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*A Journal of The American Institute of Architects*

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# THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

## A Letter to the Membership

THE architectural profession as a whole has experienced three years of hardship arising, of course, from lack of work. This condition, however, has given us time to do some serious thinking and to realize that the affluent years have been responsible for a diminishing quality of work, civic and social responsibilities. This intoxication has been followed by the cold, gray dawn of the morning after, and its natural resolutions. We have learned to do without the non-essentials and we have also learned to be more considerate of those less fortunate than ourselves. The spirit displayed by the architects in these trying years is admirable and will result in a closer adherence to our ideals.

To those members who are experiencing their first depression the result has been disastrous, but it has set them to thinking that when times improve they will, after first paying their debts, make it a rule to set aside something out of their earnings to carry them over future lean years—and lean years there will be. The statisticians tell us that in the last 132 years there have been thirteen depressions and that the average length of each one was three years.

We have not yet put our building industry house in order so as to prevent the lean years, but steps are being taken in that direction with some assurances of success. It is to be hoped that we will also not reach the peak that was established in '28 and the early part of '29. There is relief in sight and the fear that has obsessed us has been largely replaced by hope which will in turn be followed by confidence and actual work.

One of the leading architectural journals conducted a comprehensive building survey and forecast for the period between September 1932 and September 1933. It is stated in conclusion that "the most important deduction which has been made as a result of this analysis is that the coming year will definitely show the beginning of the recovery period." The forecast of the total construction during this period is \$1,753,806,000. This figure, which seems to me to be a conservative estimate, indicates that after all the building industry will have some work to do—that the volume of work for the architect may be expected to improve gradually from now on.

The architect who has maintained his position in independent practice should once more receive those financial returns and tangible rewards for creative service to which his talents and his training entitle him. While the siege has not been entirely lifted

and the coming six months may bring some discouragement, there is every reason to be sanguine over future prospects.

The Institute as the national organization of the profession is maintaining its essential activities unbroken and its officers, directors, committee chairmen and employees are making many sacrifices to that end. The most vital thing which the Institute has done and is doing is to function as the rallying point for the architects as a professional group. It is waging a long and persistent battle for the recognition of the architect in public work. It is keeping the name of the architect before the public and before those governmental agencies which are charged with the erection of public buildings. The work of the Officers, the Board of Directors and the many Standing and Special Committees goes on in all cases with reduced funds, but in no case with lessened enthusiasm or determination.

The Institute through its representation on the Construction League, on the National Conference on Construction, and on various official commissions and bodies, is seeing to it that the position of the architect is maintained and that recognition of architectural service is accorded when due.

The purpose of this brief message, which is intended for the member as an individual, and for Chapter presidents as the responsible heads of their Chapters, is two-fold. The Chapter presidents are responsible for the activities of their districts and should exercise initiative and leadership in order to encourage in every way each member, associate and junior, who in the last analysis constitute the heart and mind of the architectural profession of the United States.

The Chapters have maintained themselves, their regular meetings have been held, and their programs in general have been carried forward. The Delaware architects had the courage to organize a new Chapter in the spring of this year and received their charter just before the convention. The great majority of our members have been able to maintain their offices and to use their spare time to perfect themselves for the inevitable day of returning business.

The responsibility which now rests upon Chapter presidents is to lead their chapters in their respective communities along the lines being followed by the Institute as a national body. It is their duty to fight

for proper recognition of the architect and to insist that the training and experience of the architect in the building and housing problems of every community are recognized at full value.

Every Chapter president has the duty of maintaining the morale of his Chapter. Meetings should not be allowed to go by default. The architects should draw closer together and offer an unbroken front against any disintegrating or antagonizing forces which may attempt to utilize present conditions to undermine the function and the standing of the architectural profession.

It is my earnest request to every Chapter president that these matters be discussed at the next meeting of the Chapter, and that generally throughout the sixty-seven Chapters of the Institute the October and early November meetings be devoted to a study of local conditions and the development of a program of Chapter activities throughout the winter and the next spring. The Board of Directors hopes to receive reports from every Chapter president on what he is doing to strengthen his own Chapter and to make it of the greatest possible value to the individual member and to the community.

Those who serve in this profession have chosen a jealous mistress. The choice was made, in most cases, for reasons of sentiment—as architecture in itself is not a lucrative calling. They follow architecture because they love it and because of the many rewards that cannot be measured in dollars. Dur-

ing these past three years no architect has escaped those hardships and those discouragements which come inevitably to those who give first place to the idealism of creative art. The splendid courage with which those hardships have been met is to me final proof of the enduring place to be held by the architectural profession in the future life of our country.

The job of being President of The American Institute of Architects during this period of economic and industrial eclipse is not only a great honor but a most serious responsibility. Fortunately my able predecessor, Robert D. Kohn, in his two years as President exercised qualities of leadership and developed a program of action for the Institute which makes my own path much easier. It is my intention to maintain those policies along the lines established and to preserve to the utmost the vitality of the Institute and the Chapters, and the position of the architectural profession in the building industry. We accomplished much in the prosperous years and I believe the lean years have given us an opportunity to lay the foundation for an even greater Institute in the years to follow.

It is the duty as well as the privilege of each one of us to carry on without faltering the traditions of the profession we have chosen.

ERNEST JOHN RUSSELL,  
*President.*

*September 27th, 1932.*

## Government Competition with Private Business

**W**HILE The American Institute of Architects, during the past session of Congress, was unsuccessful in obtaining the enactment of legislation requiring the government to employ architects and engineers in private practice for the design and construction of certain of its public buildings, it does not follow that the Institute has altered its views or discontinued its efforts in that respect.

In fact, it is believed that the prospect of ultimate enactment of this legislation has been materially improved by such consideration as members of Congress were able to give to the view of the Institute, as expressed in H. R. 6187 and S. 2956 introduced in the respective houses of Congress during the last session and as enlarged upon, at the public hearings last February, by the Institute's representatives and others in sympathy with the Institute's views and also opposed to the growing competition of the government with private business.

Furthermore, it is believed that the members will appreciate having brought to their attention the presentation recently made on behalf of the Institute by Louis LaBeaume, Chairman of the Institute's Com-

mittee on Public Works. Mr. LaBeaume presented the Institute's views at hearings, in Kansas City July 18 and in St. Louis July 27, before the Special Committee of the House of Representatives Investigating the Competition of the Government with Private Business, of which Representative Joseph B. Shannon, of Missouri, is Chairman.

Mr. LaBeaume left with the Committee (1) briefs setting forth the points he had stressed in his discussion of the subject before the Committee; (2) copies of the statement of The American Institute of Architects regarding Federal employment of Architects and Engineers; (3) copies of Bills H. R. 6187 and S. 2956; (4) copies of the statement of the Institute listing the organizations that have endorsed the legislation proposed in H. R. 6187 and S. 2956; and (5) copies of the Hearings—before the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the House of Representatives, February 16, 17, and 19—on the several bills then before Congress requiring government employment of architects and engineers in private practice for the design and construction of certain public buildings.

Portions of the briefs left with the Special Committee by Mr. LaBeaume are here quoted:

\* \* \* \* \*

"We are not here Mr. Chairman to plead selfishly for the employment of local architects or engineers, or for the use of local materials when not in the public interest. The profession which I represent needs no defense of its ability. During the past generation it has justified itself in the eyes of the world. America is rich in able architects and engineers, and this composite ability should be placed at the service of the Government."

\* \* \* \* \*

"\* \* \* It must be a matter of common logic that an architect or engineer resident in Missouri, California, Massachusetts, Michigan, or Florida, would be more conversant with local conditions, methods of construction, traditions, and customs, building materials and community needs than a corps of civil service employees operating from the seat of government at Washington."

\* \* \* \* \*

"\* \* \* We believe that it is manifestly unfair, undemocratic and unwise for the government to enter in the field of building or professional activity in competition with its own citizens and tax payers, except where monopolistic abuses may be said to exist. There is no such excuse

with regard to the architectural and engineering professions. Nor can it be successfully demonstrated that our Federal buildings can be better designed or more cheaply built by huge armies of civil service employees."

\* \* \* \* \*

"So long as the American ideal of the encouragement of private initiative endures we will continue to protest against the growth of these Government bureaus, for the effect of their increase will be to Sovietize the Government until private endeavor has altogether disappeared and each man will be but a cog in one vast bureaucratic machine."

\* \* \* \* \*

"We respectfully submit therefore that the policy now being pursued by the Government is not in the public interest, and that buildings so designed cannot adequately reflect the march of progress in architecture and constructional development."

In conveying to Mr. LaBeaume an expression of appreciation of his continued efforts toward the adoption by Congress of a more liberal and forward-looking view as to the architecture of future government buildings, I am sure I am expressing the sincere sentiment of the members of the Institute.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,  
*Secretary.*

## An Invitation to Architects

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CITY PLANNING, PITTSBURGH, NOVEMBER 14-16, 1932

Architects who are interested in Housing, either with respect to the technique of site planning and large scale operation or with respect to the formulation and support of State Housing Laws designed to open up the credit reservoir of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, will find it both interesting and profitable to be in Pittsburgh during the meetings of the National Conference on City Planning, November 14-16.

Frederick Bigger, Chairman of the Institute's Committee on Economics of Site Planning and Housing expects to have a meeting of his Committee at that time, supplementing the meetings of the planning body, and hopes that no interested architect will hesitate to join that particular group for round table discussion. Robert D. Kohn, who heads a Subcommittee to promote and assist in formulation of State Housing Laws, believes that the members of the architectural profession should know of, and be invited to attend, the Pittsburgh meetings.

The sessions of the National Conference on City Planning on Monday, November 14, will be devoted entirely to Housing. Robert D. Kohn and Henry Wright will speak at the morning session; other important speakers will continue in the afternoon; and the evening will be devoted to further presentation of the subject with still and moving pictures of developed projects. The following afternoon, Tuesday, there will be a somewhat limited tour of the city with ample time to visit and inspect the Buhl Foundation's unusually fine Chatham Village housing development.

The architects' supplementary round table meeting and luncheon are scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, at the Conference headquarters, the Hotel Schenley, prior to the trip to Chatham Village.

FREDERICK BIGGER, *Chairman,*  
*Committee on Economics of*  
*Site Planning and Housing.*

## Emergency Relief and Construction

**A**FTER the passage of the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932, the President of the Institute tendered to President Hoover the assistance of The American Institute of Architects in the selection of members of a board, advisory to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation on construction projects provided for in the Relief Act.

It was the opinion of the officers of the Institute and of Past-President Robert D. Kohn that, as provision was made in this Act for loans to certain corporations for low cost housing and slum clearance, an architectural point of view would be of decided value in formulating a satisfactory program, and that an architect, who had given much study to limited-dividend housing projects, slum clearance, large scale housing, and closely related fields, should be favorably considered for appointment on such a board. A list of architects whom President Russell believed to be particularly qualified was placed before President Hoover through the assistance and cooperation of Past-President Kohn.

Unfortunately, no architect was appointed on this advisory board and after it had been created, the President of the Institute requested President Hoover to give favorable consideration to the appointment of a separate board composed of architects and contractors, to assist the Corporation in an advisory capacity in connection with applications for loans on housing projects.

A similar list of architects, as submitted to President Hoover by Mr. Russell, was also submitted to Dr. Charles David Marx, Chairman of the newly-appointed Engineers' Advisory Board in the thought that this Board, if required to pass on housing projects, would, before rendering an opinion, desire to have the advice of men well-informed in the field of low-cost housing construction.

As far as is known by the Secretary of the Institute no action has yet been taken by President Hoover or by the Engineers' Advisory Board on these suggestions, nor has advice been received that any loans have been made on housing projects although it is understood that a number of applications therefor are now pending before the Corporation.

The sub-committee of the Institute's Committee on Economics of Site Planning and Housing prepared a document at the instance of the Construction League, entitled "Principles Which It Is Recommended Should Be Embodied in a State Housing Law," which was sent to each Chapter

President on July 25. It was believed desirable to put this information promptly into the hands of Chapter Officers, inasmuch as the Relief and Construction Act contained a requirement that cities or states applying for loans for the construction of low-cost housing and for slum clearance must have housing laws containing in general the principles which this document outlined, and that it would be necessary that special sessions of the legislatures be called in order for many states promptly to avail themselves of relief as provided in this portion of the Act.

The Committee on Trade Recovery of the Construction League submitted to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation a list of Chapter Officers to whom it is understood the Corporation has forwarded regulations and information (Circular No. 3 of the Engineers' Advisory Board) relative to the proper manner of making applications for loans under Title II of the Relief and Construction Act. The section providing for loans to certain corporations for low-cost housing and slum clearance projects is included under this title.

In the Emergency Relief and Construction Act, \$100,000,000.00 was appropriated for the construction of buildings previously authorized but for which no appropriations had been made. (A list of these buildings was included in Group "B" of the list placed in the hands of each Chapter President in 1931.)

The Relief Act specifies that the projects to be constructed under this appropriation shall be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster General.

As the Act contained no provision specifically authorizing the employment of architects in private practice for the design of any of these buildings, the Treasury Department called upon the Comptroller General for a decision in this matter. The Comptroller General advised the Treasury Department that the provisions of the Public Building Act which authorized the employment of outside architects should also be applied to the program under the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932.

As the War Department has similar authority (see page 17 of this issue) it is assumed that this interpretation also applies to the \$22,600,000.00 appropriated in Section 301 (a) (11) and Section 302 of the Act for the construction of buildings at military posts and listed in the July issue of THE OCTAGON.

## Federal Home Loan Bank Districts

**F**ORMATION of twelve districts for regional home loan banks has been announced by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. The cities in which the regional banks will be located have also been designated. It is hoped to have the banks in operation and doing business by October 15. Since the law requires that the books remain open for subscription to bank stock for 30 days, the period from now until October 15 will probably be devoted to this purpose.

The Home Loan Bank Board is composed of Franklin W. Fort of Newark, N. J., former representative in Congress from that State, chairman; Nathan Adams, president of the First National Bank of Dallas, Texas; William E. Best of Pittsburgh, Pa., president of the United States Building and Loan League; H. Morton Bodfish of Chicago, executive manager of the United States Building and Loan League; John M. Gries of Rosewood, Ohio, formerly chief of the Division of Building and Housing of the Department of Commerce. The board selected A. R. Gardner of Olympia, Wash., as administrative assistant to the chairman and William E. Murray of Rock Falls, Ill., as secretary of the Board.

*Survey of Mortgages*

The Board began its work by making a survey of the amount of home mortgages owned by the institutions located in each of the states so as to determine the number of regional banks which would be needed and also to assign the boundaries of the districts. As the law provides that the minimum capital which may be assigned to the district bank shall be \$5,000,000 and that each of the members of the bank may subscribe to the stock at the rate of one per cent of the home mortgage loans owned, it was necessary that a survey of the location of ownership of home mortgages should be made.

The Board found wide differences in the amounts of mortgages held by the institutions in the various states. It therefore made the following allocation of the home loan bank districts in order to make, as nearly as possible, an equitable distribution among the districts of the resources of the institutions and of the \$134,000,000 appropriated by Congress for federal aid to these banks.

The make-up of the districts, together with the capital assigned each from the home loan fund and the total of mortgages held within the district and the city in which the regional bank will be located, follows:

No. 1—Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut; capital, \$12,500,000; mortgages of all kinds, \$3,600,000,000; Cambridge, Mass.

No. 2—New York, New Jersey, Porto Rico and Virgin Islands; capital, \$20,000,000; mortgages of all kinds, \$9,500,000,000; Newark, N. J.

No. 3—Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia; capital, \$12,500,000; mortgages of all kinds, \$1,600,000,000; Pittsburgh, Pa.

No. 4—Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and the District of Columbia; capital, \$10,000,000; eligible mortgages, \$520,000,000; Winston-Salem, N. C.

No. 5—Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee; capital, \$15,000,000; mortgages of all kinds, \$1,250,000,000; Cincinnati, Ohio.

No. 6—Michigan and Indiana; capital, \$8,000,000; mortgages of all kinds, \$575,000,000; Indianapolis, Ind.

No. 7—Wisconsin and Illinois; capital, \$15,000,000; mortgages of all kinds, \$825,000,000; Evans-ton, Ill.

No. 8—North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri; capital, \$7,500,000; mortgages of all kinds, \$350,000,000; Des Moines, Iowa.

No. 9—Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico; capital, \$10,000,000; mortgages of all kinds, \$340,000,000; Little Rock, Ark.

No. 10—Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Colorado; capital \$7,500,000; mortgages of all kinds, \$400,000,000; Topeka, Kans.

No. 11—Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Alaska; capital, \$6,000,000; mortgages of all kinds, \$200,000,000; Portland, Ore.

No. 12—California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii; capital, \$10,000,000; mortgages of all kinds, \$650,000,000; Los Angeles, Cal.

A discussion of the plans of the Home Loan Bank Board for carrying out these provisions was given by Mr. Fort, chairman of the Board, in a radio address on August 15. He stated that, although the Home Loan Act provides machinery for direct loans on homes, the policy of the Board will be to refer such applications back to lending institutions in the neighborhoods from which they come in the belief that existence of the new federal agency already had effected a change in the credit situation.

With the bank districts selected the next important work for the Home Loan Bank Board will be the selection of the regional directors. The Board must name (for each regional bank) a board of directors consisting of eleven members. These directors will serve until January, 1933, after which nine of their successors will be elected by the stockholders, while the other two will continue to be appointed by the national Board. The Board now has before it names of those who are recommended to serve as regional

directors and it is expected that their selection will be announced soon.—(*The Constructor.*)

The Federal Home Loan Bank Act provides that each of the twelve Banks authorized shall be managed by eleven directors, nine of whom must be persons connected with the home financing business. In view of the fact that this leaves the central Federal Home Loan Bank Board with authority to appoint the two remaining directors without reference to occupation, and in view of the general belief of the architectural profession that the architect's training and experience in regard to the design and construction of small homes should be at the command of these Banks, President Russell addressed a communication to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, stating in part, as follows:

" \* \* \* the small home has been studied a great deal by members of the Institute and the experience so gained qualifies them to give impersonal, technical advice that should be of value in judging the appraisals that are pre-

sent for consideration. The Institute is ready to submit names of the best qualified men in the various districts, and believes that the inclusion of such trained men on the boards would be of value to the communities, to the district boards, and to your body."

President Russell subsequently requested the Regional Directors of the Institute to submit to the Secretary names of architects in their Districts particularly qualified to serve on the local boards of the Federal Home Loan Banks. These names were included in a list which was submitted to Franklin W. Fort, Chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, with a further request that favorable consideration be given to the appointment of one or more architects on each of the local bank boards of the twelve districts.

Those in close touch with the problems of small house construction, and familiar with the unsound appraisals and injudicious financing of the past, hope that the Board will avail itself of the technical advice which has been offered.

## Influence of Zoning on Housing Development

By EMORY STANFORD HALL, F. A. I. A.

(A typical "public information" article, sponsored by the Chicago Chapter, and published in the Chicago Daily News)

PEOPLE are deterred or encouraged to build according as the project promises or does not promise returns on the investment. Returns on investment may be of many kinds but must be substantial and satisfactory in order to encourage investment. Returns on investment in a home cannot be measured by dollars. In case of forced sale it is rarely possible to realize, out of investment in a home, the amount invested. The purchase of a home is like the purchase of bodily clothing. It is made for personal satisfaction. The suit or the dress that is purchased for an individual drops at least 50% in value after it has been worn once. It has ceased to be merchandise and it has come to be personal. If the person likes it, it is worth more to him than when purchased but not to anybody else. This is so with houses. The house that has been occupied for even a short time drops in value. It is a second hand house and everybody, back in their reserve mind, wants some day to have a new house that is all their own and was built to meet their own peculiar notions. It may be an odd, but it is certainly an interesting fact that people's notions are not alike and that what suits one person does not suit another. Houses built on the wholesale, according to standard

plans, lack a certain amount of personality which would add to their appeal. When a standard house is purchased by an individual, he immediately, if funds will at all permit, begins remodeling and he keeps up this remodeling process until he gets what satisfies him. What satisfies one person does not satisfy another.

The housing problem is all mixed up in the personality of housing. It cannot be considered separately. Few people think about it in that light but houses in themselves have a distinctive personality. Why shouldn't they? A house is the working out of somebody's personal ideas. Houses are sensitive in the same way as persons are sensitive. They respond or react to social contacts in exactly the same way as persons. The same house planned with the same exact, personal care, loses its character and therefore its value when associated with houses not in harmony with its spirits. The building of a store in a block of carefully planned, exclusive residences drops the value of those residences from 50% to, in some cases, almost 100%. People just do not want to live in a residence which they own in a block where there is business even though that business be nothing but a store in the basement of a



residence in the block. They may like the convenience of going to a neighborhood store in somebody else's block instead of going downtown to purchase their groceries but they do not want that store in their block.

Fairness to owners of residences in residence districts makes it the duty of government to see that values are not reduced by the encroachment, into such districts, of buildings not in harmony with the atmosphere of the district. This sensitiveness, on the part of buildings, to environment is not confined to residence buildings. It is equally effective in the matter of retail stores, office buildings, manufacturing plants, warehouses, public buildings, etc. What really made the public in this country conscious of zoning necessity was the experience of Fifth Avenue merchants in New York City. There was a time when Fifth Avenue, New York, in a certain section, probably represented the most exclusive shops anywhere in the world. These shops brought perfectly enormous rent. There was no demand for office space above same and, on account of the large increase of land value, induced because of the high ground floor rental, owners of property on this street conceived the idea of building loft buildings, the lower floors of which should house retail stores with their essential accessories and the upper floors of which were to be used for the housing of exclusive textile manufacturing of various sorts. The scheme seemed fine but when the first few buildings were opened and the first lunch hours occurred, the stream of workers from the lofts above the stores poured into the street. The exclusive customers of the merchants on the ground floor began to leave Fifth Avenue. The merchants were in desperation. Charged with enormous rents, they could not proceed without customers and they could not keep customers with the streets flooded at closing time and lunch time with common textile workers so they went to Albany and demanded a zoning law. Because they had money and influence they got what they wanted without much difficulty. After they got their law a number of textile manufacturers started injunction proceedings to stop the enforcement of the law. Then these merchants got busy and made it very clear to these textile manufacturers, for whom they were customers, that if they did not abandon their suits they would make their textile purchases elsewhere. This method was effective and both manufacturers and retailers joined together in self defense to support the principle of the zoning law as a necessary method of self protection. This instance illustrates the tremendous importance to the community of properly prepared and uniformly enforced zoning laws.

There will always be real estate hogs who will

try to cut in where they have no business to be. An apartment house located in an exclusive residence district will rent for more money than the same apartments in an exclusive apartment district. Naturally the owner of a piece of vacant real estate in a residence district is beseeched to sell that property for apartment house purposes. Naturally such an owner is ready to go before a zoning board and plead a hardship on denying him the right to build an apartment house. Quite easily he can compile figures to show how much he is losing by not being allowed the privilege of building an apartment house on this property. Of course he is very careful not to show figures showing the large loss in value of his neighbors' property if he is permitted to build an apartment. A discussion of this kind is not complete which does not point out why an apartment house is worth more money, brings larger revenue in an exclusive residence district than it would in an exclusive apartment house district. The reason is this: dwellers in apartment houses like the environment of an exclusive residence district. They like the open lots, the low buildings, the gardens, the trees, flowers and all of the things that go with a self respecting residence district. They are lazy. They do not like the labor involved in making gardens, tending trees, looking after the furnace and all of the other details incident to the ownership and maintenance of a private residence. If they can be installed in an apartment building that is taller than the adjoining residences, they may have the benefit of the other man's work without paying for same and at the same time they may have the benefit of steam heat, janitor service, maid service, etc., incident to the exclusive apartment building. For this reason an apartment building in an exclusive residence district always fills up quickly. But let the residences be driven out of that district and the whole block be built up with apartment houses. Immediately the rents must drop or the vacancies will increase. No man should invest in a residence on a residence lot where he expects to make his home unless he is very positively assured by an adequate zoning law, rigidly enforced against the encroachment of types of building not congenial to a residence district. For at least the period of his lease, a man takes long chances when he rents a retail store in a district not well established for retail business. Property on State Street in Chicago has a very high ground value, higher in certain blocks than on La Salle Street, but offices above stores on State Street of superior finish, equipment and service, go begging or rent for less than poorer equipped offices on La Salle street. State Street is a retail business zone. La Salle Street is an exclusive office building district.

## Small House Architectural Competition

CONDUCTED BY BETTER HOMES IN AMERICA

Better Homes in America is announcing its third annual Small House Architectural Competition, which closes December 1, 1932.

The first and second of these Competitions were described and illustrated in the *Architectural Record* for April 1931 and April 1932.

Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior, is President of Better Homes in America, which maintains its central office in Washington. The purpose of the organization is to stimulate educational programs for home improvement and to encourage exhibits of improved housing, home improvement contests, and house demonstrations. In the spring of 1932, it had organized 9,772 local committees.

The purpose of the Architectural Competition is to call attention to the best examples of small house design and planning in houses recently erected in any part of the United States. It is hoped that by calling attention to excellence in small house design the general levels of consumer taste in architecture can be raised. This purpose can best be accomplished if all architects submit photographs and plans of small houses meeting the requirements of the competition which they have erected during the past five years.

The conditions of the Competition follow.

### *Conditions Governing Entries.*

The competition closes December 1, 1932.

The awards are to be made to practicing architects for the best design submitted for each of three types of houses—three medals in all:

- (a) One story house  
Storage space but no living accommodations may occur in roof space.
- (b) Story-and-a-half house  
Living accommodations partly in a second story which is actually a "half story."
- (c) Two story house.

### *Size of House.*

The awards are aimed to discover and call attention to the best small houses actually constructed during the given period, and thus to stimulate interest in overcoming the faulty design and construction of the really small house. To this end the actual cube of the house, above the level of the first floor, shall not be greater than 24,000 cubic feet except for two story houses for which a cubage of 26,000 cubic feet is permitted. Open porches estimated at  $\frac{1}{2}$  cube.

### *Documents to be Submitted.*

Floor plans, blueprints or otherwise, showing first floor, and second floor if it has living accommodations. Two elevations. One or two photographs of exterior, preferably two. Two photographs (but not more than two) of interior may be submitted if desired; but the award is to be based upon the design of the structure, not on its furnishings; therefore, interior photographs if submitted should be selected with this in mind.

### *Date of Construction.*

This award is intended as an annual award. Houses entered in the 1932 competition shall be those the construction of which was finally completed between the years 1927 and 1931 inclusive. Designs of houses which have been submitted in any given year cannot be resubmitted to the committee in later years.

### *Shipment of Exhibits.*

Exhibits shall be shipped addressed to Better Homes in America, c/o the American Institute of Architects, 1741 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., so as to be received not later than December 1, 1932. They will be handled as carefully as possible but must be sent at the risk of the sender. If any value is placed upon them by the sender he should take such steps as he sees fit to insure against their loss.

Better Homes in America shall have the right to publish illustrations of designs awarded medals, and such other designs submitted as may be deemed desirable.

Exhibits will be returned to exhibitors at the expense of Better Homes in America.

### *The Jury.*

The awards will be made by a jury of five architects appointed by the President of The American Institute of Architects. All awards will be made and announced about January 1, 1933, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

The jury is not required to make any or all of the awards should there be no houses submitted which in its opinion deserve a medal. In addition to the medals, however, the committee may also grant honorable mention to designs which are deemed worthy.

In awarding honorable mention the jury will give special consideration to the suitability of the designs to the climatic conditions and local traditions of the geographical regions in which they were built.

Prize winning designs will be published, and designs winning honorable mention will also be published at the discretion of Better Homes in America. Any publication of the designs which are awarded

medals or honorable mention will be copyrighted and due prominence will be given to the name and address of the designer, with the statement that the design is his private property.

## Why Not We Too?

By ALEXANDER C. GUTH, A. I. A.

RECENTLY in the city which the writer is proud to call his "home town" there was held an assembly of doctors. They came from far and wide, the gathering in fact was nationwide in scope. And they came to learn. It was strictly an educational institution devised to bring the newest knowledge in medicine and surgery to the profession in concentrated form. Except for social activities for the wives of the attending physicians, all forms of recreation were omitted from the program until Friday night, the last day of the gathering. Twelve hours of daily grind faced the doctors in their efforts to gain information that they might put into use to improve themselves.

Clinics were held in the mornings and in the afternoons. Those who conducted them were the leaders in their respective fields of study and research. Moving pictures played an important part in the work of the week.

All in all, it was a worthwhile week of discussions, clinics and the like. Every phase of medicine and surgery met by the practitioner in his daily work was touched upon by experts. And what impressed the average onlooker was that the physicians in attendance seemed to be having a good time and were enjoying themselves to the utmost.

This meeting was not only for the young interne or the doctor who had just established himself in practice, but it was for the matured practitioner as well.

Now the point to all this is simply—Why don't we architects have a clinic extending over a week, or as long as our conventions usually last?

Why doesn't the Institute during the convention period come down to earth for a change?

Yes, we spent days listening to the reading of masterful reports which are then filed away and almost immediately forgotten. Dutifully we attend all the meetings which are always conducted with dignity and decorum—possibly too much so. We listen to lucid and comforting reports concerning the health of our treasury, and then perhaps we yawn and decide to take a little stroll out into the foyer and see what is new in architectural publications.

In the past we have had a healthy and vigorous symposium on feudalism and the proper etiquette of the modernists. We have spent much time and thought and the better part of a week discussing

the safeguarding of the beauty of Washington and its environs. And then there was that week on collaboration which netted nobody anything—not even bruises. So now let us try the clinic way. Think of the real good, the real worthwhile sessions we could and would have. A thousand subjects immediately loom up as ones we might well discuss. Those who might wish to do so could continue this modern and conservatism blah. There could be selected endless purely architectural and ethical subjects which would be of real benefit to the architectural practitioner in his every day work. In our membership we have experts in most every single phase of the work of an architect who could well head up these clinics. And so just as the matured doctor gleams much from the clinic as elaborated upon in the opening paragraph of this article so would the matured architect gain a great deal of knowledge from an architectural clinic.

And after all was said and done there would still be time for those friendly wrangles about the Octagon House and its gardens. We could still discuss the governmental style of architecture or the seamy side of real architecture. There would be time out for the conferring of fellowships, for the adoption of major and minor resolutions. And no concern need be felt for the traditional Friday night banquet because this could continue to be on the program.

So finally—on with the Small House Service Bureau discussions, and with the unification idea, but do not make these the only objectives for meeting. The Institute Conventions can and should be made more interesting, educational and worthwhile for the delegates from the "sticks" as well as those from the metropolitan areas.

And so it is well to bear in mind that "despite the terror of tomorrow, life still pours forth certain conventional pleasures which age cannot wither" but which custom can and must change.

Editors Note: Mr. Guth's article on the Institute's annual Convention should not only be of interest to those who have recently attended Institute Conventions, but it should suggest ideas to others which if passed on to the Secretary might enable those in charge of Convention arrangements to plan Conventions of greater value and interest. The President of the Institute therefore requests that interested members forward to the Secretary suggestions which they believe would increase the value of the Conventions and of the Institute in general.

## The Delano and Aldrich Scholarship

By CHARLES BUTLER, F. A. I. A.  
Chairman, Committee on Education

*Editor's Note: The third holder of The Delano and Aldrich Traveling Scholarship for French Architects, M. Jean Francois Meunier, arrived in New York September 25.*

**J**EAN FRANCOIS MEUNIER, pupil of Messrs. Deglane, Nicod and Mathon, son and brother of architects, entered the Beaux Arts in 1921.

M. Meunier, winner of the Stillman Prize founded by the late James Stillman, and the Chena-ward Prize on a program of city planning, has also received first medal in construction and second medals in design.

He has also received an Honorable Mention in the competition for the Prix de Reconnaissance des Architectes Americains, founded by former American students at the Beaux Arts in appreciation of the free education given them by France at the Beaux Arts.

He has twice been chosen among the ten final competitors for the Prix de Rome, and expects to compete again next spring.

He has taken part in numerous competitions both on his own account and for other architects, and has had a part in studying plans for execution of many interesting projects, notably the plan of the City

of Beyrouth, the Credit Foncier of Brazil, the Galleries Lafayette in Paris, the Casino at Forges les Eaux, various factories, hospitals, etc.—in all a very broad training for the practice of architecture.

M. Meunier was selected by the French Committee, representing in Paris the Committee on Education of The American Institute of Architects. This Committee is headed by M. Andre Arfidson, known in America as the architect of the National City Bank building on the Champs Elysees, and includes in its membership Gustave Jaulmes, author of the tapestry executed for the City of Philadelphia portraying the departure of American troops for the World War. The other members are Messrs. Lefevre, architect of the Louvre, Pelechot, architect for many business buildings, and Gromort, professor of architecture in the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

The Scholarship of which M. Meunier is the third winner was founded by Messrs. Delano and Aldrich, to enable a young French architect to visit the United States and study our architectural and building methods.

## Motion Picture of Charleston

By THOMAS R. WARING\*

**A**N attempt to capture the personality of the city of Charleston in sight and sound on a single reel of motion picture film, with particular emphasis on its distinctively early American architecture, has just been completed by the Cinelog corporation, producers of short pictures for general and educational exhibition. The picture's title, chosen by a resident in a prize contest, will be "An Old City Speaks," and the aims of the producers are set forth in their explanation of why they chose that title.

"First," they said, "in view of the fact that we are recording the voice of Charleston in its characteristic sounds and street noises, it is appropriate that such a title be used, for, after all, we are attempting to catch the personality of this community.

"Second, since we are telling of the importance of Charleston historically, and considering the very great part the battle of Fort Moultrie and the siege of Fort Sumter played in the life of this country, Charleston can claim a place in the front rank among the cities that created the

United States; and no other agent is better fitted to tell her story.

"It is altogether fitting and appropriate that this claim should be voiced by the city itself through the medium of this picture in the year that we are all celebrating the Washington Bicentennial."

Prompted by the recent declaration of the President of The American Institute of Architects, that Charleston is a focal point in the United States for the preservation of vanishing Eighteenth Century American landmarks, the producers of the Charleston film determined to take a short picture of the city which would embody the story of its 250 years, its present aspect with memories of the past and the city's own personality from a blending of these factors. Street vendors, negro musicians and church chimes furnished some of the sounds. The voice of Samuel G. Stoney, writer and lecturer, will be superimposed on the film to tell the story of the city's history.

\*Editor of the Charleston *Evening Post* and Chairman of the local Committee for Safeguarding Historic Charleston.

## The Structural Service Department

F. LEO SMITH, TECHNICAL SECRETARY

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

### National Ventilating Standard Proposed.

The Executive Committee of the Institute, at its February 1932 meeting, adopted a resolution citing objections to prevailing standards of practice in the ventilation of buildings, recommended the revision or repeal of present codes and regulations, and advocated a national movement for the establishment of a ventilating code of fundamental minimum standards. This resolution appeared in the March issue of THE OCTAGON.

The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers has recently proposed to the American Standards Association the immediate organization of a representative joint technical committee for the development of an American Standard Ventilation code. The Society has submitted a report of its Committee on Ventilation Standards as a basis for the work of the proposed sectional committee. This action of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers is a step toward accomplishing the purpose of the resolution of the Executive Committee of the Institute.

The request of the Society to the American Standards Association reads, in part, as follows:

"Because of the fundamental importance of ventilation to comfort and health, a uniform national code, based upon sound engineering and physiological principles, will be an invaluable instrument for the medical profession, insurance companies, public health authorities, and governmental agencies in the promotion of health measures. It will be equally important to industry and to the general public. \* \* \*

"It should be distinctly understood that the Society does not intend to concern itself with the promoting or passage of ventilation laws in the different states but it proposes these Standards of Ventilation for the use of individuals or others interested in promoting laws, building codes or health regulations with some assurance that they have scientific support.

"The value of having a uniform standard is fully recognized by the Society and that there is widespread interest in this subject is evident. In bringing these Standards before you it is our hope that you will be able to enlist the cooperation and support of other engineering bodies, industrialists, governmental agencies, and the medical profession and others vitally concerned with human health and comfort.

"It will be our pleasure to cooperate with any of the groups that you may designate in the development of and perfection of ventilation standards under ASA procedure."

The American Standards Association expects to proceed immediately with the organization of a joint technical committee and has requested the Institute to make suggestions regarding the actual launching of this important and extensive undertaking.

### Measurement of Rentable Areas.

Those who lease space in a building have little assurance that the actual usable area in which they are primarily interested, agrees with the areas noted on the renting plans. Floor space is ordinarily computed on a square foot basis, measurements being determined from the architect's drawings. This places upon the architect an ethical obligation to the owner to make his plans as accurate as possible to afford the owner an opportunity to anticipate income. Dimensions or noted areas should truly represent the conditions which will exist on completion of a building and should avoid misleading the owner, agent or lessee as to the details of construction, common circulating spaces, stairs, elevators, columns, pilasters, furred spaces and other encroachments on the areas available for the individual use of the occupant.

The whole business of office building management rests on the leasing of rentable area, according to an article entitled "A Plan for the Measurement of Rentable Area in Office Buildings," by Norbert Brown of the F. W. Dodge Corporation, which appeared in the Real Estate Record and Builders Guide, February 6, 1932. What constitutes rentable area, then, becomes of fundamental importance, for without a definition of the alpha of this great and growing business, progress in the scientific approach to the solution of building management problems is impossible. Renting agents and office building managers may agree on a method of measuring rentable area, but they do not subscribe to the standard definition of what constitutes space for which a tenant pays.

The practice of leasing space on a square foot basis is firmly established. While this method is based on a false conception of what constitutes the value of space, its elimination would entail considerable effort on the part of renting agents to educate the public in general and the tenants in particular as to the elements which constitute the value of rentable area.

Standard methods adopted by the building management and real estate groups are not generally acceptable, partly due to the fact that the renting agent receives plans with the architect's or owner's notations on the square foot areas as determined before the completion of the building, which figures are not entirely in agreement with the actual usable areas available after completion.

This situation leads to misunderstandings and disagreements which sometimes result in lawsuits, and may have a decided effect on the economic soundness of the building as an investment.

The need for an Institute document on this subject is apparent. The adoption and general use of a nationally accepted standard method of measurement of floor areas as a basis for lease would eliminate conflicting elements in present methods.

The Structural Service Department of the Institute has obtained copies of the recommendations of the National Association of Building Owners and Managers and of the Management Division of the Real Estate Board of New York, in addition to other data on this important subject. The problem was brought to the attention of the Board of Directors at the February 1932 meeting and the Structural Service Department was directed to prepare a complete report together with a preliminary draft of a document on Floor Area Measurement for further consideration of the Board.

The Structural Service Department will appreciate receiving comments and suggestions as to what should be included in the proposed document.

#### Commercial Standards.

The architectural profession realizes the need for a wider application and use of specifications developed and approved by nationally recognized, disinterested authorities. Nevertheless, there has been a feeling that standardization, carried to an extreme, fetters individual expression and hampers the architect in his work. Compulsory standards established by statute have little in common with voluntary standards which are set up by common consent or as a result of the natural process of evolution. Voluntary standardization has enabled the building industry to progress rapidly and has made possible the economical use of many materials and methods the cost of which would otherwise be prohibitive.

The Division of Trade Standards of the National Bureau of Standards was created in 1927 for the purpose of assisting industrial and commercial groups in the voluntary establishment of standards covering grades, quantities, dimensional interchangeability or other acceptance criteria as a basis for marketing manufactured commodities. Producers, distributors, and users representing the composite views of all branches of industry are given an opportunity to select or determine the desired standards without dictation or domination by the government. Provision is made for periodical revisions of the standards adopted through standing committees which consider the necessity for revision from time to time in order that the adopted standards

may be kept constantly compatible with progress in the industry.

The American Institute of Architects is represented on eight of these standing committees and is cooperating with the Division of Trade Standards on seven additional projects.

The interest of the architectural profession in this activity is evidenced by a recent circularization of the members of the Institute by the Division of Trade Standards in cooperation with the Structural Service Department. Requests were received for a total of 5,997 copies of individual commercial standards on nineteen different subjects. As a result of this circularization the Division has also received 1,722 acceptances of nineteen different standards from 169 organizations and individuals. Sheet form copies of commercial standards covering materials and devices specified by architects will be supplied, without charge, to Institute members on request to Division of Trade Standards, Bureau of Standards, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

#### Architectural Graphic Standards.

Architects and draftsmen are confronted with the problem of devoting considerable time to the gathering of information necessary for the production of architectural drawings. As the details of modern buildings are too complex to be memorized, reference must ordinarily be made to widely scattered data relating to an almost unlimited variety of materials, devices and equipment. Drawings must conform with current practice and established standards in order adequately to serve their intended purpose. Diligent research is often necessary to locate important facts which are frequently deeply buried in the body of technical literature.

A recent book entitled "Architectural Graphic Standards" by Charles George Ramsey, A. I. A. and Harold Reeve Sleeper, A. I. A., is a graphic and diagrammatic assembly of data, standards and information for the use of those concerned with architecture, building and their applied fields. It presents in concise form essential facts required by the architect or draftsman in the preparation of accurate and comprehensive drawings. It is adequately indexed and cross indexed so that desired information may be readily located. Where definite standards exist an effort has been made to present material conforming with such standards; otherwise generally accepted methods or customary practice is indicated. No effort has been made to cover features of design in a decorative sense as the primary purpose is to provide essential skeleton data which may be useful for further development or improvement as desired. This book is published by John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York City and is listed at \$6 per copy.

## Items of Interest

### Work of the National Committee for Trade Recovery.

The trade recovery movement sponsored by the Construction League of the United States, through the agency of the National Committee for Trade Recovery, is undoubtedly one of the most important and far-reaching movements ever undertaken during peace time in our country.

The original purpose of the National Committee was two-fold. Its first task was to secure support and action of Congress to provide for Federal credit in the financing of state and local public works. This objective has been accomplished with considerable measure of success. The Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932, formerly known as the Wagner Bill, is now the law of the land.

The National Committee for Trade Recovery, therefore, is now confronted with its second task, which is to carry on an educational campaign to convince public officials and our citizenry in general that trade recovery can be stimulated through the utilization of the money now available under the provisions of that Act for self-liquidating public works, low cost housing and slum clearance projects.

The National Committee has developed organizations in each of the 48 states to carry on this work. Twenty-five committees are actively engaged, and reports are being received daily of constructive activities in the balance of the states.

The immediate problem is to list self-liquidating public works in each state, and urge or demand that public officials file promptly their applications to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation at Washington for loans on sound public works projects. The Executive Committee of the National Committee for Trade Recovery has already established contact with the newly appointed Engineers' Advisory Board of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The American Institute of Architects is cooperating by encouraging the passage of Housing Laws in the various states.

The public works program envisioned by the National Committee for Trade Recovery is the biggest peace-time engineering job this nation has ever tackled, and its benefits will undoubtedly be reflected in a substantial construction program throughout the nation, with a corresponding stimulation of business in all lines of industry.

The National Committee invites the cooperation of the architectural and engineering professions and the entire construction industry, as well as the general public, to assist in forwarding its program to stimulate trade recovery.

Complete literature and current information is available at the headquarters of the National

Committee for Trade Recovery, 330 W. 42nd St., N. Y. C. ("*Construction*"—*Official Bulletin of the Construction League of the United States.*)

### Construction Congress.

*Detroit, Michigan, January 16-20, 1933.*

The first congress of all major elements in the construction industry of the United States is to meet in Detroit during the week of January 16, 1933. This is the decision of several national organizations representing the more important activities in both engineering and building construction. These various associations expect to hold their respective national conventions during the week and to join later with other associations in similar fields of activity in two or more sectional meetings, after which it is planned to hold one gigantic united meeting of all groups connected with the construction industry. It is anticipated that between thirty and forty thousand persons will visit the exhibitions.

The holding of this congress, which is to be known as the *Highway and Building Congress*, was the recommendation of the Construction League of the United States. All of the League's component organizations have been asked to hold their annual meetings during the same week in Detroit and to date favorable action has been taken by several bodies, affiliated with the league while several associations not as yet affiliated have signified their intention of meeting in Detroit and of participating in the joint sessions of the congress.

At present those organizations which have voted to hold conventions in Detroit during the week of January 16 are: American Road Builders' Association, Associated General Contractors of America, Asphalt Institute, National Crushed Stone Association, National Paving Brick Association, National Sand and Gravel Association, Portland Cement Association, Wire Reinforcement Institute and the Assembly of the Construction League of the United States.

Both the American Institute of Architects and the American Society of Civil Engineers have signified their approval of the idea of holding a congress and of meeting during the same week but have made convention arrangements so far in advance that it will not be possible to meet in Detroit.

During the same week the annual road show will be held in Detroit and the equipment exhibitions held concurrently with the conventions of the National Crushed Stone Association and of the National Sand and Gravel Association will be held. ("*Construction*"—*Official Bulletin of the Construction League of the United States.*)

**Education Necessary.**

Building interests and the general public must be educated to understand that the architect is not only a designer of new structures, but a man who diagnoses the ills of those already standing. It is obvious that many buildings are structurally impractical and their owners do not always know that changes scientifically planned might increase their revenue as well as their attractiveness. The difference between antiquated non-productive buildings and those which are up-to-date and attractive to the renter may hang by such insignificant threads as an entrance, a stairway, or a row of windows. But such changes are not always apparent. Even if they are, they should be made under the expert guidance of the architect.

Good advice to the layman is: Do not underestimate the value to be derived from architectural services, no matter how small the job. The function of the architect is to give the owner the best and safest; in doing so he invariably gives him the most economical that his tastes allow. (*New Orleans Daily Journal of Commerce.*)

**Architects and Contractors—Joint Meeting.**

The depression has focused the attention of contractors and architects throughout the whole country on the flaws of the old system of general contract bidding. Any system which \* \* \* breeds peddling, buying, shopping, unfair manipulation, and "price" construction \* \* \* is sooner or later doomed to go. \* \* \*

The Michigan Society Building Crafts has devoted its attention for several months to the problem. It has made an exhaustive study of bidding procedure and has brought forth a system, or rather clarified and given light to a system that has been successful through very limited use in recent years. The system sponsored by them has been made known to representatives of the General Builders' Association at a meeting of committees of the two organizations and similarly to a committee of architects representing the Michigan Society of Architects and the Detroit Chapter.

This system limits the general bid to that work performed by the contractors, but includes the handling charge for acting as general contractor.

In this system, the architect will select all bidders.

The architect will divide the specifications into the several headings for the principal trades, and the bidding will be upon the headings as arranged.

Any bidder may bid on one or more headings of the specifications separately and combined, provided the work in each trade is substantially performed by himself.

The architect will list the names of contractors selected to submit general contracting bids, as

well as the contractors bidding on the trades.

The contractors selected for bidding the general contract will submit bids to cover the work intended to be done by them, plus their charge for handling the remaining trades, or those which have been designated by the architect to be included.

All bids will be filed with the architect at the time designated by him.

The architect will select the successful contractor for each trade or combination of trades, including the contractor who is to act as general contractor. (*Weekly Bulletin—Michigan Society of Architects.*)

**Joint Meetings—Architects and Engineers.**

Branson V. Gamber, President of the Detroit Chapter, has been named Chairman of a Committee to consolidate the interests of technical societies in Detroit. Detroit Engineering Society has sponsored the movement which contemplates a series of joint meetings during 1932-33. The plan provides for two joint meetings each month from October to May. The architects are scheduled to meet with engineers on December 16. (*Weekly Bulletin—Michigan Society of Architects.*)

**Building Code—Honolulu.**

The entire time of the meeting of the Engineering Association of Hawaii, June 17, was taken up in the discussion of a matter referred to it by the Hawaii Chapter of The American Institute of Architects.

An amendment to the Building Code, passed by the Honolulu Board of Supervisors, very materially reduced the area restrictions for third class buildings. The letter from the architects pointed out that this action had been taken without consulting either the City Planning Commission or the Joint Committee of the Hawaii Chapter of The American Institute of Architects and the Engineering Association.

The Architects' letter, it was said, might well have gone further and stated that this Joint Committee has for two years done faithful and conscientious work in studying all proposed amendments to the Code, and that the Committee had finished its work on ten or more such changes which have been before the proper municipal authorities for several months without action. The Architects had pointed out that "this is a very drastic lifting of the restrictions throughout the entire city of Honolulu," and suggested that protest be made to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

A Committee was designated to interview the Mayor. This Committee met on July 20 at the City Hall, with Mayor Wright and three members of the Board. Assurances were given that the matter would be referred to the City Planning Commission and to the Joint Committee for technical study and



report. (*Weekly Bulletin of the Engineering Association of Hawaii.*)

**John Galen Howard Memorial Fellowship.**

Donald Powers Smith has received the first award of the John Galen Howard Memorial Fellowship. A fund sustaining this Fellowship was begun several years ago by the Alumni and friends of the School of Architecture of the University of California. After the death of Professor Howard in 1931 the Fellowship was given his name as part of a Memorial to one who had been largely responsible for the origin and development of this School.

Mr. Smith, born in Modesto, California, in 1908, was graduated in 1931 from the University of California with "highest honors," and was also awarded the School Medal of The American Institute of Architects for general excellence in architecture. He received the degree of Master of Arts in Architecture in June, 1932.

Mr. Smith is availing himself of the opportunity which the award of this Fellowship affords by spending several months in Europe.

Director Warren C. Perry of the School of Architecture of the University of California, states that "When one stops to think what this visit to the Old World will mean to a man of such talents and perception, who has never been away from his near environment, it is hard indeed to imagine a better use for the money."

**War Department Authorized to Engage Professional Service.**

In the Act (H. R. 11897—Public 286), approved July 14, 1932, making appropriations for the War Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1933, there is included an item of \$2,250,000 for the construction of buildings, utilities, etc., at military posts. This Act authorizes the War Department to engage " \* \* \* by contract or otherwise, without regard to Section 3709, Revised Statutes (U. S. C., Title 41, Sec. 5), and at such rates of compensation as the Secretary of War may determine, \* \* \* the services of architects, or firms, or corporations thereof, and other technical and professional personnel as may be necessary. \* \* \*"

**This Heritage.**

"No modern architectural development is more complex and less understood than that which has taken place in Germany since the Treaty of Versailles. Everyone knows in detail the story of design in America. The third quarter of last

century saw a fine Georgian tradition being discarded as inadequate to clothe the growing monster of commerce, and bad imitations of the worst Victorian used instead. \* \* \* Then, when all New York was beginning to realize that lofty buildings in the classic manner were no box-office success, Eliel Saarinen gave dozens of floundering designers a push which has been their motive power ever since: and now the Americans are methodically 'lifting' modern architecture in all its many varieties in exactly the same way as they did the Monuments twenty-five years ago.

\* \* \* \* \*

"But modern German architecture has had few pains expended upon its explanation. It has been illustrated often enough: but without some knowledge of the background upon which it is built the effect seems to have been to produce the most profound confusion. \* \* \* Actually, the rigid discipline of orthodox Greek constituted more of a revolution in the continuity of the art history of the Germans than has all the post war work. For the people are still Goths, and Gothic is still in the very marrow of their bones. A painstaking efficiency complex has grown till every citizen is stamped with it: but the spirit of Mediaevalism will never leave them. For they have bred within them no mere arts and crafts movement, but the will to sport with the shapes of things till they have reached a solution which is eminently their own.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Bold experimenting with new shapes and a fierce straining of technical resources have been the two outstanding features of post war German architecture outside the small house class, together with a return to romantic rather than classical massing. The Germans have subconsciously realized that their own heritage and their own instincts are more fitting expressions of their national outlook than the borrowed idioms of Greece and Rome. \* \* \* (Thomas Mitchell, A. R. I. B. A., in the "Quarterly of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland.")

**In Memory of Sir Christopher Wren**

The tercentenary of the birth of Sir Christopher Wren takes place in October this year, and special arrangements are being made to honour his memory appropriately. On 20 October, the day of Wren's birth, a special service \* \* \* will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral. (*Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects.*)

## With the Chapters

EXTRACTS FROM CHAPTER MINUTES AND REPORTS

### Chicago Chapter—September Meeting.

At the September meeting of the Chicago Chapter the subject of Specifications was the topic of the evening. Mr. William D. Foy, former Specification Writer for Holabird & Root and predecessors, spoke on *Specifications—The Contractor's Viewpoint*. Mr. Walter Crapo, Specification Writer for Graham, Anderson, Probst & White, spoke on *Specifications—The Architect's Viewpoint*.

At a short business session preceding this meeting, Eugene H. Klaber of the Chicago Chapter, gave a resume of the progress of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation with reference to housing loans, briefly touching on the subject of the Federal Home Loan Banks.

At this meeting, to which nineteen of the local organizations connected with the construction industry had been invited, N. Max Dunning, a former Vice-President of the Institute, and present Chairman of the Structural Service Committee, presided.

### Detroit Chapter—September Meeting (Fourth Joint meeting with the Michigan Society of Architects).

The assistance of the Architects in creating public approval of the appointment of a commission to study the problem of the development of a seaport at Detroit, was solicited by Mr. Perry A. Fellows, Director of the Detroit City Airport, Member of the Mayor's Port Committee and former City Engineer.

Mr. Fellows told of the progress toward the development of seaport at Detroit from its first inception about twelve years ago to date. He pointed out the effect of the Panama Canal on freight rates and on sea coast ports. By means of comparative distances he cited the relative nearness of Detroit to foreign ports as compared to routes by rail to New York and thence by boat.

The sense of the Joint Meeting was in favor of a port development and the secretaries of the two organizations were instructed to assist in this matter along the lines suggested by Mr. Fellows.

### Kentucky Chapter—August Meeting.

President Grimes announced that the principal subject for discussion at this meeting was plans for promoting chapter publicity; one plan dealing with the suggestion of having on display at the Architects & Builders Exhibit, preliminary sketches, perspectives, working plans, specifications, and actual photographs of residence built by the chapter members, each member to have the privilege of display for a certain allotted time. The display as a whole to be continuous,

giving each architect equal opportunity to present his work.

He then told of the action of the Executive Committee (of the Chapter) with reference to the proposal that the Chapter sponsor a series of six lectures dealing with the value of an architect's services in the construction of a home; the plan being to have these lectures prepared in advance by the publicity committee, each lecture being given by a different chapter member.

### Philadelphia Chapter—August Meeting.

Walter H. Thomas pointed out a series of interesting facts in connection with the Model of the City of Philadelphia, which was on view, stressing the fact that a large area of South Philadelphia had still to be developed and that many of the improved traffic mains through the city had no connection at their extremities with highways in the adjacent counties.

The meeting adjourned to the Harbor Tender "John Wanamaker" on which the members present and their guests were taken on an interesting inspection trip down the Delaware River as far as Hog Island and up the Schuylkill above Passyunk Avenue Bridge. Mr. Schlichter, representing the Department of Wharves, Docks and Ferries, acted as host and called attention to the many points of interest.

### West Texas Chapter—August Meeting.

A letter from The Octagon was read quoting a resolution offered by the Columbus Chapter during the 65th Convention in April. The resolution was not adopted at the Convention but it had been referred to the various chapters by the Board of Directors to be given such attention as their local conditions warrant. The West Texas Chapter endorsed the resolution and the Secretary was instructed to send copies of same bearing chapter endorsement to all Mortgage and Building & Loan companies in San Antonio.

John Marriott discussed a recent conversation with Hon. Richard Kleberg, Representative of the 14th Congressional District, in reference to private architects being appointed on the various government construction contracts in the vicinity of San Antonio. It was decided that Mr. Kleberg be invited to a dinner or luncheon as a guest of the chapter at a time convenient to him, to meet and discuss matters of interest to the local Architects with reference to construction work for the Treasury and War Departments.

### Producers' Council Clubs

Producers' Council Clubs, from New England to California, are resuming activities and developing their Fall programs. It is therefore timely to refresh our minds as to the purpose of these Clubs and to point out some of the pertinent facts which every Club and Council member should keep actively in mind.

The basic purpose of the Council Club is to promote locally the objects of The Producers' Council, which are broadly described as follows: To promote better mutual understanding between architects, engineers, contractors and producers of building materials, whereby the services rendered by each in relation to the others and to the public may be more effective; to promote in various ways the legitimate interests of producers and uphold standards in building which will encourage the production of dependable materials, good construction, meritorious architecture and sound trade practices.

These objectives obviously cannot be attained without establishing and maintaining cooperative relations with local organizations of the building industry, especially the local chapters of The American Institute of Architects with which the Council is so closely affiliated. The successful development of these relations is dependent upon the constructive character of the Club program and how effectively it is carried out.

To accomplish the purpose of the Clubs experience shows that Club programs must provide for at least four essentials:

(a) Better acquaintance and full cooperation among Club members.

(b) Better acquaintance and cooperative relations with the local architects and local building interests.

(c) Consideration of problems the solution of which will improve conditions in the industry and promote mutual welfare.

(d) Educational features of mutual interest and constructive value.

The success of any Club depends upon the quality of its leadership and the interested support of its full quota of eligible membership. To that end all official Council representatives should see to it that their organizations are competently represented wherever they have eligible local men.

The Clubs are the firing line of the Council. Their success is of vital interest and importance to the Council and its members. We look with confidence to Club officers for active leadership, to Club members for interested participation in Club activities, and to official Council representatives for their support to the end that every Council Club may fulfill its purpose and provide the maximum benefits to all concerned. (*"News Bulletin" of The Producers' Council.*)

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### Members Elected June 16, 1932, to September 15, 1932

<i>Hawaii Chapter</i> - - - - -	GUY N. ROTHWELL
<i>New Jersey Chapter</i> - - - - -	HORACE S. LUCKMAN
<i>Oklahoma Chapter</i> - - - - -	JOSEPHUS OVERTON PARR
<i>St. Louis Chapter</i> - - - - -	PATRICK M. O'MEARA

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