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march - apri



the money they spend.

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The order now places at the disposal of the Government for war construction the full facilities of the construction industry.

The Associated General Contractors of America has accepted the order in the interests of the war effort and pledges to the nation all the ingenuity and adaptability of the industry to winning the war and rebuilding in peacetime.

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# Northwest Architect

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## THANK YOU, MR. ELMSLIE

Northwest Architect

Dear Sirs:

The American flag issue of the NORTHWEST ARCHITECT is very fine indeed. Mr. Purcell's contribution is extremely well put together and a joy to read.

"Modern" in its multifarious manners shows little that is good. Something serious, simple and human needs to be done. Some persons call for more historic research. I do not think that is the angle of approach. It is to be found nearer home than in the field of ancient buildings by Greek or barbarian. Leave them to our archaeologists and their infinite patience. We have other things to do, requiring equal patience as well as fortitude.

Let us look into ourselves, not into the myriad convolutions and involutions of our brains, but into the nature of the ultimately delicate and mobile responses that arise in our hearts, with all the ardor of free men!

The brain can become befuddled and bedeviled and lead from a plexus of anxiety concerning what to do into a hundred roads that wind only to dead ends and to dry-as-dust results. What comes from the brain is but an echo of something previously planted, while from the heart, as from an ever rippling mountain stream, come BEAUTY in all its thrilling simplicity, and GLORY in things both great and small.

Listen to the still small voice O ye scholars and men of erudition and pay homage to the Divinity within you.

"Thy light alone, like mist o'er mountains driven,

Or music by the night wind sent

Through strings of some still instrument,

Or moonlight on a mountain stream,

Gives grace and truth to life's unquiet dream." So said Shelley and he has lots to say to us earthworms. There is music in him as in no poet.

Very sincerely,

GEORGE G. ELMSLIE, Architect.

## ARCHITECTS IN THE WAR PICTURE

Throughout the world today a great many architects are doing their part in a big way in the war. Many are in actual fighting military service—others in noncombatant military service—a great many, particularly in England, are doing nothing that has anything to do with architecture or engineering. The government has found that they are well fitted by education, experience and practice and temperament to act in executive and administrative capacities—where decisions and equitable ones, must be made. The architect is an expert in planning and certainly the various and complex phases of an all-out war provide any number of examples of the need for planning.

In this country there are still thousands of trained architectural men who are not yet in the war picture willing to die if need be for their country, most of them feel that they can perform better service if engaged in the architectural or allied construction field.

Strangely enough, we have found that often just the type of man needed for a certain position has not heard of the opportunity and again many manufacturers of defense materials who realized they could use a good architect in their plant, often pass up these technically trained men through lack of knowing how or where to get in contact with such men.

If vou are looking for employment—or if you have a position available for a man who knows construction —planning, materials, coördination, purchasing—a man who knows values, then get in touch with NORTHWEST ARCHITECT and we will see if we can't make mutually satisfactory arrangements for employer and employe.

NORTHWEST ARCHITECT and its publishers, the Minnesota Association of Architects, disclaim any and all liability for statements made by authors in contributed articles.

# A PORCH, IS A PORCH-IS A PORCH!

# by William Gray Purcell

"THE OLD PORCH looked so bleak in winter they glassed it in. It was then so cold they decided to heat it. Well, that made a room of it, except that the living room was then too dark and they had no porch. So they decided to build a nice porch. The result was an unsatisfactory living room, a sun porch, now partially shaded by the new porch. But they always went out in the car summer evenings and the children kept cluttering up the sun porch, so they called in an architect to glass in the new porch for a sort of rumpus room. It turned out swell but then they had no porch, so they decided to build a p...."

Oh! migosh!!

From Annals of Americans (pre-Pearl Harbor)

## A fable for persons who know what they want but are always being told "it can't be done", or else — well read the story

NCE UPON A TIME when the expensive hum of the electric brougham was beginning to be heard in our streets and the best people out on Pillsbury Avenue still asked each other "Do you like classical music?", Edwin Hewitt sat in his little octagonal office under the skylight Club Rooms on Fourth Avenue South, and dreamed forth a very proper and elegant residence for a Social Register client not too many stonethrows from where the Minneapolis Art Museum was destined to be built.

Now in those days it had come to pass that steel casement sash were called English, because they were, and since they could be so seldom seen in the land they became the badge and token of Unusual Respectability. The "sun room" in this floury mansion when built was full of these Hope Casement Windows on three sides — and still has them, no doubt — together with the more or less unworkable screens and the operating (or non-operating) sash-swinging machinery of that day.

## The Gay "Nineties"

It so happened that John S. Bradstreet on the way to his Oriental Studio with the bronze storks and the stone lanterns around the pond in the yard, still drove through Loring Park each fine morning at 9:15 in his very high two wheeled baruch (or something) behind his mustard colored moustaches, his lavendar colored horse-show cob, and beside his correctly groomed groom who held the ribbons and the whip. Nothing finer in form and color has Minneapolis seen before nor since and all Proper Persons had their houses done by Bradstreet as a matter of course and it was right and good that they did this.

Harry Rubins, than whom no finer gentleman has lived and worked in this town and enriched it with his life and talents, was the human rheostat that transformed the richly aesthetic and always delicately romantic atmosphere at the S. W. corner of Fourth Avenue South and Eighth Streets into a going business

and sent its furniture and equipment for gracious living far abroad, from Philadelphia to Helena and where not else.

## Interior Decorations

In due course Harry visited Edwin's English casemented and beautifully detailed sun porch and the elegant owneress (never mind the spelling) came down to Bradstreets to approve the recommended furnishings. By this time it will be plain to any reader that the brittle Minnesota sunlight, washed by the rains and filtered by the snows of this capricious climate, could surely not have been tolerated in this home where the facts of life were still plush and comfortable, and a broad Atlantic Ocean, more than three decades wide, intervened betwixt the then not even dreamed of ruckus of teamsters strikes, murdered editors, and at long last a second World War.

It takes only a little poetic nostalgia to see how a mellow patina of tradition had softened the manners and the ideas, if any, of the sun parlor dwellers of that "Louis twenty-third-and-one-half" Period into a deportment acceptable to the most trying (and usually feminine) social and economic conflicts of the day.

And so the imitation Caenstone inner wall of the sun room was hung with a fine old faded tapestry and the other three walls (that were all taken up with the very expensive iron and art glass windows of Hope) were hung with Empress Velvet Brocades, lined and interlined, until just a small square of all the glass remained to throw a shaft of dull gold sunlight on the rich wine rug and upon the carved and weathered oak furniture with its glinting tassels, all set out with expensive "objets d'art."

## The Tenth Commandment

But do not too quickly assume that the not unfriendly irony of this tale is solely a picture of the unhappy rich, of now (almost) Sainted Memory, for this picture of a BACK TO THE WINDOW. In our scientific age we can have synthetic fresh air, artificial sunshine, automatically controlled warmth and coolness, without bothering about windows. We can even make a solid wall out of glass bricks, which will let in sterile light (and give you claustrophobia). But the one thing that we can't enjoy in our homes, without a free and unobstructed opening in the side of the house, is mentally healthful contact with Mother Nature and the great outdoors.



Porch Wall-Doors and Plan of Porch, Rose Valley, Pa., 1918, Purcell and Elmslie, Architects

poor beset soul and his wife, who hoped to accomplish some joy in life and found that everything they did turned out to be something quite different and not so much fun as they had thought, is common to all walks of life. We are all in that boat now but a few of us — a very few — have found out some good simple inexpensive ways to be quit of this interference by conventions and contraptions. This writing is an effort to secure some recruits who want to have more fun with less of a fight for it.

## **Pioneers in Architecture**

I first got my nose frozen in Minneapolis, in January, 1907, and it wasn't long after when I heard some one say—it might very well have been grand old Cyrus Northrup — that "If you can't do what you know you are not educated."

It seemed to me that this was exactly a motto for me and so Purcell, Feick and Elmslie started a continuity of constructions which I have continued to this very day. It is some of these simple ordinary readjustments of the commonest everyday things I would like to tell you about and show you how profound an effect they can have on your whole conduct of life, work, thought, and feeling.

#### Take Windows for Example

One decides on the desirable openings looking out from porch or room and then begins the mechanical

A Room Is a Room—is a Porch . . . and What a Porch Within Less Than One Minute.



Sliding Glass Wall-Door Closed



Sliding Glass Wall-Door Pushed Back

WHEN THE WALL BEDS were in use (see plan above), if a blowing rain came up in the night these great doors operated so slick that one could put a hand out from under the cover and close the entire side of this sleeping room, hardly waking up. Twenty-five years ago this was a big improvement in the machine for living. The doors are still in operation today. The contrast, which can be achieved in less than half a minute, between a porch space which is "all out doors with a roof over it," and a room which has a sense of snug complete enclosure, is a real delight, especially in a climate where sudden changes from storm and cold to sultry heat are a part of the climate. Built in 1918 at Rose Valley, Pennsylvania, Purcell and Elmslie, Architects. warfare to find some way of stopping them against the weather.

The more that architects and manufacturers have worked at this problem, the more the window which we've wanted has become all cluttered up with operating devices - sash, which slide, swing in or out, fold upwards, or collapse to one side. Then there are the venetian blinds, rolling screens, awnings, all kinds of curtains, plus every sort of mechanical machinery to operate them. The result is that the window, and all we had hoped for it, has completely disappeared in a sort of hardware show-window of slick looking mechanical gadgets.

The first of our experiments in making large windows open full-area without a lot of fuss was in 1909 out at Fitch Pabody's, manager of the American Bridge Co. A grand character, he was, who got his start working for Long and Kees on the Court House plans and a man whom all the old-time architects will remember. His home was at the far upper end of Lake Minnetonka. There we fitted three large porch openings,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height by 8 feet wide, with a great single sash which was counter weighted and slid down out of sight into the basement wall below, with a little flap at the floor like a street car window to cover the slot. This worked perfectly - his elderly mother had no trouble at all in operating them.

#### Few View New View

Two years before out at 2409 Lake of the Isles Blvd., we had built the first plate glass picture window in Minnesota. How the Authoritative Architects of that day turned up their noses at our unorthodox window! "Why, a big glass of that kind was just vulgar." But our picture window would not open. One could see nature through it, but still shut away from the feeling of out-of-doors, and so ever since that time we have been trying to find ways to have actually open windows that could be easily closed.

This integrated and satisfying relation with the outdoors world is an architectural objective very different from the well "designed" conventional window which may be opened completely, but which in practice never is, because the housewife finds that after her struggle with screens, hardware and curtains, the result leaves her with a sense of incompleteness that is very like immodesty and her room no nearer the trees and flowers than it was before. Of course no one could design such a window of the Modern Day and have it conform to any recognized "style" of architecture.

## Architecture by Reduction

Our next step in perfecting these large openings was to get all the petty scramble of screen muntins out of the way. The width of screen cloth placed vertically had always determined the maximum number of vertical divisions, but in house after house we ran the sheet of screen fabric horizontally. A horizontal member 2'6" above the floor and another 6'6" put the 48" width of cloth where it provided an unobstructed opening up to 15 or 16 feet long, with no muntin divisions at all.

### The Battle With Old Habit

When I refused to put any supports for these slight sill and transome nailing strip stiffeners the mill men said, "What will hold up these long horizontal screen rails?" I replied that the 2,500 vertical wires to be found in a fifteen-foot length of screen cloth, if twisted into a wire rope, would hoist a horse. They proved sufficient to support a couple of slight wooden rails.

We found that barn-door-size screen doors could also be made in large horizontal panels without vertical bars. Hung on stock sliding garage door hardware they could be pushed out of sight into the wall construction of adjoining parts of the building or run in behind a decorative lattice or pergola grill work on the exterior. Having demonstrated the possibility of clearing the

## Pasadena, Bed Room, 1936

WHEN YOUR WIFE SENDS YOU to get the tickets which are in the second drawer of the chiffonier " . . . yes . . . left hand side, right there under that blue box-don't stir up the whole drawer . . . etc. etc.", and you open all the drawers and then find them out on top!, under the pin tray . . . well, !-Hc? /!!

Now, if you will look carefully at the left hand side of Pictures A. and B, you will find the answer. A gentle single pull opens all six drawers of this little bedroom case at the same time-with everything you're looking for in plain sight.



A comparison of these two photographs will show what the window of the future can mean and one way in which it can

If a comparison of these two photographs will show what the window of the luture can mean and one way in which it can be done. No, that is not a big plate glass, it is absolutely the out of doors, right there ready for use. And on the page opposite you see how the two pairs of sliding sash draw out from behind the curtains to give immediate enclosure. If the screen is on the outside of the house tacked directly to the frame—no screen sash. A canvas awning skirt with con-ventional scalloped edge, at the top of the window frame outside the screen, protects the pulled up venetian blind from rain. You will notice that this blind is on the outside of the sash, but inside the screen.

I With almost no mosquitoes and few flies in California I shall next time also slide the screen sash to one side, all in one big undivided screen area. We find that the wooden blind slats and tapes will go about five years without renewing and repainting.

largest sized openings of all obstructions easily, quickly and at no expense for special hardware and equipment, we returned to restudy the possibilities in the more usual type of window and the photographs of the California house shown on pages 6 and 7 are the latest issue of this quarter century of intensive study on windows.

## California Here We Come

The photographs and accompanying notes show the objective and the practical results obtained, both mechanical and æsthetic.

Architects hesitate to use these sliding sash because they stick, they are difficult to make water-tight and clients are impatient. Unless special and often expensive sliding gadgets are specified the carpenter must come back at least twice during the first year and help the sash find themselves. After that they slide with no further trouble.

I also agree that the problem of making them weather- and water-tight is a serious one, but it is not insurmountable and the beautiful details worked out by Antonin Raymond which have been published in a volume by Architectural Forum, show many ways in which this can be done. Some of these are too expensive for ordinary work but we find that a plain grooved sill with a pair of these metal furniture glider buttons on the bottom of each sash gives good results.

#### Manufacturers Also Coöperating

Or one can use the new "Save-a-space" sliding door unit made by Ralph A. Long of San Diego. Cut two feet off the bottom of his patent frame assembly, where you are using it as a window instead of a door, and detail a good water-tight one-piece grooved sill to go with it. The sash would thus slide back out of sight into the wall construction instead of on its face behind curtains. The use of this manufactured unit would limit window to six feet in width unless you used a special assembly of Long's double wardrobe door hanger track, which he would no doubt coöperate in producing.

Except that we have all lived with them so much longer there is no basic reason why a horizontal sliding sash should stick any more than our old ugly vertical double hung windows and the new lubrication pencils now in every first-class carpenter's tool kit do wonders for sash, drawers and other sticking woodwork. In cold climates the screens are always replaced anyway with storm windows, so that the question of the horizontal sliding sash freezing fast need not enter the consideration.

We hope you will take up the study of this World of Windows. There is so much to be done and what I have put down here provides scarcely a good foreword. But may I urge you to forget the gadgets, tricks, machinery. There has been enough of that. What is needed is a real creative understanding of both the art and science of happiness. What do people want to *do* with their windows, by them, in them, through them? . . . and *they want to do it themselves* with willing windows! Let's get rid of this horrible world where you push a button and stand importantly by while a machine devours the living You — why, only by what you *do* can you be sure you're even alive.

"Happy is the man who writes for the unknown friend." — Emerson



## William Gray Purcell, Architect

THIS "OPEN-SIX-DRAWERS-WITH-ONE-PULL" chiffonier shown open in photograph to the left, is a juicy grass green with the panel margins shaded with just a suggestion of yellow green. The inside is old brass and pale burnt pink. With an armful of freshly ironed pieces, you swing open the door and distribute all to the six places so easily. You will find here a really original contribution to convenience and home gaiety. To date I've built eight of these pieces for different houses; Douglas Donaldson decorated them in a variety of color arrangements and everyone is delighted. We made them in two sizes, 22 x 111/2 x 53 and 22 x 111/2 x 46.

In other openings in this house for better weather protection we placed the venetian blinds inside the sash—but still back of the curtains—by making a simple plywood head box 8" to 14" high depending upon the length of the blind, and 6" deep, so as to both take in the curtain heads and entirely conceal the pulled up blind behind them.

¶ This removes the rather restless gathered up blind slats from the decorative picture and completely frees the window opening. With this arrangement the slat paint does last longer, but the tapes burn out in five or six years just the same. ¶ This bedroom has mild yellow walls with a pattern of dull silver horizontal lines. Turquoise blue curtains with dull silver and dusty peach hand-blocked patterns. Those in the pictures are the cool looking summer curtains. The winter ones are a linen textured block print by Paul Poiret in gay foliage abstractions with plenty of gold, red, plum, yellow and verdi green. The book case is natural maple, the chair dusty blue and silver—the rug colorful chinese.

What's What in Washington







## General Conservation Order M-126

This order drawn for the conservation of iron and steel will definitely stop production of some 400 items. To quote from the release: "It is the first overall order of this nature and it is expected that others will have to follow as well as further extension of the list of products affected herein.'

In connection with this order, the War Production Board has decided to hold a series of "Town Hall" meetings at which the reasons behind the order and the nature of the order itself will be fully explained. The first meetings scheduled are to be held in New York, May 12; Chicago, May 13, and San Francisco, May 18. Among the items on the first published proscribed list for the manufacture of which iron and steel are not permitted are as follows (if possible, we will send a copy of the order to the Chapters and State Associations):

Access panels, except as required by Underwriters' Code.

Accoustical Ceilings.

Air-conditioning systems—except for hospital operating rooms and industrial plants.\*

Area walls.

Attic Fans.

Awning frames and supports.

Bathtubs.

Bench legs-except industrial.

Blackboards.

Building ornaments.

- Cabinets-except:
  - (a) Hospital operating and examining rooms.
  - (b) Office furniture as permitted in Limitation Orders L-13-a and L-62.

Ceilings.

Coal Chute and Door, household.

Counter tops.

Curb guards.

Decorative iron products.

Door Chimes.

Door knockers.

Door closers—except fire prevention as required by Underwriters Code.

Door handles-except shipboard use.

Door Stops.

Drain boards and tub covers, household.

Drawer pulls.

Escalators.\*

Enamel store fronts.

Fence posts-except on A-2 or higher.

Fences, chain link-except on A-2 or higher.

Fences, ornamental.

Fireplace equipment—except dampers.

Fireplace screens.

Flagpoles.

Floor and ceiling plates for piping.

Floor and counter covering trim.

Foot scrapers.

Fountains, ornamental.

Furniture\*-except:

- (a) Wood furniture.
- (b) As limited by Limitation Orders L-13-a and L-62
- (c) Hospital operating and examining rooms.
- (d) Hospital beds and cots.

Garage hoists, car lifts and racks.

Grilles:

Ornamental.

Sewers\*-except on A-2 or higher and reinforcing for concrete sewers.

Gutters, spouting, conductor pipe and fittings for single family dwellings.

Hangers and track for garage doors for private use. House numerals.

Incinerators-except industrial, commercial and as allowed in Defense Housing Critical List.

Insulation, metal reflecting type.

Laundry chutes.

- Laundry trays-except reinforcing mesh.
- Letter chutes.

Lighting poles and standards.\*

- Lockers-except: (a) Oil refinery use.
  - (b) Army and Navy use in tropical climates.

  - (c) Army equipment as limited by Limitation Order L-13-a.

Marquees.

- Material for housing, not otherwise specified in this order-except as allowed in Defense Housing Critical list.
- Measuring pumps and dispensers\* for gasoline station, garage and household use, including but not limited to:
  - Gasoline dispensing pumps.
  - Grease pumps.

Oil pumps, except barrel pumps and lubesters.

Kerosene pumps. Air pumps.

Ornamental hardware and mouldings.

Outdoor fireplace parts.

Paint spray outfits-except industrial.

Picture and mirror hardware.

Push Plates and kick plates, doors.

Radiator enclosures.

Scaffolding.

Screen frames-except industrial processing.

Sewer pipe, exterior installations\*-except for vents and within five feet of buildings.

Shower stalls-except frames.

Show window lighting and display equipment.

Sign hanger frames.

Sink aprons and legs.

Sink metal drainboards, both integral and removable. Stadiums.\*

(Continued on Page 11)

# 0.26

# WHAT'S IN A NUMBER?

In this case it's *insulating efficiency!* 0.26 represents the thermal conductivity (or K factor) of MasterFil insulation at a density of 6.0 pounds per cubic foot.\* This density of MasterFil insulation is unvarying, meaning that it always gives the same uniform insulating efficiency when applied.

MasterFil cannot be fluffed up or packed because it is granular in nature. The air cells trapped between the particles of MasterFil cannot change, and give the same uniform insulating efficiency from the day the insulation is installed.

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into place, it flows around all obstructions and gives complete insulation coverage. Wires, nails and plaster keys are thoroughly covered and no voids or uninsulated areas are left. With the government calling for fuel conservation on a large scale, insulation has a real job to do. Now more than ever, MasterFil will be appreciated for its all around insulating efficiency and for the ease with which it can be installed. Remember, MasterFil doesn't have to be blown, stuffed, nailed, or fitted—it is simply poured into place right from the sack. It is equally efficient for both new construction and existing buildings.

When you specify insulation, insist on MasterFil. Check its qualities of high effi-

> ciency, uniform density, and ease of handling. Compare all its advantages. We believe you'll agree it's a real insulation value.

> \*United States Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, I.C. 7166.



# *News* OF THE MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

## WHERE ARE YOU?

If you have changed your address or are planning to do so soon (who isn't), won't you notify NORTH-WEST ARCHITECT, 2642 University Avenue, St. Paul, so your magazine can keep up with you without delay. Furthermore, your fellow readers all want to know where you are and what you are doing. So give us a chance to publish your name and new address and what you are doing in the next issue, won't you? A penny postal card will do the trick. DO IT TODAY!

\*

If you're somebody's wife or somebody's office girl and you know where the fellow we're talking to in the paragraph above is now located—suppose you do it for him.

Most of us were pretty hard hit when the old April 9 order went down as low as \$500 on remodeling work. We had had hopes that it wouldn't be so drastic that a family couldn't add a bedroom and at least rough-in for a bath, but we just had hopes, we guess.

\* \*

Anyway, Frank Reinhard, the guy who put the "built" in built-up roofs over at B. F. Nelson's says if things get too tough we can move into the B. F. Nelson signboard out on Hennepin Avenue and Franklin. There's one thing about it, you can be darn sure the roof won't leak.

Skirts are getting shorter, but men are looking longer.

Skirts are getting so short they've just about got to the point . . . (period).

OSLO.—Josef Terboven, newly appointed Nazi governor of occupied Norway, arrived in Oslo tonight, accompanied by a large stiff. —Springfield (Mo.) Leader and Press.



## NATION'S ARCHITECTS TO MEET IN DETROIT

Professor L. C. Dillenback of Syracuse University has been appointed chairman of a national committee to direct arrangements for the seventy-fourth annual meeting of the American Institute of Architects to be held in Detroit on June 23, 24 and 25, it is announced by Richmond H. Shreve of New York, president of the Institute.

Members of the Producers' Council, national organization of manufacturers of building materials, and delegates from seventy-one Chapters of the Institute throughout the country, will participate in sessions devoted to the discussion of wartime and postwar problems in design and building. State Associations of Architects, the Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, as well as the Producers' Council, will meet concurrently with the Institute.

Postwar planning and construction, the function of the architect in wartime design and building, and programs of education in architectural schools will be the themes of special symposia. Reports will be presented on numerous phases of the architectural and building field, including participation of architects in civilian defense, urban and rural land use, industrial relations, new materials, technical services, and foreign relations.

Dean Walter R. MacCornack of the School of Architecture of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, vice president of the Institute, will preside at a session devoted to postwar planning and construction. William Pope Barney of Philadelphia, chairman of the Institute's committee on education, will lead a discussion of programs of education in architecture. "The Existing Situation of the Profession" and "Youth Movement and Unification" will be topics of other symposia.

Albert Kahn of Detroit, noted industrial architect, will be principal speaker at the annual dinner of the Institute on Wednesday evening.

Wm. Ingemann is in active duty in the Air Corps and is stationed at Luke Field, Phoenix, Arizona.



#### (Continued from Page 8)

Store display equipment and show cases. Structural steel home construction. Tanks (strapping excluded):

Dipping—for animals. Watering—for animals. Feeding—for animals. Storage, beer.

Storage, water-except :\*

(a) In tropical climates.

- (b) Heights in excess of 100 feet.
- (c) Boilers, hot water and storage.

(d) Pneumatic pressure tanks under 31 gallons. Terrazzo spacers and decorative strips—except hospital operating rooms.

Tile, steel-back.

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Window ventilators-except industrial and hospitals.

## Housing

Requests have been received by this office for advance information on projects. It is doubtful if this office receives any information prior to that released in the local newspapers. However, it does receive a considerable amount of information relative to housing projects themselves.

As the releases and the lists of projects are both far too long to publish in this Bulletin, we suggest that any architects wishing information, communicate with this office with regard to projects or possible projects in specific localities. We will be glad to furnish them with such information as we have available.

The War Production Board has announced that a supplier of materials entering into the construction of a defense housing project will be permitted to extend a preference rating at any time within three months after he becomes entitled to apply it.

Formerly, such ratings could not be extended after the expiration date of the individual orders.

By reason of conservation order L-41, the field offices of the FHA have been instructed not to process applications for mortgage insurance under Title II pertaining to proposed new properties in non-defense areas, and applications for proerty approval under Title I calls three loans in nondefense areas. Applications of this type should not be filed unless 'the mortgagee can furnish evidence that the War Production Board has authorized beginning of construction.

tion Board has authorized beginning of construction. The same procedure will be followed in connection with all applications for mortgage insurance in defense areas which involve proposed new properties where a sales price in excess of \$6,000 is contemplated, or a shelter rental in excess of \$50 a month is to be charged.

## Legislation

The bills which were of immediate concern to the profession, namely H.R. 5781, 6790, and 6792, will not be considered by Congress until November next. It is doubtful if 5781 will ever be brought out of committee.

These bills contain clauses with regard to recapture of excess profits, the renegotiation of contracts, and the basing of compensation to wartime contractors on a percentage of cost.

## FWA

Announcement is made of the appointment of George A. Geib of St. Paul, Minn., as Regional Engineer of FWA. Region 8 with headquarters in Kansas City.

Mr. Geib will open offices in the Porter Building,

\*Maintenance and repairs excepted.

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34th Street and Broadway, Kansas City, on May 4. Region 8 includes Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming and Colorado.

## General

There is an apparent drift towards further socialization and it appears that the Government is becoming further entrenched as a planning agency. However, we wish to point out that the word "planning" as used here may not necessarily apply to drawings and specifications as it refers more particularly to economic and social planning. There is no indication so far that government bureaus are undertaking a great amount of architectural work. There is, however, an indication of bureaucracy to maintain, hold and extend its powers.

> EDMUND R. PURVES. Washington Representative, A.I.A.

## NEW DS&P BOOK DISCUSSES FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S WORK

Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural ideas, plans, designs and finished buildings in all parts of the world, from 1887 to the present are described in detail and shown in pictures in "In the Nature of Materials," by Henry-Russell Hitchcock which Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York, will publish April 23 (\$5.00). The book represents a full record of the great architect's work. More than 100 buildings are illustrated by over 400 photographs and designs, while both completed buildings and unexecuted projects are included. Mr. Wright has approved the arrangement and presentation.

Mr. Hitchcock is a member of the architecture committee of the Museum of Modern Art, and an editor of "Art Bulletin." He has written many books and articles on architecture and is a member of the faculty of Wesleyan University and Connecticut College.

"In the Nature of Materials" is the second of a series of three books devoted to a complete presentation of the life, writings, and work of Frank Lloyd Wright, "Frank Lloyd Wright on Architecture," edited by Frederick Gutheim, has been published while "An Autobiography" will be published in the near future.

### **NEW EDITION**

Steel Square Pocket Book is a new book published by the Scientific Book Corporation, designed to provide the carpenter with a handy and compact form for quick reference and simple and practical instructions for solving many of his every-day problems by the use of steel square.

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