MICHIGAN PLANNING AND HOUSING CONFERENCE

Matters of vital importance to every one, not only in Detroit, but throughout Michigan will be discussed at the Michigan Planning and Housing Conference, tentatively set for November 17th in Detroit. The Conference, which will be a one-day, and evening session at the Detroit Institute of Arts, in addition to local authorities on Planning and Housing will feature speakers of national renown on such subjects as Planning and Housing from the standpoint of employment, slum clearance, sociological aspects, local projects, projects in other cities, public works, and state legislation to make these projects possible. There will also be open form discussions.

The Conference, sponsored by the Detroit Chapter of The American Institute of Architects and the Michigan Society of Architects, is represented by the presidents of these organizations, C. William Palmer and H. Augustus O'Dell, respectively. Branson G. Gamber is also on the Detroit Chapter Committee and David H. Williams, Jr., Lancelot Sukert and Austin A. Howe are on the Society Committee. Mr. Howe is General Chairman of the Conference.

Other organizations and their representatives are as follows: Michigan Planning Conference, Walter H. Blucher, Harold D. Smith; Michigan Housing Association, G. Frank Cordner, Arthur C. Scheifle; American Society of Civil Engineers and American Society of Industrial Engineers, Perry A. Fellows; University of Michigan, College of Architecture, Professors Emil Lorch and Wells I. Bennett; University of Detroit, School of Business Administration, Prof. Ernest M. Fisher; Detroit Building Congress, Alex Linn Trout; Detroit Real Estate Board, Judson Brad-

Architects' Luncheon
32nd Floor, Union Guardian Building
Private Dining Room, Southwest Vista
Tuesday, November 7th, 12:30 p.m.

H. Webster, Mrs. J. Edgar Findley and T. C. Hughes.

The objects of the Conference are stated as largely educational, to stimulate public interest to an understanding of the possibilities of Housing as a means to national recovery, to aid in a better understanding of the essentials of such a program, for a clarification of ideas and ideals, and to point out that Detroit and Michigan are backward in housing progress. Obstacles, legislative and otherwise, in the way of such progress will also be dealt with.

One hoped-for result is that there may be a continuing committee to carry out the recommendations of the Conference. It may even be that we will get something into our schools, such as the Wacker Manual in Chicago, for after all, that is the proper place to begin to instil in the young mind the importance of a city beautiful and all of the things that this Conference stands for. The broader aspect of Comprehensive City Planning comes into this picture in a most important way.

G. Frank Cordner, our local authority on Housing, states that there is no other subject of more vital interest to the Government, but that it must be planned in just the right way. All cities, he says, are faced with the problem of how best to utilize their bankrupt land and at the same time divert idle money into productive channels, alleviating the many problems that the Housing situation embodies.

The program as outlined will be of general interest and the public is invited. There is the possibility of a second day devoted to the technical subjects such as is involved in actual construction. Speakers tentatively suggested include, in addition to local authorities, such men as Robert D. Kohn, Clarence Stein, Henry Wright, Charles Elliott, and Eugene H. Klaber.

There will be an exhibition of Housing sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, showing what has been done in other cities. This will be complemented by local work and will run from November 3rd to 20th at the Institute of Arts.

It is urgently requested that all organizations interested contact their membership, by letter, through their publications, or at meetings, and endeavor to secure a good attendance and the interest this Conference deserves.
Skillful Legislation Needed

When the special session of the Michigan Legislature meets it will be confronted with the problem of ironing out the red tape which has so far has wrapped itself around the chances for acquiring loans from the Federal Government to push projects within the state.

It is high time for the citizenry of Michigan to be serious about the matter of obtaining loans for worthy projects in this state, and it is not well for any of us to sit by and trust to luck that the legislature unaided will take the absolutely proper steps. There should be a state-wide urge given to the legislature to do the job and do it right because there is work which must go ahead, and the work is sorely needed now to take men off gratuity and put them on a self sustaining basis.

It is foolish and more than that to hold up the state building program for needed structures and at the same time pay out in doses the money which could be spent in their erection. It is foolish, and anti social and wasteful.

The people of the whole United States are making the loans. That means simply that no matter whether Michigan gets one red cent of the one and one-half billion dollars, it helps pay the one and one-half billion dollars. The loans are made on the basis of grants for thirty per cent of them. How foolish for Michigan to help give thirty per cent to New York State and not take its one and one-half billion dollars, it helps pay the one and one-half billion dollars. The committee had exhausted its slim support. Whereas, it should have been supported by all industry it was not. It made a sincere effort, and the sacrifice by certain men in the industry was perhaps we shall get the idea that every one of us should be active and not passive in this momentous matter.

So far as the loans are concerned it is natural that the construction industry does have a selfish interest. There is no use denying that fact. But let it be pointed out once and for all that the selfish interest of the construction industry is the keystone for the "selfish interest" of every citizen of the state. Why? Because while the construction industry happens to be the agency through which construction work is done, the money for the labor and the materials and the profits if any does not stay in the construction industry. It is released to the butcher, the clothier, the landlord, the dentist, and passes through the banks. Money set in motion does not stop with the agency which sets it in motion. Circulation of money is the lifeblood which brings back business of all kinds.

The construction industry should lead in this movement and should have the backing of every man in Michigan.

Over one year ago the Michigan Committee for Trade Recovery was formed, in the construction industry, where it should have been formed, headed by Col. George Wallbridge, who since has worked on this subject almost exclusively. Major Ed. Early, secretary, has done wonders and received but a pitance for his work. The work of the committee was done almost gratis.

That committee commenced its work when the R. F. C. was advancing loans for self liquidating projects. The men on that committee have worked regularly, but through no fault of theirs we did not land any self-liquidating projects. Then came title two money from the NIRA without so many strings.

The committee had exhausted its slim support. Whereas, it should have been supported by all industry it was not. It made a sincere effort, and the sacrifice by certain men in the industry was wonderful, but those of other industries were only mildly interested. The building industry had suffered from discouragements, and no funds appeared to finance the work.

Well, are we licked? We would hardly say that. I must say that, while I am a member of the Executive Board of that Committee, I am not writing this with the sanction or even the knowledge of the committee.

What I am going to say now is my personal opinion. It is:

The Michigan Committee for Trade Recovery has so much valuable data in its possession concerning over $600,000,000 of possible projects to be built in the state of Michigan that it should be drafted by the legislature unaided will take the absolutely proper steps. There should be a state-wide urge given to the legislature to do the job and do it right because there is work which must go ahead, and the work is sorely needed now to take men off gratuity and put them on a self sustaining basis.

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of aluminum but he also rattled the skeleton and told what was wrong with it. The chief objection as a structural member seems to have been its lack of strength, but they even have an answer to that. The use of aluminum, he said, has about doubled each year for the past five years, which is an accomplishment in these times.

Dick Bragaw, president of the local Producers' Club, called upon Bill Corey of Otis Elevator fame to give some of his stories and impersonations.

Walter Blucher, Secretary of the Detroit City Plan Commission gave a most interesting talk on the Detroit Slum Clearance program, the ramifications of which proved revelations, even to many who thought they were very close to the subject.

"Two years ago," said Mr. Blucher, "the City Plan Commission made the novel discovery that there is a great deal of real estate in Detroit that is not of much value, so we set about to determine its economic value, to find out what was wrong with it and what to do with it."

One thing discovered, Mr. Blucher said, was that there is about six times as much business property as can be used. The 17 square miles inside the Boulevard, according to a survey indicates that between 1920 and 1930 the population dropped from 400,000 to 122,000.

Mr. Blucher illustrated his talk with plans and in a most vivid way brought home to his audience the importance of Detroit’s Housing and Slum Clearance Program.

Following the program a buffet luncheon and beer were served, making the evening complete with good fellowship.

Bryant and Detwiler, Building Construction, announce the removal of their offices to 2304 Penobscot Building.

A second group of sketches by Lorne E. Marshall, a recent holder of the George G. Booth Travelling Fellowship, is now on exhibition at the College of Architecture, University of Michigan. This group includes sketches made in Europe and at Ballbec in Syria. Mr. Marshall spent the year 1932-33 abroad on the fellowship, which he won in 1931. The exhibition will continue throughout the week.

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PALMER TO SPEAK

C. William Palmer, newly elected President of the Detroit Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, will speak on Detroit’s proposed Riverfront Development before the Associated Technical Societies council meeting Monday evening, Nov. 6, at the Detroit Engineering Society, 478 Alexandrine Ave. West. His talk will be illustrated with lantern slides. Mr. Palmer has studied this problem for many years and, therefore, knows whereof he speaks. Architects and others interested are invited to attend. Dinner will be served at 6:45 P.M. at 75¢ per plate. Reservations should be made by calling Columbia 5320. Those who cannot attend the dinner will be welcome at the lecture at 7:45.
Detroit Last Week

Tuesday Luncheon, Allied Group, Producers' Council, Planning and Housing Conference

A Producer as Chairman of the Architects' Luncheon! Aren't we getting democratic? That's to show Paul Marshall, Secretary of the Producers' Council Club, how much we think of him. Paul did a good job and was ably supported by the Chapter's new President, C. William Palmer, who is also Liaison officer of the Producers. Bill will undoubtedly make a splendid president and we are glad to have him Friday, but we will miss Gammby's broad A in architecture. Palmer's new address is 120 Madison Avenue, telephone Cherry 7660.

Bill Stratton gave a lecture on practice as she is being done by him today, illustrating with photographs of a Cape Cod cottage, one story in front and three stories in the rear, which he designated as a Michigan back.

Leroy Kiefer's A.C. Spark Plug poster design took a prize among 350 entries in a national poster competition. The bill board poster showed the picture of a funny horse and the words, "Don't drive worn plugs."

News of Harry Stanton, who, unique as ever, has hitched a trailer on his car and headed for Florida with his family, for the winter. A postcard from Joe Jogerst at the Fair. On the card, a picture of the Owens-Illinois Glass Block Building, Joe writes, "No, this is not the building Lou Hoffman refused to pay ten cents to see. I think Wirt Rowland's house shows up the others as pikers."

Allied Group

The big burden of the Allied Architects and Engineers at present is the question of a Comprehensive City Plan. President Malcolmson reports much progress towards interesting the Detroit City Council in applying for a federal loan for such a purpose. At the last meeting Harold Ellington attended for the firm of Harley and Ellington. Harold is on the Detroit Citizen's League. I saw it in the Detroit Shopping News, I mean the Civic Searchlight.

At this meeting in the Astx Tower there was also present H. Augustus O'Dell, who has altogether too many us in his name, but he has just returned from the mountains of Colorado, where he has been horseback riding for the past month.

Messes. Lents, Gauner, McColl and Hubbell were named on a publicity committee and you may expect things to pop soon.

The Planning and Housing Conference is accounted for elsewhere in this issue. Don't fail to read it—and heed it.

Austin Howe makes an excellent chairman and I would vote for him for President, or something. The Producers' Council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 P.M. today (The Editor's Diary, you know H. H. Saylor in Architecture), it is now 7 o'clock, so excuse me while I step out and get the lowdown on that. 12 Midnight. They are still going strong but we have to go to press.

Dr. P. V. Faragher, Director of Research, Aluminum Company of America gave a talk on Aluminum, which was most enlightening as well as entertaining. He gave an idea of what the metal is, where it comes from and what its uses are. We learn that there is considerable romance to the story of this new-comer in the building material field, which has forged its way to the front. Dr. Faragher not only told of the desirable qualities

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Social Planning and Technical Training

The spirit of co-operation has prevailed in the technical fraternity in Detroit for at least a dozen years. The Associated Technical Societies have maintained during this period a Council which serves as a clearing house for ideas and actions in the common interest. There is a strong feeling that duplications of effort and repeated and competing actions still resist in some degree the positive forward strivings of these organized groups.

We have our first hand intimate experiences in this case. We know what we would like to see accomplished. The hope that inspires us believe is not greatly different from those in the hearts of all our brothers. The methods by which we would go about our task show a little greater variance, but still on examination all bear the earmarks of similar intentions. But when we get down to the practical application and routine procedure, we find real difficulty.

Questions of petty character rise and are given attention and consideration far beyond their merit. Debates and wordy discussions are held over a meaningless word or phrase. A small expenditure or commitment already made is given more attention than a broad financial policy.

We wonder if this situation does not find a parallel in the National picture. As a nation we recognize the same general ideas of right and wrong. It does not make a very profound difference in our ideals whether we spent our childhood in the Ozarks or on the shores of the Great Lakes.

But when it comes to details of performance the story is different. The things that suit the corn farmer do not always please the miner. The pattern of conduct that might be well planned for the actress in Hollywood would be eminently unsuitable for the wife of the New England college professor.

The National Industrial Recovery Act was generally accepted as the best expression we could voice that would declare our willingness to go sled length in helping bring about economic recovery. The general sentiment in favor of its support in action has also been truly remarkable. On the other hand the individual re-actions to specific applications have been made interesting by their contrasts.

Attention is called to this parallel between national experience and our own limited local group experience. Countless other comparisons could be drawn that illustrate the same idea. We have been trained to think individually and in a selfish way rather than socially.

The note that is getting new emphasis and more frequent repetition recently is the part that society plays in the development of civilization. We cannot forget the individual, but as we think of him we can certainly bear in mind the rest of his fellow men.

It is this new attention that is being paid to the social whole that brings planning into prominence. When we plan individually the process is relatively simple. At least it has been so in the past. When we talk about social planning, an array of postulates and possibilities is presented that would be sure to capture the fancy of any one with a technical man’s training. The desire to state the problem would surely be followed by an ambition to attempt in part at least its solution.

And so we have architects and engineers vitally interested in codes and their application. We have these groups pushing most actively the parts of the program having to do with slum clearance, housing and other general benefit plans. These technical men are taking part, as never before, in the broad application of social planning to industrial and public works. They are taking this interest because such planning is now presented as a problem that demands technical skill in its solution for the general good. They are taking this interest because the new emphasis is in such striking contrast with the policy that put all the accent on individual political prowess as a means of gaining advantages to supporting districts. The plan which measures the merit of such advantages by the size of the financial appropriation rather than by the relation to a well ordered program does not appeal to the architect nor to the engineer.

Pay—Survey

A nation-wide survey of compensation for engineering services is being initiated by those sponsoring the engineers’ code. This will be undertaken for professional service for which fees are collected and it will also be extended to include the salary classifications and wages.

The collection of this data is under the supervision of Perry A. Fellows. That part of the work pertaining to professional fees for consulting civil engineers has been assigned to Mr. Martin Poher. Your suggestions and comments in this matter will be appreciated.

The following questions are submitted and from the replies received it is hoped a valuable report will be prepared:

1. In what branch of Engineering are you engaged?
2. What rate of fees (in terms of percentage) are prevalent?
3. Do you charge a retaining fee?
4. Are per diem fees general.—If so, what is the range?
5. If willing to give data on specific projects (omitting names of engineers and clients) please answer the following questions:
   (a) Character of project.
   (b) Extent of engineering services rendered.
   (c) Total cost of work.
   (d) Amount of engineer’s fees by stages, if available.
   (e) Actual direct cost of work to the engineer.
   (f) Cost to engineer for overhead expenses chargeable to the work.
   (g) Comments and explanations as may be necessary.
NEW FLOOR CATALOGUE

Gibraltar Floors, Inc. have just released a catalogue on colored Gibraltar Floors and heavy duty Gibraltar Floors which should be in the hands of every architect who has cement floor problems. These floors are not only the most economical but their durability and appearance are unexcelled. Some of their recent installations and the architects are as follows:


Grand Rapids is lagging behind other communities, we regret to report. Traverse City has a cherry queen, Benton Harbor has a Blossom Queen, over in the beet section they have a Sugar Queen and now, last of all, over in Bad Axe they intend to crown a Bean Queen! What kind of a queen have we got? None whatever. Let the Association of Commerce instantly get going on the idea of crowning an over-stuffed Rocker Queen, or a Duncan Phyfe Queen, or (excuse it, please) a Dining Room Suite-heart of the Furniture Industry. Forward, Grand Rapids, stop dragging your feet.—Roger Allen in the Grand Rapids Chronicle.

And some day he’s going to get a crick in his neck trying to get sex appeal in the weather report.

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ROBERT D. KOHN VISITS DETROIT

Considers Detroit's Housing Program. Talks to Committee on Michigan Planning and Housing Conference

Robert D. Kohn, Director of the Housing Division, PWA, and Harold Hynds of his staff last week investigated Detroit's Housing Project.

They made an inspection accompanied by Walter H. Blucher, Secretary of the City Plan Commission and G. Frank Cordner, Consulting Architect to the Commission. They agreed that Detroit could furnish a splendid "Before and After" demonstration and that the City might apply for additional loans to include Section 2 of the four-section project.

At the office of the Commission, he addressed the committee organizing the Michigan Planning and Housing Conference:

"What's it all about, tell me something about Housing, will you?"

Mr. Kohn lauded the movement of the Conference, saying the country is awakening to the necessity of adequately dealing with this important subject.

"I do not know," said Mr. Kohn, "whether it is a reformed attitude, that our muni-calities are becoming virtuous, or that the United States has money and they want to get some of it. I hope it is the first named reason."

Architects' Luncheon

32nd Floor, Union Guardian Building
Private Dining Room,
Southwest Vista
Tuesday, November 14th, 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Kohn's department is swamped with proposals for housing, to date 225 applications, increasing ten a day. The Administrator is at a loss to cope with the situation. He is on a tour to the Pacific Coast, the Mississippi Valley and the New Orleans district.

Mr. Kohn as President of the A. I. A. had toured the country many times. "Formerly I was shown the finest buildings," said Mr. Kohn, "but now I am shown the worst. Each tries to outdo the others, and it is hard to decide which wins. Some think Chicago, but there are also small cities that have slums.

"One Southern senator was interested in roads, he had no slum problem. I visited that state and conditions were alarming. We think of slums only in Chicago, New York, Cleveland, but smaller cities would open your eyes."

The Administrator pointed out the fallacy of developments far out when there is plenty of property close in. C. Herrick Hammond, past president of the A. I. A. had estimated, he said, that there was enough area in Chicago's city limits to house the population of the United States, and yet by air plain, fifteen minutes before one reaches the city limits there are street lights and all of the other costly improvements. The air port is fifteen miles from the city. Other cities are similar, they have developed ten times the needed area.

This has created our tax problem. Messrs Kohn, Hynds, Blucher and Cordner called on Acting Mayor John W. Smith. Mr. Kohn told Mr. Smith that he would recommend to the PWA Cabinet Committee that Detroit be allocated $6,000,000 as soon as the City had met the necessities, which he outlined to the Mayor.

The City must convince Washington that it has the right to do this work, i.e. that the Flynn Case Act is constitutional. It must set up a commission or City Housing Authority, to purchase (Continued on page 4)
Swope-Codes-Missing Link

Let us look first at the missing link. He is the rugged individual who tells an organization to go to blazes when it tries a program which he does not accept. Sometimes he is a member, often he is not. He may not be a chiseler. If he is, he causes headaches to the association member, because he generally succeeds in breaking down the programs.

The hardest task for NRA will be to make him obey. It may prove unconstitutional to force him to obey the code of a trade association in partnership with the government.

Many in our industry assume that a code requiring duplicate bids with the code authority binds the outsider to pay for the expense of doing this. This will prove a severe test for the "code authorities." If I am a contractor and an association tries to force me to join them they are outside the law. How then can they compel me, a non-member, to help pay the expense of their association or of their code authority?

This question is raised merely to point out that, if it can be done at all, it is not going to be easy. We should choose our code authority with care. If a code authority thinks it can be dictatorial it will soon find its mistake. If the code authority is weak-kneed—well—

Now for Gerald Swope's idea. The essence of the present code set-up is a partnership of the Government with trade associations, the associations to make rules, the Government to approve them and enforce them by standing behind the associations which will be the active enforcement agencies.

This idea of partnership may veer in two directions. It might not veer at all, but if it does it may veer toward complete governmental control, with the associations as dummy partners, or it may veer toward almost complete control in the associations and the government the silent partner. The later is Gerald Swope's idea. There is no space here to go into his plan in detail. He visions super organizations in place of the existing ones which have been commandeered into service.

Robert Lund, president of the National Manufacturers' Association has made a most significant comment on the Swope plan. It is short and to the point, as follows:

"Experience has shown that where business groups representing commerce, industry, and service organizations were combined in one organization IT HAS ALWAYS PROVEN DIFFICULT ON ACCOUNT OF THE DIVERSE INTERESTS TO GET PROMPT OR EFFECTIVE ACTION, and the experience of the Manufacturers' Association has shown much more effective results with each business group occupying itself with its own affairs, with a supervisory organization to coordinate the various activities." This answer of Mr. Lund's has a whole lot of thought in it for those in the construction industry who are constantly harping on the fact that we should all be in one big association. The result would be a terrible wreck.

Furthermore, to go in the Swope direction will make it harder to get the outsider in line. It is hard to believe anyone could perfect an association so powerful as to make the outsider come in without help from the government. In our own field I would predict that if the government is not a partner in enforcement of the codes they will never be enforced.

When our code becomes effective and we begin working under it, we are not going to like its trade practice provisions. It is certain we do not like the labor provisions, but that is a separate story. We are not going to like the restrictions which will be placed on our bidding, but nevertheless, so far as all responsible firms in the industry are concerned, it will be a good thing to take the medicine. It will be well to get rid of the blight of cutthroat competition. If we think of children, we shall probably end up still having ills UNLESS—

Unless our code authorities are like wise parents, who exact obedience without breaking the spirit of the children.

One of the dangers in "code authorities" will lie in the ambitions of the authority. Someone has said, and it has been heard around the world, that our greatest weaknesses lie in ourselves, our enemies do not hurt us so much. If one is strong in himself, he may use his enemies as assets, providing they are not fundamentally strong in themselves. When they are, of course it is a battle.

It is likely that some code authorities will try to enter to some certain factions. At least some of them will try to be tough on the outsider. Neither of these tactics will work. The first one is what has wrecked so many associations. There comes a time when many of those not in the "clique" get wise and quit paying dues for something they do not get.

Trying to be tough on the outsider will merely result in the outsiders gradually getting together, and they will raise hell.

Well, in conclusion, may it be said that we are now given the chance to appoint a competent authority to give us medicine?

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You are cordially invited to attend the

Michigan Planning and Housing Conference

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
(Woodward, at Kirby)

Friday, November 17, 1933

The public is invited.

There are no registration fees.

PROGRAM

MICHIGAN PLANNING & HOUSING CONFERENCE

Detroit Institute of Arts
Friday, November 17, 1933

INTRODUCTION

9:45 A. M.
Branson V. Gamber, Past President, Detroit Chapter, American Institute of Architects.

WELCOME
John W. Smith, Acting Mayor, City of Detroit.

10:00 A. M. Morning Session

PLANNING
Chairman, Harold D. Smith, Director, Michigan Municipal League

1. What is planning?
Perry A. Fellows, Pres., American Society of Civil Engineers, Detroit Section.

2. Planning a Public Works Program
C. M. Moderwell, Chicago, Regional Advisor, Third District, Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works.

3. Public Works Progress in Michigan
Leo J. Nowicki, Member, Michigan Advisory Board, Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works.

12:45 P. M. Group Luncheons
1. Planners; Chairman, Walter H. Blucher, President, Michigan Planning Conference.
2. Architects; Chairman, C. William Palmer, President, A. I. A.

1:45 P. M. Afternoon Session, Part 1
Chairman, Prof. Emil Lorch, Director, College of Architecture, University of Michigan.

HOUSING

1. The Minimum House
Ernest M. Fisher, Prof. of Real Estate, School of Business Administration, University of Michigan.

2. Legislative Requirements, and What can be accomplished by private Limited Dividend Housing Corporations. Charles Ascher, Attorney, Public Administration Clearing House, Chicago, Ill.

3. What can be accomplished by Public Housing.
Helen Alfred, Secretary, National Public Housing Conference, New York City.

Afternoon Session, Part 2
Chairman, Rev. Frederic Siedenburg, S. J., University of Detroit.

SOCIAL PHASES OF PLANNING & HOUSING

4. Economics of Slum Clearance
Prof. R. D. MacKenzie, Dept. of Sociology, University of Michigan.

5. Social Aspects of Low Rental Housing
Mrs. Kathleen J. Lowrie, American Association of Social Workers.

6. Human Factors
John Dancy, Sec., Urban League of Detroit.

8:00 P. M. Evening Session

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE
Chairman, Judge Robert M. Toms, President, Michigan Housing Association.

1. What can Europe teach us?
Prof. Wells I. Bennett, College of Architecture, University of Michigan.

2. The Housing Project of the City of Detroit
Walter H. Blucher, City Planner and Secretary, Detroit City Plan Commission.

There is now on exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts a most unusual exhibition of Housing. It was prepared by the American Institute of Architects to show what has been done in many countries of Europe, as well as in this country. It will be at the Institute from Nov. 3 through Nov. 25.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

of the
MICHIGAN PLANNING & HOUSING CONFERENCE

Michigan Planning Conference
Michigan Housing Association
American Institute of Architects, Detroit Chapter
Michigan Society of Architects
Detroit City Plan Commission
University of Michigan, College of Architecture
American Society of Civil Engineers, Detroit Section
American Society of Municipal Engineers, Detroit Section
Society of Industrial Engineers, Detroit Section
Associated Technical Societies of Detroit
Detroit Engineering Society
American City Planning Institute, Detroit Section
Michigan Municipal League
Detroit Board of Commerce
Detroit Building Congress
Central District Protective Association
Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs
Civic Pride Association of Michigan
American Association of Social Workers
Detroit Institute of Arts
Detroit Edison Company
Detroit City Gas Company
Michigan Bell Telephone Company
Well Pal:
Since your weekly Bulletin has increased its circulation, and the quantity of reading matter is also increased, I think the "quality" remains the same; and while it takes a little longer to read all the bulletin, it is worth while.
The little Poem below I thought would help things along these hectic days. Sorry I do not remember the author's name, and all of the lines correctly, but it is something like this:

Driving and looking out of the auto window,
We see a beautiful scene below.
The road like a ribbon unwinding,
Through the hills where the hemlocks grow.

We see a distant hill top,
Where the ribbon becomes a thread;
From here an impossible up grade,
But it smooths as each mile we tread.

How like unto life is a highway,
We tread depths oft times, then we climb;
Today we may be in the valley,
But tomorrow, climb heights so sublime.

Frank H. Wright.

CHAPTER MEETING
LA CASA LOMA, 5435 WOODWARD
Friday, Nov. 17th, 1933
Dinner at 7 P. M., 75c

Board of Directors will meet at 5:45.
The M. S. A. will join in welcoming distinguished guests to the Planning and Housing Conference. Guests will also be welcome.

ROBERT D. KOHN VISITS DETROIT
(Continued from page 1)
land and construct, and operate, preferably, a group of five citizens, serving without compensation. The State Legislature must enact legislation to create such Authorities. He is anxious for action and upon the accomplishment of the City's part he is ready to ask the Cabinet Committee to allocate funds. The Mayor said that Mr. Kohn's statement was most encouraging news and gave assurance that the City would cooperate.

ARCHITECTURAL BALL
Chi Delta Theta, the architectural fraternity at the University of Detroit is giving an informal Architectural Ball at the Colony Club on Wednesday Evening, November 15. This is an open affair, tickets being obtainable at the door.
The Enquiring Reporter scoops this one, a conversation between Dumb Dora and G. Frank Cordner. "Say! you know them Blighted Terriers you was telling me about? Well, I seen a guy leading one of them the other day on a lease but when I asked him if it was he said no it was a Mexican Hairless."

PROF. BENNETT ON RADIO
Professor Wells I. Bennett of the Architectural Faculty is to speak over the University radio station on Wednesday evening, November 15, at 10:00 o'clock. His subject will be "Modern Trends in Housing."

PUNCH and JUDY THEATRE
KIRCHENAL AT FISHER ROAD

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY,
November 15, 16.
Paul Lukas—Gloria Stuart in "Secret of the Blue Room"

FRIDAY, SATURDAY,
November 17, 18.
Richard Arlen—Genevieve Tobin in "Golden Harvest"

SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY,
November 19, 20, 21.
Jimmy Durante—Alice Brady in "Broadway To Hollywood"

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PLANNING, HOUSING CONFERENCE

The Michigan Planning and Housing Conference convened at the Detroit Institute of Arts on Friday, November 17th. Branson V. Gamber of the American Institute of Architects opened the meeting on behalf of the two architectural organizations and the Associated Technical Societies of Detroit. He expressed his regret that Mayor Smith was unable to attend because he had just arrived from Washington. Mr. Clyde H. Burroughs of The Detroit Institute of Arts welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Mayor.

The morning session was in charge of Mr. Harold D. Smith, Director of the Michigan Municipal League. Mr. Smith had also just returned from Washington with the Mayor and Mr. Blucher and said that he was somewhat dizzy as a result. He gave as a reason the fact that things are quite dizzy in Washington these hectic days. Mr. Smith expressed the belief that we have been too much concerned with individualism and not enough with collective thinking.

"Any planning which does not take into account the public at large is wrong," he said. "Just as planning is necessary in our every-day life, so it is in a more important way in our national recovery."

Any plan should be flexible, according to Mr. Blucher, and Detroit's plan is very flexible. We hope that it will reflect the spirit of all of our People, he said. We hope that two million men will soon be transferred from dole to the wage earning class.

"The time has come," said Mr. Blucher, "when we must not think of planning as a city project, or as a state project, but a plan for all combined, and in fact, as a national project."

This should extend even to the cut-over land which the state assigns to some of the welfare workers, much of which is unsuitable for cultivation.

Perry A. Fellows outlined "What is Planning?" by saying that he might be considered as the questioner, rather than the answerer. He quoted from the current issue of The Planner, publication of the Detroit City Plan Commission. He gave a picture of the engineers' and architects' view-point of long-time planning.

Mr. Blucher stated that the delay at Washington might be attributed to the fact that municipalities have not provided sufficient comprehensive plans, which is a prerequisite for such projects. After the talk an open discussion was held.

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session under the chairmanship of Professor Emil Lorch was opened by a talk from Professor Ernest M. Fisher of the University of Michigan. Professor Fisher pointed out that the standards of the past have been too high for the low wage earner, and that only the minimum should be considered, involving the essentials of shelter, ventilation and light and the privacy necessary to common modesty.

"Other conveniences such as central heat, tiled baths, etc. are desirable," he said, "but only by the greatest stretch of the imagination can they be said to be essential." The professor illustrated the term "obsolescence" by saying that a man's hat depreciates in value, while a woman's becomes obsolete.

Miss Helen Alfred, Secretary of the National Public Housing Conference, New York City discussed the possible accomplishments of Public Housing programs. She touched upon the sociological aspects and the architect's and engineer's part in such a program.

"In 1901, the tenement laws declared many places in the City of New York unfit for human habitation, and yet today there are more people there than ever before, some two million," said the speaker.

The lower two-thirds of the wage earners have not been reached with houses they can afford, she pointed out.

Mr. Boone, of Midland, Michigan, while not scheduled as a speaker, gave an interesting picture of Midland's housing project, which served to emphasize the fact that the problem is not entirely one of the big cities, but of the state at large.

(Continued on Page 3)
Let's Go Hunting

One of those big, rugged contractors came in the other day, and I tried to get him to go to the meeting of construction men with the Wayne County Delegation of the Legislature, Thursday, November 16. I explained how important it was to make the state building program a reality.

His picturesque answer, boiled down was, "Oh pickles, I'll do more good hunting deer—get some meat for winter that way."

Sometimes we all feel that way. I know I get that way myself—only I cannot get away to go deer hunting. These are troubulous days. There is more up in the air than there is on the ground and most of us can't play a good game in the air. We fumble. We are better at bucking the line—or even at buck-passing.

One trouble is that we all want to be quarterbacks and if we can't give the signals we do not want to be on the team at all.

We Are Too Complex

Last year the assessed valuation of Detroit was approximately $2,500,000,000 and $20,000,000 was paid out in doles. That figure $8 to the thousand of assessed valuation. Now, supposing my assessed valuation was $4,000 and that I hired last year in extra labor for my house and yard $32 worth of labor. If each one had done that in proportion to his valuation, there would have been no one on Detroit dole. That would have been more satisfactory and lots less expensive. But a million complexities prevent such direct action. Wouldn't it be wonderful, however, if some master mind could devise a way to work it out so that each property owner could elect to pay his dole money directly for labor which would be used for his benefit? Come on now, some of you long thinkers and work this out. Figure out how to get taxation down to fundamentals and you have the answer. As it is now you pay part of the dole through the Federal Government, part through the state, part through the county, and part through the city, and part through the Red Cross and part through the community fund, and part through your church, and part through your own initiative. Who in the name of time will ever balance the books?

Practicalities

If the State of Michigan cannot get its public works program through instead of paying so much dole we shall all pay twice. Now we will pay the dole and let the dolers rot morally and then later we shall pay for the needed institutions.

Construction Code

It will probably be weeks yet before the code comes out of the mill. The article I wrote in these columns last week in which I said it would be hard to enforce the code was severely criticized. I recommend that you reread exactly what I said, and I do not wish to change a period or a comma. It is going to be a hard job to enforce the code and the only way it can be done is by intelligent cooperation on the part of the industry.

Six Years

Six years ago today ye editor of this page hung up his hat at 439 Penobscot and went to work for the Builders' and Traders' Exchange. The problems for all of us since that time have been such as could not be contemplated in advance.

The Builders' and Traders' Exchange furnishes services to its members on the basis of their paying for what they order and get. The economic and sound basis of these services, of course, has been the mainspring which has held this institution together so well, but on top of such services, its influence on the industry has been very worthwhile and its accomplishments for the industry have been constructive. It has acted in a fine spirit of cooperation with all the elements of the industry. I am proud to be identified with it. The Exchange has saved the industry more money during the past six years than it has taken to run it. That is a real accomplishment. To the architects it has rendered services of value hard to appreciate. It serves them as a clearing house as much as it serves its own members.

Its information bureau, its news reports its plan room, its WHO-Handles directory, all are directly beneficial to all of the industry. The machinery of the exchange operates all the time, its news forces, the main machines, never slow down. It has never side-stepped any task entrusted to it. It has stood at all times for fair practices in the industry. I am proud of the Exchange right now—and you should be too.

GOOD

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ILLUMINATING ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE

The Michigan Section of the Illuminating Engineering Society cordially invites you to attend the Lighting Conference which is to be held at the Detroit Leland Hotel, November 23 and 24. The program presents a list of subjects which are of very great importance and value to you. There are undoubtedly some subjects which appeal to you more than others. May we suggest that you select the sessions for attendance in accordance with your preference. On the other hand, please feel that we will be very glad to see you at all meetings.

The evening sessions are of particular importance. The subjects and speakers have been selected with considerable care. We assure you that your attendance will be rewarded by receiving valuable knowledge of the all-important subject of "Light and Its Relationship to Life and Vision."

Dinner will be served at the Detroit Leland Hotel at 6:30 o'clock both evenings at a charge of one dollar per person.

HERBERT E. COOK,
Secretary,
2000 Second Avenue Telephone RAndolph 2100.

PLANNING, HOUSING CONFERENCE
(Continued from Page 1)

G. Frank Cordner gave a most interesting review of figures compiled by the City Plan Commission from a survey made by that department. Contrary to general belief they found no congestion, there is less than one person per room.

Professor R. D. MacKenzie of the U. of M. Department of Sociology presented a paper on the Economics of Slum Clearance He expressed as his belief that the close-in section is an economic and social condition. Decentralization, he said has been brought about by pressure and not by desire of the people. There is an opportunity now as never, before, he believes to correct these areas.

Mrs. Kathleen Lowrie of the American Association of Social Workers added considerable to the discussion by a most constructive and interesting talk on the social side of the question. "The ex-

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port today is quite different to a few years ago," she said. "Formerly they did not have time or the interest to do more than to recommend to us that we get additional laws passed. Now they are really experts in every sense of the word, and we certainly welcome this change. Mrs. Lowrie received her training under Miss Jane Adams, and she related a little incident that was quite human. She stated that when Miss Adams had secured a better house for one of her subjects the occupant of the house stated that one of the most cherished possessions was a rose bush that she could look out upon. Architects are today giving their thought to such things as this, she said.

Mr. John Daney, Secretary of the Urban League of Detroit gave the view point of the colored element and what their problems are. He stated that the people who go "slumming" and see the horrible conditions under which some people live should feel that the on-lookers add to the slum element by looking down on such conditions and doing nothing about them. Housing, he said, should take precedence over sub-ways or any other public improvements, because of its human element. The average expectancy of the negro, he stated is 46 years, while that of the white is 56 years. The difference he attributes largely to housing conditions.

Alex Linn Trout emphasized the importance of getting the State Legislature to pass the necessary legislation for such a program.

The evening session was devoted to an illustrated lecture by Professor Wells I. Bennett, on "What can Europe teach us?" and a talk by Mr. Walter Blucher of the Detroit City Plan Commission on the Detroit Project. Mr. Blucher's lecture was also illustrated. A more complete account of these talks will be given in a future issue of the Bulletin.

A discussion following the afternoon session brought out interesting angles from Arthur K. Hyde, David H. Williams and Judson Bradway and John Chandler.

One of the most significant features of this conference was the bringing together of so many different interests connected with planning and housing. They have all been working toward a solution of these problems, but each group in its own way, with little correlation. This was the first time that all have been brought together in the common interest. Even the public was represented, and the people who live in these houses.

Coincident with the meeting comes the news from Washington that Detroit's program of Slum Clearance has received tentative approval and there seems little in the way of proceeding with it at once—an awareness on the part of the public together with activity of all of the organizations interested has done much to bring about this accomplishment.

A great deal of credit is due Mr. Austin A. Howe, who was general chairman of the committee organizing the Conference. He worked diligently and the results were most gratifying.

Architects, Cordner, Howe and Hyde, deserve a great deal of credit for their contributions toward the consummation of this program.

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Griswold Gossip

What a street! and they use to name banks after it. With all of the happenings lately many miscellaneous items of current interest have been crowded out of the Bulletin. The luncheons are full of personal and intimate details. “This is not for publication” is a common expression and it will be well worth your while to attend these meetings and get first-hand information. You know, a good reporter never violates a confidence and when the speaker says, “This is not to leave the room,” it means just that.

The Allied Group

You have read in papers the resolution prepared by the Allied Architects and Engineers of Detroit and passed by the Common Council of the City of Detroit requesting a Federal loan of $50,000 for a Comprehensive City Plan of Detroit. There is every hope that this money will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, the City plan idea and the housing program is front page news at present. The Federal Government has cut red tape toward going ahead with the project immediately.

Technical Employment

One bit of red tape has not been cut, the registration of applicants, architects, engineers and draftsmen. There seems to be a certain procedure prescribed by law, which is very laborious and which does not accomplish the desired purpose quickly. It has therefore been decided that tentatively applications will be received at the City Plan Commission office on the 17th floor of the Water Board Building. These applications will be subject to all of the legal requirements of the various elements, which it is hoped to comply with later.

One of the points with relation to the City Plan Commission which seems to be misunderstood is the question of whether or not they will establish an architectural bureau to do the actual work on buildings of the group. This may be answered by saying that there is no such intention. At present the Plan Commission has asked for 96 technical men for surveys and for preparation of studies in connection with a City Plan.

Walls of Gold

And speaking of unemployment the motion picture with the above title depicts an architect entering an employment agency in a skyscraper he had designed. The young lady says, “Oh, yes, Mr. so and so, I have good news for you today, we have a call for a designer of crossword puzzles—and the architect was very grateful.

At a meeting of the Allied Architects and Engineers of Detroit last week the names of 42 additional firms were proposed for membership.

Tracy Augur, City Planner of Detroit has been named head of the Planning Division of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

And were we glad to see Lancelot Sukert back? He contributes something to the code matter by

(Continued on Page 4)
Mutual Banks For Michigan

Three years ago in a Board of Director's meeting of the Builders' and Traders' Exchange an urge for the formation of mutual banks was given. Later in the Detroit Building Congress this same proposition was again given attention.

Two men caught on to the idea with a tenacity which stuck while they spent some money investigating the fine record of these banks in the East. The two men were Louis Palmer and John Russel. Later these two men and others held some meetings on this subject one being a meeting called by the secretary of the Builders' and Traders' Exchange which was held last spring at the Aztec Tower.

A bill was drafted and received the support of the Building Congress and was presented to the legislature at the regular session. It was found that pressure then would not be so effective as to wait. Therefore we have waited and the bill will be introduced at the forthcoming special session which was somewhat of a surprise as some thought it would have to wait a bit longer.

There will doubtless be opposition to the bill but there should be none from the construction industry. In the last analysis it is not saying there will not be some doubt and lately there has been some kind of a subterranean minority of disgruntled voices which oppose any constructive measure.

The Detroit News of November 21 carried a fine article about this proposed legislation which would take up at least four of these pages. I recommend that if you did not read it, you procure a copy and inform yourself.

Mortgage money in the old days came from individuals who choose that sort of investment. Then gradually came a change over the face of the situation which might well be termed A DRIFT TO COMPLEXITY. The real estate bond contributed to this change and so did the tenor of the times. We grew big and did business fast as opposed to the old slower methods.

So there grew new sources for mortgage money, most of them long removed from the old individual idea. Insurance companies disbursed much money. Trust companies, banks, mortgage corporations did much business. People got away from the habit of thinking in terms of individual investments. They bought real estate bonds. They bought stock. Some it is true stuck to the Building and Loan Association idea which continually waxed bigger, and shall we say better.

But no one knows better than we in the industry that we must have new sources for mortgage money.

The mutual bank is an ideal source. It is also a depository for funds well worthy of our notice because the record of such established banks during the past few years of strain has been more than average satisfactory.

Of course the legislation will do no more than to legalize the setting up of such banks. It will not establish a single bank. It will make it possible for twenty men to organize a unit. There will be room for many such units in Detroit, and at least one such unit in almost any city of Michigan.

If this bill does not become a law, an opportunity for helping our own industry by tried and proved methods will be lost. Each man in the industry should use his influence to see that mutual banks become a legal possibility in Michigan.

At the November 21st Board meeting of the Builders' and Traders' Exchange the President, Mr. Edward Horning, according to the Constitution and By-Laws, appointed the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for the Board of Directors. The Committee consists of Edwin Kriehoff, Chairman, Dr. Julius Clippert and Fred Korneffel. Mr. Kriehoff is present Vice-President of the Exchange and Dr. Julius Clippert are both former presidents, not now on the Board of Directors.

HUNT COMPANY CATALOGUE

The Robert W. Hunt Co. have just released a catalogue giving in a brief way the value and scope of their activities. It should find a useful place in the files of every architect interested in the technical and specialized services of the Hunt Company.

While most architects are familiar with the inspection service of this company the new catalogue gives a much more complete picture of their other activities. It is complete with illustrations of many buildings in which they have had an important part. While the catalogue is for limited distribution to those interested a copy may be obtained by addressing the Robert W. Hunt Co., 2200 Insurance Exchange, Chicago, Ill.

“Now, during my experience as a surveyor to my Building Society, I have found that I must be very careful not to talk to my friends the speculative builders as an architect. Directly I mentioned, as I did perhaps in my earlier days, that I was an architect, I felt that there was a barrier between us at once, but if I simply said I was a surveyor I could talk to them and they would talk to me on terms of equality.” Sydney A. Smith, F. S.I., at the International Congress of Building Societies.
PRESIDENT PALMER NAMES COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors of the Detroit Chapter A.I.A. announce the appointments of the various committees for the coming year.

Each Chairman is requested to call a meeting of his committee, together with the President of the Chapter, sometime during the next month to organize and form programs for the year.

As an act of economy, the list as published below will serve as formal notice of appointments.

Should any member so appointed feel he cannot or does not desire to act in the capacity so designated, he should notify the Committee Chairman or the President of the Chapter at once.

Detroit Chapter Committees, 1933-1934

REGULAR COMMITTEES

Publicity
- Lancelet Sukert, Chairman;
- Herbert G. Wenzell; Arthur K. Hyde; Milton J. Pettibone.

Membership
- A. F. Herman, Chairman;
- Wm. D. Cuthbert; Frank H. Wright; Hubert F. Howe.

Exhibitions
- Amedeo Leone, Chairman;
- Emil Lorch; Wirt C. Rowland; Geo. M. McConkey.

Lecture and Program
- Arthur K. Hyde, Chairman;
- Wells I. Bennett; Talmage C. Hughes; Clair W. Ditchy.

Professional Practice
- Branson V. Gamber, Chairman;
- Henry F. Stanton; Herbert G. Wenzell.

Competitions
- Adolph Eisen, Chairman;
- Geo. D. Mason; Wm. G. Malcomson.

Registration
- Walter E. Lentz, Chairman;
- Geo. D. Mason; Wm. G. Malcomson.

Advisory Committee to the State Board of Registration, Authorized by the Chapter on

March 26th, 1931

- Geo. D. Mason, Chairman;
- Wm. G. Malcomson; Wm. B. Stratton.

The above named Committee acts jointly with a similar Committee from the Michigan Society of Architects (Messrs. Dice, Schilling and Cowles.)

Budget or Finance
- Arthur K. Hyde, Chairman;
- A. F. Herman; David H. Williams, Jr.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Riverfront Development
- G. Frank Cordner, Chairman;
- Frank Euriich; Eliel Saarinen, Consultant.

Architects’ and Contractors’

Joint Committee
- Henry F. Stanton, Chairman;
- H. J. Maxwell Grylls; David H. Williams; Talmage C. Hughes.

PUNCH and JUDY THEATRE

KERCHEVAL AT FISHER ROAD

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY.

SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY.

DY, 1, 2.

DECEMBER 3, 4, 5.

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the College of Architecture of the University of Michigan. The speaker was Mr. James B. Newman, a graduate of the college and former member of the faculty. For some years he was connected with the office of Ely Jacques Kahn of New York.

J. and G. Daverman and Christian Steketee announce their removal to 40-44 Porter Block, Grand Rapids.

Lancelot Sukert had a splendid article on the retail shop front in The Current American Architect.

An informal dinner with Roger Bailey as guest of honor last Thursday evening marked the approaching close of Mr. Bailey's sketching class. The dinner was occasioned by the splendid spirit Mr. Bailey has shown throughout the session, not only as an artist but as a personality so much enjoyed by everyone who came in contact with him. The next session of his class will be held in the office of George D. Mason & Co., 409 Griswold Street Thursday, Dec. 7th at 4 P.M.

For Sale, five drafting tables, 3 ft. 6 in. by 7 ft., large drawer for drawings, and small drawer subdivided. These tables are equipped with K. & K. straight edges. They can be obtained at a bargain—call the Bulletin.

Birthdays this week: John C. Thornton, Nov. 27; Wirt C. Rowland, Dec. 1; Herbert Wenzell, Dec. 7.

**GRISWOLD GOSSIP**

(Continued from Page 1)

citing the fact that the retail code has put some wholesalers out of business when they didn't play the game fairly.

Paul Marshall brings the news that George Harvey one of our beloved competitors in Port Huron has been elected Mayor of that City.

Frank Wright makes the suggestion that we review the national architectural magazines for the benefit of those who don't receive them. Naturally, he is immediately named a committee of one to do the job. He starts out by saying that the current forum carries an illustrated article called 'The Forward House.' It seems that the Forum together with Macy's Department Store got the idea that it would be interesting to know what the eight biggest architectural firms in New York thought of the subject. Result—"The Forward House" at Macy's and in the Forum. Those of Chrysler fame, Radio City, Empire State, etc. contribute, and there is plenty of diversity of opinion. Models, drawings, etc. at Macy's drew 50,000 people a day, and the article in the Forum is masterful.

Gus O'Dell just returned from a ranch in Colorado goes on another vacation to Northern Michigan, bringing back a buck and a bear.

The State Board of Examiners, etc. announces newly registered architects as follows:

Alden B. Dow, Midland, Michigan (temporary address, Taliesin Fellowship, Spring Green, Wis.); Edward X. Tuttle, 710 Olds Merchants Bldg., Battle Creek.

"Income Producing Structures" was the subject of an illustrated lecture given November 16 for

MODERN LIGHTING for the KITCHEN

Plenty of illumination well-diffused is the keynote of kitchen lighting. In addition to the central ceiling fixture which provides light for general purposes, the two recessed panels shown here are recommended as highly desirable. Shadows at the sink and over the range, otherwise almost inevitable, are thereby eliminated. The more common bracket light may be used instead of recessed fixtures.

Lighting details for the home are supervised by the Detroit Edison Home Lighting Adviser. Her services are at your disposal (without charge) on all home lighting problems. Call Randolph 2100.

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