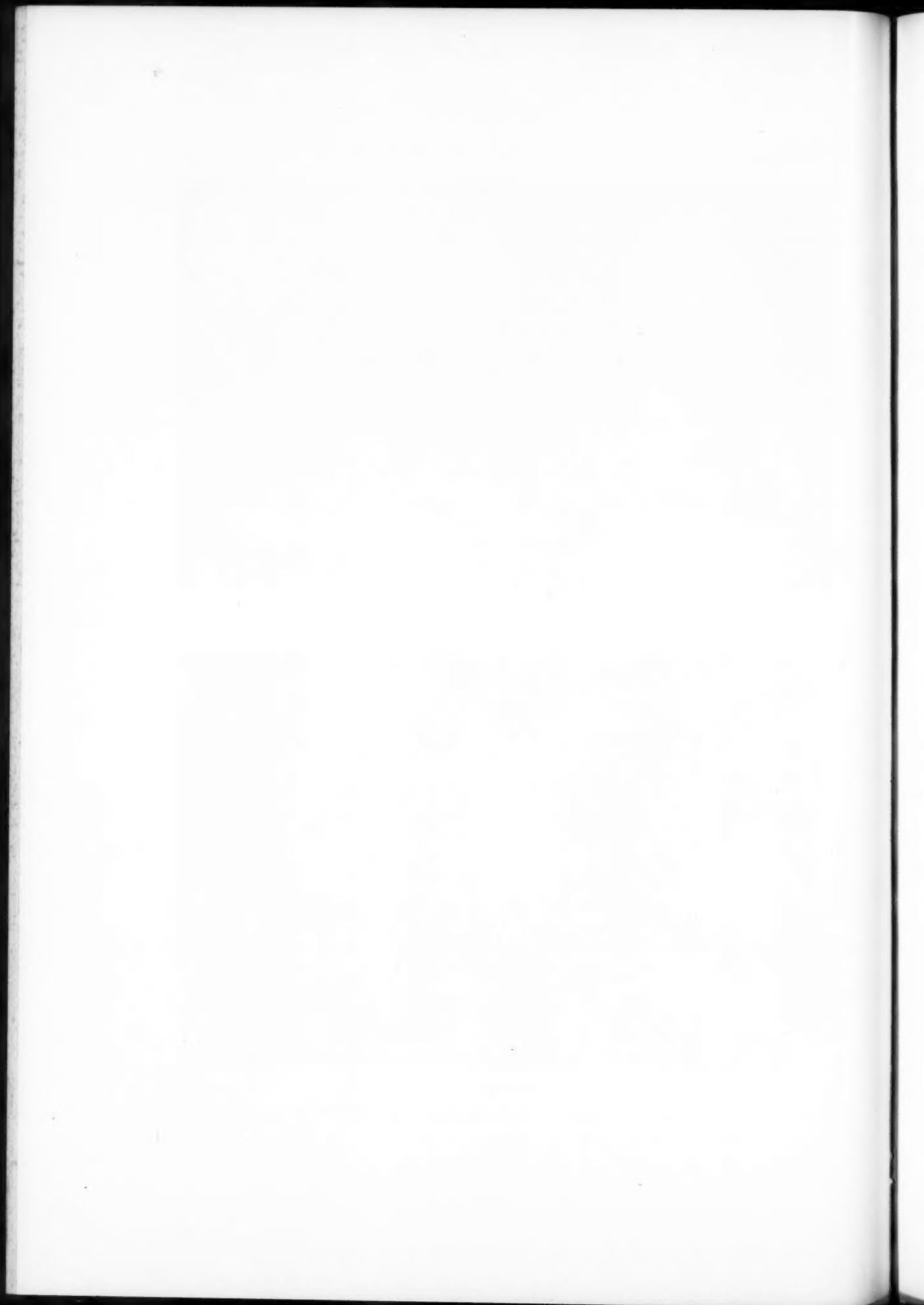


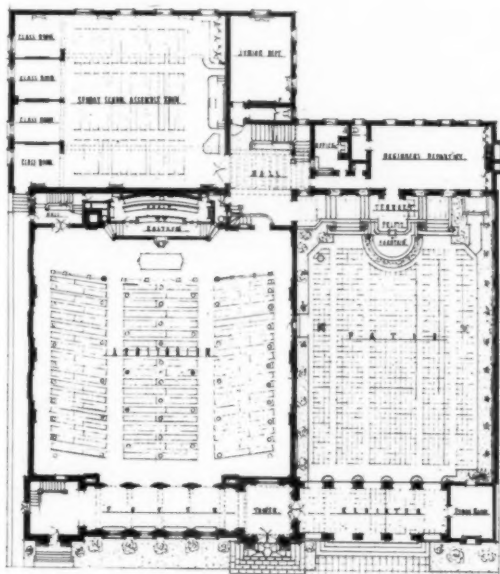
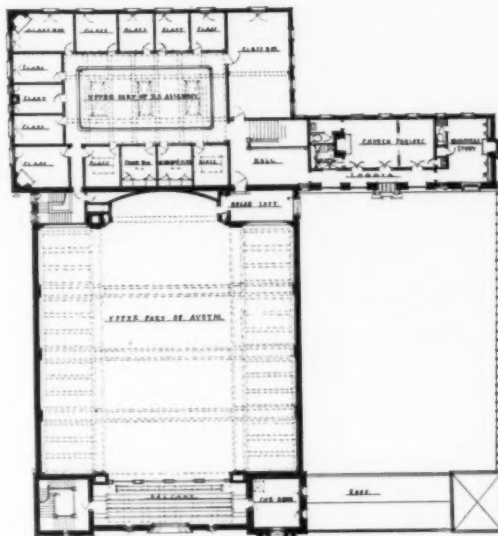
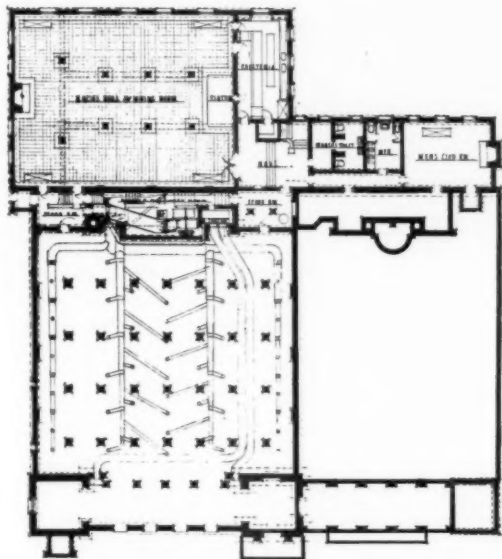
PLATE 148

THE CLOISTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA BARBARA, CAL.

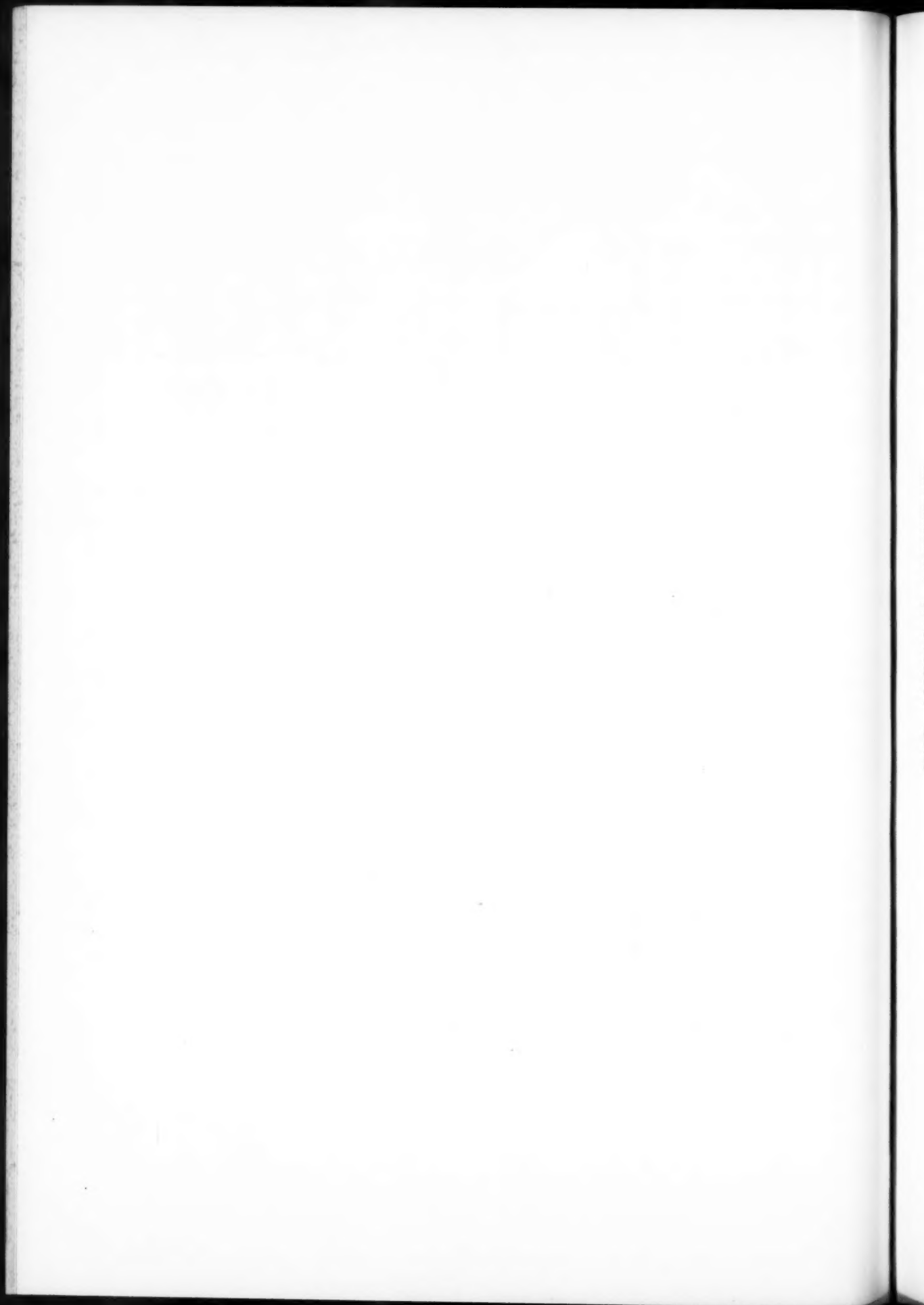
ROLAND F. SAUTER, ARCHITECT





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SANTA BARBARA, CAL.

ROLAND F. SAUTER, ARCHITECT



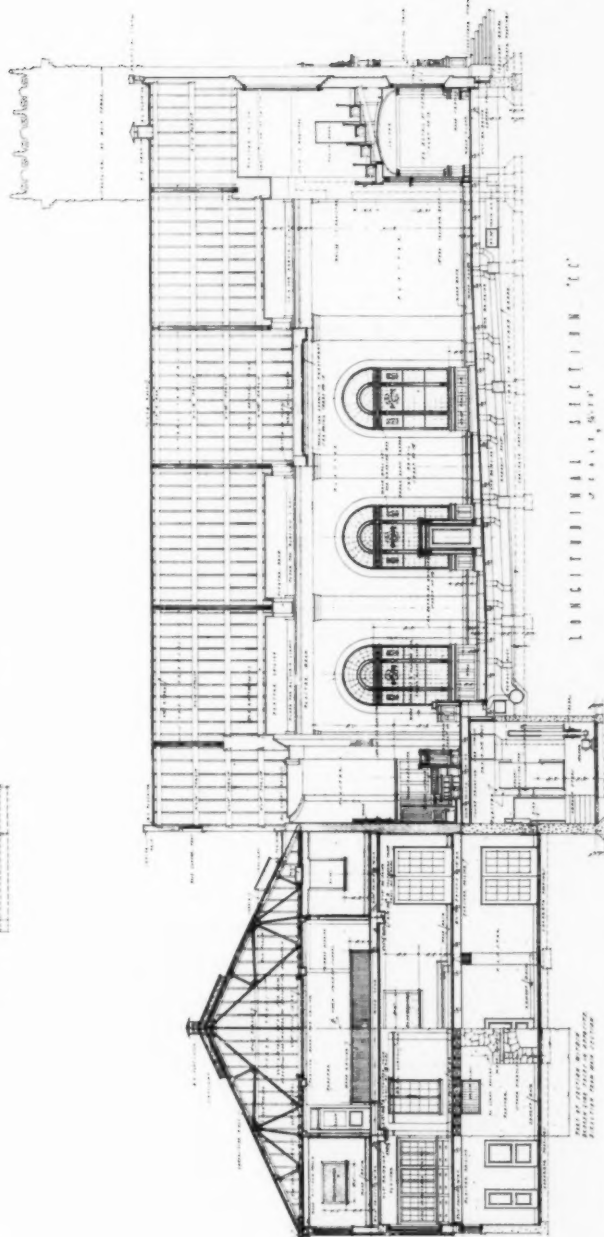
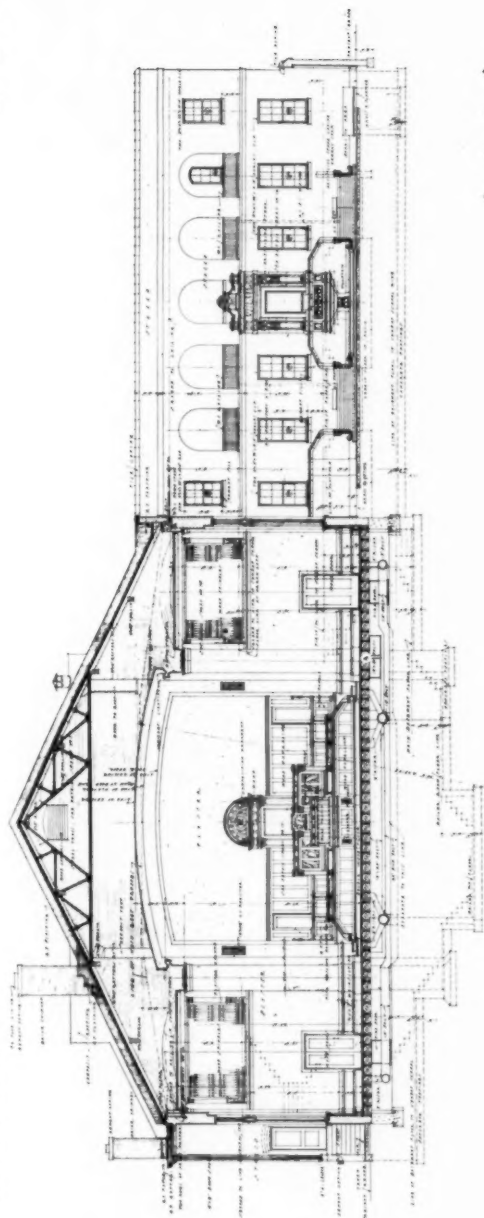


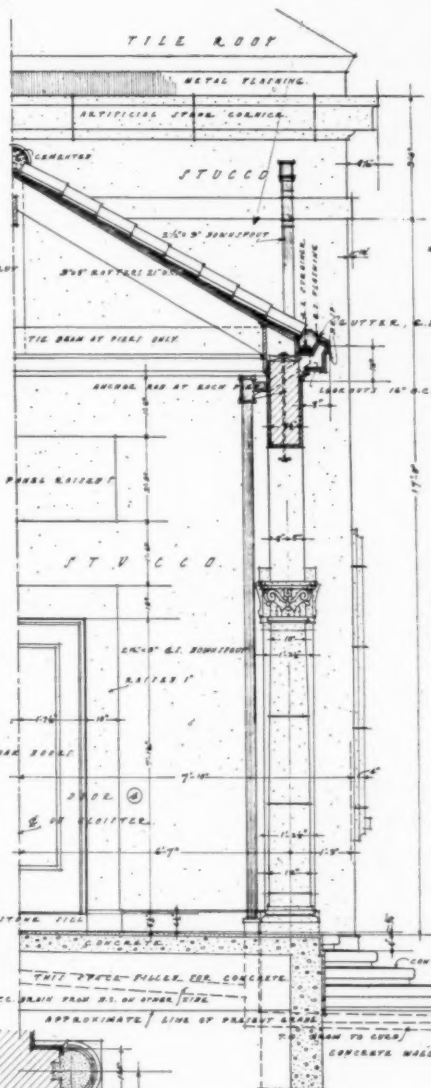
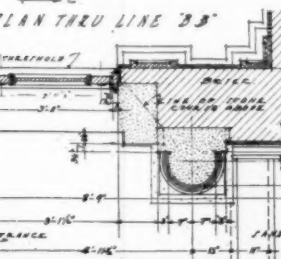
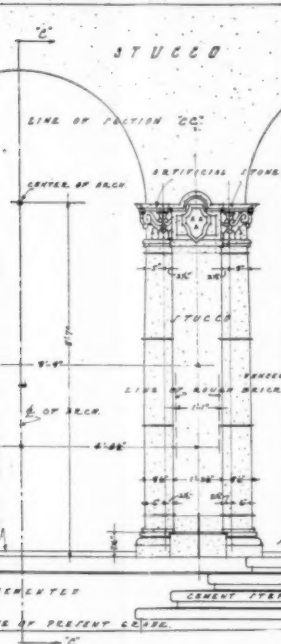
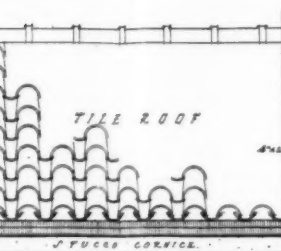
PLATE 150

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA BARBARA, CAL.

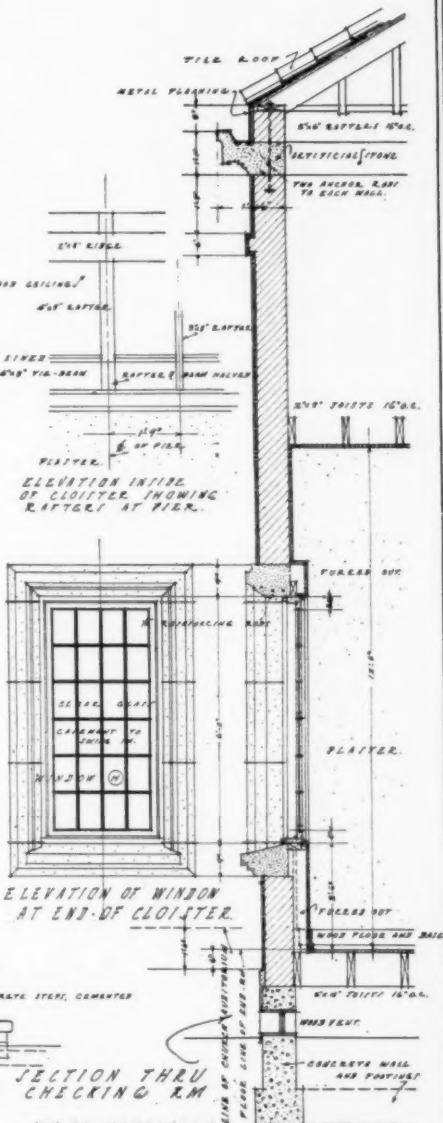
ROLAND F. SAUTER, ARCHITECT



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROLAND F. SAUNDERS



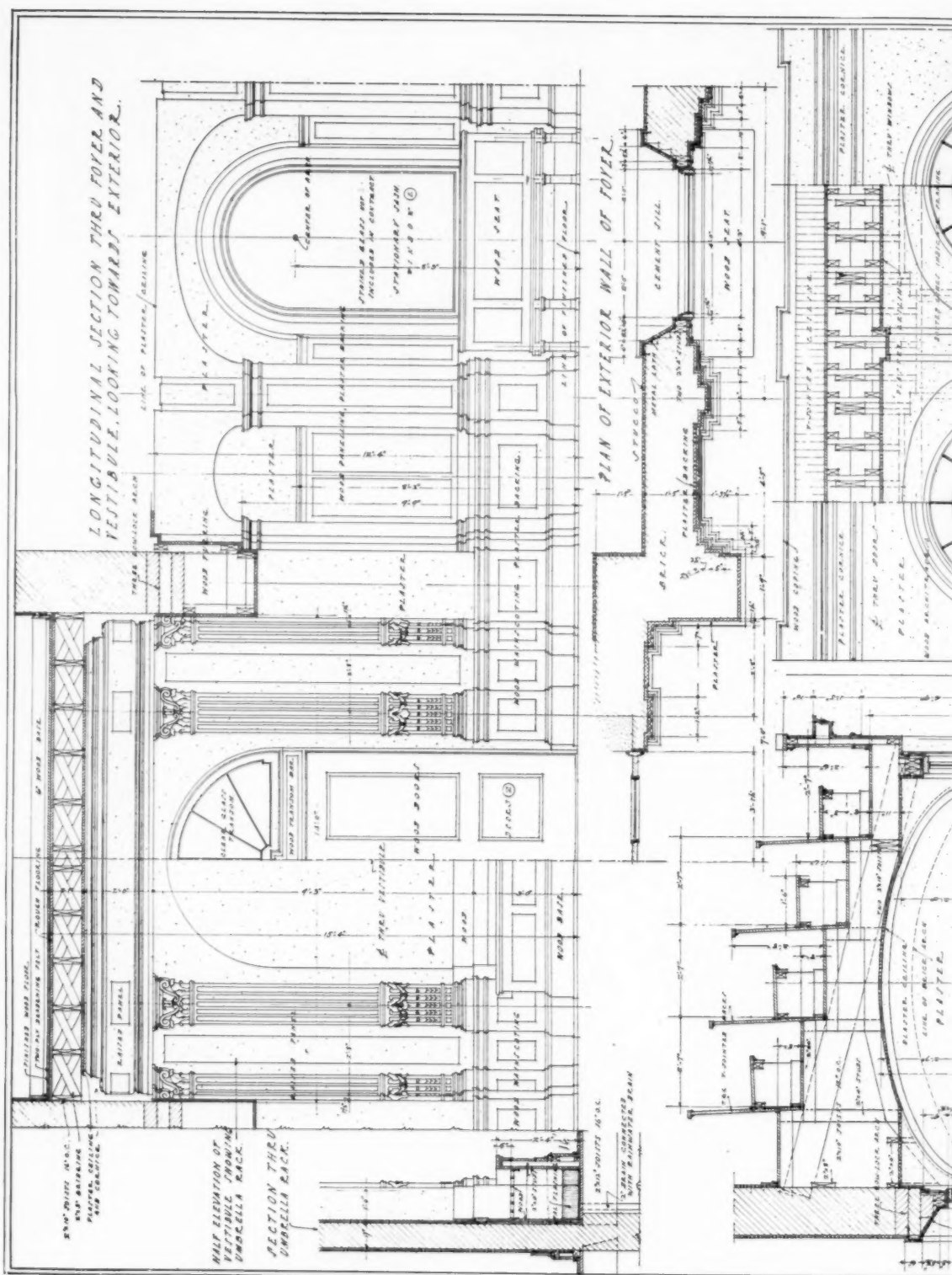
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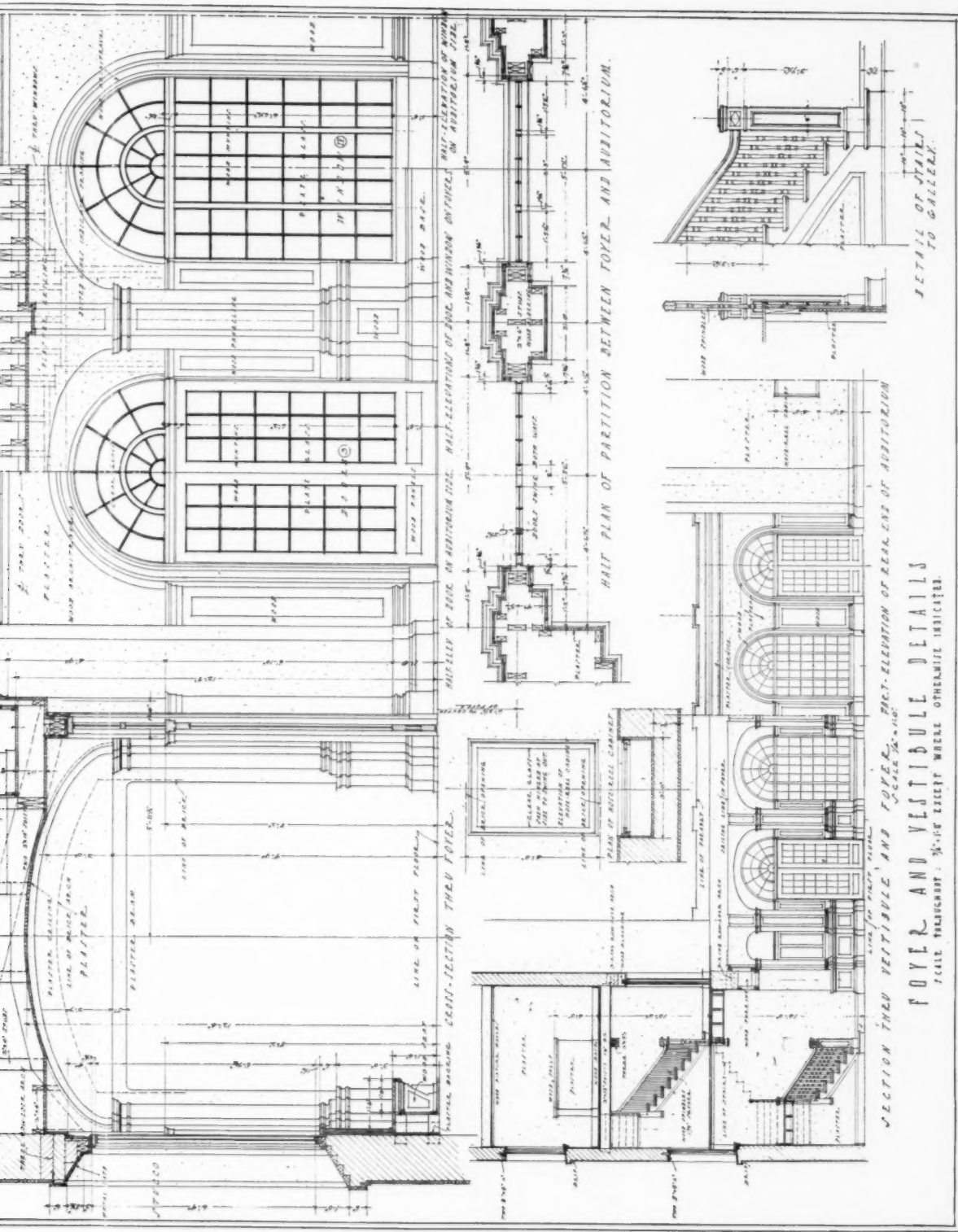


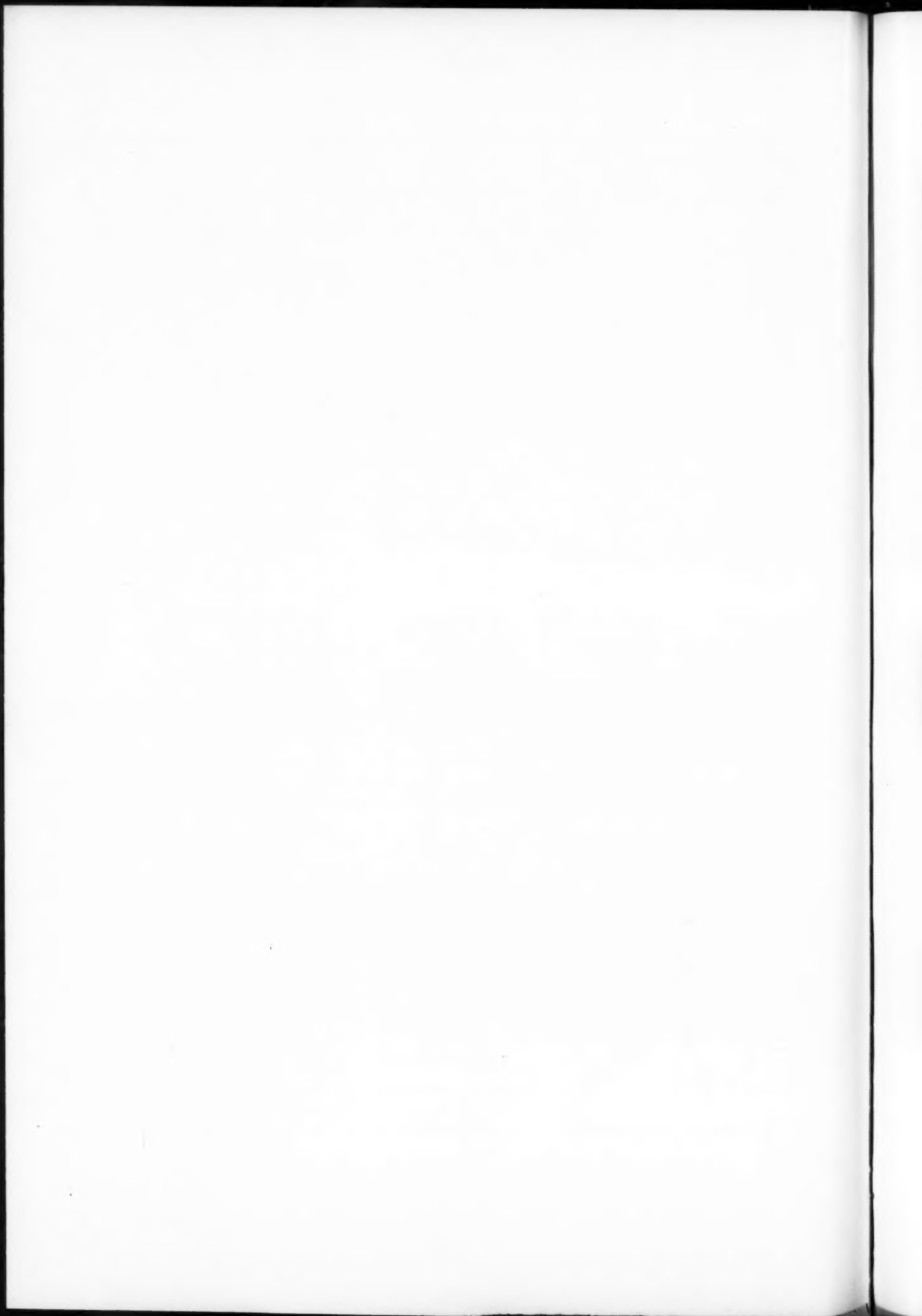
KEY TO MATERIALS.

BRICK IN SECTION
STUCCO OR PLASTER IN ELEVATION
STUCCO OR PLASTER IN SECTION
ARTIFICIAL STONE IN ELEVATION
ARTIFICIAL STONE IN SECTION
PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE IN SECTION
WOOD IN SECTION
METAL IN ELEVATION
METAL IN SECTION
TILE IN SECTION

IAN CHURCH, SANTA BARBARA, CAL.
LAND F. SAUTER, ARCHITECT









THE FOYER

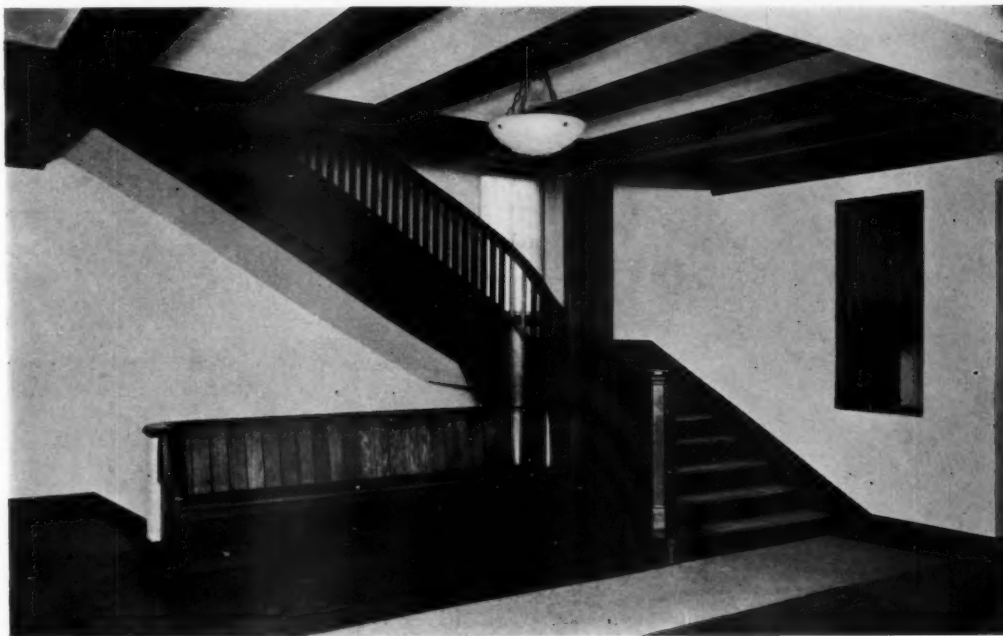
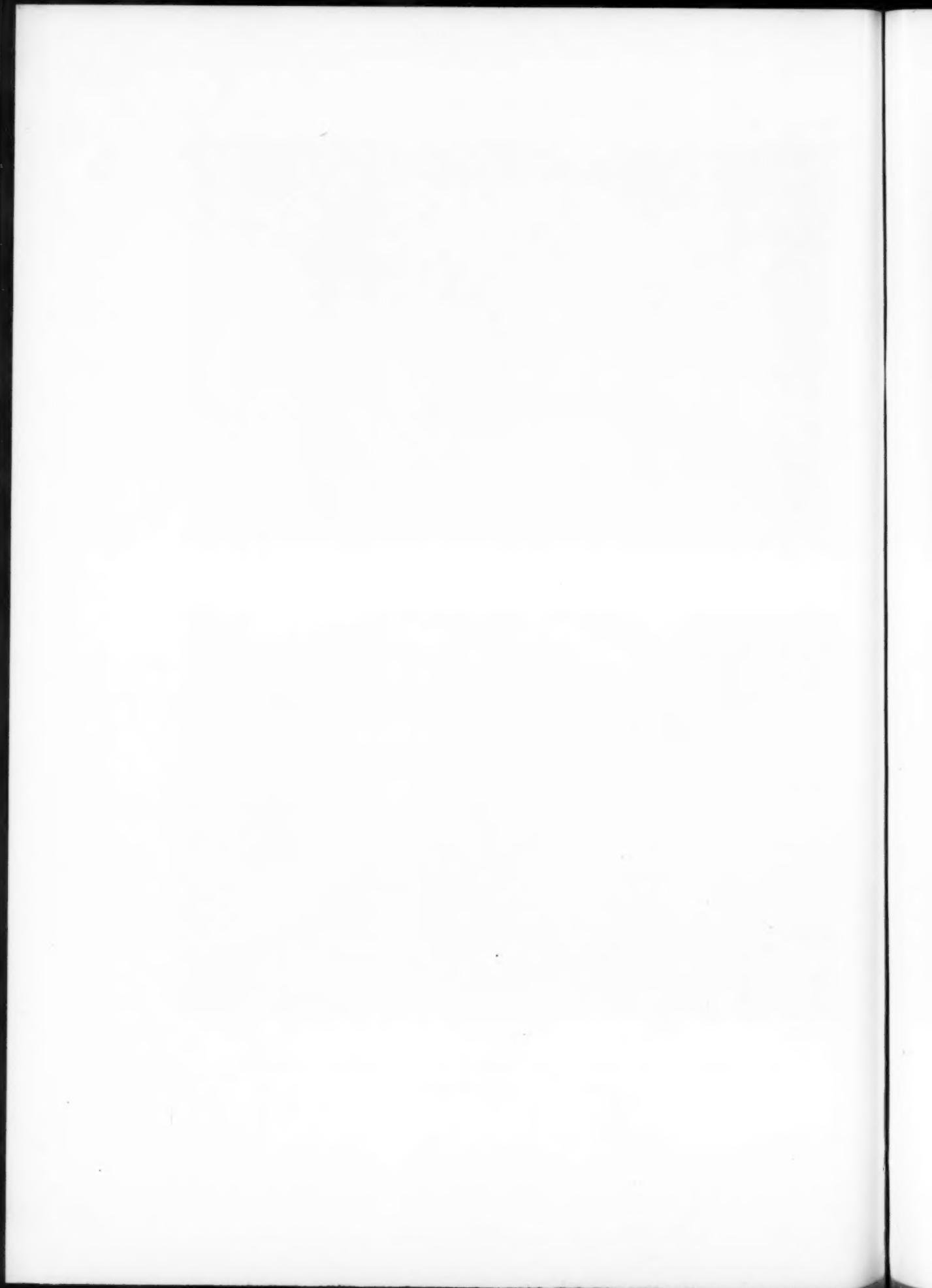


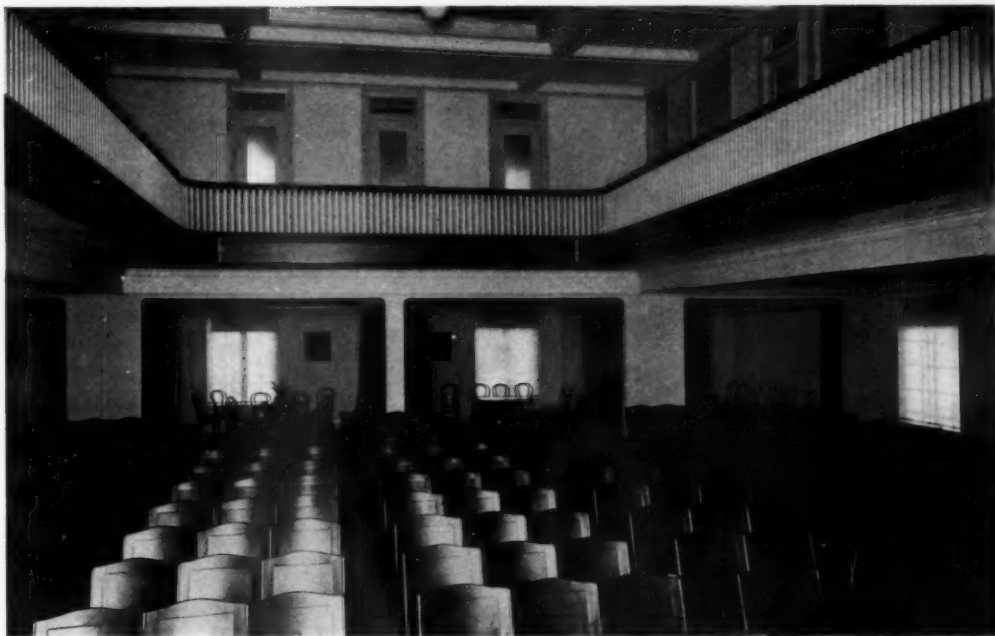
PLATE 153

MAIN STAIR HALL, SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA BARBARA, CAL.

ROLAND F. SAUTER, ARCHITECT





SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY ROOM



PLATE 154

A CORNER IN THE SOCIAL HALL IN THE BASEMENT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA BARBARA, CAL.

ROLAND F. SAUTER, ARCHITECT





THE PULPIT, CHOIR AND ORGAN LOFT



PLATE 155

CHURCH AUDITORIUM LOOKING TOWARD FOYER FROM PULPIT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA BARBARA, CAL.

ROLAND F. SAUTER, ARCHITECT

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THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

Convention Reports

(Continued from Page 641)

solution until we cease to isolate it for purposes of study. It is by far the most important and the most neglected of all our tasks and it differs, not radically, but to an alarming degree, from the social and financial aspect of the factory and the harbor. For after all most of the loss chargeable to a badly planned instrument of commerce can be expressed in terms of money, but by what system of accounting can the moral, material and social loss caused by the slums of a great city be impressed upon our consciousness?

In our country the buying or renting of decent, wholesome dwellings is now and has been for many years beyond the financial power of millions of wage earners. What does this mean to our nation?

Do we realize the intolerable conditions resulting from

the economic system under which these workers with their wives and children are condemned to exist?

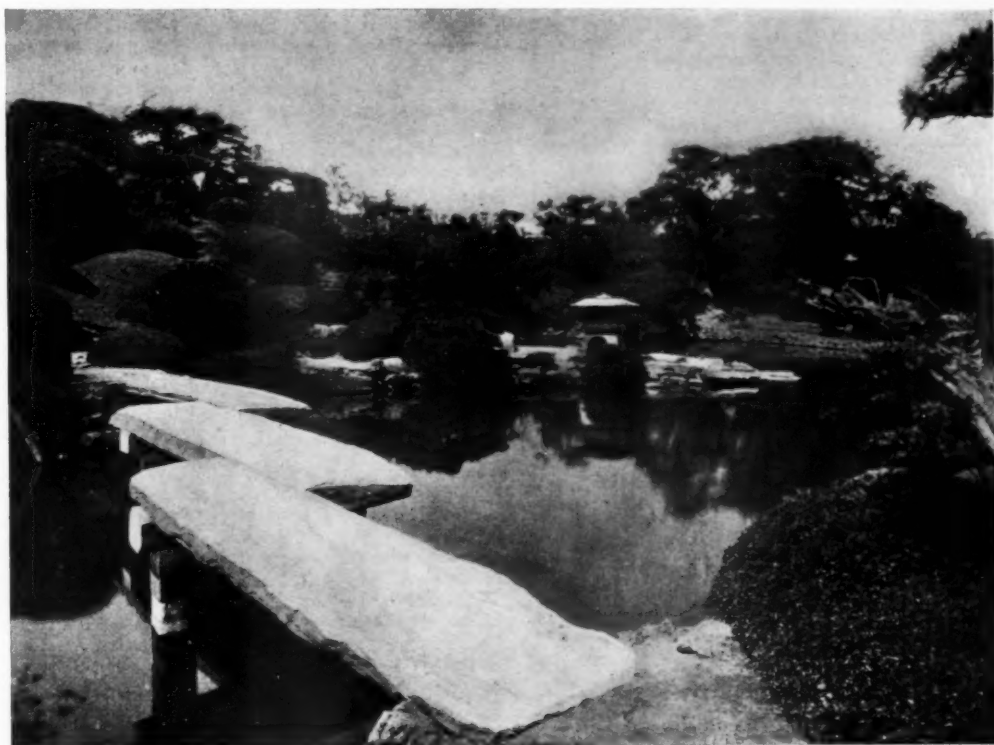
This is the Housing Problem. There is none other.

The cry "Own your own Home" is but hollow mockery to these people.

It is our duty as architects to point out not only the possibilities, but also the limitations of The Plan. Worthwhile results are not to be expected unless the community plan is an embodiment of human aspirations based upon a truly democratic conception of legality.

The subject is too momentous to be lightly discussed, as it evolves questions which affect every interest in our national life.

The committee believes that until these basic questions are solved in either one way or in several ways, Community Planning cannot function either rightfully or usefully. It begs to be continued until such time in the future as it can again report to the Board with recommendations as to a program for the Institute to adopt.



STONE BRIDGE AND POND IN A JAPANESE GARDEN

Current News

Big Office Building Started in New York

Further impetus was given the speeding up of construction activity on a big scale in New York City last week when work on what will be the first large office building to be erected since the signing of the armistice was started by the breaking of ground on West Forty-third Street, for the construction of a twenty-story structure of the arcade type. The building will run from Forty-third to Forty-fourth Street, with a frontage of 141 feet 10 inches on Forty-third Street and 50 feet on Forty-fourth Street, and will be known as the National Association Building. It will be one of the first office buildings to be built in accordance with the new zoning regulations. Starrett & Van Vleck are the architects for the owner, James T. Lee.

The building will cost approximately \$2,500,000, the financing of which was accomplished through a first mortgage serial 6 per cent bond issue for this amount, underwritten by S. W. Straus & Company. The mortgage is amortized, and the bonds will be offered in denominations of \$1,000, \$500 and \$100.

The building has been designed especially with the view for the occupancy of national trade associations and marks a new development in the uptown movement of tenants who have hitherto been located only in lower sections of the city. An arcade running through from street to street, will afford a mid-block passageway, somewhat similar in character to that in the Berkeley Building across the street, designed by the same architects.

It offers an interesting solution of the problems confronting the architects in connection with the zoning law, wherein the building, twenty stories in height will have setbacks at the thirteenth and eighteenth stories. The setbacks on both sides of the street frontages give access to roof terraces and also give advantages of light and outlook to the upper stories. Of the Italian Renaissance type of architecture, it will be faced with limestone and Harvard brick, and is expected to show decided improvements over the similar pre-war type of buildings.

To Build New Home for Political League

A new home for the League for Political Education, the Economic Club, and the Civic Forum, to be built at 113-123 West Forty-third Street, New York, will take the form of a million-dollar town hall. Work will be commenced this month on plans prepared by McKim, Mead & White. The architects have designed a structure to cost about \$500,000, while the property was purchased for \$425,000 by a New York corporation headed by Frank A. Vanderlip, making the total investment about \$1,000,000. The property has a frontage of 125 feet, just east of Broadway, and a depth of 100 feet.

The principal feature of the building will be the auditorium, which will occupy the first four floors and have a seating capacity of about 1,800. On the fifth floor will be the offices of the League for Political Education, the Eco-

nomic Club and the Civic Forum, a library and reading room. The building of a new clubhouse was necessitated by the big increase in the club membership, the organization at present having over 4,000 members. It will be sort of an uptown Cooper Union and will be a meeting place for the discussion of subjects related to common welfare.

Progressive Work for Art

The Art Alliance of Philadelphia has an ambitious program for the advancement of art interests in this country. It is proposed to raise the sum of \$1,000,000 for a new building already designed by Ralph Adams Cram.

The purpose is twofold: partly to provide an art center and market place for works of art that will meet the needs of the community, and partly to co-operate with other cities to help artists who in the recent crisis have turned to America as the art center of the world.

The building will be Elizabethan Gothic, occupying an area of 228 by 67 feet. In front will be a low two-story building, Old English in style, which will be the clubhouse and will contain offices, meeting rooms, library and restaurant. This low structure will extend back on both sides of a courtyard to the six-story brick building in which will be a theater, rehearsal halls, art galleries, a ballroom and studios.

Departments have already been organized in nine arts. In the fine arts department, two types of exhibits are held: those by artists already famed in their fields, and those by artists who do creditable work, but have their reputations still to make. The same idea is worked out in the music department. Any member, if passed by the department jury, is given the use of the hall, upon request, for a recital.

Several other novel features will be included in the conduct of the new building. A rathskeller will be provided, where students of all the arts may meet with the view of bringing into each art the stimulus from the others, and the benefits thus to be derived for the individuals and the larger groups.

Work of this character cannot be too strongly commended. It will provide exactly the outlet for energy and enthusiasm that is so pitifully lacking in large art centers at present.

Portable Homes for Belgium

Portable homes for Belgium are being made of wood in Aarhus, Denmark, reports the Commercial Attaché in Copenhagen. It is stated that orders have been placed with concerns there aggregating thirteen million dollars.

A new course in carpentry and furniture-making is being introduced in Copenhagen Technological Institute. Students are being solicited to take such course in practical mechanics to render the country less dependent upon importations. American manufacturers of woodworking machinery would be making a good investment, says the Commercial Attaché, by sending to this institute some characteristic machines.

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

Southern California Chapter Meets

The one hundred and twenty-fifth regular meeting of the Southern California Chapter, A. I. A., was held on April 8th.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mr. H. M. Patterson, eleven members being present.

Under the reports of Standing Committees the following were given:

For City Planning, Mr. Withey stated that the Mayor's Civic Center Committee was holding weekly meetings, receiving from various citizens recommendations as to site and treatment of a Civic Center.

For the Committee on Public Legislation, Mr. Backus reported that they had taken up with Mr. Farwell suggestions for changes in the State laws as requested at the last meeting, and after thoroughly studying each measure, had taken the action that seemed advisable.

Under the head of "New Business," the Secretary read a telegram from the Secretary of the Washington State Chapter in which he protested against the action of the Institute in making an assessment against each Chapter this year for the delegates' expenses. It was shown that said action of the Institute was contrary to the best interests of the Western Societies, and resolved that the Secretary send a telegram to Mr. E. C. Kemper to that effect.

The subject of the evening was a discussion of architectural practice as it is being considered by the Post-War Committee of the Institute. Mr. Patterson spoke at length, recommending that the members in their practice assume greater responsibility in handling work, giving a more complete service to their clients and taking a wider interest in public affairs.

Where Civic Pride is Born

With a view of encouraging the erection of homes by workingmen, architects of Pittsburgh are planning to give to prospective builders of modest means the benefit of their talent and training for a nominal fee, says the *Detroit News*. At a regional conference in the same Pennsylvania city by the Association of Ohio Architects similar action was taken, and there is a belief that it will become general, to the inestimable benefit of American cities.

Civic pride—sometimes a difficult thing to implant and to foster—takes root readily where conditions are propitious, and they are not where surroundings are squalid, or unattractive, unwholesome or otherwise depressing. The tendency heretofore has been for enterprising concerns either employing companies or private individuals, to open parcels of land and construct houses on a wholesale plan. Commendable as that is it has its defects, and in a measure they are serious, in the development of the very thing that is desired. Regularity of design imparts monotony, and even the hit and miss where alternate houses are alike is no relief. Individuality is not given any chance and members of the family have none of that close association with "home" that is created by having had a part in its construction.

With individual architects practically giving their services to prospective builders a new interest is created, and civic pride is born. The house that is to be erected is planned, in a measure, the way the husband and the wife would like to have it; their ideas govern in the size and location of the rooms and the exterior is the result of the good taste of the architect meeting the wishes

of his clients, with particular reference to the lay of the land, the character of the adjoining dwellings, and the amount of money that is to be expended. Into the house and grounds have gone something of the personality of the prospective occupants, and as soon as they move in the dwelling becomes a hotbed of civic pride.

New York World's Steel Center ?

In one of the most important realty transactions of its kind on record, the United States Steel Corporation has closed contracts for the purchase of the twenty-one story Empire Building at Broadway and Rector Street, New York, for the sum of five million dollars. The structure faces Wall Street and Trinity Churchyard and has a frontage of 78 feet on Broadway, 220 feet on Rector Street and 50 feet on Church Street. When erected in 1897, the Empire Building was the tallest in the world.

According to Clarence H. Kelsey, representing the present owners, the O. B. Potter Trust Co., the purchase indicates that New York City is henceforth to be the steel center of the world. Just north of this property, adjoining Trinity Churchyard, is the twenty-one story Trinity Building in which large space is occupied by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation and its subsidiaries. A report is in circulation that the Bethlehem Corporation is negotiating for the purchase of this property, but the information is not official.

Statuary Costing \$125 Worth \$25,000

A writer in the *Chicago Tribune* tells the following interesting story about one item on view at the annual architectural exhibition at the Art Institute in that city:

"Augustin Pajou was court sculptor in France when Comtesse DuBarry ruled Louis XV, and he made a new bust of her every time she discovered a new way of dressing her hair.

"But these sculptures were lost in the French revolution as Mme. DuBarry herself was lost. Only five of the marbles were known to have been recovered up to a few days ago. One of these is in the Louvre in Paris.

"A sixth sculpture of the vivacious French woman, identified as the work of Pajou, has just turned up in Chicago. Bought in a loop art store for \$125 by a young connoisseur and carted home in a ragman's push cart, it proves to be worth \$25,000.

"The fortunate purchaser is Burgess Stafford of a Chicago furniture company. He is exhibiting the sculpture at the Art Institute in the annual architecture exhibition.

"One large offer has already been made for it and a prominent New York dealer has appraised its value at \$25,000."

Forest Laboratory Door Tests

Tests to improve door manufacture are being made by the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis. Various makes of doors are to be tested for strength and for the effect of humidity in warping the wood. If these tests are successful, and if the results are fully followed by manufacturers, it is claimed, there will be an end of doors that sag in the middle, doors that swell and refuse to be closed, doors that creak and shriek and groan whenever they are opened or shut.

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

Art Commissions

Appended to the annual report of the Art Commission of the City of Pittsburgh, for 1918, is a list of the similar bodies now organized in the United States.

The measure of co-operation which architects may receive from these bodies is of the utmost value. As an incentive to civic pride, and to the creation of a better character of art in our cities, this should not be overlooked. It is the part of wisdom for every one to profit as far as possible from the good work and researches that are already available and still going forward. In the matter of memorials as well as the innumerable other points of municipal pride, these groups of men are peculiarly fitted to assist, and will, it is assured, do everything possible to encourage and produce higher standards in these things. The list, complete to date, follows:

Art Jury	Philadelphia, Pa.
Art Commission	New York
Art Commission	Chicago
Art Commission	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Art Commission	Boston, Mass.
Art Commission	Denver, Colorado
Civic Art Commission	Berkeley, California
Art Commission	St. Louis, Mo.
Municipal Art Commission	Los Angeles, Cal.
Art Commission	Baltimore, Md.
Art Commission	Milwaukee, Wis.
Municipal Art Commission	Montclair, N. J.
Civic Art Commission	Oakland, Cal.
Art Commission	Salt Lake City, Utah
Fine Arts Commission	Washington, D. C.
Art Commission	Charleston, S. C.

April Building Starts Well

Evidence of the increasing activity in the construction field is disclosed in the complete figures on contracts let as reported from the cities east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio River, for the first week in April. The statistics as compiled by the Division of Public Works and Construction Development of the Department of Labor for the week ended April 4 cover 2713 contracts with a valuation of \$60,864,085. If this weekly record is equalled for the other three weeks of April, all building records will be shattered.

It is a noteworthy fact that the contracts let in the industrial group exceeded the residential class. In the division of contracts let during the week of April 4, the 328 industrial projects were valued at \$13,790,162 while the residential contracts for the same period reached \$9,293,111 involving 1644 awards. The Federal, State and Municipal contracts were limited to 34 but the valuation amounted to \$10,206,192. The other projects were: schools, churches, theaters, 71 contracts valued at \$6,518,693; public work, 143 contracts with \$8,020,275 valuation; stores, offices, banks, 227 contracts valued at \$7,483,477; clubs, hotels, institutions, 37 contracts having a valuation of \$1,969,430; one contract for a railroad station was valued at \$1,500,000, 32 contracts for bridges and culverts amounted to \$433,005 while the miscellaneous contracts awarded were valued at \$346,000.

Comparative figures for March showing the tremendous advance in building: week ending March 7, \$27,751,076; March 14, \$29,851,407; March 21, \$39,017,308 and March 28, \$43,590,325.

During March, building registered a gain of 80 per cent more than the actual average for the corresponding period for the preceding eight years. The increase is more than 30 per cent, estimating projects represented at the present cost of building. The amount for March, 1919, in contracts let was \$151,894,292 by adding to the actual total, one-twelfth of the total for 24 working days for which actual amounts are now available. This addition is made by the Department of Labor because two business days, Saturday, March 29, and Monday, March 31, were not counted. The average for the eight years is \$85,625,000. The average for the last six years is \$117,000,000.

Ferryhouse Built to Stay

One of the oldest and, at the same time, one of the most substantial timber buildings in and around Greater New York is the Fulton Street Ferry in Brooklyn, which, though swept from roof to flooring by fire recently, still bids fair to defy time, fire and tide for generations to come in the service of the thousands who go each day between the two boroughs.

Brooklyn's Fulton Street ferryhouse was built in another day and age, says the New York *Evening Sun*, when builders put the best of themselves into their buildings for the pride of it, and constructed things, with less advantageous tools and materials, more durable and more painstakingly finished than is the case to-day. For example, the ferryhouse at Fulton Street is put together of heavy, hand hewn timbers, that, barring accidents, well may last for generations to come.

The fire in the ferryhouse the other day would have burned away to its last vestige some more showy but more fragile modern structure. Attacking this good old job of yesterday, the product of workingmen and contractors as intent upon the quality of their product as upon the margin of their profits, it spent its force in vain.

New York has nearly two score ferries now, and the pioneer line between the toe of Manhattan and Fulton Street, Brooklyn, is no longer the outstanding feature of the greater city's transportation system. The ferryhouse in Brooklyn, however, is one of the oldest and most solid landmarks of the city, a monument to the past which many thousands of old New Yorkers would be sorry to lose.

Cincinnati Leads in Fire Prevention

"Cincinnati leads every other American city in the matter of fire prevention methods," is the statement made by Robert E. Andrews, of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, after a three weeks' survey of Cincinnati's fire prevention facilities, including water supply, buildings and the electrical lighting systems.

Mr. Andrews stated that there were 600 fires less in 1918 than in the preceding year and attributed this to the fact that Cincinnati has "become educated along fire prevention lines."

"Of course there is room for improvement even in this city," he said. "But we are well pleased with conditions here. The educational work in the schools goes a long way toward the prevention of fires. The lessons children receive concerning ways to prevent fires are lasting. A large majority of fires are caused through carelessness. The children are taught that rubbish heaps loose paper and rags are the things that cause fires, and they take pride in pointing out these facts to others."

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Financing of Building Projects Assured Detroit

Investigation made by the Building and Traders Exchange shows that Detroit's banks are ready and willing to make construction loans and the volume of work which is coming out indicates that the building industry is getting into its natural stride. With plenty of material and labor available and financing arrangements possible, many prospective builders are taking advantage of favorable weather conditions to get work started. In this way they will gain time and reap the benefit, while delay now will mean delay in construction when the industry reaches high speed.

"We not only have assurance from the banks that they will take care of loans," said William W. Norton, secretary of the Builders and Traders Exchange, "but we have been offered a large amount of money from other sources which can be obtained for construction purposes.

"For industrial projects loans as high as \$200,000 may be obtained and smaller amounts are available for other work, such as apartments, etc. The Department of Labor of the United States is calling special attention to the fact that banks throughout the country are seeking construction loans and the number of mortgages recorded shows that prospective builders are taking advantage of this easing of the money market."

Seattle to Experiment in Color

A MODEL BLOCK TO BE DONE FOR PUBLIC CRITICISM

A model block is planned in Seattle. Every house and every backyard is to be trimmed and painted to secure complete harmony in color and detail. The Painters' Association has agreed to furnish the paint at cost, to let a contract for painting every house in the block at actual cost and to handle the painting end of the program without profit as their contribution to the civic good.

The Civic Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce has agreed to select the location of the block and the color plan will be worked out by a joint committee.

Just an average city block with the usual number of styles of dwellings is to be chosen. Then a color plan will be decided upon the paint applied, and the city asked to "take a look."

The object lesson, as it is intended, should prove an incentive to stimulate neighborhood pride and co-operation in making home districts more attractive.

Construction Industry to Convene

That a more thorough understanding of the new economic conditions with which the United States is now confronted may be had by the building industry as a whole a conference of manufacturers, architects, financial interests, distributors, consumers, and labor is expected to be held shortly under the direction of the National Federation of Construction Industries. It is the belief of this organization that what building needs today is not paternal supervision but a realization of the sense of co-operative endeavor.

The directors of the Federation feel that since the construction industry annually produces over three billion dollars of additional permanent wealth, is the largest

consumer of all materials, and affects the largest number of interests, the democratization of the industry should properly be the first undertaken because of the immediate and far-reaching beneficial effects.

E. T. Trigg, president of the Federation, believes that the present condition in the industry is one of psychology rather than one of materials. He says:

"Labor is available, money is at hand, material is abundant and the need for construction is pressing. All of the elements for active business are present, but construction does not resume at the rate it should. Many of the people of the United States still seem to feel that we shall revert to pre-war prices, and they are apparently postponing construction until the reductions in prices are realized. An examination of the history of prices shows clearly that after none of the wars of modern times, in any part of the world, have prices reverted to the pre-war status.

"The increase in prices in the United States during the recent war has been much less than in other countries, except Australia and New Zealand. Not only in Germany and Austria, but in neutral Europe and among our Allies have prices advanced, in many cases, far beyond those now prevailing in this country. The reason for our present increase in prices is apparent, if we will review our economic rôle. We have greatly increased our gold reserve. But we have not increased the service or the supply of goods to be exchanged therefor. As a result, more money is required in the purchase both of labor and commodities. On the other hand, prices have increased in Europe because of the great destruction of property and life which has been attendant upon the war. This world-wide after-effect upon prices is apparently the result of established economic law. The condition was true in Europe in the 16th Century and it has been true ever since. With a greatly increased gold reserve, having over seven hundred millions of dollars of free gold in this country in addition to that needed to meet the legal requirements of our present banking system, and with commodities not equal to normal demands, prices are not only higher than they were before the war, but they give promise of having reached a new permanent level."

Railroad Administration Aids Homeseekers

The United States Railroad Administration recently has undertaken to furnish information to homeseekers. J. L. Edwards, manager of the agricultural section, homeseekers' bureau, at the railroad administration headquarters in Washington, is in charge of the service. Post cards addressed to Mr. Edwards, printed in blank form, may be obtained, and marked as to whether it is desired to buy or rent a farm, to obtain farm employment, as well as the kind of farming wanted, and the size and locality preferred.

Electrical Workers' Latest Demands

According to the Rochester *Post-Express* the latest demands of electrical workers in that section of New York State include a six-hour day, double pay for overtime, extra time while working in cold or inclement weather, and one helper to every five electricians. If this schedule were adopted it would mean that a maximum day's pay for the electrician would reach \$20.

Late News from Architectural Fields

Special Correspondence to THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

Material Prices Kept Up After 1865

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5.—The U. S. Department of Labor, through the Information and Education Service, is issuing the results of a study of prices during the war and readjustment period made by the Division of Public Works and Construction Development. Discussing the Civil War period as a precedent for war prices, the report says:

"A comparison of the course of prices during the Civil War and the present war shows many points of similarity during the two war periods. The course of prices during the present period of readjustment and the corresponding period following the Civil War shows more points of difference than similarity.

"During both wars the wholesale prices of commodities in general rose steadily through the war period. The rise during the Civil War period, taking the year 1860 as the base, runs up to somewhat higher level than the rise during the present war. In both wars, building materials rose in price, but they did not at either time reach levels as high as the price levels of other commodities.

"At the beginning of the year 1865, the end of the Civil War being in sight, wholesale prices broke suddenly and violently. During the first six months of the year, prices in general fell off 27 per cent from the high level of January. However, the break in wholesale prices, though unprecedented in violence and accompanied by the unsettling influence of the end of the great war, produced no business crisis or depression. Though the latter half of 1865 prices recovered from the low point until in January, 1866, they stood just 16 per cent below the level of January, 1865. From the beginning of 1866 prices dropped slowly downward. They did not reach the pre-war level until the year 1878. As is well known, during that period of inflated currency, gold was at a premium. However, commodity prices remained above the prices of gold up to and including the year 1877.

"Building materials declined in price along with other commodities during the first half of the year 1865. However, the fall was less than in the case of other commodities. Whereas commodities in general dropped 27 per cent, building materials dropped only 14½ per cent. The recovery during the second half of the year was more marked, prices of building materials returning to the level of the last quarter of the year 1864, and remaining at that level for period of a year before the decline set in. The index figure for the building materials group remained higher than that for all commodities up to and including the year 1874.

"The currency was on a distinctly unsound basis in the Civil War reconstruction period. The sharp fluctuations in prices gave rise to much speculation and the opportunities for development of the resources of the country, such as unused land, rivers and harbors, building of railroads, led to over-expansion of business resulting in the Financial Panic of 1873. This panic was not accompanied by any sharp decline in prices.

"As was stated above, it was thirteen years after the Civil War before prices returned to the pre-war level. The principal cause of the return to the pre-war level was the fact that there was such abundant opportunity

for the development of new and more economic methods of production in the shape of new forms of machinery and new kinds of business organizations. These opportunities we do not have at the present day in any measure comparable with the previous period."

Predicts Big Building Increase

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5.—A country-wide survey of the business situation by the United States Chamber of Commerce presents a hopeful view for the building industry and anticipates renewed construction activity.

"Building and construction are the best barometers of the nature and extent of general business because in their operations they call upon the production of every line of industry for the completion of their activities," the report states. "It is peculiarly significant, therefore, at present that the general volume of business should be so large when building and construction are at so low an ebb. Such activity as exists is sporadic, scattered and altogether local. Speculative building practically does not exist and public buildings so far are few.

"There is some construction of homes and farm buildings in small towns and on farms but it is neither general nor exclusive. The reason for this quietude seems to be the high prices of labor and materials. Materials have declined somewhat but apparently not enough to incite general activity. Apparently we are up against a deadlock, but fortunately its solution does not depend so much upon logic as upon human nature. In the past it was axiomatic that building booms do not start from high levels of prices, also that they are the product and result of long period of prosperity, because they depend upon an accumulation of funds which seeks investment in real estate. Some of this is speculative but much, that of building homes, rather is indulgence of a sentiment than an investment."

The Chamber of Commerce predicts an increase during the next four months, of from fifteen to twenty per cent in volume of building as compared with the same period last year. An advance, rather than a decrease, in lumber prices is expected with the demand continually improving. No further reduction in the price of brick, cement, stone and other building commodities, the report points out, can be hoped for. There is no general expectation of a reduction in the price of paint.

Will Start Improvements Immediately

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5.—The National Commission of Fine Arts has given its approval to several projected improvements in the District of Columbia. Many plans for the artistic development of Washington, which were held up pending action by the commission, will be started immediately as a result of the decision just announced.

The commission approved the plans presented by the

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Secretary of Agriculture for the development of experimental farms. The buildings and grounds will cover many acres and will be located near Arlington Cemetery, overlooking the capital. The architectural adviser to the aviation section of the War Department conferred with the commission regarding the construction of buildings for a permanent aviation field at Anacostia along the Potomac. The Navy Department also plans the development of an aviation field in this section. The representatives of the two organizations told the commission that it was the endeavor of both departments to have the design of the buildings and the layout of the grounds harmonious with the general architectural scheme of the city.

Designs for two new bridges to span the Anacostia River were submitted by Col. Max C. Tyler, in charge of government engineering projects. The plans of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for the new bridge across the

Anacostia were considered by the commission. The commission selected a site at the entrance to the National Zoological Gardens for the memorial to Francis Asbury, first Methodist bishop in the United States.

The commission announced that it had considered the copings and other details relating to the architecture of the proposed reflecting basin near the new Lincoln Memorial; the working model for the monument to the "Nuns of the Battlefield," the re-design of a road system at the approaches to the Lincoln Memorial; a revised planting plan for the Arlington Amphitheater, designs for a working detail relating to Meriden Hill Park; a report of a full-size clay model for an equestrian statue of Gen. Grant; the layout and design of roads to be constructed between the National Museum and the Freer Art Gallery and the Mall and a commercial water front along the Anacostia.

Late Quotations in Building Material Markets

ALTHOUGH throughout the steel trade the belief is general that eventually there will be an "open" market, this week's activity has revealed no indication as to when this will come, and consequently little progress was made toward a readjustment that would bring about a demand. There is a general impression that nothing will be done until the Industrial Board makes formal announcement of its relinquishment of the price stabilization plan. The deadlock still exists and the industry is slowing down daily.

A decrease in steel mill operations continues, mills operating at about sixty per cent on the average. It is understood that the United States Steel Corporation is operating at an average of at least 70 per cent of capacity, while the large independents are in most cases operating at between 45 and 50 per cent. Past experience shows that if there should be a break in the market, orders would probably not go to the mills in a rapid rate and the market would require a period of two or three months for readjustment. E. H. Gary of the Steel Corporation feels that the effort of the Industrial Board to stimulate steel buying at an established price has gone for nothing. Steel men don't want to and cannot afford to lower prices and buyers hesitate because they don't want to pay what the producers ask them.

Whether there is any further attempt at Federal price stabilization on other building materials or not, there is increased confidence that quotations on most items have voluntarily found an acceptable level. However, it is generally conceded that the season is already too far advanced to give any decided relief to the housing situation by next Fall or even from a still more desperate renting crisis next Spring.

Builders in the metropolitan district of New York feel that a solution of the rent problem lies in the passage of amendments to the building code controlling the use of brick, yellow pine and extending the use of cinder concrete. It is suggested that the code be revised to allow the use of "light hard" brick for filling in walls where the strains are not applied; it would aid greatly in reducing construction costs.

The market for fir lumber has gained further strength in the last few weeks through the volume of new business taken by the mills. Stocks are low and production, on account of suspended operations at some important plants, was far below normal during the late Winter and early Spring. The amount of new business coming to the mills

now is substantially in excess of the volume of lumber cut. Thereby stocks are being still further reduced. The mills are greatly encouraged over the Government demand for ties and over the prospects of further Government business.

Despite the present strength of the market, the fir and spruce manufacturers still find themselves selling lumber for less money than it costs them to produce it. Comprehensive data recently compiled by the West Coast Lumbermen's Association show that the cost of production for the month of February averaged \$24.04 per 1000 feet, while the average selling price was \$21.96—a net loss to the mills of \$2.08 per 1000.

Appleton P. Clark, Jr., representing the Washington Chapter, American Institute of Architects, on the central stabilization committee of the District of Columbia, takes an encouraging view of the building situation. The rapidity with which the stabilization plans have been perfected. Mr. Clark believes, shows the willingness of the building industry to co-operate in the stimulation of construction.

Mr. Clark attended the meeting of the committee last week, when reports received from labor representatives indicated that the majority of building trades unions would agree to work at the wage scale which became effective November, 1918. The carpenters, who are not affiliated with the Building Trades' Union, are demanding an increase of from 75 cents to 78½ cents per hour. Elevator constructors were also reported to be asking an increase, though it is expected that the wage question can soon be adjusted in their case.

The master builders have reached an agreement whereby they will figure the same percentage of profit on work as prevailed before the war, disregarding increased overhead expenses after May 1. The builders urged labor unions to voluntarily recede to November, 1918, wage scale. The builders' supply representatives reported a general agreement to guarantee prices until the specific contract is completed. They will maintain the present schedule on contracts from August 1, 1919, until January 1, 1920, excepting revision due to freight rates.

A report of the Department of Labor tracing the trend of building material prices during the war and the readjustment period, being the digest of an address by T. S. Holden before the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects held recently in New York, follows:

There was this difference in the conditions that deter-

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mined prices on steel and on basic building materials. In the case of materials regarded as not essential, such as most of the building materials other than steel, whether the price was fixed by the Government or in the open market, this price was not sufficiently high to keep all producers in the market, simply because the maximum production was not required by the wartime needs of the country. In fact construction itself, as well as production of various building materials, was specifically curtailed by Governmental order.

Figures of the U. S. Geological Survey show that actual production of common lime in 1918 was 20 per cent less than in 1917. Portland cement produced in 1918 was 23 per cent under the 1917 figure. Lumber was reduced 19 per cent in output. Common brick in 1917 was 21 per cent under 1916. It has been estimated that in 1918 the production of common brick was less than half the 1917 figure.

As a consequence, the markets are understocked rather than overstocked in these commodities. If any one of these commodities had been considered as essential as steel, the Government would have been obliged to fix the prices on them at figures high enough to encourage every producer in the country to run his plant at maximum capacity with a guarantee of a reasonable profit on his output. In that case the prices on these commodities would have reached much higher levels than they actually did.

Lumber as a group during the last quarter of 1918 was 73 per cent higher in price than in the pre-war period, July 1, 1913, to June 30, 1914. The building materials group, including lumber but not including metal products, was 84 per cent above the pre-war figure. This seems large, but as compared with 113 per cent increase on commodities other than building materials, the increase seems justifiable. The farm products group showed an increase of 116 per cent at the same time.

It is interesting to compare the farm products group with the lumber group. The indices show that at the beginning of the year a farmer could exchange a certain amount of his produce for 25 per cent more lumber than the same amount of produce would have brought him in the year preceding the war.

Roughly speaking, by the end of 1918 the pre-war dollar, as expressed in terms of farm products, had shrunk to 46 cents; as expressed in terms of lumber, it had fallen to 58 cents; in terms of building materials (not including steel), it fell to 54 cents; and in terms of all commodities other than building materials, it fell to 47 cents.

A composite index for all building materials, including steel as well as lumber and the rest, would show an increase of 93 per cent over the pre-war period for the pre-war period for the last quarter of 1918. At the present time the index would be 189.

Building material prices increased somewhat more in the East than in the Middle West, and in the West. Since the opening of the year, lumber has increased somewhat in price. Common brick has also increased in the New York market. On the whole, the group of basic materials, not including lumber or steel, has remained practically stationary, declines in some items being offset by advances in others. From all indications the prices of building materials on the whole do not seem to be subject to any declines of consequence in the future.

(From our Special Correspondent)

CHICAGO, ILL., May 5.—Bungalow and factory building activities are giving impetus to the material markets in this city, the manufacturers, wholesalers and dealers all realizing a better demand with the advance of the season for outdoor construction work. In the suburbs and outlying sections of the city contractors are breaking ground for small homes, and while plans for building construction exceed any in the last five years, the present demand for housing far exceeds the visible supply. Indications now are for further increased activities which will include apartment and other speculative building projects held up in anticipation of lower prices.

In the minds of many who are students of economic conditions there is a feeling that present price levels will be maintained to a great degree, or that there will be no sensational decline under present high production costs. Lumber is firming up considerable in price. Oak, in particular, is scarce in the hands of the manufacturers, and there have been advances of from \$3 to \$5 per thousand feet in the upper grades in the last ten days. Maple and birch also are firm in price with slight advances in the wholesale prices of the former. Mahogany, however, has declined in price since the signing of the armistice. This is due to the fact that boats are now bringing logs from the Liverpool markets. Mahogany is now selling at 26 cents per foot. It was as high as 35 cents during the war.

Herman Waldeck, vice-president of the Continental and Commercial National Bank, in a recent statement concerning business conditions says he is of the opinion too much stress has been laid on the United States Railroad Administration's opposition to the steel price schedule. He believes the strong stock markets are based on an anticipation of unprecedented business prosperity. Statistics compiled by the Chicago Masons' and Builders' Association show that not only labor, but building material is cheaper in this city than in many other sections of the country.

Labor conditions are fairly satisfactory, with few employers showing any inclination to bring about a readjustment in this present period of high living costs.

(Price quotations now current on building materials and supplies as quoted by dealers and jobbers for delivery in New York and Chicago, follow. The quotations set forth are placed before readers of THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT to afford an accurate review of market conditions, rather than for use as a basis for actual purchase. They will not only provide knowledge of the exact state of the market as to items quoted, but will also present a basis to judge conditions as affecting co-relating materials. Items marked (*) indicate an advance over last week, while those marked (†) record a decline. Other prices did not fluctuate during the week.)

BRICK			EAVES TROUGH		
	New York	Chicago		New York	Chicago
Common (for Borough of Manhattan only), per thousand	\$15.00	\$12.00	Galvanized steel	.60&10%	70%
CEMENT			Galvanized charcoal iron	.50%	60%
Per bbl. in 15 cent bags (Rebate 60c. per bbl. for bags)	\$3.25	\$2.80	Copper	.40%	40%
COPPER SHEETS			EAVES TROUGH MITERS		
At the mill, hot rolled, 16 oz. base-price, per lb., 22½c. (From jobber's warehouse add 2 to 3 cents. Cold rolled add 1c. per lb. to hot rolled.)	22½c.		Lap or slip point, list	10%	10%
			ELBOWS AND SHOES		
			Galvanized Steel:		
			Plain, round and corrugated—all sizes up to 6 in. .	70%	70%

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Square:	New York	Chicago
Square	60%	60%
Copper: (See note on page 654)	20%	25%

GALVANIZED SHEETS

Nos. 18 and 20 gauge, per lb.	\$6.12	\$6.12
No. 26	6.42	6.42
No. 27	6.57	6.85

GLASS

(Discounts from manufacturer's price lists)

Single strength, A quality, first three brackets	80%	77%
Single strength, B quality	79%	77%
Double strength, A quality	80%	79%
Double strength, B quality	82%	81%
Plate—up to 5 sq. ft.	82%	81%
Plate—over 5 sq. ft.	84%	82%
Plate—up to 10 sq. ft.	83%	82%
Plate—over 10 sq. ft.	82%	82%

GRAVEL

1 1/4 in. (Borough of Manhattan only), per cu. yd.	\$2.75	\$2.35†
3/4 in. (Borough of Manhattan only), per cu. yd.	2.75	2.35†

GYPSUM

Plaster Board:

(Delivered in Boroughs of Manhattan or Bronx)

27 x 28 x 1/2	35c.	35c.
27 x 48 x 1/2	30c.	30c.
32 x 36 x 1/2	21c.	25c.
32 x 36 x 3/8	21c.	26c.
32 x 36 x 1/2	23 1/2c.	23 1/2c.

Plaster Blocks:

(Delivered in Boroughs of Manhattan or Bronx)

2 in. solid, per sq. ft.	7 1/2c.	7 1/2c.
3 in. solid, 12 x 30, per sq. ft.	10 1/2c.	10 1/2c.
3 in. hollow	10 1/2c.	10c.
4 in. hollow	12 1/2c.	11c.
6 in. hollow	17 1/2c.	17 1/2c.

HOLLOW TILE

Interior, 2 x 8 x 12 split furring, per 1,000 sq. ft.	\$70.00	...
and 15 cents thousand pieces		
Interior, 3 x 12 x 12 split furring, per 1,000 sq. ft.	102.00	\$67.90
Interior, 4 x 12 x 12 split furring, per 1,000 sq. ft.	114.75	72.50
Interior, 6 x 12 x 12 split furring, per 1,000 sq. ft.	153.00	99.60
Interior, 8 x 12 x 12 floor and partition, per 1,000 sq. ft.	135.80	135.80
Interior, 10 x 12 x 12 floor and partition, per 1,000 sq. ft.	167.50	167.50
Interior, 12 x 12 x 12 floor and partition, per 1,000 sq. ft.	194.60	194.60

LATH

Eastern spruce, per thousand	\$6.50	...
No. 1 white pine, per thousand	6.50	6.50
No. 1 hemlock, per thousand	6.00	6.00
No. 1 yellow pine, per thousand	5.75	5.25

LIME

Common, 300 lb. bbls., per bbl.	\$3.50	\$2.00
Finishing, 300 lb. bbls., per bbl.	3.70	3.70
Hydrated, in paper bags, per ton	17.25	17.50
Common (Chicago), 200 lb. bbls., per bbl.	1.00	1.00
Common (Wisconsin), 200 lb. bbls., per bbl.	1.10	1.10

LUMBER

(Retail prices per M, F.O.B.)

Yellow pine, 2 x 4	\$49.00	\$47.00
Yellow pine, 2 x 6	46.50	45.00
Yellow pine, 4 x 4	56.00	52.00
Yellow pine, 8 x 8	65.00	52.00
Yellow pine, 12 x 12	52.50	57.00
Yellow pine, No. 1 boards, 1 x 6	55.75	53.00
Yellow pine, No. 1 boards, 1 x 12	58.00	56.00
Yellow pine, B and better flooring (plain)	70.00	57.00
Yellow pine, B and better flooring (quartered)	70.00	70.00
Douglas fir, 6 x 6 to 12 x 12	62.50*	63.00
Douglas fir, 12 x 14 to 14 x 14	64.00	64.00
Norway pine, 2 x 4	60.00	50.00
Norway pine, 2 x 12	65.00	57.00
Hemlock, 2 x 4	47.50	46.00
Hemlock, 2 x 12	51.00	48.00
Oak flooring, 13/16 quartered white	132.50*	120.00
Oak flooring, 13/16 quartered red	125.00	113.00
Oak flooring, 13/16 plain white	82.50*	80.00
Oak flooring, 13/16 plain red	82.50*	80.00
Maple flooring, 13/16 clear	75.00	69.00
Maple flooring, 13/16 select	70.00	59.00
Maple flooring, 13/16 No. 1 factory	62.50	54.00
Mahogany, 1" F. A. S.	300.00*	260.00
Quartered oak, 1" F. A. S.	180.00*	125.00
Plain oak, 1" F. A. S.	120.00*	80.00
Red gum, 1" F. A. S.	87.00*	62.00
Sap gum, 1" F. A. S.	56.00*	50.00
Chestnut, 1" F. A. S.	87.50*	75.00
Poplar, 1" F. A. S.	130.00*	92.00
Birch, 1" F. A. S.	70.00	60.00
Spruce, random 2"	52.00*	...
Spruce, wide	62.50*	...

LEAD

American pig, per lb.	5 1/2 to 6	5 1/2 to 6
Bar, per lb.	7 1/2 to 8	6 to 6 1/2

METAL LATH

Under 100 sq. yd., per sq. yd.	40c.	40c.
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PAINTS, OILS, ETC.

	New York	Chicago
Leads:		
American white, in oil, kegs; lots over 100 lbs.	14c.	14c.
White, in oil, 25-lb. tin pails; add to keg price.	1/4c.	1/4c.
Red, bbl., 1/2 bbl. and kegs; lots over 100 lbs.	14 1/2c.	14 1/2c.
Dry Colors:		
Red Venetian, American, per 100 lbs.	\$2.75 to \$5.00	\$2.00 to \$5.00
Metallic Paints:		
Brown, per ton	24.00 to 32.00	24.00 to 32.00
Red, per ton	24.00 to 30.00	24.00 to 32.00

PIPE

Cast iron:		
6 in. and heavier	\$57.70	\$56.80
4 in.	60.70	59.80
3 in.	67.70	66.80
(and \$1 additional for Class A and gas pipe.)		
(Discounts to jobbers for carload lots on the Pittsburgh basing card; freight rates from Pittsburgh to New York, and also from Pittsburgh to Chicago, in carloads, per 100 lbs., are 27c.)		
Wrought:		
Butt Weld		

Steel:		
Black, 1/2 to 3 in.	50 1/2%†	57 1/2%
Galv., 1/2 to 3 in.	24%†	41%
Iron:		
Black, 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	29 1/2%†	39 1/2%
Galv., 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	20 1/2%†	23 1/2%

Lap Weld

Steel:		
Black, 2 1/2 to 6 in.	53 1/2%*	53 1/2%
Galv., 1/2 to 3 in.	41%†	41%
Iron:		
Black, 2 1/2 to 6 in.	34 1/2%*	34 1/2%
Galv., 2 1/2 to 6 in.	21 1/2%*	21%

PLASTER

Neat wall cement in 15 cent bags, per ton	\$20.30	\$18.50
Finishing plaster	24.00	21.00

RADIATION

(A further reduction, effective April 4, of 15% on direct radiators, 12 1/2% on wall radiators, and 10% on steam and hot water boilers is announced. This approximates a drop of 36% on radiators and 33% on boilers from prices in effect before the 1st of January, 1919.) Chicago reports a 57% reduction on all standard sizes.

REGISTERS

Cast iron, semi-steel or steel, in black or white japan or electroplate and small faces and borders	40%	40%
Wall framed	40%	40%
Large faced, 14 x 14 in. and larger	60%	60%
Base board registers	40%	40%
Base board intakes	40%	...
White enameled goods	15%	15%
Solid brass or bronze goods, except grilles	net	net
Grilles in black and white japan or electroplate in cast iron, plain lattice design, smaller than 14x14 in.	40%	40%
Over 14x14 in.	60%	60%

SLATE ROOFING

	F.O.B. cars, Quarry Station	F.O.B. Chicago
Pennsylvania:		
Best Bangor	\$7.75 to \$9.00	\$10.20 to \$11.45
No. 1 Bangor Ribbon	6.75 to 7.25	9.20 to 9.70
Pen Argyl	7.25 to 8.00	9.70 to 10.45
Peach Bottom	10.00 to 12.50	12.45 to 14.45
No. 1 Chapman	7.25 to 8.25	8.70 to 9.95
Vermont:		
No. 1 Sea Green	3.50 to 6.75	5.95 to 9.20
Unfading Green	5.50 to 9.25	8.30 to 11.05
Red	12.00 to 20.00	14.80 to 22.80
Maine:		
Brownsville, U'f'g Black, No. 1.	11.00 to 12.00	14.10 to 15.10
Slaters felt, 30 lb. roll	1.75	...
Slaters felt, 40 lb. roll	2.25	...

ROOFING MATERIAL

Tarred Paper:		
1-Ply, per ton, per roll, 108 sq. ft.	\$63.00 to \$65.00	\$65.00
2-Ply	95c.	95c.
3-Ply	1.23 to 1.30	1.30
Rosin sized sheathing	per ton 60.00	60.00
Corrugated roofing, galvanized, 2 1/2 in. corrugation, over flat sheets, 30c. per 100 lbs.		

SHINGLES

Red cedar, 5 to 2, clear, per thousand	\$8.00*	\$6.50
White cedar, extra star, A star, per thousand	7.00*	5.50

STRUCTURAL STEEL

Beams and channel, 3 to 15 in., per lb.	2.45c.†	3.47c.
Beams and channel, 3 to 15 in., per lb.	2.45c.†	3.57c.
Angles, 3 to 6 in.	2.45c.†	3.47c.
Zeas and tees	2.45c.†	3.47c.
Steel bars, half extras, from mill	2.35c.†	3.47c.

REINFORCING BARS

High carbon steel from mill	\$48.50	\$49.50
Medium steel from mill	48.50	49.50

SAND

	(Borough of Manhattan only)	
Mason, per cu. yd.	\$1.80†	\$2.25
Torpedo, per cu. yd.	1.80†	2.35†

Financial and Commercial Digest

As Affecting the Practice of Architecture

New York State Passes Rent Bill

The Legislature of New York State manifested a desire to look into the question of rent profiteering last week when the Senate unanimously passed the Abeles bill authorizing municipalities to appoint rent investigating commissions. The bill provides that if the commission finds a landlord who has unreasonably increased rentals it may publish his name or raise his assessment so that his return shall not be more than 10 per cent.

It is understood that the Senate leaders have agreed to pass Senator Abeles' resolution providing for a State-wide investigation of the rent situation. The resolution appropriated \$10,000 for the expenses of the committee, which is to consist of two Senators and three Assemblymen.

Simultaneously with the action of the New York State Legislature, the Housing Committee of the State Reconstruction Committee, after going over facts and figures bearing on the housing shortage, decided that immediate action should be taken with a view to stimulating the building program. The chairman of the commission, Abram I. Elkus, was authorized to call a conference of the principal commercial, industrial and financial agencies of the State to propose a prompt resumption of building as the solution of the rent problem.

A definite plan will be put forward by experts now studying the problem, and it will be shown that the lack of a building program, coupled with existing conditions, go to make up a situation that directly affects business interests and not alone the tenants immediately concerned. Over two hundred letters on rent profiteering have been received by the committee and many of them have told of families with young children facing eviction because of impossibility of either paying the rent increases demanded or of finding apartments in which to move.

Apparently the consensus of opinion at the recent meeting was that the remedy in the situation lay in the stimulation of building operations.

Robert D. Kohn, of the Post-War Committee on Architectural Practice, stated that the important thing was to meet the needs of those who pay from \$20 to \$35 for their apartments. The members of the committee feel confident that in a few weeks they will be able to present to the business interests a definite plan which will solve the problem.

Frank Mann, Tenement House Commissioner, at the meeting of the Housing Committees, quoted striking figures concerning the housing situation. He said that a survey of vacancies in 1916 showed that the percentage of vacancies in that year amounted to 5.60. In 1917 it had decreased to 3.66. Since 1917, he said, there has been no building, and with no immigration and a normal increase of 200,000

in the population there is a shortage of 100,000 apartments at least. Practically the only vacancies are those in old-law tenements, built prior to 1901, which, he said, are habitable "legally," but are humanly not fit places to live.

As an indication of the lack of building, Mr. Mann pointed to figures showing the building plans filed from Jan. 1 to April 8. The figures showed that eight new plans were filed, involving a total outlay of \$2,500,000. It appeared that the buildings were high-class apartment houses and not the kind of apartment buildings now in greatest demand.

Among those present at the meeting were Frederick Ackerman, in charge of housing design for the Shipping Board; Alexander Bing, a real estate man active in housing matters; Walter Stabler of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; John J. Murphy, former Tenement House Commissioner; Dr. E. P. Roberts of the Urban League; Frank Williams, Chairman of the City Plan Committee of the City Club; Alfred Marling of the New York State Chamber of Commerce; Lawson Purdy, Mrs. Henry Moskowitz, Secretary of the State Reconstruction Committee, and Clarence Stein, an architect interested in housing conditions.

In view of the nation-wide shortage of what is authoritatively estimated at 1,000,000 homes, Secretary of Labor Wilson this week urged that cities and large commercial and industrial interests give every assistance to plans for building new homes.

Among the shortages reported are the following cities, the figures representing the number of families that need accommodations, according to estimates of government and city officials and real estate boards. In New York State, New York City shows 75,000 families, Albany 800 and Syracuse 800; New Haven, Conn., 1,500; Detroit, Mich. 30,000; Columbus Ohio, 1,500; Kansas City, 200; Dallas, Tex., 400; Baltimore, 2,500; Huntington, W. Va., 500; Denver, 300; Seattle, 3,000; Portland, Ore., 5,000; San Francisco, 1,500, and Pasadena, 500.

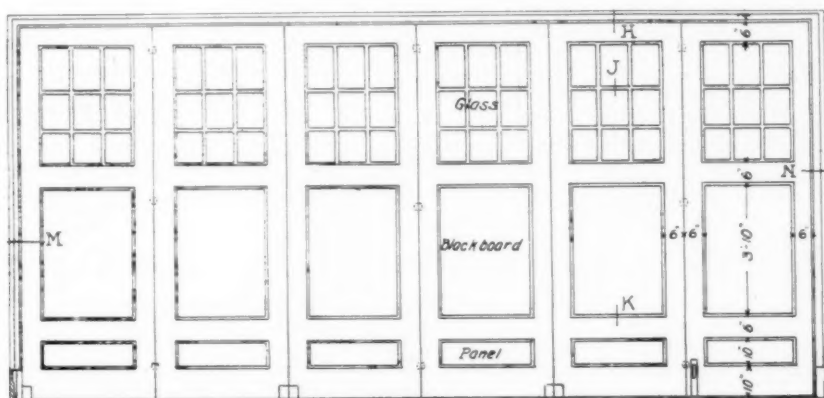
Secretary Wilson is reported to be of the opinion that real assistance will be granted home builders if the next Congress passes the bill proposed by the Labor Department establishing home loan banks, through which loans can be made to prospective home builders. All dwelling plans of the United States housing corporations have been turned over for public use, and the secretary urges that big interests adopt the housing corporation's principles as means of solving the labor problem. Providing of modern homes for labor by large corporations is the best kind of an investment, he believes. These houses can be bought by the workingmen on the installment plan, as is being planned by an Elizabeth, N. J., company, which has purchased a large tract of land to erect houses that will be sold to employees at cost on the monthly payment basis.

Department of Architectural Engineering

Standard School House Equipment and Details

THE folding partition is an important factor in school house design. There are certain conditions that require the enlargement of a room temporarily and by the use of these partitions this is accomplished. They are either glazed or unglazed, as the use demands. In commercial department rooms they can be so glazed that the instructor can supervise the rooms with pupils on both sides of the partition. In this case the typewriting ma-

boards; the lower panels are of 5-ply veneer and molded. Partitions in playrooms and gymnasiums have panels of tongued and grooved V-cut sheathing finished flush with face of stiles and rails. Partitions in commercial rooms have the upper panels divided with muntins and glazed. All stiles and rails of sections have built-up white pine cores veneered with material to match the trim, $\frac{3}{16}$ in. thick. The stiles and rails are $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick. When



Elevation of folding partition between classrooms, with blackboard panels and glazed top panels.

chines are placed in one room in order that the noise made by typing does not disturb the other pupils in the department.

Folding partitions used in New York City schools are formed of sections hinged together and are specified to be furnished complete with hardware, including tracks, guides, trucks, etc., and made, fitted, erected and adjusted under the supervision of the manufacturers and to be guaranteed by them for two years.

Partitions occurring in rooms for instruction, such as class rooms, kindergartens and libraries, have the center panels omitted to receive black-

required the partitions have fly doors paneled to match the sections.

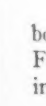
The fly door has hinges, dead lock, key plate, mortise latch and drop "D" handle. Each section, except the first, has a steel guide at the head; one guide for each pair of sections is swiveled and one is fixed. The first section is pivoted at top and bottom. The flush bolt for the first section has a cast brass face and back plates not less than $1\frac{1}{2} \times 8 \times 32$ in. bolted through the door with 4 brass mill screws. The face plate has a flanged guide not less than $\frac{3}{16}$ in. thick; steel bolt not less than $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{16}$ in. with steel spring and brass thumb

54 in
wide
swing

Dim
Suit

B
A

This Distance To Be 10'-5 1/4" To Bottom



The water closet partition and the proportions of the stalls varies with the kind of pupils to be accommodated. By referring to the plans and elevations shown there will be found designs for these fixtures for men and women, grammar school girls, high school boys and girls and grammar school boys, primary and kindergarten pupils. The stalls for men and women are 36 in. wide and 54 in. deep; for grammar school girls 28 in. wide and

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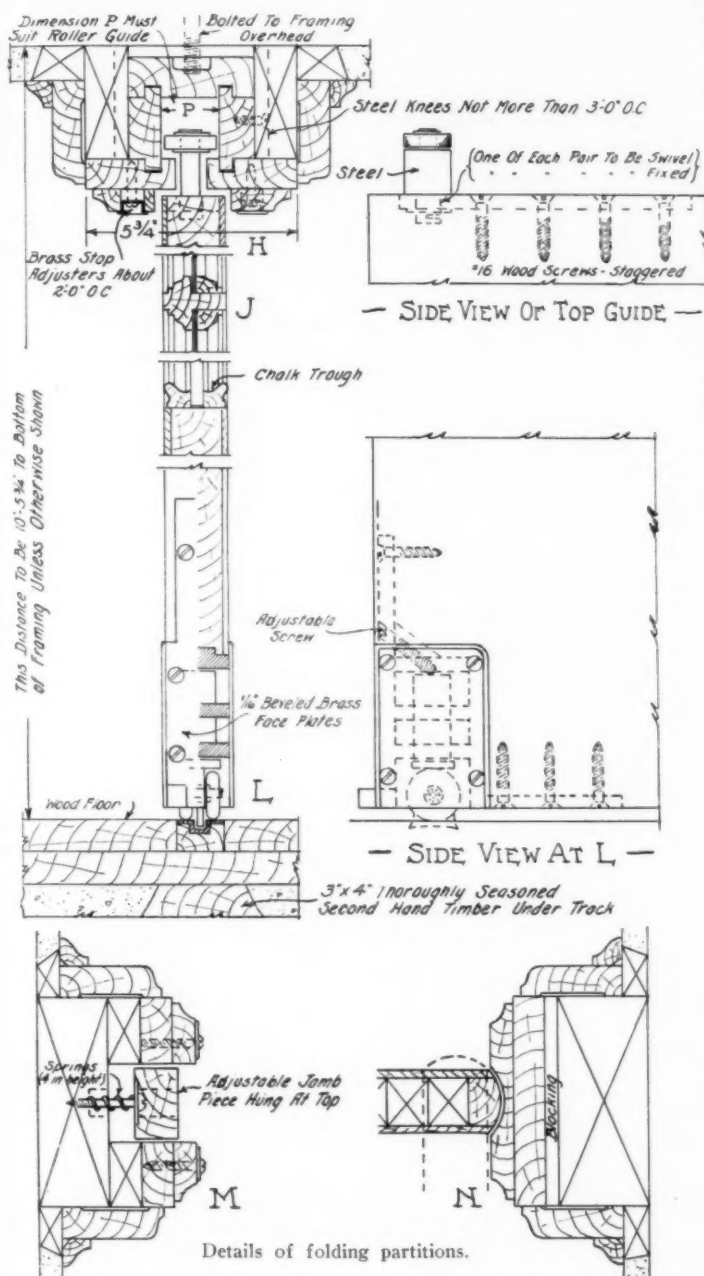
54 in. deep; for high school boys and girls 32 in. wide and 54 in. deep. All of these fixtures have swinging doors. The stalls for grammar school

These fixtures are constructed with stiles and rails of wood and the panels of asbestos building lumber. These panels in doors are $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick and in the partitions $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick. Where both sides of the panels are exposed they are double faced. The advantage of the asbestos building lumber panels consists of its lightness and great strength in comparison with its thickness. It will not shrink and will not crack. The uprights are built up and a wood top rail is provided over the doors and at the top of the partitions. The partitions are supported on cast-iron brackets, sockets and gas

pipe legs as shown in the details. A novel feature of the door is the rounded member attached to the hinged edge. It was found that with the ordinary square edge door the pupils often got their fingers pinched by the closing door. By installing the rounded member on the door this difficulty was overcome very effectively. The radius of these rounded members varies for the type of hinge used. This is but one example of the careful and painstaking consideration given by C. B. J. Snyder, architect and superintendent of school buildings, New York, to those apparently trivial items which make for the safety and comfort of the pupils.

The kindergarten seat is formed with a wood seat and back and set on cleats resting on pipe supports having flanged fittings. The back of the seat is set out from the wall 7 in. to form a pocket for toys. The bottom of the pocket is made of No. 14 galvanized wire $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. square mesh. The seat is 10 in. above the floor and 10 in. wide and made of $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. lumber, the back is 12 in. high and made of $\frac{7}{8}$ in. lumber. The detail clearly shows the construction.

The shower partitions are made of $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. marble slabs and are 7 ft. high. The door has $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. wood stiles and rails with $\frac{1}{4}$ in. asbestos building lumber panels. The hinged edge of the doors have a rounded member similar to that used on the water closet stall doors. The seat



boys are 30 in. wide and 30 in. deep without doors. For primary and kindergarten pupils they are 27 in. wide and 30 in. deep, without doors.

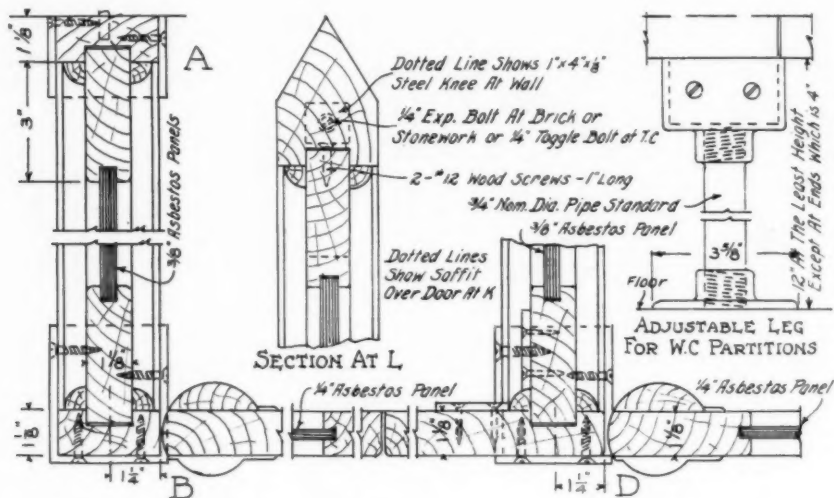
asbestos building lumber panels. The hinged edge of the doors have a rounded member similar to that used on the water closet stall doors. The seat

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is placed in the corner, as shown, and is made of $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. ash strips bolted to an angle iron frame. The strips are cut out on a portion of their length to permit the drainage of water and are doweled to-

5 ft. high. The concrete or tile floor is pitched to drain to the back of the stall.

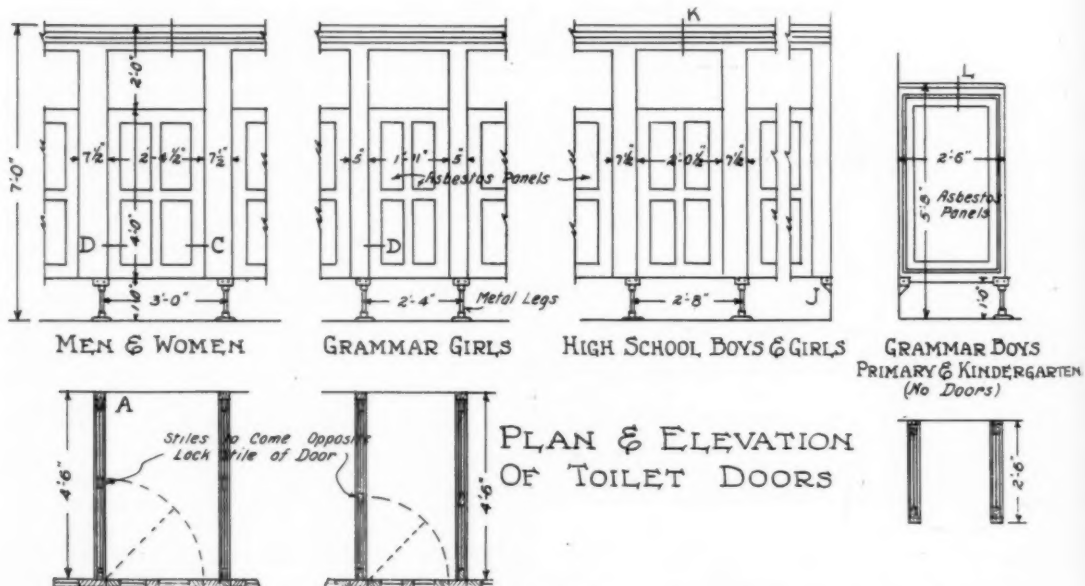
The demonstration table in the science room, has a 2 in. soapstone top 6 ft. x 3 ft. in size, the top of



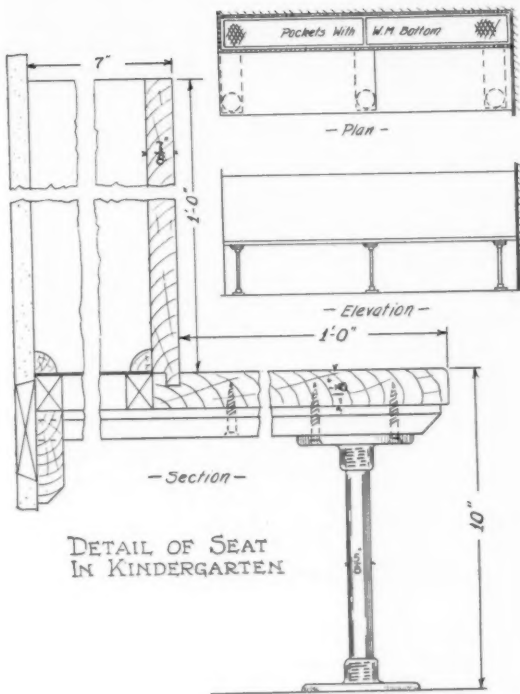
Details of toilet partitions. Note the rounded member at hinged edge of door.

gether and further tied together with a brass rod. The edge of the seat is rounded. The seat is 16 in. above the floor and has a radius, in plan, of 14 in. The stall is 3 ft. by 3 ft. and the door is

which is 2 ft. 6 in. above the floor. This table has an open space in the center on one side of which are ten drawers and on the other side five drawers and a cupboard. Into the top of the cupboard

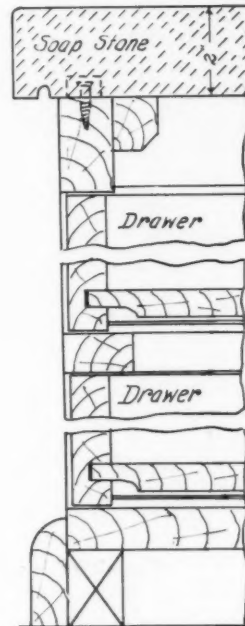


Plans and elevations of toilet room partitions for different grades of pupils and men and women.



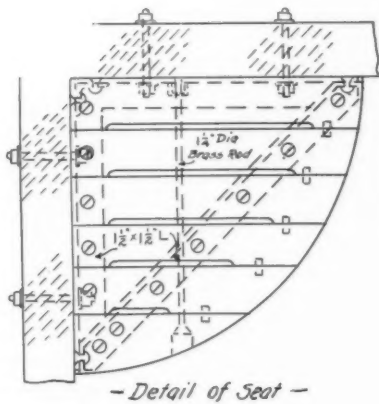
DETAIL OF SEAT
IN KINDERGARTEN

Plan, elevation and detail of kindergarten seat.

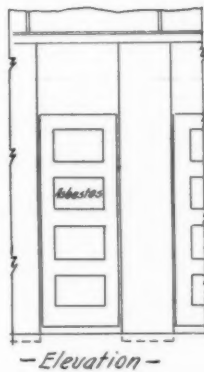


SECTION 1-1

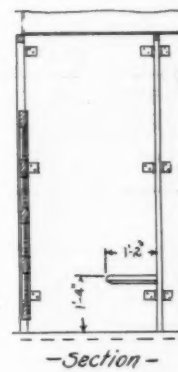
Detail of demonstration
table in science room.



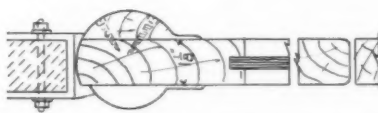
- Detail of Seat -



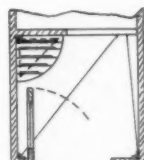
- Elevation -



- Section -



- Detail at Hinge -



- Plan -

DETAILS OF
SHOWER ENCLOSURE

Plan, elevation and details of the shower enclosure.

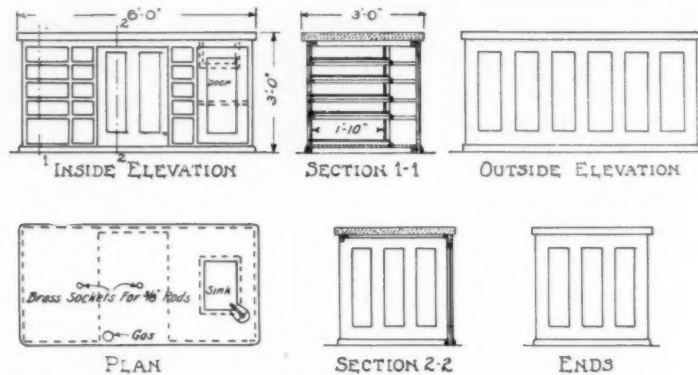
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there projects a 10 x 15 in. sink, 10 in. deep. Below the sink is a removable shelf. A gas outlet is provided in the top of the table and two brass sockets for $\frac{3}{8}$ in. rods. All faces of this table are paneled.

The cooking bench in the domestic science room has a $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. marble top 15 ft. x 3 ft. in size, the

the danger of the pupil's clothing catching fire is obviated. This apparatus is designed especially for school used by the Building Bureau of the Department of Education, New York.

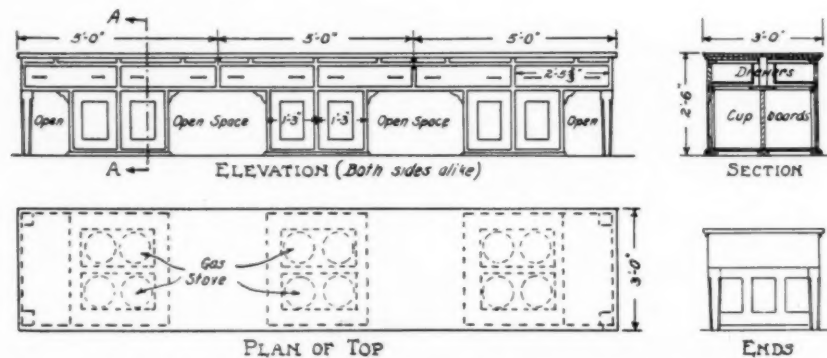
From a study of the foregoing it will be seen to what extent the successful operation of a modern



Plan, elevation and section of demonstration table in the science room.

top of which is 2 ft. 6 in. above the floor. There are wood kneading boards immediately under the marble top, which slide in under the same. Six drawers and six cupboards are provided on each side of the table. On top of the table are installed twelve single-burner gas hot-plates. These gas hotplates are supported on a cast iron pedestal

school building depends upon the knowledge, care and foresight of the architect. Too often the only phase to which serious study and painstaking care are given is the design of a pleasing exterior. The neglect of the other phases, equally important, may not be intentional, but nevertheless is lamentable. Important and desirable as is the ex-



Plan, elevation and section of cooking bench in domestic science room.

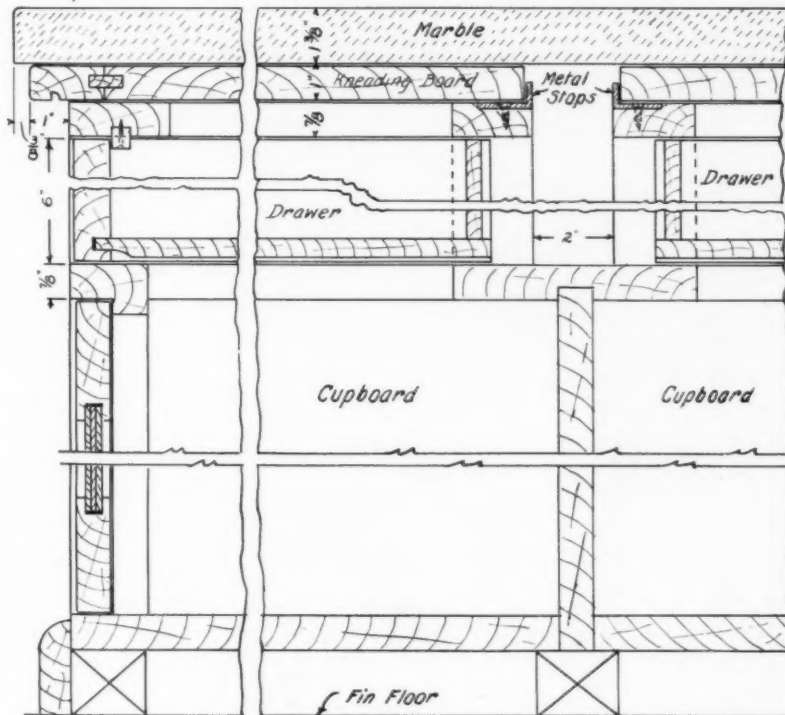
which is bolted to the marble top from below, with an intervening rubber gasket. The pedestal arm which supports the gas pipe and hot-plate is elevated so as to leave a clearance of about 6 in. above the table top. This eliminates the legs usual to hot-plates and permits of easy cleaning beneath. The gas valve is in front of the burner and thus

terior treatment, and we would not for a moment depreciate its value, for beautiful school buildings should be the rule and not the exception, yet this alone is not sufficient, for the teacher, handicapped by makeshift apparatus and poorly designed and badly located furnishings and in other similar details, cannot render full value to the children of

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the community served. It is only by care in these details, combined with efficient study of the larger aspects of the problem, that a fully efficient school

building can be produced. This should be, and we believe is, the aim of all those associated with this important class of work.



SECTION ON LINE A-A

Detail of cooking bench in domestic science room.

The Forest Products Laboratory and the Architect

The Forest Products Laboratory is an organization of industrial research working on problems relating to the use of wood. It is a branch of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Its present organization consists of a personnel of about 325 people, together with buildings, equipment, and other facilities necessary to maintain the work, and is financed by Federal appropriation.

Among the many lines of work undertaken by the Laboratory that on the development of methods of drying wood is probably of first interest to the architect.

The excessive demands of the war for air-dried wood products, particularly for use in manufactur-

ing escort wagons, artillery transport, etc., practically drained the country of air-dried material. The situation to-day is very serious as air-dried stock is practically unobtainable, and kiln-dried material must be resorted to for interior work. Satisfactory dry kilns and methods of kiln drying are practically unknown to the average planing mill. The consequence is that architects now must accept improperly or insufficiently dried material, which when it is used gives much trouble from shrinkage, open joints, etc., and is generally unsatisfactory. Information is at the present time available in the Forest Products Laboratory on methods of kiln drying lumber which, if they were thoroughly known in the trade, would go far toward

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overcoming this difficulty. It is believed that architects should be in touch with the laboratory on this question.

During the war a great amount of work was done on waterproof glues, especially for use in gluing veneer panels. This work was done primarily for aircraft construction purposes, but the information obtained is now being applied industrially and makes possible the satisfactory use of veneer products, such as doors for exterior use and panels for situations liable to be subjected to water. The possibility of securing such material and specifications covering it are believed to be of interest to architects.

The laboratory has been active in studying such questions as the inflammability of wood, methods of fireproofing wood and fireproof construction generally involving the use of wood. It has also been very active in questions relating to the decay of wood and processes of treatment or methods of handling to prevent trouble from decay.

*Cumulative Index of Papers Issued**

- A-1—Hints on storing lumber to prevent decay.
- B-1—Three-piece wing beams as strong as solid beams.
- B-2—Box handles of webbing instead of rope save shipping space.
- B-3—Metal strapping on wooden boxes.
- B-4—Two simple tests for inspection of airplane struts.
- C-1—Waste paper mill bark as a source of tannin.
- C-2—Recovery of waste paraffined paper.
- D-1—Steaming of vehicle stock during kiln drying.
- D-2—How to distinguish Douglas fir from Sitka spruce lumber.
- D-3—Built-up artificial limb blanks.
- D-4—Circulation and piling in the dry kiln.
- E-1—Good flotation oils from crude tar products.
- E-2—Potash from wood ashes.
- F-1—Foreign trade in furniture.
- F-2—The strength of commercial liquid glues.
- F-3—Aluminum leaf to moisture-proof wood.
- F-4—Water resistant glues.
- F-5—Scratched joints versus smooth joints in plywood.

*Copies may be had on application to the Director, Forest Products Laboratory, United States Department of Agriculture, Madison, Wis.

F-6—Bibliography on casein and casein glues.

F-7—Some reference to literature on manufacture and testing of animal glues.

F-8—Manufacturing furniture for export to tropical regions.

Amending Building Codes

The work of keeping building codes abreast of the times is a problem confronting every municipality. Often the measure of a city's progressiveness can be had from the state of its building code. In this respect it is interesting to note that Harrisburg, Pa., has just swung into line, following the lead of other progressive cities, by appointing a committee to draw up a new code of building laws. Such a committee does not always have a light task before it, as is evidenced by the somewhat recent experience of New York City. Building in that city was largely handicapped by a code much out of date and failing to provide for present-day construction. The city realized the need for amendment, but despite the fact that numerous commissions were appointed, composed of experts, costing the city thousands of dollars, the several proposed codes submitted by them from time to time seemed to contain certain objectionable features, and each failed of adoption. This unfortunate situation covered a period of some ten years, the final solution being brought about by amending the code piecemeal, that is section by section, adopting each section after thorough preliminary discussion, revision and public hearing. The New York code as thus amended possesses many good features and may be supplemented from time to time by rules and regulations of the Board of Standards and Appeals. Judging from this board's action to date there seems little danger of its rules and regulations not being kept up to date. The same method was used in adopting the Cleveland code, and in connection with Detroit's proposed code, which contains a number of new features, a novel plan put forth having much to recommend it is to put the code in use for six months to permit the ironing out of any objectionable features which may become manifest during the trial period, then make the necessary changes and enact the code into law.