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Notice Concerning the Convention

TO THE MEMBERS:

IN this year of 1933 the architectural profession is confronted with an economic crisis which, with respect to the personal fortunes of architects, has many similarities to the war crisis of sixteen years ago.

In 1917 when our country was engaged in the world war, and it was unpatriotic to build anything but cantonments, the practicing architect found himself without practice and without income.

The Convention of that year was omitted, as a result of the decision to hold conventions in the spring instead of in December. Also, the omission effected substantial savings for Chapters and Members, at a critical time in the history of the Institute.

Rather than adhere blindly to the customary program of an annual convention, the Board of Directors has voted unanimously to omit the Sixty-Sixth Convention, which had been scheduled for May 10, 11 and 12, 1933, in Washington, D. C.

In reaching this decision your Officers and Directors were governed by a number of reasons which are now transmitted to the Chapters and the Membership in this notice.

First. In common with practically every business and professional organization, the Institute finds that it must operate in 1933 with a drastically reduced income. Its budgets for 1931 and 1932 were adjusted to income and the same policy must be followed in 1933.

Second. By omitting the Convention a saving of Institute money usually required for Convention expenses will be effected, to the extent of approximately \$3,000, not including certain miscellaneous expenses that usually accrue.

Third. The assessment of Convention taxes on the Chapters will be avoided, and all of the Chapters relieved of a direct Convention expense. Although there is a refund later on, the Convention taxes bear heavily on many of the Chapters, and it was believed that they should be relieved of the burden. In addition, there will result very substantial savings to individual members of the Institute who normally attend Conventions, and that saving, even under the abnormal conditions of the present year, will undoubtedly amount to a total of some \$15,000.

Fourth. By omitting the Convention, it is possible to take some of the money saved from the Con-

vention appropriation on the Institute budget and allocate it to two appropriations—one of \$1,500, to meet the expenses of Directors in visiting their Chapters; and another of \$1,000, to send the Officers to visit Chapters and Divisions where they can be of special value at this time.

It was the well considered opinion of the Board that more can be accomplished at this time for the solidarity of the Institute, and the maintenance of its Chapters at a high point of efficiency, by sending the Institute to the Chapters—by means of visits of Officers and Directors—than by bringing a few delegates to Washington during the month of May.

It is believed that this decision to omit the Convention will meet the general approval of the Members and the Chapters. It is a decision which has in it no element of discouragement. It is a decision which faces the facts, and symbolizes the intention of your Officers and Directors to serve the best interests of the architectural profession—particularly that part of it represented by the Members of the Institute—regardless of custom or "appearances."

Within a short time every Chapter President will hear from his Regional Director, or from one of the Officers, with regard to a special meeting or a regular meeting of the Chapter at which a Director or an Officer may meet with all the members of the Chapter—to their mutual advantage and encouragement.

Information concerning some changes in procedure or postponements which must be made because of the omission of the Convention—such as the election of Officers and Directors, the election of Fellows, and other of the larger items of business usually transacted at Conventions, will be reported to the membership in the pages of THE OCTAGON.

There are no legal difficulties involved and any necessary adjustments in the terms of Officers and Directors will be made with the advice of counsel.

The work of the standing and special committees of the Institute has been carried on vigorously since the last Convention, although appropriations have been nominal. This year the Committees will make their reports to the Board of Directors, as heretofore. The Board will act on the reports, and will transmit their findings to the members through THE OCTAGON, rather than at a Convention.

The Board will meet in the early spring, about six weeks sooner than usual, namely on March 15,

in Washington. It is planned to have a meeting of from four to seven days—long enough to devote full measure of time and thought to the affairs of the Institute, its Chapters, and its Members.

For seventy-six years The American Institute of Architects has cherished, worked for and fought for the ideals of the architectural profession.

Its history as a national professional organization is a record of steadfastness of purpose and definite accomplishment which every member should know, and of which he should be very proud.

The strength of the Institute has been always in the loyalty of its Members, and in their willingness to serve the cause to which they pledged themselves when they joined. Coupled with this idealistic attitude there has been an underlying quality of hard headed judgment and common sense, which has demonstrated again and again that the architect is both idealist and realist.

ERNEST JOHN RUSSELL,
President.

January 10, 1933.

Borrowed Editorials

FROM "THE BUSINESS WEEK"—AND OF INTEREST TO ARCHITECTS

Scrappy New Year. (*Written at the end of 1932*)

THIS is the soothsayer's season, you see, when miles of typewriter ribbon are wearily unwound and acres of virgin forest are wantonly laid waste to tell the waiting world what happened last year and what will happen next. So let us also say a little sooth amongst ourselves.

Some of the most celebrated seers have already seen, as in a glass, darkly, and spoken as with a lemon drop sourly about the rather punkish prospects for 1933, while Leonard Ayres, the Cleveland colonel, has courted economic courtmartial by bluntly suggesting that Old General Business will probably be as much on the blink next year as this.

Well, all honor to the oracles, who have had some mighty uncomfortable experiences in prophecy since 1928 and may be wrong again. As for us, we shall see no more reason for believing that business is bound to be bad next year than that it is going to be good, until we know what business men are going to think about it and how they are going to behave. We have said many times in these bad-mannered pages that it doesn't matter much any more whether or not Old General Business sulks in his tent because he is mad at the Congressional war college in Washington, jiggered by jittery news from Germany, bulldozed by bulletins from Britain, or downcast by communiqués from France. After all, he is just a straw-man dressed up in gold braid, and he is not going to win any battles anyway.

We still insist that this prolonged scrap to make America safe for prosperity will be won only by the doughboys of business who are willing to go out into the economic no-man's land of today and take the dugouts of depression one by one with their bare hands and their unabashed brains. What we need at this stage of the campaign for recovery is to induce in a few squads of our industrial devil-dogs some of that scrappy spirit that has always taken the American standard of living over the top in the past.

To us it is plain as a pikestaff that we have all the

ammunition, artillery, and equipment for prosperity in this country, from the Big Berthas of business management down to the doughnuts and coffee of colossal consumer demand.

Of course we let our politicians badly muddle our campaign plans, and have neglected our rear-line defenses on the farm, and unnecessarily alienated some of our ultimate allies abroad. It is only too true that American business cannot be prosperous in a world that is broke and with a rural population that is ruined by disastrously depressed prices. These errors of strategy are not irreparable, but it is folly for the doughboys of business in the front line trenches to try to remedy the mistakes of the field marshals of finance or the general staff of political stuffed shirts or to mark time in no-man's land till they are rectified. We can best compensate for them and for the delay in recovery they have caused by quickly and courageously coming to grips with the enemy that is in front of our nose (or sometimes in back of it) in that sector of the battlefield in which our own little barbed-wire entanglement of business lies—an enemy that is ambushed on every hand in the obsolescence of our equipment and methods, entrenched in the dugouts of dead ideas.

In the battles of business as in all other, victory depends not merely on the discipline of the mass, the patriotism of the group, and the loyalty and vision of the leaders, but also ultimately upon the energy, intelligence, and intrepid enterprise of the individual. In our opinion we have reached that stage of the struggle where recovery requires that each and every one of us has to spit on his hands, grit his teeth, and sail gaily into the tasks and the troubles of 1933 as though it were going to be a perfectly swell scrap—which it is.

Building Prospects.

Faith in a revival of the small home field has gained as construction volume has fallen. Evidence of this faith is seen in the current outpouring of new residential housing schemes. Support for it is found

in the interest displayed in the final report of the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership (*BW*—Jan. 4, '33).

From a total of \$2.8 billions of residential contracts in 37 states covered by F. W. Dodge in 1928, new housing construction fell to \$811 millions in 1931, and tobogganed to \$280 millions in 1932. This probably produced no more than 65,000 family units, a number about equivalent to those destroyed by fire. It falls far short of providing for the natural expansion of the population which is placed at 220,000 families in 1931 and 188,000 families in 1932. A continuance of the 1932 rate of residential building would soon result in a sizeable shortage of housing accommodations. Builders are alert to this situation but they have learned too much about the dependence of their industry on general business activity to say more than that residential building is their best prospect for 1933.

The small town offers the most fertile field for residential construction, for shortages there are more apparent than in large cities with their over-supply of apartment houses. Even in the summer of 1932, when doubling up of families was common, the National Association of Real Estate Boards reported a shortage of single-family houses in 15% of the towns covered with populations under 25,000. Mortgage liquidation is believed more complete in the smaller centers than in larger cities. Moreover, the Home Loan Bank system may hit its stride in the current year.

The outlook for apartment house construction is

not very bright. A surplus of such housing units existed in more than 50% of the cities surveyed having populations of over 200,000, which tends to dampen the ardor of the speculative builder. Large-scale housing projects undertaken for investment or for slum elimination under state supervision have some chance in 1933, though only a few states, such as New York and Ohio, have the necessary set-up to borrow from the R. F. C. But agitation continues in other states.

Modernization work offers a fruitful field for builders this year. Both the Rehabilitation Corp. (*BW*—Oct. 19, '32) and the Robertson National Committee on Industrial Rehabilitation are strongly backing the movement for remodeling apartment houses, hotels, offices, and industrial plants for more profitable operation. In 1932, some \$205 millions were expended.

Public Works.

Public works activity is undoubtedly still due for considerable paring, even though the first 11 months of 1932 raised a volume of only \$477.8 millions in 37 states. This is a 42.8% decline from the \$835.9 millions of the preceding year. Insistence on reduction of government expenditures can most easily be appeased by reduced appropriations for public construction. The largest cut in the House bill for the Department of Agriculture is one of \$120 millions for road construction. Relief work is likely to take a more direct form than the public construction provided in the past two years.

Building—Tomorrow

By WILLIAM ORR LUDLOW, F.A.I.A

WE shall see a great change in our buildings as soon as money begins to circulate again, and this change will be not only in style but in kind. Breaking away from the traditional forms of architecture will bring about the change in style, and the increase in leisure time will make a demand for the kind of building that leisure time will need.

The kind of building that will be required first will certainly not be the skyscraper or the factory: dwellings and institutional buildings, schools, hospitals, churches, and similar non-commercial buildings will probably lead the way.

There will be, however, a new factor in the situation that will mean great building along another line. The new factor is shorter hours of labor and longer hours of leisure. A five-day week is practically an accomplished fact, and perhaps the four day-week is just around the corner for we shall keep on inventing ingenious machinery to replace hand work.

Whether the outcome is 'five days' or 'four days' the average man and woman will have an unprecedented amount of leisure time that will be filled with recreation and amusement. Already the automobile has nearly revolutionized our manner of living, and it is going to be the means of making the greatest use of out-of-doors and the buildings that go with it. The time is not far away when the heart of our great cities will be abandoned as places for residence, amusement and shipping and will be given over to office buildings, centers for the distribution of freight and passengers, by rail, bus and air plane.

Amusements, shopping and residence are already beginning the process of decentralization, as one can readily see by the establishment in suburban towns of great branches of our finest department stores, of elaborate movie picture houses and legitimate theatres; by the popularity of out-of-town apartment houses, and even in these times when there is

apparently no money for building, people have found money for building private residences in suburbs and country.

City congestion reached its limit in 1929, and the many nostrums which simply seemed to make the disease worse are giving away to the obvious cure—taking the people away from the city and not into it. It is probable that skyscrapers will not be built for many a long day—perhaps never. We are going to turn our attention to parks, municipal and national, and the building of swimming pools, outdoor gymnasiums, and country hotels.

The additional leisure will also promote buildings of many sorts for indoor recreation and amusement. Theatres and movie houses will flourish, great gymnasias for football, baseball, tennis, skating and the like will be built to make outdoor sports possible indoors for winter and at night. Our colleges, schools, hospitals, and charitable institutions are even now at full capacity, and better times and more available money will bring about a great expansion of these and the new housing necessary to accommodate them.

Wiping out the 18th amendment, without the return of the saloon, but with more general leisure, may well bring about the European way of drinking, and we shall be building beer gardens, dance pavilions, and music halls; and of course, we shall do it

in the American way—on a great scale, with very big buildings.

We shall also build many straight highways for travel and traffic, and winding roads for scenic beauty for pleasure driving. Landscaping, planting, flowers, bridges, pavilions for rest recreation and refreshment, public playgrounds and golf courses, will of course accompany these in ever-increasing numbers.

What the effect of all this will be upon us as a people is another question, its answer depending in a great measure, perhaps, on whether we build along without recreational facilities, more schools, churches, libraries, and charitable institutions, and whether we rebuild our slums with decent habitations. But architects, engineers, city planners, landscape architects, builders, park boards, and public officials will do well to think a little in advance of the inevitable trend of affairs. They should prepare for great building activity, taking account of our rapidly changing conditions and probable mode of living, so that whatever is done shall not be done in the costly haphazard fashion of former days, but shall be planned with careful study and comprehensive scheming for the greatest economic use, and the most adequate future development.

Reconditioning—Remodeling—Modernizing

(A Letter from Joseph D. Leland, A.I.A., of the firm of J. D. Leland and Company, Boston to the President of the Institute, and Mr. Russell's reply).

December 2, 1932.

Dear Mr. Russell:—

In the program of the Committee of the President's Conference on Reconditioning, Remodeling, and Modernizing, of which I was a member, it so developed, due to the existing depression, that the Committee was able to stimulate home improvement committees, and to date these have been established in seventy-eight cities. The Secretary of Commerce has stated that "upwards of \$500,000,000 is being spent currently on household repairs and maintenance", which statement was included in the report of the Committee.

During the conferences of the Committee it was pointed out by members from different parts of the country that great difficulty was experienced in *interesting architects* in small reconditioning, remodeling, and modernizing jobs.

I have been impressed with the fact that very few people have an adequate and definite appreciation of the procedure regarding proper maintenance and upkeep of their property. It is a large field and ought

to keep all the architects in the country busy in good times and bad, regardless of new work.

It seems to me a great deal of educational work is necessary, and why shouldn't the Architects be the practical educators and advance a program to property owners, impressing upon them the personal and self-interest advantages attached to proper maintenance, remodeling, alterations, etc. I feel that there is a great opportunity for the architects throughout the country to cooperate, especially at this time, in reconditioning, remodeling, and modernizing. If the architects could be made to feel that no matter how small a job is—even if they are only called in for one hour of consultation and paid five dollars—if their advice is good and produces results, they would soon find that their client would return for further advice, and eventually the same client might employ the architect on new work of greater magnitude.

I remember a story that Mr. Brown of Minneapolis once told me of a farmer who lived some distance away and who came into his office in connection with some plans for a small house. He took

a lot of Mr. Brown's time, Brown was agreeable, and interested, and the farmer left his office satisfied. A few years later the same farmer became one of Brown's best clients because of his influence in the affairs of the State in which he lived, and as I remember the story, Brown said that his office received a commission for a large public building through the courtesy and interest which he had extended to this farmer.

It is my humble opinion that it is of great importance for the members of our profession to cooperate in their localities with the many emergency organizations or community groups which have been established in so many cities and towns to relieve unemployment, by stimulating reconditioning, remodeling, and modernizing. Would it not be quite worth while to give a portion of their time and advice where it is sought? The general public does not really know the services performed by the architectural profession, and a large majority think an architect is an aesthetic individual who draws pretty pictures which always cost twice as much to execute as he says they will.

I sent out a letter to a selected number of clients to try out this idea, and the result was several good alteration jobs.

My purpose in writing you this letter is to ask if you have any suggestions as to how the Chapters of the A. I. A. can be encouraged to interest their members in advising local committees organized to function with respect to: reconditioning, remodeling and modernizing, in order to increase the employment of architects during this period of depression. The point that I want most to bring out is that they should not expect to be employed on a commission basis, but if the Chapters, through their members, could make it known, they would be glad to advise gratis where necessary or at a fee similar to that of a doctor called in for consultation. In my opinion the individuals in the com-

munities would avail themselves of this service. Many real estate exchanges and banks are offering free advice.

It is a thought I have had for some time that Chapters encouraging this advisory service by its members would ultimately lead to their being retained as new work starts, under the usual practice of the profession. Further, it has been brought about by the fact that so many people have stated that they would be glad to consult an architect, but can not afford to pay him the minimum fee of 6% on the total cost of the work.

I would be very interested in having your reaction, and with kind regards,

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH D. LELAND.

December 6, 1932.

Dear Mr. Leland:—

The ideas expressed in your letter of the second instant appeal to me and particularly so because they coincide with my own.

May I send a copy of your letter to Baldwin, the Secretary of the Institute, with the suggestion that it might be used as an appeal to the members and particularly to Chapters, for their consideration? I think it might be the means of stimulating them into action, which would in time benefit the profession collectively and individually.

There is to be a meeting of representative architects in this office on Wednesday and your suggestion will be brought before the meeting for discussion. This will give us an idea of what might possibly be accomplished along your lines in this vicinity.

Cordially,

E. J. RUSSELL.

Jury of Fellows—1933 Meeting Omitted

The Jury of Fellows believes it wise to omit the meeting for 1933, which normally would be held in February.

The members of the Jury are of necessity widely separated from a common meeting place, and to make this year's contact possible considerable hardship would no doubt result in the already restricted activities of the Institute.

While suggestions have been made with the view of overcoming the temporary difficulty, it is unanimously agreed that unworthy precedent should not be admitted, nor procedure allowed that may be open to criticism.

To continue the advancements to Fellowship

on the plane of high endeavor of the past, a meeting for review of exhibits and ample discussion is of first importance.

The Jury will, however, function as if 1933 were omitted from the calendar, and when able to proceed all proposals for Fellowship will receive due credit for the time lost.

The necessity for this decision is deeply regretted, and is made in justice to the Fellowships already created and to the honor that may be conferred in the future.

PAUL A. DAVIS, 3RD,
Chairman, Jury of Fellows.

After the Depression, What of the Architect?

AN ADDRESS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

By GEORGE H. GRAY, *Director, New England Division*

AT this time it behooves every architect to take thought of his place in the world of affairs which is re-making; and it behooves the architects of the Institute to get together and pool their wisdom in planning for the future.

As my share of this discussion I have undertaken, first, briefly to comment on the changing economic background of our work, and secondly, to call your attention to some of the agencies already set up by The American Institute of Architects for the advancement of the profession as a whole and its own membership in particular.

The architect has such an important place in the general economic set up that we cannot launch into a consideration of the future without taking some thought of the possible general economic changes.

Out of the *past* comes the thought of a revival of the golden era of expansion which fell into a state of coma in November, 1929. Would such a revival mean a further extension, within the profession of architecture, of the theory of mass production in industry, with its combinations and centralizations. The Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, the architectural offices of the Veterans' Bureau, of the Army, and of the Navy, pointed that way. Pointing that way also were the huge offices growing up in the great metropolitan centers all over the country. Could the offices in the smaller cities hope to stand up against them except for very minor work and except by merging and consolidating into a fewer larger offices?

Out of the *future* comes a contrasting thought: A new era and new opportunities for those who are eager to take a hand in the reconstruction.

Many economists tell us that our recent era of mass-production has been tried and found wanting; that those countries which are less centralized, which have smaller units of industry, smaller farms operated by a greater number of farmers, and the stock ownership of whose industries and financial institutions are more widely distributed; that those countries have better weathered the depression. France is cited. In our own section of the country, New England, with its great diversification of industry and its small farms, is cited as least affected. On the other hand, in Detroit, where there is an extreme condition of specialization and centralization, the situation is now extremely bad. About one-third of the population of the old downtown section, in number about 140,000, moved to the suburbs and much land so deserted is reported as

threatened with abandonment for taxes; while in the suburban cities and towns to which this population moved, ten per cent of the lots plotted, many thousand in number, have already been abandoned for taxes. The communities cannot sell this land—for it came to them as unmarketable. How general is this condition, and will it sooner or later catch us in New England? Forewarned is forearmed. The Federal Home Loan Bank and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation were designed to stop this trend. According to Col. Leonard P. Ayres, generally recognized as high authority, the Federal Reserve members banks are, as a whole, rapidly accumulating capital to a point where they will be seeking borrowers, extending credit to business. Col. Ayres further points out that extension of credit to business will gradually stop further release of employees and make for reemployment. Large funds in the savings banks have seemed only to await small home owners who have an assurance of continued employment. If so, for the small house situation there seems to be hope somewhere on or near the horizon—provided further unemployment does not prove too great a drain on savings banks. As for public buildings, only after economies have effected a balanced budget can further expenditures be undertaken, unless such expenditures are self-liquidating or can show a net saving in operation. Promiscuous raising of funds by increasing the tax burden, with the object of creating employment, is a policy decried by most economists. Each project should stand on its own economic merits.

All this is adverse to the larger offices and favorable to the smaller offices—unless it should happen, as is predicted in some quarters, that the small house will hereafter be largely a matter of quantity production and built for rental rather than for individual owners. We already hear much of stock type houses of various materials, sold individually, and also erected in multiple for rental. The best impartial, enlightened opinion seems to admit the superior advantages of site-planning, and neighborhood planning, but in carrying out such plans a practical difficulty arises from lack of control of neighborhoods designed without retaining common ownership. Holding, for renting to individuals, is the usual answer but not the only possible one.

During this period of production stagnation, new processes, new materials and new equipment are being developed and the longer the delay of recovery the greater the changes to be faced by the

architect—even standards of living are changing. Within the profession the changes may be great also. This may mean the scrapping of old ideas and old parties, and taking a fresh outlook on all our problems. A certain other thing we can also reasonably count on, keener competition; keener competitions from both the unethical and the ethical members of our own profession, including the five unabsorbed crops of students from the schools of architecture from 1929 to 1933 inclusive, possibly as many as the complete membership of the A. I. A.; keener competition also from standardized plans.

So much to indicate some of the more drastic changes which must be faced as possibilities if not realities. Rather than face them as lone individuals, we should face them as an organized group. Essential to the situation are team work and a united front.

Professional Organizations.

The master-issue which, in my judgment, we should consider is: Are we going to try to face our new problems individually or are we going to build up a strong professional organization and do team work? Team work means cooperation, and cooperation means work by all. Of what should the organization consist and what can it do?

In answering the question just put, first I will invite your consideration to the organization as a means to an end and then suggest for that organization the definite and timely objective of gaining the full confidence of the public, so that we may assume our proper role as leaders in the building industry.

Several generations ago when there was only a handful of trained architects in the country they faced that very problem. They started out by agreeing upon certain broad principles, a certain frame of mind and a certain approach to their work. Architecture was to be a profession. That meant an attitude of mutual confidence and fair dealing among architects. It meant assuming the responsibility of trusteeship for their clients. It meant a lot of hard work in educating the public both to architecture itself and to the peculiar duties and qualifications of the architect and the value of his services. It also meant building up an educational system for the profession—schools of architecture. As time went on, the number of architects greatly increased but not all were of a cooperative nature, not all cooperated with the professional organization. Nevertheless, due to the splendid efforts of the many who did cooperate, working over many decades, we have today a great nation-wide organization of The American Institute of Architects.

All things done through human agencies are subject to human frailties. We have to take the human

element as we find it and with it build the best organization we can.

The question for each one to ask is not, "Is this organization all that it might be", but "Am I doing my full share to make it so". Let us take stock of our organization to see how it measures up to its opportunities.

Any large organization must be subdivided into smaller local groups, and also into committees,—so we have our Chapters, (lately with sub-chapters,) and our Regions; so we have our many standing committees of national scope. Are any of these obsolete and are the others operating as they should? Are any of the findings of the existing committees obsolete? Are new committees needed? If revisions are to be made we all should have a voice in making them. To determine these matters will take much time and many minds, and each one must be prepared to do his bit.

As phrased by one of our members, "What our members probably want most is a discussion of how to control commercial competition and how to stimulate work in their offices". To combat commercial competition we will have to gain the confidence of the public in our ability to serve them better than can the commercial organizations. This can be done through circularization direct to the probable prospects and by educational articles in the press.

There is much evidence that individual advertising and even group paid-advertising, is not profitable in our profession. Publicity through the press, daily, weekly and monthly, have gotten us a long way in the public confidence. What has been done by one chapter can be done by any chapter, once our members are convinced that time spent in writing articles is not time wasted but time invested.

In addition to education of the public through the press, the Institute has several new committees at work in this field. One is a committee to prepare an Institute document describing the function of the architect, the reasons for employing him and the manner in which he works. This document would be primarily for the use of chapter committees, particularly in relation to public works; but would be available for all members to send out as they saw fit. Right now this idea is undergoing an interesting modification, and development, under the guidance of a still later committee on "Information for Prospective Building Owners".

Franklin O. Adams, Director of the South Atlantic Division, who sponsors the idea makes the following statement:

"There has been an earnest effort on the part of this Director to determine if possible the most serious impediment to the proper and profitable functioning of the responsible architect, that man whose possibilities for service and whose decency of proce-

ture entitle him to an opportunity to render the services of which he is capable.

"The trouble has been easy to determine, the remedy difficult. The most insuperable obstacle that faces the architect of average practice is the woeful lack of any comprehension of the function of an architect or of the logical method of procedure in any given building project on the part of those laymen who happen for the moment to be interested in building. This is true, not only of individuals, but of municipal, county or state boards, and of building committees of whatever sort. If the prospective builder could be furnished enlightenment soon after the impulse to build had started on its way, many serious and costly mistakes would be averted, and the architect's usefulness to his client would be greatly enhanced. The present facilities offered by the Institute for public education and information, while invaluable in the dissemination of general architectural knowledge, do not and cannot reach these specific cases with the specific enlightenment needed at that moment of pregnant susceptibility. If such information in an assimilable form could be delivered before more sinister influences got in their work, there would not only be an enormous saving of normally wasted funds, but (numerically) a much larger proportion of commissions would find their way into reputable offices than at present maintains."

Mr. Adams' plan, somewhat modified at the recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute comes up for further action at the March meeting of the Board of Directors.

But assume that we have gained the confidence of the public and have persuaded them that building investment should be made through the architects, then the next problem is to maintain that confidence. To do that we must deliver the goods. We must maintain a general standard of excellence throughout the profession, or at least within the Institute,—technical skill in design, in estimating, in budgeting, in construction, and in disbursement of funds. Every slip on the part of one member of the profession is likely to diminish in some degree the confidence which the public has in all—willingness to slight the working drawings and specifications ultimately makes for loss of public confidence. Individual criticism of one architect by another acts likewise. If one architect is reprehensible there should be group action to clear up the situation and keep our reputation clean. Willingness to cut fees encourages the idea that the less the fee the better the bargain and leads toward the services of the material men as the best of all bargains.

In order to keep the public confidence which we now hold, we, as individuals and as an organization, even in this time of depression, cannot afford to maintain any but the highest standards. As we wish to be practical realists we will have to scrutinize each and every proposed departure from previous standards and regard them from the point of view of the public whom we would have look to us as disinterested and unbiased trustees of our client's investment. As a guide in a possible new era, I submit that, as a profession, we are the councillors and leaders of the building industry and must maintain to the full the public confidence.

An English View on Housing

From an address by SIR RAYMOND UNWIN, *President, R.I.B.A.*

IT is no exaggeration to say that the great majority of town planners here and abroad have been more and more realizing that the mere planning of streets in endless extensions of building land, solidly hemming in existing towns, is not the best way to go to work, however ample a provision of open spaces may be planned upon this limitless background of potential building land. We are all today seeking to approach this problem of town or regional planning from the opposite point of view. We are seeking rather to design an appropriate pattern of compact units of development, laid out on a secure and protected background of open land, in which the beauty of rural surroundings and the charm of country life may be preserved.

We are convinced that in this type of planning we are not really running contrary to any general trend, but are finding a rational form of expression,

for what at present is irrationally sought by vast numbers of people. Indeed, the zeal with which hundreds of thousands go out from London and other large towns, seeking homes amidst the pleasures of country life, is only equalled by the blindness with which they destroy the sources of such pleasures, and the extent of the country which their irrational and sporadic development desecrates.

When, however, full credit has been allowed for the progress and improvement so far made, we must admit that little more has been done than to provide improved accommodation for the increase of our people, leaving the old urban populations still living in the degraded and muddled conditions which were inherited from the nineteenth century. Though a few of the worst slums have been cleared, little progress has been made towards any general clearing up of this old mess. For anyone who knows the condi-

tions of life as they exist and can realize what conditions might well be created in their place, it is difficult not to be very impatient with the slow progress. Perhaps much more rapid improvement could not reasonably be expected. Clearly, much preparatory work was needed before effective steps towards replanning and rebuilding were possible.

Pressure had first to be relieved by the greater expansion of town areas and increased building outside. The technique of providing for industrial decentralization, in addition to the decentralizing of the people, had also to be worked out. Now we know that better and more efficient opportunities for industry can be provided in the well-equipped industrial area of a satellite unit than in the congested city. Such areas can be equipped with all the conveniences and services which minister to mass production and to the rapid distribution of the products; and in them an adequate reserve of industrial and other population can be provided for, near at hand, to operate the industries and to form a unit of complete social life.

Hitherto slum clearance has been carried out

piecemeal and little advantage has been obtained from replanning. Under the new powers recently conferred, slum clearance will be an item taking its place in a great improvement plan. When one contemplates the extent of waste and inefficiency caused by the present muddle, the depreciation of intelligence and energy in the workers reared in the slums, the extent of possible improvement suggests that the replanning and rebuilding of large areas, so far from involving any real loss, may on the contrary create tangible values exceeding the cost. If there were thrown into the scales any allowance for the social values, there can be little doubt on which side the beam would dip, and dip emphatically.

Be that as it may, here is a great task, and I do seriously suggest that the doing of it would redound both to the present and future prosperity and welfare of this country to an extent quite incalculable. To me it seems no less than clear duty that we should devote our spare labour, our energies and surplus money during the next decade or two to the definite replanning and rebuilding of those areas of our towns which at present are a disgrace to our civilization. * * *

Housing for Blighted Areas

By HENRY K. HOLSMAN, F.A.I.A.

A FORM of decentralization in our cities produced slums. Rather than rehabilitate our central areas to conform to the changed conditions we ourselves made, we moved out to, or beyond, the limits and left the central core to blight and decay. This economic, civic and social blight is so great that decentralizationists now talk of abandoning the city idea altogether. But the city is probably as permanent an idea of society as the home or family is a fixed ideal of humanity.

City housing is a social problem—a problem because of neglect and the weakness of the collective spirit of citizens rather than lack of intelligence.

Rehabilitation of city blighted areas is the process of saving the partially abandoned lots, streets and civic utilities, once ideally used but now an economic waste, a social menace, and a comparatively useless civic expense. It is scrapping obsolete structures, assembling the little lots and improving them in wholesale fashion to their "highest and best use." Chicago has five or six thousand acres of such areas surrounding its heart and center, provided with adequate arteries for commerce and industry, ideally located for good housing, within easy reach of the finest collection of schools, colleges, museums, concert halls, theatres, lakeparks and other civic amenities the world has ever known.

The population of this blighted area has been decreasing about 20% at each census period for the past thirty to forty years. A few of the older generation are still confined to their now obsolete homes, their children having escaped to better places in which to live. Much of the population consists of the "dregs of humanity," of homeless men and drifting women and boarders, vicious and resentful hoodlum gangs like the "Forty-Two Gang" which Judge Borrelli described as "human rats that sleep all morning, come out of their holes about noon and get to work at night, terrorizing and preying upon honest citizens." Many of the families forced to live in these areas, however, though poor and oppressed because not understood, possess strong character and much latent taste and wisdom, inherited from the best of old world traditions and institutions, whose children are destined to fill high places in American culture and leadership if their qualities are not to be snuffed out by the unspeakable environment in which they are now compelled to grow up.

Modern methods of building and modern organization of financing can provide good fireproof homes in this region for from three to six times the possible present population and leave one-half the land for open air gardens and play grounds, at a cost to tenants of about what they now have to pay.

To put such a vast productive population into decent homes within reach of such an array of schools, colleges, museums and libraries as we now have nearby would make a marked national impression. It is an unparalleled situation and opportunity for the use of an unparalleled collection of educational and cultural institutions for the advancement of American culture and character.

To accomplish such a rehabilitation a comprehensive building, financial and management organization is required. A plan for such an organization has been devised and promulgated by the Blighted Area Housing Committee of the Architects Club of Chicago.

This plan suggests the creation of a Chicago Funded Housing Trust Estate similar to the Chicago Community Trust or the one hundred year old Girard Trust in Philadelphia, having the fidelity of a Trust Company and the attractive elements of Mutual Savings Banks and Building and Loan Associations. It consists of a trust company trustee, a managing committee, or co-trustees, of seven or more civic minded citizens of experience and prestige and a management company of experience in the purchase, sale and management of real estate who would assemble investment funds and properties into the trust and improve and manage them under the general direction of the trustees.

The plan does not involve the purchase of real estate so much as the assembly of lots into block areas in trust at a value on a par with cash. About 6% to 8% of the blighted area property is owned by those who use it, the balance is owned or carried by people who have no use for it and cannot profitably improve it as individual lots. The assessed valuation is so low that if taxes were paid the tax yield would not nearly pay for the necessary

upkeep of its streets, public utilities and services. This property improved under the trust plan would have a value five to ten times its present assessed value and support a population that could pay its proportion of the cost of government much more easily than the present population indirectly pays in adequate taxes.

The plan provides for a splendid use for philanthropic funds and for the collection and direct investment of savings, similar to that of Mutual Savings Banks and Building and Loan Associations.

A minor feature of the Architects Club plan involves the capitalization of the well recognized (but not hitherto used) value to buildings of tenant ownership versus absentee ownership, by adding a differential to dividends accruing to tenant investors of 1/10th to 1/6th the regular dividends, so that if dividends to non-tenant owners are 5% (or 10%), the dividend to tenant owners on the 1/10th basis would be 5½% (or 11%). That differential can be quite accurately determined and carried out on a strictly business basis to encourage and reward home ownership and thrift.

Only a very small proportion of the blighted area property surrounding Chicago's industrial, commercial, educational and cultural center is now encumbered by reason of its present lack of productive value. Perhaps if such a plan of rehabilitation be put into effect, little or no mortgage money may eventually be required. To provide a nearby resident owning population that can pay its proper taxes and cause the adjacent great collection of shops and factories, museums and colleges to function adequately, is a consummation greatly to be desired.—*(From Illinois Society of Architects "Monthly Bulletin.")*

Baltimore Building Congress

By CHARLES D. LOOMIS, A.I.A.

IN January, 1932, the Baltimore Chapter held its annual dinner meeting and invited Robert D. Kohn, then President of the Institute, to be its guest of honor. The meeting was, at least according to the Baltimore standards, a real and emphatic success.

Mr. Kohn was given an opportunity to meet the members in personal conversation, and also to speak to them as a group. He spoke with so much conviction and force of the advantages to be gained from a local building organization that the seed was planted for a future Building Congress. The Chap-

ter was so much impressed by his presentation that active steps were taken at once to organize.

The Committee on Trade Relations of the Chapter, with the aid of the Executive Committee arranged several small meetings with representative men in the industry, and the matter was discussed from many angles. These meetings took place throughout the Spring, and culminated in a meeting of thirty key men, held at the Builder's Exchange on June 2nd. At this meeting a resolution was unanimously adopted that a building congress should be formed in Baltimore, and that active steps

should be taken to that end. A second meeting of this group was called in June under the auspices of the Chapter, at which a list of temporary committees was discussed and decided upon, and all assignments to these committees were completed. These committees were instructed to write and submit a program, draw up tentative articles of incorporation and by-laws, and to canvas for possible membership and set up a budget.

The Committees met regularly and often throughout the summer, and worked with enthusiasm to reduce the plan of organization to written form. Arrangements were completed by the first of October, and notices were sent out to all those known to be interested in the building industry to meet at the Southern Hotel on the evening of October 13.

Mr. Kohn was invited to come to Baltimore for this meeting, and a dinner was given for him by the organizing committees preceding the general meeting. This proved a very pleasant and enthusiastic affair, and the diners adjourned to the general meeting at the Southern Hotel with confidence that the organization would be completed.

The meeting was opened by Lucius R. White, Jr., who acted as temporary Chairman. William F. Chew acted as Secretary pro tem. Over two hundred and fifty men were present. After a brief outline of the purposes of the meeting by the Chairman, H. S. T. White, President of the Baltimore Chapter of the Institute, introduced Mr. Kohn, not only as a Past-President of The Institute, but as one of the prime movers and originators of the building congress movement, and the General Chairman of the Construction League of the United States.

Mr. Kohn spoke with enthusiasm and effect both on the history of building congress efforts in this country, and on the problems, the successes, and the failures of the building congresses now active. He made it clear that matters which did not concern the interests of all members were on dangerous ground, and that the activities of a congress must be focused on matters which would help the building industry as a whole. The many instances which he gave of effective action by congresses in the past convinced the meeting that the possibilities of the organization were very great.

Henry G. Perring, as chairman of the committee on Program and Scope, read and explained in detail the draft of Articles of Incorporation, and By-Laws, prepared for adoption. After some questions and discussion from the floor, and after the incorporation in the By-Laws of a few changes at the suggestion of those present, it was moved, seconded and carried, "that this group constitute itself

a Building Congress, and adopt the Committee's report as a whole".

A list of signatures for charter membership was immediately collected in the meeting. Ninety-three individual, and five group memberships were so taken.

The Chairman proceeded to appoint the two nominating Committees called for in the By-Laws, and announced that the Baltimore Life Insurance Company, through its President had offered the Congress its auditorium for a meeting place. This invitation was gratefully accepted, and the next meeting was announced for November.

The fourth general meeting on November the 10th was attended by nearly three hundred persons. The nominating committees reported a common ticket, and the following Officers and Directors were duly elected. President, Lucius R. White, Jr.; First Vice-President, Henry G. Perring; Second Vice-President, Corbin C. Cogswell; Secretary, Edward J. Seager; Treasurer, Robert Q. Herring. The name of Robert D. Kohn was unanimously recommended to the Board of Directors for election to the first Honorary membership. The Board took great pleasure in completing this election at its next meeting. The following were elected to the Board of Directors from the seven constituent elements of the Congress: *Architects*, William G. Nolting; *Engineers*, Van R. P. Saxe; *General Contractors*, C. Morgan Marshall; *Mechanical Contractors*, Howard B. Crook; *Sub-Contractors*, Harry L. McCulloh; *Material Supply*, Howard MacCarthy; and *Real Estate and Financial*, A. D. Cockey.

The cooperation of the Congress with the National Committee for Trade Recovery was referred to the Board for action. A committee was authorized with power, to make it possible to make legally binding an award in arbitration.

The fifth meeting, and the first actual meeting of the Baltimore Building Congress Inc., was held on December 15. The President announced that incorporation was now completed, and the Congress in being. He announced the choice of C. D. Loomis as Executive Secretary. A complete list of chairmen and members for all standing committees was read to the meeting. Progress reports were made by the chairmen of the Trade Recovery, and the Arbitration Committees, and these were discussed by the meeting.

It is now planned to hold meetings on the third Thursday of each month at eight in the evening. The Congress now has about 160 individual, and five group members.

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.

Selected Bibliography.

The Structural Service Department, as an experiment, and in the hope of extending its service to the individual members of the Institute, has prepared a bibliography covering articles and papers appearing in a selected list of architectural publications for the months of October, November, and December, 1932.

It is planned to issue this bibliography quarterly, in mimeographed form, and it may be obtained by Institute members, free of charge, upon request to the Structural Service Department, The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

Standards of School Lighting.

The Illuminating Engineering Society prepared and issued a Code of Lighting School Buildings in 1918. Subsequent improvements in lighting practice and a demand for more specific and detailed information necessitated an expansion and revision of this original code and in 1924 a revised code was prepared under the joint sponsorship of the Illuminating Engineering Society and The American Institute of Architects. This revision was adopted as an American Standard June 16, 1924, under the procedure of the American Engineering Standards Committee.

Further revision was undertaken in 1931. In this new edition the primary purpose has been to establish criteria of good illumination for the guidance of architects, engineers, school authorities and others interested in the conservation of vision and the well-being and efficiency of pupils and teachers. The secondary purpose has been to offer recommended regulations which may be included in codes and ordinances relating to school buildings, the enforcement of which will insure minimum standards of adequacy in illumination, thereby preventing poor illumination which might be detrimental to the vision of school children or imperil their safety.

These Standards of School Lighting with Suggested Requirements for a School Lighting Code have been approved by the Sectional Committee, the Illuminating Engineering Society and The American Institute of Architects, and were adopted as American Standard by the American Standards Association on September 15, 1932. Copies may be obtained from the Illuminating Engineering Society, 29 West 39th Street, New York, N. Y., at 20c per single copy.

Standard Template Hardware.

The development of hollow metal doors set in metal frames for reducing fire hazards has now reached the stage where they are no longer unusual or novel but are rather the normal expected equipment for the modern office building. One of the major problems which has been the cause of much perturbation in the industry is the matter of application of locks, hinges, and other items of builders' hardware largely because these items can not be applied by the old familiar methods which are common in the case of wood doors and trim. Of course it is not practicable to mortise hollow metal doors or metal frames on the job so that they will receive locks and hinges. Although it is quite possible to drill and tap small holes on the job for the fastening screws, it is much more convenient to have this work also done at the factory.

It was the natural custom in the early days to select the same locks, and the same hinges normally used with wood doors and to require that they be drilled to template. Each manufacturer developed his own template for each type and size of lock and hinge. Before the bucks, jambs or metal doors could be fabricated, it was necessary to know not only what company was to furnish the hardware but also what individual items were to be used. With this knowledge in hand the metal door manufacturer obtained from the hardware manufacturer drawings indicating the templates for the items selected and not until then could the production of the metal door and jambs be completed.

According to custom, builders' hardware was one of the last items to be selected for a given project, as it is not applied until the building is in the last stages of completion.

Since the masonry work could not proceed until the bucks were set in place, and bucks could not be manufactured until the hardware was selected, delays were the natural result, and no one seemed to be directly responsible. The architect criticised the hollow metal door manufacturer. The hollow metal door manufacturer claimed that the hardware manufacturer had not supplied templates, and the hardware manufacturer blamed the architect for not having selected the hardware.

Although in 1924 the volume of template hardware business was not sufficient to warrant a complete re-design of locks in order that they might as-

semble in standard mortises, a few years experience with the difficulties mentioned above led the two groups of manufacturers in 1928 to embark upon a program of national standardization of templates for hinges, cylinder lock fronts and strikes and their corresponding mortises. After a prolonged and concerted effort, details of these standard templates were accepted by both industries and published under the title "Builders' Template Hardware, Commercial Standard CS9-29" issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce.

The standard templates thus established provide a complete line of full mortise hinges, a limited line of half surface, half mortise, and full surface hinges, and a line of cylinder locks with the functions usually required for corridor doors, communicating office doors and closet doors, or in other words the items in greatest demand. This makes it possible to produce the bucks and jambs and the hollow metal doors immediately after letting the contract without knowledge as to which make and catalogue number of locks or hinges are to be supplied.

After four years of use, it was found advisable to revise the standard in some minor details and this revision has been accepted by the producers, distributors, and users, becoming effective January 1, 1933. Printed pamphlets embodying this revision will be available in due course from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., under the title "Builders' Template Hardware, Commercial Standard CS9-33."

The difficulties imposed by non-standard templates have not yet been completely eliminated on account of the all too frequent practice of requiring in specifications merely that the hardware be "drilled to template." This permits the hardware manufacturer to supply hardware to his own templates, which he is inclined to do on occasion, rather than to standard templates, possibly in order to cut corners on the quality of the hardware furnished or to work off stocks of hardware manufactured for wood doors.

If the architects will specify that "hardware for metal doors and trim shall be drilled to standard template, CS9-33," the requirement will be immediately understood in the trade. The template standards will become a part of the contract, and the competition will be on a more comparable and fairer basis. Production of metal doors and trim will be facilitated, installation delays will be avoided and there will be adequate provision for easy replacement after the building is turned over to the owner. Since the parts which have been standardized are not normally exposed to view, all of these benefits can be obtained without any sacrifice or limitation on selection of design or on architectural treatment.

Glass Houses.

Recent developments in glass building block will soon enable people who live in glass houses to throw stones with impunity. Such block offer interesting possibilities in architectural treatments not previously considered possible, admitting an abundance of daylight without subjecting the occupants of the building to the feeling that they are on exhibition in a goldfish bowl.

The original glass building blocks were five-sided units which were laid with the open side down. Experience with these units indicated that they were not satisfactory as they were difficult to lay and became quickly fogged and discolored on the inside, due to condensation of moisture.

The new type of block is a hollow glass unit, hermetically sealed by placing a glass lid on the open side of a five-sided unit. These may be of colored glass, varying from transparent through translucent to opaque, or colors may be sprayed on after the pressing operation. By the application of cement paint to four or five sides of the block, the bond to the mortar is greatly improved and the ease of laying increased as each unit is supported in a full mortar bed in the manner to which masons are accustomed.

Because of the transparency of the glass, colored mortar joints are seen in various patterns, depending upon the perspective and direction of the light. Unusual effects may be obtained by painting the backs of the block. Light, reflected from the cement paint on the surfaces in contact with the mortar, produce an effect of tinted, light-colored glass.

Before accepting this type of construction, the architectural profession will want positive assurance that glass brick can be accurately laid, that walls will not leak or develop cracks and that mortars will form an effective bond to the block. Masons will probably raise the question as to whether or not mortar can be made to adhere to smooth, non-absorbent surfaces sufficiently to prevent sliding or "skating". In reply to such questions the manufacturers claim that by using proper mortar and with adequate specifications for and supervision of workmanship it is feasible to construct a glass masonry wall which will compare favorably with walls of other masonry materials.

It is claimed that a water-tight wall may be obtained by working with a six-sided unit, whose faces in contact with the mortar have been grooved, and by selecting a workable, waterproof mortar and a well graded sand. Joint widths should be 3/16 to 1/4 inch. Mortar should be applied to the end of the block which is then shoved into place and brought to line by tapping. After the mortar has reached its initial set, it should be carefully tooled to bring the mortar into close contact with the glass units.

The National Conference On City Planning

By G. FRANK CORDNER, A.I.A.

Foreword by Frederick Bigger, President American City Planning Institute.

Mr. Cordner tells an admirable story of the recent National Conference on City Planning. It is amusing, and yet succeeds in being both explicit and implicit concerning the significance of the discussion.

I am happy to report that many of the city planning groups have taken the trouble to say, or to write, that this conference was one of the best of the many that have been held. It is easier to report this than to express an objective opinion if one was chiefly preoccupied with the mechanics of pre-convention program making and entertainment.

The discussions revealed a very happy breakdown in compartmental thinking. It cannot but have been helpful to have emphasized the oneness of the problems of housing and city planning. There will always be die-hards who refuse to credit another group with any understanding of such problems, or to credit them with even a partial understanding. It is so easy—and so far from the truth—for the architect to say that he alone has a contribution to make—or for the social worker to discount what the architect can do—or for the city planner to isolate from his field of study the preponderant area of an urban community which is held in private ownership and occupied by the buildings it is the architect's job to plan and arrange. So long as such compartmentalized ideas prevail, it seems certain that progress will be halting. Such conferences as this one are a hopeful omen.

That the technocrat, the banker, and the economist were all in the Conference picture, in discussions from the rostrum or from the floor, is also a matter for satisfaction and an indication of the scope of the delegates' interest. If one missed the contribution of an outstanding political scientist or analyst, the subject itself was both an overtone and an undertone in all the discussions. If discussions at a convention ever prove anything to anyone (which some doubt), then I suspect one of the things proved at the Pittsburgh conference was that such technologists as the architect and the city planner have a very definite and a very great contribution to make to the development of the *lagging* social sciences.

THE 24th National Conference on City Planning was held in Pittsburgh, November 14, 15 and 16. The Conference is essentially an annual forum open to all who are interested in City Planning. The list of speakers, all of whom read prepared papers, shows a wide diversity of vocation and geography.

The Conference is quite distinct from the American City Planning Institute, the professional body, which latter does however, hold its annual meeting the day before and at the same place as the Conference.

Mr. Frederick Bigger has been in a position to encourage liaison between a number of groups. He is Chairman of The American Institute of Architects Committee on the Economics of Site Planning and Housing; is President of the American City Planning Institute; and for a dozen years has been tech-

nical advisor and executive of the Citizens Committee on City Plan of Pittsburgh, a group of civic-minded citizens without official sponsorship, which has contributed some \$300,000.00 to plan and carry on propaganda to remedy that city's youthful errors and carousals when it applied rigid layouts to eccentric topography.

Fortunately, like-minded architects and city planners stood back of a program for the Conference in which one of the basic conceptions was to bring their two groups closer together by an extensive discussion of Housing. Apparently it was felt that it was about time Town Planning and Housing were married, inasmuch as they have been flirting around with one another just about long enough. It is well known, of course, that their British and Continental cousins were married some years ago.

The ceremony was successfully performed with Robert D. Kohn, Past President of the A. I. A. as the groom and Harland Bartholomew of St. Louis, President of the Conference, as the blushing bride, if brides blush any more. Henry Wright, Architect and Town Planner gave the groom away and Orrin C. Lester, Vice President of the Bowery Savings Bank of New York loaned the bride enough to buy a trousseau and also furnished the hope chest. Mr. Lester incidentally, is himself the Great White Hope Chest of Housing. The ceremony was performed by Charles F. Lewis, Director of the Buhl Foundation which created Chatham Village, assisted by one of the members of the Citizens Committee on City Plan.

The bride was attended by Alfred Bettman of the City Plan Commission of Cincinnati; while the groom's courage was kept alive by the presence of his best man, Clarence F. Stein, Architect and Town Planner (and recently prominent as the architect of "Hillside", a 1,500 family development of garden apartments in the Bronx, New York City,—and the first to have a loan approved by the R.F.C.!).

But, back to the wedding—

The bride was attired; the groom wore his years well, along with the famous kohn-blue tie. There were a lot of invited guests present from all over the country, some of whom read papers during the proceedings. Some listened. Others thought. Still others did neither, just sat, hoping for lunch time to come. Just like all conventions. Business interfering with pleasure.

There was the usual sprinkling of prominent people; a lone politician from out of town; a few ladies (God bless 'em); and a large body of technical men who came to learn and fraternize with their

fellows—the annual playing hookey relished by all men. Only this time school wasn't keeping, at home.

Housing and Blighted Areas are becoming more and more the Siamese twins of our day, in the minds of their closest students, and the two inter-related problems must be considered together if they are to be properly solved. The former is largely the answer to the latter.

Over half the proceedings was devoted to Housing. Robert D. Kohn keynoted with his "Housing, the Opportunity" which was put on the air over a local radio station. Henry Wright followed with "What the Planner can contribute". After Mr. Wright's address there arose an argument as to the desirability of building housing for rental tenants to the neglect of home owners. This promised to become a nice little controversy but lunch hour intervened.

Mr. Orrin C. Lester of the Bowery Savings Bank of New York, which is largely instrumental in the movement to clean up the Lower East Side of that city spoke on "Financing new Housing" but offered no new or sensational panaceas. Bernard Newman, Director of the Philadelphia Housing Association read much too long a paper on "Housing Administration" which treated of the difficulties of enforcing sanitation ordinances, etc. John Ihlder, Director of the Pittsburgh Housing Association addressed the group on "The Community Point of View of Housing" so briefly, because of his predecessor's overtime, that we got little from it. Both these men have had a world of experience in the field of practical housing, being neither town planners nor architects, hence their sociological knowledge was added to the program for the general good.

Harland Bartholomew, retiring President of the Conference, read his annual report and in it urged cities to the adoption of a six-point program as follows: (1) a careful estimate of total population to be provided for in the next 30 to 50 years; (2) determination of the total area required for urban purposes by each city; (3) a plan for the most appropriate location and distribution of commercial, industrial and residential areas; (4) a plan for the most desirable distribution and density of population; (5) official adoption by cities of comprehensive plans for future development; and (6) reconstruction of decaying central areas. He pointed out that all these remedies, except the last one require no increase in municipal debt.

Henry Wright showed us his new repertoire of slides of well planned modern housing projects and got us all enthused to the point of thinking that we would remain in architecture after all, until he ran in a few of those so-called "contrast" pictures and sent us all out with headaches and criminal impulses.

The roundtable discussion scheduled for Tuesday noon luncheon which was expected to be of interest to the architects only, brought out the entire convention (those who had money enough to eat) so that, instead of an informal discussion, an organized series of short talks was substituted. With Clarence S. Stein presiding, the various members of the A. I. A. Committee on Site Planning and Housing (all present except Mr. Gray of New Haven) followed one another with sequential chapters in a much abbreviated summary of the whole story of Housing, not from the historical standpoint but from the modern one of promotion, technique, etc.

Mr. Stein led off with the first essential, the need for a State Housing Law and an enabling act creating authority for limited dividend housing corporations. He described the main characteristics of the New York law, which is the only one that has been functioning long enough to prove itself. He mentioned also the document called "Principles which it is recommended should be embodied in a State Housing Law", this document had been prepared by a subcommittee headed by Mr. Kohn and some 3,000 copies had been sent all over the country to stimulate action for laws to take advantage of R. F. C. funds.

Mr. Corder followed with "Inducements needed by low-cost housing"; Henry Wright told of the technique of procedure; Eugene H. Klaber of Chicago stressed the importance of the preliminary studies and surveys. P. John Hoener of St. Louis, Frederick L. Ackerman of New York and Robert D. Kohn of Everywhere, U. S. A., completed the series. Mr. Bigger was too busy acting as host to the entire convention to speak.

One of the most interesting, if not *the* most interesting, parts of the whole extensive program was the trip to the Buhl Foundation Housing project called Chatham Village. A year ago, on our way to the President's Conference on Home Building at Washington, Arthur Hyde, A.I.A., and I had visited it during the construction period, with Mr. Bigger as guide. That year has done wonders. From deep mud and mechanics in overalls then, to beautiful girls from the Household Economics Department of the Carnegie Institute of Technology now is quite some progress. They were in command of the only vacant house of the 129. It has been used as a demonstration house by the girls who planned and bought all the interior furnishings and equipment on a prearranged budget of \$1,500. The "visiting firemen" were most enthusiastic.

Due to this interest we were late in getting away, so for the remainder of the trip, the busses careened around this Alpine town on two wheels, either the two in front or the two behind or wherever they put the other two in Pittsburgh. This city has the

most discouraging topographical difficulties to overcome in city development of any I have ever seen. Flat Detroit is Utopia in comparison.

At the Civic Dinner some twenty local organizations provided a large audience to listen to Thomas Adams of New York and Louis Brownlow of Chicago, the latter essaying to paint a picture of the civic life fifty years from now. He felt that social organization and a far greater regard for the human needs of its citizens would be much more in evidence then than now. I think he is right. I think Robert D. Kohn and many others feel much the same about it but they do not want to wait the fifty years to see it occur.

To be truly smitten with the Housing bacteria

one must have a social outlook—not necessarily socialistic but a little less of that “rugged American individualism” which steps all over everyone else and stops at nothing to achieve its ends, a little less of the commercial selfishness which we have made a fetish and which has but recently crashed from its exalted pedestal. Housing and Blighted Areas are twins that are still in their critical period of existence and they must not be permitted to die young. Bacteria in human form are besetting them from every side. They need champions and it is from the ranks of the architects that they shall naturally be saved provided the architects see the need. Perhaps the City Planners will reach the bedside first but let the race be to the swift.

Architects' Emergency Committee—New York

Julian Clarence Levi is Chairman of the Emergency Committee; Chester H. Aldrich, John W. Cross, B. W. Morris, Robert D. Kohn and Stephen F. Voorhees are Vice-Chairmen.

This outline of the organization and scope of activities of the Emergency Committee is here given, in the thought that it might be helpful to other

ORIGINAL ORGANIZATION, COMPOSITION, SCOPE

Organized by the twelve architectural organizations in November, 1930, and composed of one representative of each of those organizations and two representatives of the Architectural Press, as well as a paid Executive Secretary. The field of activity was solely that of

- A. Creating a registry office for the keeping of records of all registrants, giving complete information in regard to their experience and ability and confidential information in regard to their financial status.
- B. Seeking of positions for these men in a manner not to supplant other workers and of a kind in which the education and training of the profession would be useful.

With the increase in unemployment and destitution the composition of the Committee had to be enlarged and its field of activity extended to include the raising and administration of funds.

PRESENT COMPOSITION

A General Committee with an Executive Committee and Sub-committees.

General Committee: Representatives of the twelve organizations and the Architectural Press as above, with the addition of added members as Vice-Chairmen and as members at large. Due to the difficulty of obtaining a quorum of so large a Committee at weekly meetings, the General Committee constituted an

Executive Committee Composed of ten members and *Three Committees* were likewise created to give more efficient handling of the Committee work:

Chapters who are working along similar lines.

For more details regarding the Architects' Emergency Committee, its accomplishments and its program for the future, address Mrs. Lyda M. Nelson, Executive Secretary, Architects' Emergency Committee, Architectural League, 115 East Fortieth Street, New York City, N. Y.

1. Registration, classification and assignment.
2. Work Finding.
3. Clearance and Finance.

PRESENT SCOPE

The present scope of the work of the Committee is as follows:

- A. Registry of men with classification:
 1. As to ability and experience.
 2. As to degree of need (including number of dependents).
 3. As to positions and relief obtained through the Committee.
- B. Seeking of employment in
 1. Private positions in architects' and similar offices and in business enterprises.
 2. Positions at an emergency wage on funds subscribed by the public and disbursed through the Emergency Work Bureau (the disbursing agency for funds raised first by the Prosser Committee and then by the Gibson Committee).
 3. Positions at an emergency wage on funds collected by, or for, this Committee.
- C. The finding or creating types of employment in B-2 and B-3.
- D. Holding Competitions open to those registered and distributing large number of cash prizes.
- E. Providing lodging, food, and clothing in most needy cases.
- F. Giving small amount of cash relief in the most desperate cases.
- G. Fund raising.
 1. For the Committee's administration expenses.
 2. For relief work.

RESULTS OBTAINED AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 1932

- A. (1) 2,551 were registered of whom—
 (2) Practically all were in actual need.
 (3) 1,068 positions had been obtained as follows:
- B. (1) 340 in private employment.
 (2) 307 on emergency wage from the Emergency Work Bureau.
 (3) 421 on emergency paid by our fund.
- C. The types of employments found or created for B. 2 and 3 are:
- (a) Small House Planning through the Architects' Small House Service Bureau.
 (b) Housing studies, traffic survey, etc., for the Regional Plan.
 (c) Slum statistics, charts, etc., for the State Housing Board and the New School of Social Research.
 (d) Technocracy investigation at Columbia University under Prof. Rautenstrauch and Dr. Scott.
 (e) Property survey for the West Side Association of Commerce.
 (f) Work on Departmental Records for the Bureau of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan.
 (g) Drafting for alterations and repairs, College of the City of New York.
 (h) Research work on theatre construction for articles in the architectural magazines.
 (i) Drafting on working details for articles in the architectural magazines.
 (j) Study of Hillside Housing under Mr. Henry Wright.
 (k) Measuring and drawing of old buildings with a view to publication.
 (l) Investigation of building materials under Messrs. F. L. Ackerman and Ely J. Kahn.
 (m) Housing charts under Messrs. Clarence Stein, John Thompson, and Arthur Holden.
- (n) Installation work of benefit exhibitions.
 (o) Clerical work for Women's Division.
 (p) Clerical work for Architects' Emergency Committee.
- D. Five competitions have been held with a total of 134 cash prizes.
- E. This is accomplished by using the Architectural League facilities and by placing men in private families. A three-cornered arrangement has just been consummated between the Hudson Guild, the Emergency Work Bureau and this Committee, for the lodging and feeding of thirty men until spring at the Hudson Guild Farm, Hackettstown, N. J.
- F. Only forty cases were given cash relief when immediate employment could not be obtained.
- G. (1) The Committee's administration expenses have been met by the contributions from most of the organizations that created the Architects' Emergency Committee. [These expenses are printing, stationery, postage, telephone and Mrs. Nelson's salary. Other employees of the Committee's office are recruited from our unemployed list and are paid from the Emergency Fund. The Architectural League gives rent, light and heat free.]
 (2) The funds raised for the Emergency Fund for relief work are from two sources.
 (a) The architectural profession canvassed by this Committee direct.
 (b) The public through the efforts of the Women's Division by means of—
 Direct appeal.
 Benefit Performances.
 Limited Chain Parties.
 Exhibitions.
 Garden Parties.

Excerpts from Reports of Chapter Presidents

(See December number of THE OCTAGON for reports from the New England, New York and Middle Atlantic Divisions)

South Atlantic Division

ALABAMA CHAPTER—FREDERIC CHILD BIGGIN, *President*

Meetings

Regular annual meeting of the Chapter was held in Birmingham January 12th, and a semi-annual meeting in Montgomery June 7th. Because our membership is scattered over the state, with a consequent heavy expense attending meetings, it was decided at the annual meeting to omit the quarterly meetings for the current year.

Finances

The Chapter has done everything possible on its part to relieve the situation. Because of a balance in the treasury, it was found possible at the annual meeting to omit chapter dues for 1932, and this was done.

Federal Employment of Architects

In spite of conditions chapter activities during the year went forward. Our Committee on Public Work with Mr. William T. Warren as Chairman was untiring in making contacts with various organizations in the building industry throughout the state and enlisting support for the congressional bill limiting the architectural scope of the Treasury Department. At the request of officers of the A. I. A. the President went to Washington in February in an effort to aid with the passing of House Bill 6187.

Civic Affairs

Our Committee on Public Relations and Civic Affairs of which Mr. Hugh Martin is Chairman, has

ALABAMA CHAPTER—continued

taken advantage of every opportunity offered throughout the year to get in touch with various civic bodies and impress on them the wide scope of the architect's work and the value of the profession to the community.

In efforts to overcome the effects of the depression, members of the Alabama Chapter have during the year addressed public gatherings throughout the state. The Chapter has also consistently supported the work of the State Board for Registration of Architects, established by the Legislature in 1931.

FLORIDA NORTH CHAPTER—MELLEN C. GREELEY, President**Income—Office Staff**

In the first place this Chapter is composed of men who are without exception dependent upon the practice of their profession for a living. No member of the chapter operates a large office, the largest organization being not over four draftsmen on the average, and most of the offices being only half that size. No member receives anywhere near ten thousand dollars a year on the average, and the majority of the members will not net over half of that amount; therefore I believe that we as Institute members have problems which are quite different from the problems of those members who head large organizations or who are financially independent, and therefore have more time to devote to Institute and architectural organization affairs in general.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Small Office

This is not an apology from a small practitioner, as I for one would rather conduct an active small practice and have actual daily contact with all that goes on in the office, than be the executive head of an organization and to some extent dependent upon assistants, however efficient they might be. The only drawback that I can see to being a "one man concern" is the difficulty of finding time to devote to civic and public affairs and to architectural association affairs, when one is compelled to see his clients, to do most of his own office work and to do his own supervision as well. Of such practitioners is our Chapter composed.

To men so situated all civic work represents an actual sacrifice because the necessary outlay of time in connection with such work often means a delay in completion of architectural services and at times a loss of fees. Nevertheless, I can report some results which I believe are of value in helping to establish the position of the architect in the community.

State and Civic Affairs

A majority of members are members of local civic clubs, such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Civitan, Lions, and Exchange.

We have caused it to be known that architects are willing to assist in any good civic work, and members are often called upon to assist in "home betterment" work of the Women's Clubs; to make talks over the radio, or to club groups; to talk to school groups and to Boy and Girl Scout troops.

Three of our members are actually engaged in City Planning work, being members of Planning Boards, two of them being officers on such Boards.

Two of our members were selected by the City Officials to assist in the revision of a City Electric Code, and are now members, as Chairman and as Vice-Chairman, of a permanent Code Committee to administer the Code.

One of our members was on a committee to draft a City Sign and Billboard Ordinance, which is now in force.

One member was similarly engaged in the revision of a City Plumbing Code, which is now in use.

We have endeavored to see that the public, as well as the authorities, are informed of the advisability of having an architect on every committee or Board appointed to investigate or to administer every matter of civic improvement, and are usually successful in having at least one of our members appointed.

Program

Our Chapter programme is, principally, to hold on to such advanced positions as we have won and to consolidate them for our own good and for the benefit of the communities in which we reside. To assist all National movements for the good of the profession, to the limit of our capabilities and opportunities. To try to hold together at least a nucleus of the organization until better times.

Membership

It is difficult to build up our membership when we already have most of the available material and there are no non-members in the territory who are able financially to join at this time. There are two exceptions to this last statement and they are considering joining at this time. All of the architects in the territory are known to the President personally, and he is constantly urging all those who are worthy to join the Chapter.

Outlook

It is a problem to keep up our spirits when there are few immediate prospects for the construction of buildings of types which are ordinarily handled by architects. The territory within which the Chapter has jurisdiction is far from being overbuilt, except perhaps for a certain type of commercial build-

FLORIDA NORTH CHAPTER—continued

ing in one or two localities. On the contrary, the fact that there has been little done in the way of building of "small houses" during the past few years while the population and the number of family units has steadily increased, will in my opinion result in a very serious shortage of homes, at least, just as soon as the heads of these family units (such as married sons and daughters) now living with parents, feel at all sure of receiving a living wage. We now have a real need of school buildings; also we will need certain types of apartment houses, and commercial and industrial buildings just as soon as our citizens can see some future for their businesses. These prospects give us every reason for hope and so far have enabled us to keep going, and it has been the duty of the President to keep these thoughts before the members.

The President of the Chapter has not had an enviable position for the past two years, but he has tried to instill into all of the members the idea of "Holding on" in spite of everything. Our members have been advised to do anything honest even if it is not strictly in line with architectural practice, in order

to keep the office "shingle" hanging out, because of the belief of the President that those who are able to weather this period of inactivity will be better able to take advantage of improved conditions, when they come, whereas, to give up and close the office would often place a man back in the position of a newcomer to the community and might jeopardize the position in the community which he had been many years in building.

Institute Support

I feel that I can safely say that our members are thoroughly imbued with the idea if not the ideals of the A. I. A., and that there will be no resignations except where the member feels it to be absolutely impossible for him to pay the dues, and even in such cases I would consider that the resignation would be temporary and to apply only during the time when incomes are so much decreased. This Chapter will "carry on" and while we may not have the material to furnish a National Officer, we will always supply willing members of the rank and file.

Please accept my person pledge of assistance and my best wishes for the success of your administration.

FLORIDA SOUTH CHAPTER—RUSSELL PANCOAST, *President****State Association Dues***

This chapter has one constructive program under way at present, but this is not being carried out in the name of the Chapter. Individuals who are members of the chapter were instrumental however in starting this program and are now doing most of the work necessary to carry it out.

The purpose of the program is to eliminate dues to the Florida Association of Architects so that the membership can be increased to include practically every architect in the state.

The results, if we are successful, will strengthen the position of the architect politically and may produce other favorable advantages.

We are using a State Architectural Year Book as the means to carry out our plan. This chapter has published its own year book for the past three years

and from the experience thus gained we hope with the help of other architects in the state, to produce a creditable book. We have made a five-year contract which we think will finance the Association completely after the second year.

Membership

I shall welcome any suggestion which will create a desire for membership in the A. I. A. The indifferent attitude of non-members and the inability of some present members to hold their membership is our main problem. It seems to me there are not enough tangible assets accruing to membership. The work done by the organization benefits the non-member as well as the member and the tendency is to let the other fellow do the work and stand the expense.

GEORGIA CHAPTER—HAROLD BUSH-BROWN, *President****Civic Affairs***

A few months ago a resolution was passed offering the help of the Chapter to the City Planning Commission. A member of our Chapter, A. Ten Eyck Brown, is serving on the City Planning Commission and had been made chairman of a sub-committee to study the problem of a comprehensive city plan.

The Chapter's offer was accepted, and in a short competition five architectural firms submitted designs

for a civic center. After examination and discussion, these drawings were turned over to the City Planning Commission.

There is a committee of the Chapter, W. J. Sayward, Chairman, appointed to work towards the proper future physical development of the city and it is the hope that we as architects may help to show the way.

Two of our members sit on the Engineering Council—a semi-official body recently appointed under

GEORGIA CHAPTER—continued

the Chamber of Commerce, which furnishes expert advice to the Mayor.

Mr. Pringle has conceived the idea that architects could be of service by cooperating with other organizations in a survey of existing downtown buildings, with recommendations on renovation, and is chairman of a committee which has already laid the groundwork for further action when the time is ripe.

We have had some discussions regarding the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The Georgia Chapter has taken the initiative in trying to see what could be done to have members of the architectural profession called upon for help—in some advisory capacity—by the Federal Government, and letters have been written to the Institute and to each Chapter on this subject.

The architect is in a position to be of service to the community and along many lines. I believe that we can best help ourselves, in existing circumstances, by cooperative effort and at least partially unselfish aims. The Georgia Chapter hopes to contribute its small part in such a program.

Meetings

About six months ago we instituted informal weekly roundtable meetings for lunch, once a week. These have proved, on the whole, very successful, not only in the discussion and formulation of opinion on matters of common interest, but in bringing the members closer together. At our last regular meeting it was further decided to hold bi-monthly meetings, between regular monthly meetings—these bi-monthly meetings to be devoted to some particular topic of general interest. Our first meeting of this sort will be given over to one of our members, O. J. Vinour, who has given a great deal of his time to the study of a city plan, and he will present his scheme.

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER—HARRY BARTON, President**Meetings**

As you know, the North Carolina Chapter is small in numbers and the members are scattered from one end of the State to the other. It is rather difficult to have more than two meetings a year. The members of our Chapter have been hard-hit by the depression like architects in other states and on account of the expense involved in travelling to our meeting the attendance has necessarily been small. We are endeavoring however to keep up the morale of the Chapter and hold our members.

Building Code

The Chapter, through small committees, has concentrated on two major activities:

Federal and State Employment of Architects

Pursuant with a letter from Mr. LaBeaume, we have an active committee, headed by Thornton Marye, engaged in helping the program to secure federal legislation favorable to practicing architects on Public Works.

There is another committee studying the operation of a State Bureau which seems to be cutting in on individual practice in the matter of school houses.

Finances and Membership

Our by-laws have been revised and brought up to date by Mr. Morgan, and with the chapters approval these are being forwarded to the Institute for its sanction. This revision was instigated as a result of our desire to lighten the load of obligation on our members. We have not only reduced our annual dues from \$20.00 to \$5.00 and eliminated the initiation fee, in the case of regular Institute members, but the Executive Committee has decided to wipe out past indebtedness. We are relying upon our members to pay back what they can when they can, but as far as our books are concerned the obligations are to be wiped out. In these times, the loss of a great many desirable members seems to be the only other alternative and this we wish to avoid above everything else. It seems to be a serious situation which demands the utmost tact and lenience, and calls for the reduction of dues to the absolute minimum. In our own case it means that we will have just enough funds to meet routine expenses, and will be unable to pay any part of the expenses of delegates to the National Convention. This, of course, is most regrettable; but it would seem to be the only practical course at the present time. We still hope to be represented by at least one member at the next convention.

(1) A committee, with a committee of engineers, has taken the lead in preparing a new state-wide Building Code which we hope will become a law during the next session of the Legislature.

Building Congress

(2) Another committee has taken the lead in the organization of a State Building Congress. The constitution has been adopted and a temporary organization formed. We expect each group connected with the Building Industry at their next meeting to elect or appoint representatives to serve on the Board of Governors. This Board of Governors will elect the permanent officers. We expect this Congress to begin functioning during the first part of next year.

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER—REPORT OF ALBERT SIMONS, *President*, and SAMUEL LAPHAM, *Secretary*

Unemployment Relief

Through the President's Unemployment Relief Committee data concerning the contemplated projects in this state has been received by the Secretary, and these in turn were distributed to the Chapter members in an endeavor to put them in touch with the parties concerned in their vicinity.

Civic Affairs

A State Commission has been organized to formulate a building code for the state. By request the President of the Chapter appointed three members to represent the architects of the state; three members were appointed from the general contractors of the state and three from the licensed engineers, together with representatives from the State Board of Health and the State Fire Insurance Commission. This Board has organized itself as a provisional commission and expects to be formally authorized as a State Commission at the next meeting of the Legislature. Upon its formal authorization by the Legislature it will work up a complete building code and present same for ratification to the Legislature at its next session, remaining a permanent commission for the inspection of all plans under the Code. The Chapter representatives on this provisional commission are Messrs. Fant, Lapham, and Wilson, and when it is appointed it is expected they will be confirmed by the Governor.

Slum Clearance

The Chapter has obtained through the Institute the circular of recommended principles in a state housing law and rules governing loans from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and distributed these to members interested. Through this data a movement has been started in the City of Columbia under the leadership of Mr. C. C. Wilson, a Fellow of this Chapter, to form a project for the reclamation of twenty-four acres of slums into a low price housing development by obtaining aid from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Other members similarly provided with this data have put certain of their clients in touch with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and it is hoped that smaller self-liquidating projects may be granted if terms can be met by those interested.

Building Congress

The endeavor to form a State Building Congress of architects, engineers, general contractors, sub-contractors, and material men has been forwarded by forming groups of these classifications in various large centers of the state, which when organized, would be combined into the State Congress.

Charleston's group is organized and functioning actively as the "Building Congress of Charleston County," having approximately fifty members with monthly meetings of the Board of Directors, and bi-monthly meetings of the membership. Mr. Simons, President of the Chapter, is a Director of this Building Congress for Charleston County. Columbia and Greenville groups are, however, not yet functioning in any active manner.

Federal Employment of Architects

Since the failure to enact the bills in the United States Congress for employment of architects on public work by the Government, the Chapter has enlisted in its support of the South Carolina Committee on Trade Recovery, a statewide committee of all businesses and professions. This makes the apparent element of self-interest less in evidence and when these bills are under consideration again, the Committee on Trade Recovery will take up the matter with all of the State's representatives in the House and Senate. In the meantime this Committee, through the Chairman, who is not an architect, is urging the Secretary of the Treasury to consider private architects on all South Carolina projects. As fast as data or information is received by the Chapter from this Committee it is forwarded to the Chapter members and vice versa.

Meetings and Membership

Steps have been taken to endeavor to recruit the membership in the following manner:

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

SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER—continued

ering, thus forwarding our own efforts without local influence being too apparent.

Professional Ethics

The question of members submitting sketches in unauthorized competitions is coming to the front again as the weaker members feel the pressure of hard times. This was once a serious problem in the state which almost vanished during prosperity, but is now again on the increase. If the Chapter moves to discipline a member, the member resigns, claiming the necessity of earning a livelihood and the opportunity of winning a job is more valued than membership. This results in the Chapter membership and Institute Influence becoming weaker and less effective. If the Chapter does not move to discipline the member submitting the sketch, it is obviously unfair to those who hold to its rules. The Chapter is thus made to appear ridiculous in the eyes of those holding the unauthorized competition, as they see the officers of the chapter on the one hand informing them sketches cannot be submitted and yet see other architects known to be Institute members proceed to do that very thing.

The problem is which way shall we move, for

SOUTH GEORGIA CHAPTER—CLETUS W. BERGEN, President**Chapter Unity**

We have a very small Chapter here, and it does not seem as though any project of large magnitude can be put through. We think, however, that what we lack in numbers, we make up in close cooperation of the members of our Chapter.

Civic Affairs

The Chapter is united in its efforts to promote the interest of the profession in our community and to this end we have:

- (1) Formed an Architect's section of the local Chamber of Commerce and cooperated with that body in every way possible to promote civic progress, and to keep the Architects in the mind of the members of that body;
- (2) Cooperated with the Coastal Highway Association, both as regards to beautification of the Highway and as to obtaining for this Association accurate

VIRGINIA CHAPTER—PHILIP N. STERN, President**Federal Employment of Architects**

We have led in the effort to secure the employment of private architects for Federal work by contacting our delegates in Congress and also by newspaper publicity. We believe we have made satisfactory progress. Two Federal projects—Norfolk and Danville—are being planned by Virginia architects and

there appears to be the choice of only two courses. Either we must abandon the standards of the Institute and revert to professional barbarism or purge the Chapter to a small but uncompromising minority.

Finances

Due to the Institute's policy of assessing the Chapter only the difference between the convention tax and the refund, the chapter has met all its obligations, has no debts and has a reserve of cash. Collections of dues are falling off, several reporting utter inability to pay, but with our cash reserve there are sufficient funds to allow the Chapter to continue to function, especially as delegates to the last convention have postponed their claims to any share or refund from the Institute, which in previous years has been paid to delegates. Also committees of the Chapter function without charge, save for gasoline, etc., when attending Committee meetings. Although these committee meetings are held in the center of the state to keep travel at a minimum, nevertheless there is a round trip of approximately two hundred miles from the various borders, and it is felt that some small compensation is due these members; they are accordingly paid on a basis of mileage for gas. With such cooperation the Chapter can continue and have sufficient funds for all of 1933.

historical data relative to interesting sections of that route where it passes through Revolutionary Battlefields and other points of historic interest;

(3) Donated Architectural services in connection with the erection of historic monuments in and about our City, two concrete instances being the Jasper Springs Memorial to Sergeant Jasper of Revolutionary fame, designed by Mr. Henrik Wallin, and the Spanish American Memorial, designed by myself, in both instances the Architectural service being donated entirely without cost to the two Associations;

(4) Appeared before local Civic Clubs in the local schools for the purpose of addressing these bodies on Architectural subjects.

We are doing these things, and such other things as are in our power, to promote the profession, and despite the strenuous times which we are passing through, we are very hopeful of obtaining some good by our efforts.

we expect a third project—Richmond—to be given to local architects.

Civic Affairs

The Virginia Chapter has endeavored to assume the leadership and representation of the architects of this state as the Institute is doing for the nation.

VIRGINIA CHAPTER—continued

As a purely State matter we have assumed the leadership in trying to correct the abuse of free plans for schools by the Building Division of the State Board of Education. We have hopes of correcting this abuse through the friendly and sympathetic contact we have made with the Board members and the superintendent of Public Instruction. There has already been some curtailment in the activities of this department.

We are also working on the revision of our State Registration Laws and hope to have accomplished something by the time the next legislature meets.

In respect to these two items of school plans and registration, both of vital importance to the architects of this State, I can point to the fact that even those architects who are not affiliated with our Chapter and the Institute are looking to us for leadership.

Our Chapter is also interested in the problem of public education and a committee is arranging with the school authorities for lectures on architecture by architects in the larger high schools of the state.

As evidence of the standing of our Institute Chapter and the public recognition of this leadership, I would like to refer to two official acts:

(1) In creating a State Art Commission the Virginia Legislature inserted a clause in the law requiring one of the five members appointed by the Governor to be a nominee of the Virginia Chapter.

(2) The officers of the Rockefeller Restoration Work at Williamsburg, Virginia, have accorded recognition to our Chapter by electing its president a member of the Advisory Committee of Architects for the Williamsburg Restoration.

Membership

We are naturally interested in increasing our membership and thereby increasing our power and usefulness. While it has not been possible to increase our membership during the year 1932, I can say with great satisfaction that we have not lost a single member, that the members are interested in the Chapter and its problems, and that our meetings are well attended.

Great Lakes Division**CENTRAL ILLINOIS CHAPTER—R. S. GREGG, *President*****Membership**

I regret to report that our chapter is making little progress in either membership or activities.

We have a membership of twenty-five distributed in six communities, while our potential membership is over one hundred. Until we are more representative of our profession in our district, I believe that our accomplishments will be limited. It was my fundamental objective, upon my election, to carry on an intensive campaign for membership. It became evident upon a preliminary canvass that it would be impossible to obtain any new members, at least during the depression, unless some material reduction was made in the initiation fee or annual dues. If only the initiation fee could have been reduced at our last convention, I am sure that we could have very materially increased our membership.

If I am correctly informed, the A. I. A. membership is no more representative of the profession in the United States, than our chapter is in our district. If this is true it is time that we were doing something about it. I believe that a comparison of representation of the medical and legal fraternities within their respective professions would be rather embarrassing to us.

With the A. I. A. membership raised to a point where it is 75% representative of the profession, another severe indictment of the Institute would automatically be rectified, that is, the tremendous predominance of the metropolitan architects in the offices, committees and policies of the Institute.

Federal Employment of Architects

With reference to the matter of public information, I beg to report that last spring when the Green and Wagner Bills were up in Congress, our chapter secured the endorsement of these bills from the Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, Labor Unions and other civic bodies, together with those of prominent citizens in our various communities. We intend to obtain the same endorsements on similar legislation to present to the members of the next Congress in our district.

State Architectural Laws

The problem of the greatest local concern has been the violation of the State Architectural Practice Laws, which have been quite numerous of late. The state authorities are cooperating with us very satisfactorily and we believe that we will have this well under control in a short time.

CINCINNATI CHAPTER—CHARLES R. STRONG, *President*

The following items show the various activities the Cincinnati Chapter is engaged in, so as to strengthen the position of the architect and to keep

the members' interest alive in the Chapter. This is in accordance with the request of your letter of October 18th.

CINCINNATI CHAPTER—*continued*Legislation

(a) *Housing Law*.—Our Chapter sought and received the cooperation of the Better Housing League, Chamber of Commerce, Contractors' Association, Municipal Authorities and other organizations of Cincinnati, which effected the passage of the Housing Law at the special session of the Ohio Legislature on October 1st.

(b) *Registration*.—The new law has only been in effect for about the last seven months. Our Chapter was very active in the passage of this law and is now materially aiding the Board of Examiners in enforcing the law.

(c) *Zoning*.—Members of the chapter, both individually and collectively, have spent considerable time with the city officials and at council meetings, working on the drafting of a new code, which is expected to be passed and accepted by the first of the year.

Architects' Advisory Council

This is supported by the Cincinnati Art Commission and the Cincinnati Chapter. Each week a jury of three architects reviews the drawings submitted to the City Building Inspector's Office for permits. They are then judged and rated in design as commended, approved, or disapproved. This has been carried on for several years and we believe that it has materially strengthened the architects' position.

Uniform Specifications

The Chapter has sponsored the drafting of uniform specifications for local construction. We have interested the Allied Construction Industries in this work and through various committees, headed by one qualified architect, are earnestly accomplishing good results. This work has created a great deal of favor-

able comment by the contractors and we are receiving their wholehearted support.

Unemployment Relief

A new movement is now under way to devise means of helping the unemployed draftsmen. It is hoped that the fund already raised can be increased considerably and work provided in completing data for housing survey of this city, thereby giving employment.

Meetings

The activities as mentioned above have kept our members' interest alive to the welfare of our city. Regular monthly meetings previously held in the evenings have not been very well attended, so I have instituted a change by establishing a place where our members meet at luncheon each Wednesday. This has gone over big, getting anywhere from fifteen to twenty each week. I have been requested to continue these meetings, one of which can be our regular monthly meeting. The members feel that they are better able to discuss their problems and the things they are active in, while it also seems by meeting frequently, better fellowship is established.

No definite program of meetings for the Chapter has been set up. I have been so in hope that the Uniform Program suggested by the Institute would be started and possibly established for this winter that no arrangements have been made ahead.

Miscellaneous

(a) The Chapter has been cooperating with the Allied Construction Industries to find means of solving questions of doubtful practices of contractors and builders.

(b) Support has been given to the Committee on Rehabilitation of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.

CHICAGO CHAPTER—CLARENCE W. FARRIER, *President*Civic Affairs

The Chicago Chapter due to the present generally chaotic state of mind regarding community affairs has been able to do little constructively for the community except to watch the progress of events and take necessary action as the occasion arises.

CLEVELAND CHAPTER—ABRAM GARFIELD, *President*

The Chapter in Cleveland is going through the period that surrounds all of us and does not believe that it can add any new story of hardship that has not already been told. It has confidence that it is nearer the end of its troubles than it was a year ago and will be found still floating when the other side of the sand bar has been reached.

Meetings

Our best efforts have been put forward to intensify the cohesion of our chapter members with a result that the attendance at meetings has materially increased. This has been accomplished by making the subject matter of our meetings informative on subjects of current concern to our members.

Civic Affairs

Plans have been made for the winter meetings to take up questions of practical interest. The November meeting will follow the Conference in Pittsburgh and the activities represented at that Conference will be the subject of discussion. For the December meeting we have invited representatives from

CLEVELAND CHAPTER—continued

the six largest banks asking them to be prepared with the bankers' opinion of the value of good plans in determining the amount and terms of loaning money. The architects point of view will be presented. It so happens that vice presidents of these banks having particular charge of real estate loans have become pretty well acquainted with the architects as a group during the past two years. Preliminary reticences have been overcome.

Federal Employment of Architects

Following the suggestion of the Institute Committee on Public Works letters have been sent to all congressmen and the senators who are up for election in November urging upon them the views of the Institute as expressed in Mr. LaBeaume's reports and asking for an answer. Twelve such answers have been received, all interested in the views expressed. Organizations in Cleveland have had the same letter and have answered in the same vein.

State Employment of Architects

The Chapter has circularized the State officers and all senators and representatives pursuant to an effort we have been making to have the office of the Ohio State architect modified along the same lines as those proposed for the Office of the Supervising Architect in Washington. Other Chapters in the state are collaborating in this program.

Finances

The question of delinquent dues is serious but unavoidable. We are making an examination of our

cash resources and necessities for the year to come with the purpose of remitting all local dues for a period of six months beginning January 1st. If the Board of Directors objects to this plan it must produce some very good reasons because it is very likely to be done. The Executive Committee of the Chapter feels sure that we ought not allow accounts to continue building up against members if we are to keep their membership.

Unemployment Relief

The Chapter has a committee which has done excellent work helping draughtsmen who have arrived at the end of their resources. Between 75 and 100 questionnaires were sent out and about forty have been given help in one way and another. The Committee has worked in coordination with the regular welfare agencies in the city so as to avoid duplication. This committee has, with the help of material and equipment companies, held competitions through the summer offering a large number of small money prizes. These prizes have only been given to those in actual need. There has been so far ten competitions of \$150.00 each and two of \$250.00. About ten prizes are given in each competition. In addition to these competitions the committee has one baby to its credit which would otherwise have been born under very disadvantageous circumstances!

Meetings

Meetings are to be held every month but it is our present intention not to have dinner before-hand. The amount required for this purpose is a definite difficulty for too many of us. These are the short and simple annals.

DAYTON CHAPTER—GEORGE T. NEUFFER, Secretary

The Dayton Chapter is exerting every effort to meet the suggestions outlined in the recent letter of President Russell relative to strengthening the Chapter and increasing its value to the community.

Membership

We are maintaining our membership intact, have applications under consideration for two associate members in the Dayton Chapter and have forwarded two applications to Washington for membership in the American Institute.

Meetings

We are holding our meetings regularly each month and supplementing them with special and executive committee meetings as the occasion demands.

Civic Affairs

We have committees engaged on numerous activities including, studies with the public works committee of the Chamber of Commerce, joint meetings with the Builders Exchange and the Real Estate Board, detailed investigations for securing finances for construction purposes and thorough investigations of the provisions of the Refinance Corporation and the Home Loan Bank Act.

We are adopting the policy of attempting to place members of our Chapter on all committees dealing with public activities of any nature.

Exhibitions

We have staged two exhibits of architecturally designed homes, all members contributing designs and sketches.

DAYTON CHAPTER—continuedEducation

Mr. Howard Germann is conducting an Atelier

Class in his offices for the benefit of the members of the profession and junior architects and draftsmen. The class is well attended.

DETROIT CHAPTER—BRANSON V. GAMBER, PresidentMeetings

In spite of the conditions which we have to meet today, this Chapter has been and is very active. We have had regular and interesting meetings, and our local Board of Directors has met regularly and is working faithfully, intelligently and is getting results. For the past year our regular monthly meetings have been held jointly with those of the Michigan Society of Architects, for economic reasons, and also to create better understanding, and in accordance with the spirit of the Unification program. These meetings have been interesting and profitable and have been well attended.

Producers' Council Club, Building Congress

Through the efforts of the Detroit Chapter a Producers' Council Club was formed in Detroit the beginning of this year. Also through the work of the local chapter the Detroit Building Congress was formed less than two years ago.

Civic Affairs

The Chapter is working steadily on many local problems, and always with the idea of serving the city and state. These problems are too many in number to enumerate, but we know our local situation thoroughly and are working on it. We have placed two members on a jury advising the city plan commission on all public building work. We send a delegate and alternate to the Building Congress, a representative to the Allied Industries, Inc., and two representatives to the Council of the Associated Technical Societies. We have an active Joint Committee of Architects and Contractors, and a sub-committee has been working on the river front development for many years, and it is now actively engaged in furthering that project, and the port development which will come with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River waterway.

We are working closely with the Michigan Committee for Trade Recovery—a small sub-committee is working on possible housing projects. We are cooperating always with the local Chamber of Commerce—one of our members serving on their Legislative Committee; in fact our members have served on several of their committees. The Chapter took a leading part in the Modernization campaign in this city last summer. The Chapter is always heard from in matters relating to the interests of the public and the profession. We have the cooperation of the local press and many local organizations. We have been

assisting in the preparation of a new City Building Code, and may assist in preparing a new State Code.

Committee Work—Federal Employment

Our members are serving on many of the Institute's national committees, in some instances taking an important part in committee work. Our Chapter has always been represented by a full delegation and often with additional men at our National Conventions, even at cost of personal sacrifice in recent years. We intend to vigorously support the Institute's campaign to enact legislation favorable to the architects in connection with Public Works, although this Chapter will insist upon making certain recommendations to the National Committee on Public Works at the proper time.

Membership

The Chapter has prevented any serious loss of membership by a liberal and helpful policy towards members, by holding interesting meetings, and by indicating to the members at all times that the officers and directors are working for the best interests of the members, our profession and our community.

Publicity—Registration

We have endeavored to educate the public by our Honor Award programs, by exhibitions, by articles and interviews in the local press, and by cooperating with the local atelier of the Beaux Arts Institute and the Architectural Department of the University of Michigan and the University of Detroit. The Chapter has worked very hard in the attempt to improve present registration laws.

Professional Ethics

We have constantly upheld the highest standards of conduct for the profession in practice, and have guided our members and the public in carrying out the principles of practice. We have realized the need for greater care and vigilance during this time of stress.

Program—Architectural Jury

During this coming year we will continue to carry out this program and our policy will remain the same. We will cooperate with the Institute as far as is possible in carrying out the idea of unified programs for Chapter meetings. We will undertake some new work locally; for example, we intend to work for the establishment of an architectural jury

DETROIT CHAPTER—continued

to function with the local building department in passing upon designs for private work.

The Chapter

Undoubtedly there are items which I have forgot-

ten to mention. I know that the officers of the Institute are aware of the fact that the Detroit Chapter is an active one. My personal opinion is that the Detroit Chapter has proved worthy, and I am proud to be its president and am glad to work for it, and for the good of the Institute.

EASTERN OHIO CHAPTER—MORRIS W. SCHEIBEL, PresidentMeetings

Our programs consist of lectures on subjects closely allied with our profession and given by men well qualified in their particular professions. These lectures have been followed by general discussions which have been most interesting and instructive.

Much thought is devoted to matters pertaining to the Institute, the general improvement of the building industry and our relationship to our community.

Preservation of Chapter

Our immediate problem is that of self-preservation, and we are determined to maintain our Chapter identity. If our Chapter has accomplished nothing else it has been instrumental in bringing local architects together and with closer personal contacts. Thus, they understand and appreciate each other in a manner which heretofore was non-existent.

With a return of business normalcy and renewed optimism, I am sure our Chapter will go forward to greater effort and accomplishment.

GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER—HARRY L. MEAD, President

The writer does not wish to write a pessimistic report but the conditions here have been most difficult for the maintenance of an active chapter.

two builders organizations. The Chapter was represented by three members.

Civic Affairs

It was hoped to conduct a series of educational meetings between this chapter, the local Real Estate Board, and the local Builders Organizations with a view to the strengthening of the Architects' position and to combat certain bad practices, one group toward the other. One such meeting has been held under the sponsorship of the Chapter and included

Chapter Will Carry On

The President of this Chapter reports that he expects to carry on in the hope of restoration of interest on the part of our members, and for the general good of all of our Architects. He is of the opinion that the present apathy is due to the fact that there is practically no work to be had here, offices have been disorganized, or closed in some cases, and many of our junior and associate members are without employment.

INDIANA CHAPTER—WARREN D. MILLER, PresidentFinances

We are attempting to do all we can to keep the interest of the members under present conditions, but the members are having a difficulty in paying their dues. We believe that if the dues should in any manner be reduced for at least two or three years, that we would be able to hold our members and possibly increase the membership. This, under the present conditions, is one of the worse things with which we have to contend.

Membership

We have a condition in our state which is a little difficult to combat. Many architects in the smaller communities think that the situation is thoroughly covered by the Indiana Society, which has much smaller dues, and they hold the view that membership in the Institute is an unnecessary luxury, which can be dispensed with during these times, particularly in view of the fact that they feel their interests are being thoroughly taken care of by the State Society.

KENTUCKY CHAPTER—G. M. GRIMES, PresidentCivic Affairs

The Chapter is cooperating 100% with the Architects & Builders Exhibit of Louisville. The Model Home of this Exhibit was designed by local members of the Chapter and we have a

standing committee consisting of three local Architects who are in a position to direct the destinies of the Architects & Builders Exhibit by virtue of our arrangement with the management. We consider this one of the best Exhibits in the

KENTUCKY CHAPTER—continued

United States and through it the Chapter expects to do a great deal of educational work.

Plans have been under way for some time for the presentation of a series of lectures to the general public on the subject "Building A Home". We expect to use the club room of the Architects & Builders Exhibit for the lecture and to do considerable advertising through the Exhibit. It is possible that we will combine the various subjects into one lecture, having a number of outstanding business men of the city to cooperate with the local Architects to give this lecture.

Program

The Program Committee for the 1932-33 expects to make the monthly programs of such interest as to warrant increased attendance and stimulate activity.

Building Congress

A number of the Chapter members are members of the Louisville Building Congress and are

quite active in its affairs. In this way some of our Chapter members are leading in the efforts of the Building Congress to see that the building code is more strictly enforced. In this way, it is hoped to prevent a large amount of unsatisfactory building in the future.

Chapter Anniversary

The year 1933 brings the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the establishing of the Kentucky Chapter. We expect to commemorate this event in some appropriate manner.

Membership

The Officers and Directors of the Kentucky Chapter will attempt to hold their present membership by proving its value to the Chapter and by a liberal policy for delinquents, as well as associates whose time will soon expire for becoming full members. This is in accordance with various letters received from the Institute.

TOLEDO CHAPTER—CHARLES A. LANGDON, PresidentGeneral Conditions

We have not carried on a very extensive program during the past year. The architects in this city were all so badly hit by the bank failures that we have not money for the customary activi-

ties, and, of course, there is practically no work.

I am hoping though, now that the election is settled, that things may begin to pick up and perhaps it will put new life into the architects, and we can get going again.

Central States Division**IOWA CHAPTER—HARRY E. REIMER, President**Federal Employment of Architects

We have kept very close to our membership in our efforts to promote the idea of private architects on public works. Our letters in regard to this have been many. In this work we have extended our efforts beyond the Chapter membership.

Civic Affairs

I believe that the President's advice to the membership that they take part in local activities when they may be of service should be given proper consideration by the members. I note that some of the Iowa members have taken an active part in the matter of proper tax relief, town planning and zoning.

Finances

One of our Chapter problems as I personally view it is the need of some adequate sales argument that would be effective in convincing our chapter membership that the dues of the national

organization at twenty-five dollars per year are not out of line with local chapter dues of only ten dollars per year.

Membership

The Iowa Chapter is making every effort possible to hold its membership and to increase it.

Our membership is so widely scattered over the State that to have well attended meetings is a problem. We aim to hold quarterly meetings but owing to the inability of a substantial part of our membership to attend such meetings we have dispensed with them but will soon have our annual gathering.

Chapter Aim

It will be the aim of the Chapter officers to devote all possible time and to expend our efforts in the upbuilding of our local and National organizations with the thought always in mind of adequate service to our membership.

KANSAS CHAPTER—CHESTER M. ROUTLEDGE, *President*Meetings

Our members in the Kansas Chapter are scattered throughout the State and we are only able to get together for two meetings a year, however all of our regular committee work is being ably carried out and interest and attendance at State Meetings is better than in former years when we were all busy.

Our October 29th meeting at Emporia, Kansas, was full of lively interest and a better comradeship and friendly feeling was quite evident.

The Kansas Chapter has done for years some of the things suggested by Alexander C. Guth in his recent article in THE OCTAGON, "Why Not We Too?". Practically every committee report leads to interesting discussion and comment.

Our "Open Forum" was a real "clinic" on matters of practice, ethics, and business. Discussions were lead on such subjects as Architectural Education, Tax Amendments, Home Financing, Selecting List of Contractors, The Architect and His Community and other subjects of interest.

Federal Employment of Architects

Our members are cooperating individually with the Chapter Committee and the National Committee on "Public Works" in calling proposed

legislation to the attention of our Congressmen and Senators.

Trade Recovery Committee

Topeka members of our Chapter have been working with a voluntary committee on Trade Recovery, quite an extensive survey of the State has been made to uncover and help both the ordinary local building projects and especially projects that might come under the provisions for aid by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. This committee work may be extended to Architects in other parts of the State.

Our members are taking an active part in our proposed Constitutional Amendment limiting taxes on real property and of a second amendment providing for a graduated Income Tax. The proposed tax limitation would make practically impossible any bond issues for public buildings. Our members are fighting this measure. (It was defeated November 8.)

Summary

- (1) Active committee work and interest in Institute affairs.
- (2) Good attendance at Chapter Meetings.
- (3) Better fellowship, and freer and more open discussions on mutual problems and items of interest.

KANSAS CITY CHAPTER—ARTHUR S. KEENE, *President*Finances

The architects of Kansas City have experienced the same difficulties which obtain in the profession throughout the country. A small percentage of the members of the Chapter have paid their current dues. However, sufficient funds have been collected to enable us to operate on a restricted budget.

Meetings

The regular meetings have been and will be held. Instead of having a dinner as has been the custom, we have eliminated that expense, and are now meeting in the evening. Programs of special interest have been planned, light refreshments (the cost of which has been paid for from the Chapter's funds) have been served. The attendance has been exceedingly good.

Membership

Our immediate problem is holding the members together, maintaining a spirit of good fellowship and preserving the ethics of the profession.

Civic Affairs

The Kansas City Chapter has only within the last few years been recognized, as a factor in

civic activities. At present we have a member on the City Plan Commission and a member on the Art Commission.

Federal Employment of Architects

Definite action has been taken to further the recognition of the private architect by the Federal Government. A delegation from the Chapter attended the hearings in Kansas City with Mr. LaBeaume when he presented this subject to the special committee of Congress on "The Government in Business." The Congressmen from this district have been interviewed and informed as to the position of the A. I. A. on this matter.

Building Congress Idea

A Building Congress has not been formed as yet. A spirit of good feeling and cooperation exists between the Architects and Contractors, joint meetings and outings have been held. The membership of the Architectural League includes architects, draftsmen, and representatives of the allied professions and trades. This organization to some extent accomplishes the purposes of a Building Congress in bringing about closer relations between the elements of the Building Industry.

MINNESOTA CHAPTER—A. B. DUNHAM, *President*Loyalty of Members

In reporting what is being done to strengthen the Minnesota Chapter, A. I. A., and to make it of greatest possible value to the individual member and to the community, I wish to give all credit for anything we have done to the activity and loyalty of our membership. The present economic difficulties, instead of being a disintegrating influence, seem to have stimulated and unified our membership.

Meetings

Morale is being maintained by holding our regular meetings on schedule, making programs as interesting as possible, serving dinners at reasonable prices at all meetings. Attendance has been normal.

Committees are expected to function actively, progress reports are called for at chapter meetings, and certain chairmen are invited to each executive committee meeting for informal discussion of their problems.

Civic Affairs

Legislation.—A new registration law for architects and engineers has been prepared for presentation to the state legislature, to replace our ineffective "optional" law. A foundation is being laid for active support by all building, real estate and the principal civic organizations of the state.

Cooperation with Building Trades.—Joint meetings will be held at intervals to attempt to cure objectionable practices such as bid peddling, planning by contractors, etc.

Building Ordinances.—The chapter is represented on the committee working on the new Minneapolis building code, and our recommendations have been followed in most cases. Work is now practically completed.

NEBRASKA CHAPTER—J. M. NACHTIGALL, *President*Meetings and Spirit

It has been a hard struggle to retain the interest of our members, but we are endeavoring to conduct our monthly meetings, and will continue to carry on as best we can, although the attendance is very discouraging.

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER—LEON B. SENTER, *President*Meetings

On account of the expense involved to the member architects we have curtailed our meetings to the end that they have been held on call of the President only. We have but one Chapter here in Oklahoma and our members are scattered

Modernizing Campaign.—Working individually with members of the Associated General Contractors, suggestions for definite improvements with cost of same will be made to owners of existing properties. This will stimulate this type of work, and will eliminate preliminary sketches by contractors.

Federal Employment of Architects

Previous to election, all congressional candidates were given an explanation of the aims of the Institute regarding employment of private architects and engineers for certain Federal work, with a request for their views on the subject. Their replies will be reported at our next meeting. In line with this campaign, certain newspaper publicity was obtained.

Publicity

Program is being developed to show the extra value due to architectural services.

A bureau is being formed to rate houses as to architectural and structural merit, and to enlist support of real estate and financing agencies in the project. Newspaper publicity to reach prospective purchasers will follow.

Unemployment Relief

A survey of the type and amount of assistance needed locally by draftsmen and architects, is now being completed. Several plans for relief are being considered, depending on the results of this survey.

An attempt has been made through various organizations to induce the U. S. Treasury Department to employ private local architects for even the smaller post offices to be built in this district, as part of the real intent of the Federal Emergency Relief program for relieving unemployment.

We are trying our best to take an optimistic view of the situation and will foster a spirit of good fellowship to retain our membership.

No doubt the determining spirit to carry on is very prevalent among us all and we are all hoping that soon conditions will improve.

over the state making it very expensive to hold a meeting each month.

Federal Employment of Architects

The principal activity of our Chapter has been directed toward furthering the splendid work

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER—continued

being carried on by the Institute in regard to requiring the federal government to employ private architects on federal projects. Our members and myself have written many letters to our Senators and Congressmen from the State of Oklahoma urging them to fall in line when this all important legislation shall come before them. In a great many cases we have had very satisfactory responses.

In the State of Oklahoma we possibly have many architects who have not had work in over a year, most of whom have had to give up their offices and are either practicing from their residences or not at all. Yet the United States Government is competing with each of these men. There are several million dollars being spent at

this time in the State of Oklahoma on public buildings and with possibly five exceptions the plans and specifications were prepared or are being prepared by the Supervising Architect's Office of the Treasury Department and by the Quartermaster's Construction Division of the War Department.

The Institute and its members who are leading this movement for the Federal employment of private architects deserve the highest praise for the fight they have made and are now making to bring about a change in this unfair competition with private architects. I pledge you the support of myself and that of the Oklahoma Chapter to the end that such laws may be passed at the next regular session of Congress as will forever prevent the Government from competing with the architect in private practice.

ST. LOUIS CHAPTER—EUGENE S. KLEIN, *President*Chapter Position

The St. Louis Chapter does not feel that it is doing any more than usual to strengthen the position of the Chapter or to make it more valuable to the individual member or the community. The Chapter feels that it is only by extraordinary effort that it can keep the measure of attainment up, not too far below the attainment of more prosperous times.

Membership

We are still having monthly meetings which the Chapter President believes to be exceedingly interesting, and he believes that the individual members of the Chapter also find them quite acceptable. Everything possible is being done to retain the membership, and we are going further than we should in the matter of delinquency.

Civic Affairs

The Chapter itself, collectively and through

its individual members, is vitally interested in all civic projects, and many members of the Chapter are recognized as among the first of the civic leaders.

The President of the Chapter is on a Committee of Architects, Engineers and Contractors which will, in the near future, have a dinner for the members of the State Legislature, in order to acquaint them with legislation which the Building Congress is desirous of obtaining, principally Architects and Engineers Registration Laws and a Housing Law.

Federal Employment of Architects

As was suggested, the President of the Chapter wrote to all men running for office in the National Congress, and has had many favorable replies concerning the proposed legislation of Mr. LaBeaume's Committee. These replies have all been sent to THE OCTAGON.

WISCONSIN CHAPTER—ROGER C. KIRCHHOFF, *President*Unemployment Relief

Chapter has assigned funds to maintain an atelier to pay fees and expenses of men who are eager to retain their contact with architectural work. About twenty-seven men are being cared for. Chapter men are instructors and Beaux Arts problems, history classes, etc., are being conducted.

State Association

Chapter members promoted the organization. The first annual convention of this group was held last week, at which about 125 architects from the entire state attended. Practice during these times was frankly discussed and need of

maintenance of higher standard of procedure, especially in seeking work, was agreed upon. Our Chapter feels that the organization of the former free lance architects is worthy of our efforts and, if for no other reason, to develop new memberships for the Chapter.

Building Congress

A Chapter committee brought the various elements of the Congress together for an organization meeting. The Congress is incorporated and has been functioning for about eight months. A member of our Chapter is President of the Congress. As the leader in this group, he has done thus far very creditable work in enlarging the

WISCONSIN CHAPTER—*continued*
organization, and as its head, making appearances before public bodies arguing the cause of the building industry, especially in the troublesome matters of our governing bodies' inclination to usurp the functions of private business, particularly in this now famous socialistic city of Milwaukee.

Civic Affairs

(a) Registration Laws

Our new law is now in effect. A Chapter committee engineered this legislation and is aiding in selection at present of those that are to be admitted under "grandfather" clause.

(b) State Civil Service

A Chapter committee has conducted examinations for the local civil service commission, and has made classifications of various positions in a

large School Board architectural office in Milwaukee.

(c) Art Commission

The Chapter is also well represented on the City Art Commission.

R. F. C. Slum Clearance

The Chapter is working with the Association of Commerce to devise method of procedure to use this type of aid in rehabilitation of a slum area. Mr. Eugene Klaber, who was announced as available to speak on this subject, came to a Chapter meeting to which we had invited guests interested in this work.

Membership

One new associate voted on, one associate scheduled to appear before directors, one junior transferred to our Chapter. No loss in members to date.

NOTE: Reports from the Gulf States, Western Mountain and Sierra Nevada Divisions will appear in the February number.

Home-Building as an Economic Remedy

By C. JULIAN OBERWARTH, A.I.A.

THE building of a home is, in proportion to its cost, many times more valuable to our people than larger building projects. Its benefits spread into the far reaches of the land. It provides immediate work for the little fellow—the local plumber, bricklayer, carpenter and laborer.

It brings substantial customers to the neighborhood grocer, furniture store and druggist. There is a wide distribution of benefits to railroads, insurance companies, the automotive industry, manufacturers and producers of staple products. It is an investment in community life and community institutions.

After the war the home building field was invaded by a scourge of speculative builders and laid open to the unharnessed efforts of selfish, un-American, supersalesmen of cheap materials, preying mercilessly upon the loose purse strings of a people who had lost all sense of value.

Lack of demand for architectural direction was disastrous. There was a flood of unsound construction and poor planning. Hideous looking monstrosities sprang to life to be advertised and sold to an uninformed public as "the very latest creations in artistic homes."

And now, more than one-third of all homes in this, the country which bragged so loudly of its high standards of living, are found to be obsolete, out-of-

date, unable to show the slightest promise of ever paying their way to owners or investors. Slums and blighted areas cover the land on a vast and unbelievable scale. An insult to American intelligence, standards and ideals!

Here, then, are conditions which, humiliating though they be, combine to form a potential field of development that, honestly exploited, would be of far-reaching importance in the fight for economic recovery. Wherefore the profession of architecture and building industry say to the financial and political interests of this country: Success of this program will mean a return to stability; failure a national catastrophe.

Provide the public with an opportunity to finance homebuilding upon a reasonable and practical basis. Get rid of our idiotic realty tax laws which deal out death to the building industry and cripple the foundation of our national life. Recognize the value of architectural direction, reliable contractors, quality products and sound construction.

Do this, and we will strike the greatest blow of all, straight to the midsection of depression.

(An extract from an article in the "United States Daily," by Mr. Oberwarth, Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects, Commonwealth of Kentucky.)

Special Meeting of the Executive Committee

NOVEMBER 18, 19, 20, 1932

TO THE MEMBERS:

In place of the customary semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors, a special meeting of the Executive Committee was held at The Octagon during the third week of November. This saved money and disposed of much Institute business which had accumulated since the meeting of the Board of Directors in the spring.

The resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee here printed show the action on various matters appropriate for publication at this time. The complete Minutes record a total of 204 items of business with 175 resolutions adopted. These, of course, include many items of a routine nature, such as resignations, reinstatements, and other status cases, which under the basic law of the Institute must be acted upon by the Board or Executive Committee.

It will be evident that the brief record here printed omits many items and resolutions, because the subject-matter thereof is not appropriate for publication at this time, or is of a strictly routine nature.

Any member of the Institute may obtain complete information concerning action on any subject considered by the Executive Committee, by addressing a request to the Secretary. The minutes of each meeting of the Board of Directors, and Executive Committee, are open at The Octagon to members of the Institute.

The Executive Committee spent a great deal of time in working on the financial problems which confront the Institute as a national organization, the Chapters as local organizations, and the Members as practicing architects. A comprehensive report with accompanying data and recommendations was received from the Treasurer. All of this material was considered at length, and various decisions made to meet the demands and the necessities of the present financial stringency.

The Institute budget for the year 1933, previously adopted by the Board, was scaled down drastically to meet the severe reduction in income encountered in 1932 and anticipated in 1933.

With respect to the Institute members who were unable to pay their dues in 1932, the Executive Committee directed that such members be carried as active members of the Institute and of their respective Chapters until the time of the meeting of the Board of Directors in the spring.

The spring meeting will be held much earlier than usual—at The Octagon, in Washington, D. C., on March 15, 1933. It will be attended by all the Directors and will be in session from four days to a week in order that the affairs of the Institute and its Chapters, and the welfare of the architectural profession as a whole, may have the best thought that the Board can give.

Undoubtedly some statement will be made by the Board with respect to the financial situation of the Institute and related matters, for publication to the membership after the March meeting.

FRANK C. BALDWIN,
Secretary.

Members Present.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee had been called by the Chairman of the Committee, President Russell, upon the written request of Frank C. Baldwin, Edwin Bergstrom, and Horace W. Peaslee, for the purpose of transacting all matters of business properly within the jurisdiction of the Executive Committee and usually transacted by the Board of Directors at its semi-annual meeting.

The Executive Committee met in special meeting at The Octagon on November 18, 19, and 20, 1932. The first session was called to order at 9:55 A. M. on November 18. Those

present were the Chairman, Ernest John Russell, and Charles D. Maginnis, Horace W. Peaslee, Frank C. Baldwin, members, also A. L. Brockway, alternate. The Executive Secretary, E. C. Kemper; and the Assistant Executive Secretary, G. T. Heckert, were also present at all meetings.

The Secretary read a telegram from the Treasurer expressing his keen regret that owing to business demands in Los Angeles, and with a view to economy for the Institute, he would not be present at the meeting. Mr. Baldwin said that the Treasurer had sent a financial report for 1932 and modifications of the budget for the year 1933.

*(Executive Committee Resolutions—continued)***Regional Divisions—Reports of Directors.**

Reports were read from the following Regional Directors:

<i>Division</i>	<i>Director</i>
South Atlantic.....	Franklin O. Adams
Gulf States.....	M. H. Furbringer
Sierra Nevada.....	Frederick H. Meyer
New York.....	Albert L. Brockway
New England.....	George H. Gray
Central States.....	Frederick M. Mann
Great Lakes.....	Herbert E. Hewitt
Middle Atlantic.....	James O. Betelle
Western Mountain.....	Raymond J. Ashton

The President expressed his appreciation of the work of the Directors.

Resolved, That the reports of Regional Directors be received, and that the Secretary be authorized to print excerpts therefrom in THE OCTAGON. (213-E-11-32)

Reports from Chapter Presidents.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee expresses its appreciation to the Chapter Presidents for their comprehensive and helpful reports on affairs in their respective jurisdictions, and directs the Secretary to make the entire edited record available to Regional Directors and to each Chapter President. (214-E-11-32)

Committee Progress Reports.

The Secretary stated that under the established procedure of the Institute the special and standing committees are presumed to make three reports to the Board, namely, Progress Reports—to the semi-annual meeting of the Board; Preliminary Reports—to the Executive Committee at the early spring meeting; and Final Reports—to the Board at the annual meeting.

He stated that full information concerning the requirements for the submission of these reports had been transmitted to each Committee Chairman.

The Secretary then submitted the progress reports of the standing and special committees which were taken up and acted upon in order.

(Action taken on the progress reports of thirty-three Standing and Special Committees is not recorded here. Those progress reports are to be followed shortly by the final reports, which will be made by the Committees to the Board of Directors at the March meeting.)

If space and funds permit, it is planned to summarize the final reports of standing and special committees, with Board action thereon, and to publish the same in THE OCTAGON—after the March meeting of the Board.)

Information For Prospective Building Owners

At the organization meeting of the Board, the President appointed a Special Committee, consisting of Franklin O. Adams, Chairman; Frank C. Baldwin, and James O. Betelle, members, to consider and report to it upon a program

for furnishing information to prospective building owners, as proposed by Director Adams in his annual report to the April meetings of the Board.

The Secretary reported that on July 20 his office had distributed to each member of the Board a tentative report by Mr. Adams on this subject with requests for comments and suggestions thereon. The responses received by Chairman Adams had been considered by him, and covered in his report of November, 1932, which was read.

Resolved, That in view of the cost of financing, the program of information for prospective building owners be not adopted in the form outlined by the Special Committee. The Committee is requested to accept a modification of its program which will produce a brochure of the same character as the English publication entitled "Adventure of Building." The Chairman is requested to submit copy and estimate of cost of such a brochure to the Board at its next meeting. (243-E-11-32)

Economic Value of Architectural Service

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on Economic Value of Architectural Service, dated September 30, 1932, be received. The Chairman is requested to prepare for the Board, at its next meeting, a draft of a document to be issued in separate form, and along the lines proposed by him. (244-E-11-32)

Taxation as Related to Practice of Architecture—Special Committee.

Resolved, That a special committee on Taxation as Related to the Practice of Architecture be appointed, with W. R. B. Willcox as Chairman, and with instructions to continue the work of the Committee along the line followed in the report to the 65th Convention. (245-E-11-32)

Federal Home Loan Banks—Report.

Resolved, That the report of the President, with regard to recommendations of architects for appointment on local Home Loan Bank Boards be received and approved. (232-E-11-32)

Architects Selected Technical Index and Guide.

Resolved, That this whole subject covered in the proposed Architect's Technical Index and Guide be referred to a special committee to be composed of N. Max Dunning, Chairman of the Structural Service Committee; Charles Butler, Chairman of the Committee on Education; Wm. Harmon Beers, Chairman of the Committee on Public Information; Wm. Stanley Parker, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Building Practices; and James O. Betelle, Chairman of the Committee on Economic Value of Architectural Service, with Mr. Dunning acting as Chairman, with instructions to study and report to the Board at the next meeting. (253-E-11-32)

Resolved, That Mr. Peaslee's suggestions with respect to an index of articles appearing in the architectural magazines also be referred to this special committee. (254-E-11-32)

Structural Service.*Report of Committee.*

The Secretary submitted the progress report of the Chairman of the Structural Service Committee, N. Max Dunning, dated November 11,

(Executive Committee Resolutions—continued)

1932. This report covered the activities of the Committee for the period ending October 31, 1932.

Resolved, That the report of the Chairman of the Structural Service Committee be accepted. (255-E-11-32)

Service Rendered to Institute Members.

Resolved, That Institute members be encouraged to bring their problems to the attention of the Structural Service Department and that abstracts of replies be published in THE OCTAGON. (256-E-11-32)

Institute Representatives—Acknowledgment of Service.

Whereas, Samuel R. Bishop, John Irwin Bright, Theodore I. Coe, N. Max Dunning, Charles M. Gay, Emery Stanford Hall, F. Y. Joannes, Bevan Jones, Sullivan W. Jones, C. W. Killam, Harry Parker, Joshua H. Vogel, Stephen F. Voorhees, Louis A. Walsh, and John A. Wetzel represent the Institute on Committees of technical groups and governmental agencies engaged in the preparation and promulgation of codes and standards relating to the design and construction of buildings, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Executive Committee expresses appreciation for the constructive service rendered to the architectural profession and to the advancement of the science of building, by these representatives of the Institute, (258-E-11-32) and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of the above named Institute members. (259-E-11-32)

Filing System for R. A. I. C.

Resolved, That the Structural Service Committee be authorized to cooperate with The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada in the consideration of a filing system which will be mutually satisfactory to architects and manufacturers in both the United States and Canada. (262-E-11-32)

Revision of A. I. A. Document No. 239.

Resolved, That the publication of an amended document on Cubic Contents of Buildings be left in the hands of the Chairman of the Structural Service Committee, with power. (263-E-11-32)

Price Cutting—Resolution by The Producers' Council.

The Secretary read a resolution adopted at the Ninth Semi-Annual meeting of The Producers' Council, November 1932, relating to harmful price cutting practices and outlining procedure to counteract such practices. This resolution places the Council on record as favoring a one-product, one-price system of bidding.

Resolved, That the Institute commends The Producers' Council for its ethical stand on harmful price cutting practices, favoring a one-product, one-price system of bidding, and directs the Structural Service Department to cooperate with the Council in bringing this to the attention of the building industry, (267-E-11-32) and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to send a copy of this Resolution to The Producers' Council, The Associated General Contractors of America, and the Construction League of the United States. (268-E-11-32)

A. S. T. M. Committee on Hollow Masonry Building Units—Membership.

Resolved, That the Institute accept membership on the American Society for Testing Materials' Committee C-10 on Hollow Masonry Building Units, and that the President be authorized to appoint one or more representatives on this Committee, as he may deem advisable. (271-E-11-32)

Recommended Commercial Standard for Douglas Fir Plywood—Acceptance of.

Resolved, That the Structural Service Department be authorized to accept in principle, on behalf of the Institute, the Recommended Commercial Standard for Douglas Fir Plywood. (272-E-11-32)

Certificates of Rating.

Resolved, That the Institute approve in principle the basic proposal that certificates of rating should be issued upon the physical condition of buildings, when such ratings are based upon accurate, complete and trustworthy examination and description by experts. (276-E-11-32)

Mass Production of Small Houses.

Whereas, Recent publicity recording the activity promoting the mass or factory production of small houses as indicating a possible solution of the demand for low cost small houses has been brought to the attention of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects, and

Whereas, Such mass production, in line with commodity manufacturing in other lines, has apparently received some support and endorsement, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects recognizes fully the absolute necessity of the elimination of all waste and uneconomic features, for the purpose of reducing the cost of houses in construction and therefore recognizes and commends this object; nevertheless, attention is called to the danger of obliterating the individuality and character of the house, which is the home of the American family, and to the resultant affect upon the character of the family whose home it is. While cost is an important factor in home building, it must certainly be subservient to the larger duty of making the home of the American citizen expressive of all the qualities that his citizenship implies. (286-E-11-32)

Initiation Ceremonies.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee approves the suggestion of a uniform initiation ceremony, and urges the Washington, D. C. Chapter to develop a model initiation ceremony, which can be considered by the Board as the basis of a general form for all Chapters. (290-E-11-32)

Motor Vehicle and Gasoline Tax—Diversion.

Resolved, That the Institute approves the principle that all funds arising from motor vehicle registration laws and gasoline taxes shall be used for the purpose of providing improved streets and highways, and should not be diverted to other uses. (303-E-11-32)

Preservation of Waterloo Bridge—London.

Resolved, That the President be requested to advise the Royal Institute of British Architects of the complete sympathy

(Executive Committee Resolutions—continued)

and support of the American architects in all efforts that are made by the British architects for preservation of Waterloo Bridge. (305-E-11-32)

Reviewing Shop Drawings.

Resolved, That the correspondence from Herbert C. Wise, on reviewing shop drawings, and the cost thereof to the architect, be referred to the Committee on Schedule of Charges for report on the feasibility of formulating a definition of the service which the architect should render as a part of his professional service and without extra charge. (307-E-11-32)

Blue Prints, Charge for.

Resolved, That the correspondence relative to charges by the architect for blue prints be referred to the Committee on Schedule of Charges for report at the next meeting of the Board. (308-E-11-32)

Consulting Specialists—Compensation.

Resolved, That the correspondence relating to "consulting specialists" and payment for their services from the fee of the architect be referred to the Committee on Schedule of Charges for report, and with the recommendation that the Committee consider the advisability of an amendment to the Schedule of Charges which would remedy this abuse. (309-E-11-32)

Principles Recommended to be Embodied in a State Housing Law.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee approves and endorses the document entitled "Principles Which It Is Recommended Should Be Embodied in a State Housing Law", and recommends it to the Chapters. (330-E-11-32)

Convention of 1933—Omission.

Resolved, That, subject to the concurrence of absent Directors, the Convention of 1933 be omitted as a measure of economy for the Institute, its Chapters, and individual members; and to permit an appropriation for visits by the Officers and Directors to the Institute Chapters. The President is requested to convey the reasons for the omission to the membership, through a communication in THE OCTAGON. (340-E-11-32)

Executive Committee—Spring Meeting.

Resolved, That as a measure of economy the early spring meeting of the Executive Committee be omitted. (357-E-11-32)

Board of Directors—Next Meeting.

Resolved, That the annual meeting of the Board of Directors be held on March 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19, 1933. (358-E-11-32)

Construction League and Building Congress Meetings

DURING the week of January 16, and as a part of the Highway and Building Congress program in Detroit, Michigan, the Construction League of the United States sponsored a series of meetings.

The first was a Building Congress Day, held on Friday, January 20. The presiding officer at the morning session was E. J. Russell, President of the Institute, and in the afternoon, Robert D. Kohn, Past-President of the Institute, spoke on the subject of "Rebuilding Blighted Areas—Effect Upon Economic Conditions."

A number of interesting papers were presented at these Building Congress sessions, one of the most valuable of which was a report by A. E. Horst, Past-President of the Associated General Contractors, on the "Renovizing" program which has been so effective in Philadelphia. So far that program has developed more than fifteen million dollars' worth of work in modernizing and rehabilitation, with resulting advantages to the people of Philadelphia and the building industry. A more complete statement concerning this matter will appear in the February number of THE OCTAGON.

A meeting of the Policy Committee of the Construction League was held on Friday evening, January 20; and on Saturday, January 21, the second General Assembly of the League took place. Present at that meeting were the following architects: the General Chairman of the League, Robert D. Kohn; E. J. Russell, of St. Louis; Herbert E. Hewitt, of Peoria, Illinois;

William Stanley Parker, of Boston; Merritt Harrison, of Indianapolis; Branson V. Gamber, President of the Detroit Chapter, Lancelot Sukert, Past-President of the Michigan Society of Architects; G. Frank Corder, representing the Institute Committee on Economics of Site Planning and Housing, and other members of the Detroit Chapter.

A resolution of special interest to the architectural profession was adopted, as follows:

The Construction League of the United States meeting in Assembly at Detroit, January 21, 1933, expresses its grave concern at the effects of growing unemployment on private and public welfare. It finds that despite the appalling human and economic waste resulting from this condition, chief dependence is being placed on direct relief measures. In consequence there is a progressive loss of morale which constitutes a threat to the future of our country.

In view of the urgency of this situation the Construction League appeals to every department of Government, business and industry to organize cooperation in planning to restore the unemployed to useful employment, in recognition of the fact that no progress toward economic and social recovery can be expected until men are put to work. Planned effort is essential because a surplus of workers will exist for a number of years.

The League further points out that the industries which produce consumption goods can not now or for some time to come absorb additional labor, while on the other hand there exists throughout the nation a clear need for new and improved public service facilities. It therefore urges that the surplus man power be utilized as far as practicable in creating employment through public works, the rehabilitation of blighted areas, and the construction of decent housing for the low-income groups, all of these to be based on long-term planning so as to provide for the necessities and amenities of a better life, both inside and outside of our towns and cities.

Shopping for Bids and Bid Peddling.

TO THE MEMBERS:

THE building industry at last seems to have reached a state of mind for really doing something definite about bid shopping, and bid peddling as they are called—and even by worse names.

The architect needs no description of these evils, but he should be informed of developments which indicate a growing determination to abolish them—if that can be done.

The Construction League of the United States, at its last meeting, gave much time to the report of a special committee on the subject of bid peddling, and attention was called to a strong resolution against it, recently adopted by the Associated General Contractors. (That resolution appeared in the July number of *THE OCTAGON*—page 22.)

The so-called "Nashville Plan" was discussed, and also the "Huddleston Plan".

The Producers' Council has appointed a special committee to investigate and report.

The action of the League was to recommend that a special committee of the League undertake to act as a clearing house for the study of the various plans now in operation. It was felt that this is a situation in which the League can best serve by assembling in one report the comments of the various elements of the industry on the present status of bid peddling.

The National Conference on Construction, at its meeting in Washington in November, expressed the belief that bid peddling or bargaining of prices after the official opening of written bids is a reprehensible practice that is working serious harm to the industry and to the general public.

The architect's interest in this matter is self evident. We, therefore, print in this number a complete outline of a plan based upon suggestions made by Professor Eric T. Huddleston of the Architectural Department of the University of New Hampshire. The Boston Society of Architects, a Chapter of the Institute, endorsed and approved the "Huddleston Plan," which was first endorsed by the Boston Building Congress.

William Stanley Parker, of Boston, was consulted as to whether the subject of shopping for bids, and bid peddling, from the architects' point of view is of sufficient importance to justify the space which would be necessary to outline in *THE OCTAGON*, the procedure endorsed by the Boston and New Hampshire architects, general contractors, and sub-contractors, as one which it is hoped will reduce this evil practice to a minimum. Mr. Parker's reply was that from his point of view the subject could hardly be over emphasized. It is believed that the procedure outlined here will be of considerable help to the architects throughout the country in assisting them in solving this difficult common problem of the building industry.

In a future number of *THE OCTAGON*, it is hoped to publish an outline of the "Nashville Plan".

In the meantime, members are asked to read carefully the details of the "Huddleston Plan" and to send their approval, comments, or objections to the Joint Committee on Building Practices, William Stanley Parker, Chairman, 120 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

FRANK C. BALDWIN, *Secretary*.

BOSTON COMMENTS ON THE HUDDLESTON PLAN

The Executive Committee of the Society at a recent meeting approved the method of obtaining bids and awarding a general contract as described below and recommended its use by the members of the Society.

The undersigned Committee, in accordance with the instructions and authority of the Executive Committee, asks your careful consideration of the documents sent you herewith, which outline the procedure which has been approved by the Executive Committee, and urges you to respond to its recommendation and make a trial of the procedure at the first opportunity.

This Committee would call your attention particularly to the reason for this action and to certain points involved in the new procedure proposed.

There is a practically unanimous sentiment in favor of this procedure among both General Contractors and Sub-Contractors, who desire to have the practice of "shopping" of sub-bids abolished. They realize this cannot be done without the co-operation of architects and they petitioned the Society to take action, by unanimous vote of a meeting of the Building Congress at which two hundred and fifty were present. A petition to the same general effect was signed by over three hundred general contractors, sub-contractors and material dealers.

The proposed plan is based upon suggestions made by Professor Eric T. Huddleston of the Architectural Department of the University of New Hampshire, and a member of this Society, who has put such a plan into actual operation in a building project for the University. The industry is indebted to the University and Professor Huddleston for their thoughtful experimentation in this field of bidding practice, where many subsequent difficulties find their inception.

The importance of the problem is evidenced by the interest being manifested in this procedure in many parts of the country.

The Committee wishes to call particular attention to the following points:

- (1) The Architect should insert in his Notice to Bidders the clauses suggested in the attached form (Exhibit A). These are, of course, in addition to the other usual information in such Notice, such as time and place for receipt of general bids, etc.
Draft of a Proposal Form is also attached hereto. (Exhibit C).
- (2) The branches of the work to be listed in "Item Two" are those intended to be executed as sub-contracts under the General Contractor.
Any work intended to be done under entirely separate contracts apart from the General Contract should be carefully listed in the specifications, preferably in a special section.
- (3) The time for submission of copies of sub-bids to the Architect should be not less than 24 hours before the time for submission of General Bids. If the time allowed for bidding is two weeks or more, the time for submission of copies might be extended to 48 hours before submission of General Bids.
In order to provide the intended safeguard it is essential that this time limit be as rigidly observed as the time limit for receipt of the General Bids should be.
- (4) The Architect will list the various sub-contracts in "Item Two" to suit the conditions of each job. It is the intention of the plan that this list shall include all work customarily done by sub-contractors, as suggested by the list appended hereto in Exhibit B.
- (5) In the Conference with the selected General Contractor, the sub-bids should be opened jointly and it should be part of the General Contractor's normal function to list and analyze the sub-bids for purposes of proper comparison, this he having already done except for bids not received by him directly. The right to accept any bid, for reason of price, ability to perform, or any other reason, rests with the

owner, the only restriction is that such bid shall be accepted at its stated price, and that the sub-bidder shall be acceptable to the General Contractor.

Little if any additional work should be involved for the Architect in this procedure, but such as there may be is likely to be offset by less work later as there will be less likelihood of trouble due to extras, faulty work, failure or any of the other causes of difficulty arising out of sub-contractors awarded at too low a figure or to an unsatisfactory contractor.

The members of this Committee will appreciate an opportunity to consult with any architect having an opportunity to try out this plan, to explain further any points not made clear by this statement, to assist in the preparation of the documents, and to observe the operation of the plan so as to gain the further experience that will help to perfect it and make it serve its purpose with the least possible routine burden to the architect.

Special Committee on Bidding Practice:

ROBERT P. BELLOWS,
WILLIAM D. AUSTIN,
WM. STANLEY PARKER, *Chairman.*

THE HUDDLESTON PLAN—AND DOCUMENTS

EXHIBIT A

Clauses to be included in an Architect's Notice to Bidders for Private Contracts.

Recommended by the Executive Committee of the Boston Society of Architects for use in Boston and Vicinity, to prevent shopping of sub-bids.

Proposal to receive consideration must be made in accordance with the following instructions:

- (a) Bids from General Contractors shall be for the complete building, as follows:
 - (1) Each bid shall include all work under the general specifications, except such work as may be specifically excepted.
 - (2) Each bid shall be subdivided into two items:

Item One covering all the work of the General Contractor, including all his overhead and profits, and all other work not embraced in those sub-contracts noted in Item Two.

Item Two covering the work of those sub-contractors and the estimates therefor as are listed in the proposal form for General Contractors, attached hereto.
- (b) Every sub-bidder on work listed in Item Two submitting an estimate to General Bidders, shall file a copy of his bid with the Architect on or

- before.....o'clock..... (date), and should deliver his bid to General Contractors not more than four hours thereafter. All copies of bids filed with the Architect shall be in sealed envelopes plainly marked "Proposal forwork for (job)", shall be in the form noted in (h) below, and shall be held by the architect unopened until the conference with the selected General Contractor provided for in (e) below. No sub-bid will be considered in the final selection of subbidders, as hereinafter described, except those filed with the Architect as above provided.
- (c) All bids from General Contractors shall be on the form attached hereto or on a form identical therewith, without change or addition thereto, and no bid not so submitted shall be given consideration. The Owner authorizes the Architect to state that he approves this statement and will enforce it strictly and will place out of consideration any irregular proposal not submitted in the approved form.
- (d) The General Contractor will be selected on the basis of the bids for the general work covered by Item One, entirely exclusive of the balance of the proposal as covered by Item Two. The standing and ability of the General Bidders will be given due weight in addition to the amounts of the bids, and the Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept any bid as he deems is to his best interest.
- (e) After the selection of the General Contractor as above provided the Architect and Owner and General Contractor shall jointly consider the names of proposed sub-bidders and their amounts, as given in the General Contractor's proposal, and the other bids for such work on file with the Architect, as provided above, and shall select from among the sub-bids so filed with the Architect, the sub-bidders agreed upon as being the most desirable for the work, all things considered, and the list of sub-bidders and the amounts thereof as so agreed upon shall be included in the contract as the sub-contractors for the work indicated, and at the amounts named in their proposals as filed with the Architect, the total Contract price being adjusted accordingly.
- The Owner reserves the right to reject all sub-bids on any item or items provided it is jointly agreed that none of such bids represents the bid of a person or firm competent to perform the work as specified, or that only one such bid was received and that the price is not reasonable for acceptance without competition.
- (f) If a General Bidder customarily performs with his own employees any sub-trade or trades listed in Item Two of the Proposal, he may submit his own name and amount for such work in his own proposal under Item Two. Such submission by the selected General Contractor shall be considered on a par with sub-bids filed with the Architect by regular sub-bidders for such work, and selection shall be made as provided above in (e). No such sub-bid by a General Bidder will be considered, however, unless the General Bidder can show, to the satisfaction of the Architect, that he does customarily perform such work, and is qualified to do the character of work required by the specifications.
- (g) If a General Bidder is unable to secure any estimate on any listed sub-bidder's work, he shall for the purpose of the estimate enter the words "estimated cost" in place of the name of the sub-bidder, and state such amount as in his judgment is adequate. A sub-contractor for such work shall be selected as provided in (e), above.
- (h) *Form of Proposal to be used by Sub-Contractors:*
- The undersigned proposes to furnish all the labor and/or materials required for the..... work as specified in Section.....of the Specifications for..... (building) on Street (city) (State), for Owner, for the sum specified below, subject to additions and deductions according to the specifications and in all respects according to the terms thereof and according to the plans, all as prepared by (Architect) (Address).
- NOTE:** The Sub-bidder shall endorse the copy of his bid filed with the Architect as follows: "The above proposal is being sent to the following General Bidders. . . . The proposal may not be used by any other General Contractor without the consent of the undersigned."

EXHIBIT B

Suggestions regarding work to be included under Item One, and work to be done as sub-contracts and listed under Item Two in Proposal Form attached hereto (Exhibit C).

It is to be understood that the following notes are only suggestions. Many items will be subject to the varying procedures of different architects and are expected to be handled by each architect as he sees fit.

The only important underlying requirement is that each branch of the work handled as a sub-contract

should be separately specified, preferably in a Section by itself, so as to permit precise reference to the portion of the specifications on which each sub-bid is based.

Item One

This Item is intended to cover all the work usually done by the General Contractor with men directly on his payroll,—such as the following:

Excavations and grading.
Drains.
Foundations.
Masonry (except any special items listed under Item Two).
Setting of structural steel.
Rough carpentry.
Finished carpentry (except such items as doors, windows, interior finish or special items as may be listed under Item Two).
Fireproofing (except reinforcing steels, pans, etc., included under Item Two).
Granolithic surfacing and other masonry floors not specially listed under Item Two.
Other general masonry and carpentry items, cleaning and other miscellaneous work, administration, etc.
All allowances (except those included under sub-bids listed in Item Two).
Supervision.
All overhead and General Contractors profits including any profit carried for handling the sub-contracts listed in Item Two.

It is understood that there will be certain portions of the above work that will be sub-let but these will vary according to the General Contractor's policy, and are to be included under Item One without special enumeration.

Item Two

The following list indicates the work expected normally to be let as sub-contracts, but is intended to be adjusted to suit the requirements of the work and the policy of the Architect.

Piling.
Damp and waterproofing.
Reinforcing steel, pans, etc.
Cut stone.
Exterior marble (delivered or set).
Interior marble and slate.
Terrazzo.
Tile work.
Structural steel, delivered.
Ornamental and miscellaneous iron.
Bronze and brass.
Mail chute.
Metal doors.
Metal windows.
Kalamein doors, tinned doors and shutters.
Roofing and sheet metal.
Plastering.
Hardware.
Special carpentry items such as doors, windows, interior finish or other special items as the Architect may desire.

Item Two—continued

Painting.
Glazing.
Linoleum floors.
Patent floors.
Plumbing.
Sprinklers.
Electric wiring and fixtures.
Gas piping.
Heating and ventilating.
Elevators.
Mechanical equipment.
Insulation.
Refrigeration.
Metal lockers, partitions, louvres, fittings, equipment, etc.

EXHIBIT C

Draft of Proposal Form

Recommended by the Executive Committee of the Boston Society of Architects for use in Boston and Vicinity, to prevent shopping of sub-bids.

To

(a) The Undersigned proposes to furnish all the labor and materials required for the construction of

..... on

(Street) (City)

(State), for (Owner) in accordance with the accompanying specifications

and plans furnished by

(Architect) (Address), for the sum specified below, subject to additions and deductions according to the specifications and in all respects according to the terms thereof.

(b) The Undersigned agrees that if within days from the day named for delivering the proposal to the Architect (or Owner), notice that this proposal will be accepted by the Owner shall be mailed to him at the business address given below, or shall be delivered to him, he will, within six week-days thereafter, deliver to the Owner where directed a contract properly executed in triplicate (or otherwise) on the forms annexed, with such changes therein as shall have been made by the Owner prior to the time named for delivery of this proposal, (together with a Bond of a Surety Company satisfactory to the Owner in the sum of% of the contract price, the premium for which is to be paid by the contractor and is included in the contract price.)

(c) The Proposed Contract Sum is..... Dollars (\$.....).

(d) The Subdivision of the Proposed Contract Sum is, as follows:

Item (1) The work of the General Contractor, being all work other than that covered by the following Item (2)

(\$.....).

Item (2) Sub-bids, as follows:—

	Bidder	Amount
(1) Roofing		\$.....
(2) Plastering		\$.....
(3) Etc.		\$.....
Total of Items (2)		\$.....

(e) The Undersigned agrees that his selection as General Contractor shall be based solely on Item 1 of the subdivision of the Proposed Contract Sum, as stated above, and that the list of sub-bids and the amounts thereof given above in Item 2 are not to be considered in making the award.

The Undersigned further agrees that the above list of sub-bidders represent bona fide bids based on the plans and specifications, made in good faith to the bidder, and are hereby submitted and if the Undersigned is awarded the Contract, they will be used for the work indicated, at the amounts stated, if satisfactory to the Architect as provided in Art. 36 of the General Conditions.

The Undersigned agrees that if he is selected as General Contractor he will promptly confer with the Architect and the Owner on the question of sub-bidders and that the architect may substitute for any sub-bids listed above, the names and amounts of sub-bids as submitted for this work and filed with the Architect, as required by the Notice to Bidders, against whose standing and ability the Undersigned makes no valid objection, and that he will use all such finally selected sub-bidders at the amounts so named and be in every way as responsible for them and their work as if they had been originally named in this proposal, the total contract price being adjusted to conform thereto.

Bidder; Address

SUB-BIDDER—PROPOSAL FORM

Recommended by the New Hampshire group of Architects and Contractors.

To.....

(a) The Undersigned proposes to furnish all the labor and materials required for the completion of all the work specified under the sub-heading of all the work specified under the sub-heading Paragraph No. to

Name sub-trade
No. inclusive in accordance with the plans and specification furnished by.....Architect for located on.....

Name of building
street city,
state, for Owner, for the contract sum of Dollars (\$.....).

The Undersigned further agrees to be bound to the General Contractor by the terms of the General Conditions, Drawings and Specifications, and to assume toward him all the obligations and responsibilities that he, by those documents, assumes toward the Owner.

The Undersigned offers the following information as evidence of his qualification to perform the work as bid upon according to all the requirements of the plans and specifications.

1. Have been in business under present business nameyears.
2. Ever failed to complete any work awarded?.....
3. List three recent buildings with names of general contractor and architect on which you served as sub-contractor for work of similar character as required for the above named building.
: Building : Contractor : Architect : Am't your contract
(a) : : : :
(b) : : : :
(c) : : : :
4. Bank reference:

Respectfully submitted,

International Competition—City Development Scheme

The administrative council of the Societe Intercommunale for the development of the left bank of the river Scheldt has announced the opening of an international competition for plans for the development of an area situated across the river from Antwerp, Belgium. The competition opened October 1, 1932, and will remain open until May 31, 1933.

This information has been furnished THE

OCTAGON by Mr. M. H. Bletz, Chief of the Foreign Construction Division of the Department of Commerce, who has received information regarding this competition from American Consul W. H. Beach, of Antwerp, Belgium, in Report No. 7464, of October 6, 1932. For additional information address Mr. Bletz or Consul Beach or the Societe Intercommunale, rue Arenberg, 26, Antwerp, Belgium.

With the Chapters

(EXTRACTS FROM CHAPTER MINUTES AND REPORTS)

Brooklyn Chapter—

At the December meeting of the Brooklyn Chapter there was an exhibition of twenty-five designs for an eight-room school house by upper classmen of the Department of Architecture, School of Applied and Fine Arts, Pratt Institute, who were student affiliates of the Brooklyn Chapter, in competition for a prize donated by the Chapter, and under the direction of Lester B. Pope, Chairman of the Committee on Education.

Frank Boerman, whose plan was excellent with Colonial exterior, won the prize and was present to receive the award.

The Chapter adopted a resolution commending acting Mayor of New York, Joseph V. McKee, on his appointment of Harris H. Murdock, member of the New York Chapter, to fill the position of Chairman of the Board of Standards and Appeals.

Buffalo Chapter—

At the December meeting of the Buffalo Chapter, the nominating committee reported the nomination for 1933 officers. Harry F. Hudson and Benning C. Buell were nominated for President and Secretary, respectively.

The M. and T. Trust Company had sent a letter to all architects in the Buffalo district, calling the architects' attention to its current advertisement. Karl G. Schmill suggested that this presented a favorable opportunity to submit to the M. and T. Trust Company the Chapter's view of the desirability of requiring that all plans submitted with applications for loans be prepared by registered architects. The suggestion was approved and the matter left in Mr. Schmill's hands.

At the November meeting, Frederick C. Backus was appointed a committee of one to prepare a brochure on architectural practice, ethics, etc., for distribution to prospective clients and others interested in building.

Central Illinois Chapter—

The annual meeting of the Central Illinois Chapter was held December 17 at the Creve Couer Club in Peoria.

After the President's address, matters such as the Home Loan Bank Act, Chapter dues, delegates to a regional conference at Detroit were considered.

New officers were elected for the coming year. L. H. Provine and E. L. Stouffer were elected President and Secretary respectively.

A resolution was adopted directing the Secretary to send to James M. White, (Chairman of the Institutes Committee on Registration) who is recov-

ering from an operation in a Chicago hospital, the well wishes of the Chapter.

Connecticut Chapter—

The minutes of the annual meeting of the Connecticut Chapter indicate that this Chapter is determined to not only maintain its membership but even under present adverse conditions, to increase it. Much credit is due Chapter President Davis and Regional Director Gray for their work and enthusiasm in this regard.

President Davis called for a report from the "Slum Clearance Committee." A formal report was not ready for submission but T. Merrill Prentice, member of that Committee said that the Chamber of Commerce and bankers apparently were not enthusiastic about the project. A question was raised as to the advisability of the National government subsidizing private enterprise in this way and whether or not such subsidy was not approaching socialism.

Reporting for New Haven, Mr. Gray stated that he had interviewed several lawyers on the subject of slum clearance and their opinion was that the work could be legally carried on provided the Legislature passed the necessary enabling act. It was resolved that the Chapter endorse an enabling act providing for slum clearance and housing in the State of Connecticut, under the conditions of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation

Chicago Chapter—

The December meeting of the Chicago Chapter was held jointly with The Architectural Sketch Club of Chicago and was followed by a dinner and dance to which members of the Women's Architectural Club of Chicago, the Illinois Society of Architects, The Architects Club of Chicago, and the Students of Armour Institute of Technology had been invited.

Prior to the dinner, moving picture films were presented by Bernhard C. Greengard on "All Around Chicago" and by Edwin H. Clark on "Animals in Captivity." Both Mr. Greengard and Mr. Clark are members of the Chicago Chapter.

Mr. Louis Pirola, President of the Architectural Sketch Club of Chicago, gave an interesting talk on the purpose, scope and program of the Club, and in addition announced the complete program of this body for the balance of the year.

William J. Smith, Chairman of the Program Committee of the Chapter, stated that the January meeting would be devoted to the subjects of Porcelain, Enamel and Glass, with three promised speakers on the subjects, and that prior to a formal

meeting in January a motion picture film by the Libby Owens Ford Glass Company would be presented.

Cincinnati Chapter—

The November meeting of the Cincinnati Chapter was held in conjunction with the Cincinnati Architectural Society. Over five hundred were in attendance.

Dr. Marcus A. Grossman, Research Engineer of the Illinois Steel Company and Mr. D. T. Haddock, Consulting Engineer of the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company, spoke on stainless steel.

There was a generous exhibit of stainless steel products.

While the schedule for the evening embraced subject matter applicable in a large measure to the entire stainless steel field, particular emphasis was given to the architectural use of this material.

Dayton Chapter—

At the special meeting of the Dayton Chapter in November the question of formation of an Allied Architects Association was discussed.

While such a formal organization was not created, the Chapter did authorize, by resolution, that a letter be sent to the City Commission stating that at such time as public work might develop the Dayton Chapter would offer the services of its members as an allied association of registered architects.

The Secretary of the Chapter was instructed (a) to advise newspapers that the license law is in effect and (b) to furnish the newspapers with a list of licensed architects in the Dayton territory.

Detroit Chapter—

The regular January meeting of the Detroit Chapter was held to coincide with the Highway and Building Congress week in Detroit.

The meeting took place at the Detroit Airport on the evening of Friday, January 20, with a program arranged by the President, Branson V. Gamber.

An unusually large number of Detroit architects was on hand to welcome the architects from other cities, and to take part in the open forum discussions.

The visiting architects included E. J. Russell, President of the Institute; Robert D. Kohn, Past-President of the Institute; Herbert E. Hewitt, Director of the Great Lakes Division; William Stanley Parker, Past-Secretary of the Institute; and Merritt Harrison, of the Indiana Chapter and President of the Building Congress groups.

Mr. Gamber reported on the organization and program of the Detroit Building Congress. The substance of that report will appear in the February OCTAGON.

Director Hewitt discussed Institute and Chap-

ter affairs, and assured the Detroit Chapter of his interest and active support in these times of difficulty for the professional man and his organization.

Northern California—

The program of the November meeting was devoted to a discussion of shortcomings in architectural practice. Mr. W. S. Dinwiddie and Mr. George Wagner, guests, stated their observations from the viewpoint of the contractor.

Mr. Dinwiddie credited the architectural profession with great achievement in recent years by which it is now rightfully respected as the real leader in building.

In speaking of bids Mr. Wagner pointed out the injustice to the contractor when the number of bidders is not restricted. Some astonishing figures were presented to illustrate the time value of the bidders and sub-bidders involved when an unreasonable number are invited to participate.

In place of the regular December meeting, it was announced that the Chapter will join with the Producers' Council Club in their "jinks meeting" to be held on December 21.

Oregon Chapter—

The December meeting of the Oregon Chapter was held December 22 at the Italian Tavern. Ellis F. Lawrence spoke of the great need of cooperation among the branches of the building industry in order that Oregon may participate in the financing offered by the Federal Government through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Home Loan Bank. He was of the opinion that the Oregon Building Congress is the logical organization to head the state's activities in this line.

Philadelphia Chapter—Special Meeting.

A special meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter was held December 6.

President Bencker presided. He said that the purpose of the meeting was to hold a preliminary discussion of the work done to date on the "Major Activity" (the development of the plan of Philadelphia with particular emphasis on rehabilitation), with particular attention to the Arterial Highway Plan that was being developed. He called on Walter H. Thomas for an explanation of the highway phase.

Mr. Thomas prefaced his remarks by saying that the work of the Planning and Zoning Commissions of the city was entirely at a standstill on account of the city's financial situation, and that the work normally cared for by the staff of these commissions would probably be turned over to the Bureau of Engineering and Surveys, which, however efficient in its own department, is not equipped to approach its problems from an architectural standpoint. He asked if the Chapter members would be willing to offer their services to permit the City Planning Commis-

sion, in particular, to continue to function. The members present expressed their willingness to do so.

A motion was adopted giving authority to the Coordinating Committee of the Architects Municipal Council to work out some scheme by which the Chapter could be of assistance to the City Planning Commission.

Much publicity has been accorded the Philadelphia Chapter by the newspapers of that city. Reprints of the articles appearing in the newspapers were assembled by D. Knickerbacker Boyd—Secretary of the Chapter's Public Information Committee of which Kenneth M. Day is Chairman—and forwarded to the other Chapters as an indication of the publicity being accorded the profession in the Philadelphia area.

Pittsburgh Chapter—

R. Maurice Trimble, reporting for the Committee on Unemployment, said that a number of schemes are being considered by the Committee in connection with this work and referred specifically to Kaufmann's agreement to advertise and exhibit, on a percentage basis of sales, model houses designed by unemployed draftsmen.

The dinner after the meeting was followed by entertainment, featuring "Rody Patterson in disguise", a chalk talk by Mr. Sam Linton, a guest, movies taken by Bernard H. Prack in "Java and points east", shown by Mr. Heilman, also a guest, and mouth organ and banjo music by Charles Palmgreen and Robert Schmetz, respectively.

At the November meeting, William F. Hitchens expressed the desire that there be more contact between Carnegie Tech and the architectural profession in Pittsburgh. He suggested that the series of lectures be resumed that were given several years ago on topics which would serve to prepare the student for his duties after graduation. A resolution was adopted, approving the suggestion, and the details were left for the directors to work out through the Education Committee. A resolution to organize a bureau of speakers within the Pittsburgh Chapter for speaking at high schools, and elsewhere, was also adopted.

St. Louis Chapter—

As of general interest to the other Chapters who may be contemplating radio programs as a phase of their publicity work, there is given below the program of the St. Louis Chapter, with the subjects and speakers of each broadcast:

"Prosperity Dependent on Revival of Building Industry"—Eugene S. Klein.

"What St. Louis Faces in the Future"—E. J. Russell.

"Missouri's Historical Buildings"—John A. Bryan.

"Trend Toward Modernism in Architecture"—Lawrence Hill.

"A Plea for Architecture in America"—Arthur E. Koelle.

"How Today's Architecture Solves Today's Building Problems"—Wesley Wedemeyer.

"Caring for the Past"—Guy Study.

"Preservation of Historical Buildings"—Father Garraghan.

"The Art Museum in its relation to the Architectural Profession, the Building Industry and the General Public"—Louis LaBeaume.

"How St. Louis is Weathering the Depression"—Wilbur T. Trueblood.

"Influence of Good School Buildings"—Ernest Friton.

"The Importance of Design in the Community"—Wm. A. Hirsch.

"Show Missouri"—A. P. Greensfelder.

"The Architect and Residential Architecture"—Fred Hammond.

Southern Pennsylvania Chapter—

The November meeting of the Southern Pennsylvania Chapter was held at the Lafayette Club, York, Pa., November 14.

M. I. Kast reported that the Committee on Legislation is preparing a bill for the Legislature on the Registration Act, making certain revisions in the provisions on enforcement, the definition of an architect, and on who may and who may not practice.

M. Edwin Green reported that he had written to all candidates for Congress on the subject of Federal Employment of Private Architects on government buildings.

Washington, D. C. Chapter—

The December meeting of the Washington, D. C. Chapter was held at the Cosmos Club.

It was reported that the Washington *Star* had agreed to publish articles and illustrations of residential work of local architects. All members of the Chapter interested in preparing sketch plans of houses to be published in the *Star* have been requested to advise the Secretary of the Chapter.

The report of the Zoning Committee was received with considerable interest. Louis Justement reported attendance at a meeting on zoning which was held in Pittsburgh, and outlined briefly the accomplishments of that meeting.

It was reported that the Allied Architects, Inc., had agreed to finance a committee of the Chapter for the study of "housing" in the District. The sum of \$260.00 was pledged by the Allied Architects for this work.

Arthur B. Heaton then discussed the possibilities of business for the architect in connection with remodelling and modernizing. He called attention to the publicity work of the Detroit Chapter in re-

modelling and modernizing a building in the downtown section as a demonstration project. A similar project for the Washington, D. C. Chapter was proposed. Mr. Heaton was designated as a chairman of a committee of his own selection to investigate the possibilities of this project and to take whatever steps might be necessary to get it under way.

Washington State Chapter—

The December meeting of the Washington State Chapter was held on December 1, at the New Washington Hotel.

The names of those members nominated for Chapter Officers for the new year were placed before the meeting by the nominating committee. J. Lister Holmes and Lance E. Gowen were nominated President and Secretary, respectively.

A motion was made and passed that a Schedule of Professional Charges, as adopted by the Chapter, be recommended for adoption by the Institute, and the Secretary was instructed to forward this recommendation to the Chairman of the Institute's Committee on Schedule of Charges.

West Texas Chapter—

The West Texas Chapter, at its November meeting, instructed the Secretary to write a letter to the Junior Chamber of Commerce in appreciation of its meeting recently held and dedicated to the architectural profession.

The Secretary was also instructed to write letters of congratulation to those members of the Chapter recently commissioned by the Treasury Department to design local Federal buildings.

Items of Interest

Uniform Mechanics' Lien Act.

Copies of the Uniform Mechanics' Lien Act, prepared by the Standard State Mechanics' Lien Act Committee of the U. S. Department of Commerce, with the cooperation of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, and approved by the American Bar Association at its meeting in Washington, D. C., October 12, 1932, are now available. For twenty-four or less copies the price is ten cents a copy. Orders should be addressed to Dan H. Wheeler, Secretary-Treasurer, Standard State Mechanics' Lien Act Committee, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

Maine Architectural Society

The architects in Maine have recently organized a society in that state, known as the Maine Architectural Society.

John Calvin Stevens, F. A. I. A., is President; John P. Thomas, A. I. A., is Vice-President; and Mr. Royal Boston, Jr., is Secretary-Treasurer.

Producers' Council Clubs

In the November and December issues of The Producers' Council "News Bulletin" appeared interesting reports on meetings of Council Clubs in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and San Francisco.

Subjects of mutual interest, both to Architects and Producers, were discussed at these meetings. The subjects included the following: rubber tile, color, acoustics, illuminants, air-conditioning, trade practices, cooperation, activities and objectives of Clubs, etc.

The Producers' Council Clubs are furnishing a medium for better understanding between the Producer and the Architect, as well as other important groups of the construction industry.

Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship.

By authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois the Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship Committee, composed of Frederic B. Stiven, Edward J. Lake and Rexford Newcomb, announces the second annual consideration of candidates for the Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship.

This Fellowship is open to graduates of the College of Fine and Applied Arts of the University of Illinois and to graduates of similar institutions of equal educational standing whose principal or major studies have been in *Music*—all branches; *Art*—all branches; or *Architecture*—Design and History.

For applications and additional information address Dean Rexford Newcomb, College of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

Conference on Church Architecture

According to an announcement of November 15 by Wayne G. Miller, Director of the Church Building Service Department of the Christian Herald, the eleventh annual session of the North American Conference on Church Architecture will be held in the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, February 23, 24 and 25.

The program, it is understood, will include discussions of significant aspects and trends of present-day church design, a forecast of American church building, discussion of church modernization, the modern development of historic styles in church design, and the relationship of church building to city planning.

The display of ecclesiastical architecture, which has for several years attracted considerable attention, will be notable this year. Architects who have done church work which they feel merits

notice are invited to correspond with Director Miller regarding the showing of their work at this conference.

The session last year was held in Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, where the exhibits occupied the entire eighteenth floor and received considerable attention from New York newspapers and drew architects and laymen from throughout the eastern portion of the country.

Unemployment Relief—Providence

A means of relief for unemployed draughtsmen, engineers and other persons of technical training is now being carried out by the City Plan Commission in Providence through the medium of a survey which is intended to show the trend, over a period of the last twenty years, of assessed property valuations, residential population distribution, the distribution geographically of commercial and industrial floor space, and the potential capacity of the city as limited by the zoning ordinance.

This survey is under the direction of Frederick L. Ackerman of New York, advisor to the City Plan Commission, assisted by John H. Cady and F. Ellis Jackson, Chairmen respectively of the Commission and of its Advisory Committee, all of whom are members of The American Institute of Architects.

Over thirty workers are employed on the survey. These workers are obtained from the Department of Public Aid and are paid from the State loan for the unemployed. The city is being covered, plat by plat, by the field men, who indicate on the survey sheets the facts found at every lot. Clerical workers add to these sheets the tax valuations and other data obtained from records in the City Hall. The results of the survey sheets are tabulated on block summary sheets, from which statistics and graphs will be made for the whole city.

When the survey is completed there will be made available, among other data, a visible basis for a constructive municipal financial policy, together with the assurance of a sane attitude in respect to mortgage loans and to new building construction. The survey will also disclose whether there is or is not a reasonable relation between existing use and the capacity assumed for each part of the city under the zoning ordinance.

Unemployment—Pittsburgh

A joint committee on unemployment composed of Maurice Trimble, chairman, E. B. Lee, B. H. Prack, W. Y. Cocken, and C. J. Palmgreen, representing the Pittsburgh Chapter, and Rody Patterson, chairman, Al Reid, and Ralph Reutti, representing the Architectural Club, has been formed for the express purpose of finding ways and means of helping unemployed draftsmen.

Better Homes Small House Competition

The awards in the 1932 competition of Better Homes in America, which closed December 1, have not yet been announced. An announcement of the winners will appear in the February number of THE OCTAGON.

President Russell honored by R. I. B. A.

President E. J. Russell was recently elected to Honorary Corresponding Membership in the R.I.B.A.

In his letter of acknowledgement he said, "I feel sure that the entire membership of The American Institute of Architects will appreciate this election as additional evidence of the good will that exists between the two Institutes".

Harris H. Murdock Honored

Five hundred men from twenty-eight civic and professional organizations of the five boroughs of New York City met at luncheon Wednesday, December 14, 1932, at the Hotel Roosevelt in recognition of the appointment of Harris H. Murdock to the chairmanship of the Board of Standards and Appeals by Acting Mayor Joseph V. McKee.

S. F. Voorhees offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted: "Resolved, that we, of the building industry, of real estate and of related business in New York City, gathered at a meeting on this fourteenth day of December, 1932, to honor Harris H. Murdock as Chairman of the Board of Standards and Appeals and to testify to his high qualifications for this office—do enthusiastically commend Mayor Joseph V. McKee for his wise selection and appointment of Mr. Murdock to this important post in the city government, thus assuring public confidence in the decisions of the Board; and resolved further that the Chairman of this meeting be instructed to forward to Mayor McKee a copy of this resolution with the names of the organizations represented appended thereto."

Competition—James Harrison Steedman.

The governing committee of the James Harrison Steedman Memorial Fellowship, Messrs. Louis La-Beaume, Gabriel Ferrand, and John Lawrence Mauran, announces the Eighth Competition for the James Harrison Steedman Fellowship.

The value of the Fellowship is represented by an annual award of \$1,500.00 to assist well-qualified architectural graduates to benefit by a year in travel abroad and the study of architecture in foreign countries.

This Fellowship is open on equal terms to all graduates in architecture of recognized architectural schools of the United States. All candidates shall be between twenty-one and thirty-one years of age at the time of appointment, and shall have had at

least one year of practical work in the office of an architect practicing in St. Louis.

For additional information regarding this competition address the Dean of the School of Architecture of Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

Public Information—Data for Talks by Architects.

Through the courtesy of D. Knickerbacker Boyd, of Philadelphia, the Institute has received copies of two papers used in radio broadcasts.

One is entitled "The American Institute of Architects," and is by Walter H. Thomas, F. A. I. A.

The other is "The American Institute of Architects—Philadelphia Chapter," and is by Ralph B. Bencker, A. I. A.

These two addresses are commended as excellent examples of public information talks.

Officers of other Chapters confronted with the opportunity and the task of talking over the air would do well to write to *The Octagon* for copies of these papers. They cannot be used verbatim, but they contain extremely valuable material, well selected and well expressed—all of which should serve as a guide in developing a discussion appropriate for any community.

"Housing America"—by the Editors of "Fortune".

Comments

HARLAND BARTHOLOMEW, *President of the National Conference on City Planning*: "Here is an authoritative, informative and entertaining description of city building methods in America. Months of patient research could not procure a better understanding of this important public question than is afforded by this book."

HENRY WRIGHT, *architect and city planner*: "The opportunity to obtain in book form a comprehensive exposé of the chaotic condition and racketeering which mark the entire house-building industry should be welcomed by thousands. Coming just at this time, the result will be most salubrious in that it will reinforce the growing intelligence through which multitudes have set themselves firmly against the idea of 'manipulated' prosperity, which is either premature or which in any way admits of the re-establishment of such former practices as have been fearlessly revealed in this book."

CLARENCE STEIN, *architect*: "The subject of housing in America has been largely academic. *Housing America* makes it a living and vital issue."

Contents

THE FACTS: HOUSING AS IT IS

1. The need. Cross section of a country in which half the homes fall below minimum standards of health and decency . . . in which city slums are the worst in the world . . . in which the building industry is bogged, bound, and helpless.

2. The prime raw material. Land: its manufacture; how the rutabagas wither as the city grows; how acres ripen into building lots . . . and what it costs to ripen them. Speculators, profiteers, improvements. A chapter upon an industry which buys its essential raw material at retail.
3. How much house for a dollar. Being the history of a \$20,000 house that costs \$40,000, a \$5,000 car that sells for \$2,000, and an industry the Industrial Revolution has passed by.
4. The wages of labor . . . are not always paid to the laborer—and are sometimes also death. Crafts, craftsmanship, and the jurisdictional strike. When a door is not a door and when an iron stair is wooden. The problems of labor in the building industry.
5. Debt and taxes. . . together with certain more hopeful aspects of the city's rôle in housing.

THE FUTURE: HOUSING AS IT WILL BE

1. The industrial answer. (1) the designs and conceptions of the architects of the new day; (2) the plans and program of industrialists.
 - A. Continental Housing Since the War.
 - B. Subdivision Costs and Layouts.
 - C. If You Had a Million Dollars.
 - D. A Primer of Mortgages.
 - E. Money in Slums.
 - F. The Dynmaxion House.

With many line drawings and 23 pages of halftone illustrations\$2.00

Publishers—Harcourt, Brace & Company, 383 Madison Avenue, New York City.

New York Building Congress—New Arbitration Rules Recently Adopted

Complete revision of the arbitration rules was recently made by the Arbitration Committee of the Building Congress in order to keep pace with the developments in arbitral procedure, especially in view of the increasing use of arbitration as a final adjudication of claims. The main principles embodied in the old rules are all retained. The changes now made relate mainly to the details of bringing a dispute promptly to hearing and settlement. Experience with legal arbitration since 1924 has shown the necessity of providing in the rules for each step in the procedure, including selection of arbitrators. Thus when the Building Congress arbitration clause is used in a contract, definite assurance is given that an arbitration under the law, in orderly and unbiased manner, will follow, providing the parties cannot first settle the dispute by mutual agreement. (*New York Building Congress News.*)

Notice of Fraud

THE OCTAGON recently received information that a number of Architects had been approached by a man who is about five feet eleven inches tall, weighs approximately 170 pounds, has blonde hair and a red face. After obtaining work or other means which would enable him to secure the signature of the Architect, he has successfully forged and passed checks in the architect's name.

He is a clever draftsman, as well as a clever forger, and architects are notified to be on the lookout for one who answers this general description.

Should you be approached by this individual, advise the local police and notify George B. Hilgers, A. I. A., 502 United Bank Building, Sioux City, Iowa.

"Colonial Row."

A most interesting grouping of small houses is being carried out on Roaring Brook Road, at Lawrence Farms, which is near Mt. Kisco, New York. Mr. Dudley Lawrence, developer, had the vision and nerve to proceed at this time and decided that by selecting nationally known architects to design a group of six houses to be known as Colonial Row, that he would attract attention to the building of small homes, which would encourage others to go ahead without waiting for better times. The houses are to be built on and utilizing, alternating plots, in the following order:

The first house to be designed by the Office of John Russell Pope, the second by Benjamin Wister Morris, the third by Dwight James Baum, the fourth by Delano and Aldrich, fifth by Walker and Gillette and sixth by Penrose V. Stout.

These houses are being designed with the utmost care by each of the architects and will sell complete, including land and fees, not to exceed \$12,000.

"An Old City Speaks."

Charleston's eyes are opened to new perspectives of its own charms by the film "An Old City Speaks" and no Charlestonian could witness this picturization of the city's attractions without deep feeling and an appreciation of Charleston's distinctiveness. The scenes and sounds of Charleston, which the people who live here very naturally take for granted until they are presented, as here, through the eyes and ears of outsiders. It is then that Charlestonians obtain some conception of the charm and fascination which these ordinary bits of Charleston life and scene must have for the rest of the world by reason of their contrast with what may be found in other American cities.

The film serves as a new reminder to Charlestonians of the great importance of the task undertaken in recent years to preserve inviolate the picturesque

things that have come down from the past. The world places a high value on these things and if for mercenary reasons alone, Charleston must place a high value on them and protect what is left from the destruction which has already been visited on so much of them. If "An Old City Speaks" is widely exhibited throughout the United States, it is certain to enhance interest in Charleston and to add to the number of Americans who wish to visit this city and see for themselves what they cannot see anywhere else in America.

This is the commercial view solely, but there is much more than that in the undertaking to conserve the loveliness which has come down to Charlestonians of the present day and which makes life here sweet and tender almost beyond the belief of other communities which have lost or never have had such heritage. It is almost impossible for a Charlestonian to view the picture which has been wrought of its daily routine without emotion. It is then, as the sweetness of the life that is so familiar is projected and becomes objective that there is some measure of realization by the Charlestonian of the essential charm of the city in which he lives and moves. And he must too realize that here are values beyond computation and that no effort should be neglected to preserve them for present enjoyment and for bequest to those who shall come after, lest they lose something that is priceless.

There was enacted by the City Council of Charleston two years ago a zoning ordinance which has been hailed by those familiar with such things as the most advanced legislation of its kind in the United States. One section of it is devoted entirely to the protection and conservation of the old and historic part of the city, defined and charted in the ordinance. In this area there are very rigid restrictions upon the design and character of building, so that no construction nor any remodeling of structures, public or private, may be made without approval of a supervisory board, created by law. Obviously such a regulation will at times run counter to individual taste or fancy but the importance of the restriction is also obvious. The successful administration of the ordinance, as of all regulations, depends upon the support of a public opinion. It can hardly be believed that any Charlestonian who has seen the beautiful aspect of his city which is presented in this picture, can fail to enroll as a devoted supporter of every agency that will keep this rich possession.

(From the Charleston "Evening Post" by the Editor, T. R. Waring, Chairman of the local Committee for Safeguarding Charleston Architecture.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is gratifying to report this definite accomplishment, which received the able support of the Charleston architects under the leadership of Albert Simons.

Members Elected in December, 1932

<i>Alabama Chapter</i>	- - - - - JACK BASS SMITH
<i>Boston Chapter</i>	- - - - - ELIOT T. PUTNAM
<i>Colorado Chapter</i>	- - - - - CHARLES E. THOMAS
<i>Dayton Chapter</i>	- - - - - ARTHUR R. GEYER, GEORGE T. NEUFFER
<i>Delaware Chapter</i>	- - - - - WALTER CARLSON, REAH DE BOURG ROBINSON, ALLAN BURTON STANHOPE
<i>Mississippi Chapter</i>	- - - - - JAMES R. STEVENS, III
<i>New York Chapter</i>	- - - - - HUGH FERRISS
<i>Northern California Chapter</i>	- - - - - LESLIE I. NICHOLS
<i>Philadelphia Chapter</i>	- - - - - EDMUND G. KRIMMEL
<i>Pittsburgh Chapter</i>	- - - - - ROBERT WATSON SCHMERTZ, KARL B. WEBER
<i>St. Louis Chapter</i>	- - - - - HENRI RUSH
<i>Southern California Chapter</i>	- - - - - MARK DANIELS, M. H. STARK- WEATHER

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