# THE

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



Announcements Public Works Program Unification of the Profession St. Louis Better Housing Campaign A Digest of the Competition Code With the Chapters and Associations

Volume 6

DECEMBER 1934

Number 12

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## OBJECTS

The objects of this Institute shall be: To organize and unite in fellowship the Architects of the United States of America, to combine their efforts so as to promote the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession, and to make the profession of ever-increasing service to society.

## PARTICIPATION

FROM ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT CHARLES FOLLEN MCKIM TO THE 37TH CONVENTION

"Looking back over the past two busy years I realize more and more fully how very much the welfare of the profession is bound up in the welfare of the Institute in the work we are called upon to share, how much each member is strengthened by becoming a participator in the work for all.

"As a proof of gratitude for all that I owe the Institute I shall endeavor by every means in my power to further the principles and aims which make it deservedly the National Body."

# THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

Published Monthly by The American Institute of Architects Executive and Publication Offices, The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue N. W., Washington, D. C.

## Announcement

RANK C. BALDWIN submitted his resignation as Secretary of The American Institute of Architects with the request that it be accepted as of the close of the December meeting of the Executive Committee. On several occasions during the last three or four years Mr. Baldwin has expressed his desire to retire from this office, and has suggested that his resignation be accepted. In each instance he has been persuaded by the other Officers to continue as Secretary of the Institute because, in the opinion of the Officers and the Board, his services and counsel are of the greatest value. It was his contention that after eight years of extremely arduous and time-consuming service to the Institute he should have a respite and that another should be selected in his place. Therefore, while we were prepared for this decision, the resignation was accepted with the keenest regret.

At the next Convention, in Milwaukee, it is the intention of the Officers and Directors to appropriately express to him their deep appreciation, and the appreciation of the entire architectural profession for the splendid contribution which he has made so unselfishly and so ably to the ideals for which we all strive.

This announcement would not be complete if it did not record the deep obligation of all of the members for all that Frank Baldwin has done, and if it did not express our concern that, for the time being at least, he is to retire from an official part in the management of Institute affairs. During the past eight years he has given his daily attention to the work of the Institute at The Octagon. His contribution of thought, good judgment, and enthusiasm can never be repaid except by the affectionate regard and high esteem of the entire membership, and these he has without reservation.

Mr. Baldwin, a resident of Washington and a member of the Washington, D. C., Chapter, has served the Institute over many years and in many capacities—as member and chairman of committees, and as a Director, as Vice-President, and as Secretary—since the Convention of 1926. His membership and Fellowship began in 1897, and has covered a period of thirty-seven years—so far—of active participation in the affairs of the profession which he loves so well. Truly, he has set us all a splendid example.

He has assured the Officers that they may call upon him for help at any and all times, and this offer will be taken advantage of because of the excellent advice he is able to give.

> ERNEST JOHN RUSSELL, President.

## Announcement

HARLES T. INGHAM, F. A. I. A., of the Pittsburgh Chapter, has been elected to serve as Secretary of The American Institute of Architects until the adjournment of the 1935 Convention. Mr. Ingham has accepted, and the Officers and Directors bespeak for him full cooperation and loyal support.

> ERNEST JOHN RUSSELL, President.

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### THE OCTAGON

# The Public Works Program of the Institute

U NDER date of December 12, the Secretary addressed a confidential report to every member of the Institute. That report gave information concerning the employment of private architects by the Treasury Department; and concerning the public works program of the Institute.

Every member should have received the document, which was mailed on December 29.

#### THE ARCHITECT AND THE RECOVERY ADMINISTRATIONS

At the December meeting of the Executive Committee reports were made concerning the relation of the architect to various recovery administrations. Normally, abstracts of those reports would appear in the synopsis of the minutes of the meeting to be printed in the January number of THE OCTA-GON. To supplement the confidential report to the membership, above mentioned, and to bring the record up to date with respect to developments in Washington which concern the relation of the architect to the Federal Government, the following excerpts are quoted from the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting:

#### Federal Housing Administration

The President reported his conference with Director Moffett, of the Federal Housing Administration, immediately after his appointment; and subsequent meetings between Mr. Moffett and other representatives of the Institute.

These conferences were helpful in bringing about recognition of the value of architectural service by the Housing Administration, as reported to the membership in the November number of THE OCTAGON.

The Secretary said that a letter of November 28 was sent to the President of each Chapter, with accompanying document on the Architects' Relation to the Better Housing Program of F. H. A., under Title I. Copies of that letter were sent to the fifty odd architectural supervisors appointed by F. H. A.

Mr. Baldwin said that a second letter, and statement, on the Relation of the Architect to Title II, New Construction, would be sent later.

Resolved, That the report of the President and the Secretary with respect to cooperation between the Federal Housing Administration and the Institute be received and approved.

#### Home Owners' Loan Corporation

The President, and the Secretary, reported conferences with officials of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, with respect to recognition of the value of architectural service in the furtherance of the general program of the Corporation. They said that the general policy of the Corporation had been satisfactory in this respect.

Mr. Baldwin stated that some criticism had been

expressed by architects with respect to the scale of fees paid for architectural service in some localities. He referred particularly to the communication sent to every chapter of the Institute by the Washington State Chapter, entitled "The Death Warrant of the Architectural Profession." He said this was referred to Mr. Pierre Blouke for comment.

Mr. Blouke's letter of December 4th, and its enclosure—Memorandum of a meeting held in Washington on September 18 and 19—were read.

There was extended discussion of the architects' fees, and the services which he could render for the small amounts borrowers can afford to pay.

Resolved, That the report of the President, and the Secretary, with regard to recognition of the architectural profession by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation be received and approved, and that the Executive Committee express its thanks to Mr. Pierre Blouke, Architect Adviser of the Corporation, for his letter of December 4 with respect to the policy of the Corporation in the payment of architects' fees.

#### Federal Emergency Relief Administration

The President reported the correspondence published in the October number of THE OCTAGON under the title "Self-Preservation," the purpose of which was to advise the Members and Chapters to protect themselves during the present winter against exploitation of the architectural profession under local work programs sponsored by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

He said that the position of the Institute as established in the winter of 1933-34 and as urged upon F. E. R. A. is that architects and architectural draftsmen on relief rolls should not be used under any circumstances to compete with architects not on such rolls. He pointed out that officials of F. E. R. A. have stated that such a policy will not be approved or supported by that Administration during the present winter.

The Secretary suggested that he be authorized to address a letter to Chapter Presidents making reference to the statement in THE OCTAGON, supplementing it with additional information, and calling upon the Chapters to protect their members from the direct competition of those on relief rolls.

The Executive Committee, by resolution, directed the Secretary to send such a letter to Chapter Presidents, if in his judgment conditions in Washington so required.

# Unification of the Architectural Profession

STRANGE as it may seem—in these days— The American Institute of Architects continues to operate under a democratic form of government. The Proceedings of its Conventions, and the Minutes of its Board and Executive Committee meetings show that it has been doing so, more or less successfully, since 1857. Therefore, Convention mandates on things proposed to be done should receive the close attention of the individual member, who elects delegates to vote his views at the annual meetings.

The membership of the Institute will have before it, in the January number of THE OCTAGON, definite proposals for the unification of the architectural profession, as contained in the final report of the Unification Committee. The action of the Executive Committee on that report—as taken at the recent December meeting—will be published therewith.

At this time it is desirable to review Institute action leading to the final report of the Unification Committee.

At the San Antonio Convention—in 1931—the delegates squarely faced the depression and all the implications of its deadly grip on their profession. Various decisions made at that Convention, in the light of subsequent events, reflect an intuitive realization of the desperate years which have followed.

The delegates at San Antonio apparently were determined to lay the foundation for a more closely knit architectural profession. They adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That The American Institute of Architects, in Sixty-fourth Annual Convention assembled, believing that the prevailing conditions, with respect to the practice of architecture and the development of state societies of architects offers a most opportune time to collaborate with such groups and bring about a unification of the architectural profession, hereby authorizes and directs the Board of Directors of the Institute to invite such societies to collaborate with it and to formulate a plan whereby such societies can be brought into direct unified relationship with the Institute and to present at the next Convention the necessary recommendations to achieve such result.

After the Convention of 1931, the President appointed a Committee on Unification of the Architectural Profession, with Edwin Bergstrom, of Los Angeles, as Chairman, and with key men from various chapters and state societies as members. That Committee successfully undertook the task of providing a place in the Institute's set-up for the State Society, as a corporate voting member of The American Institute of Architects.

The Board of Directors at the Washington Convention of 1932 reported the recommendations of the Unification Committee, and amendments providing for corporate membership in the Institute for the State Societies of Architects. The Convention adopted the principles involved, and the amendments—as now contained in Chapter V of the By-Laws of the Institute. That Chapter provides a membership class for the State Associations of Architects, and fixes the powers, duties and obligations of such membership. (Chapter V was published in full in the 1932 May OCTAGON, page 24.)

Financial conditions forced the omission of a Convention in 1933.

Meanwhile, two corporate members had been admitted—the State Association of California Architects, and the Michigan Society of Architects. At the 1934 Convention both of these corporate members were represented on the floor by voting delegates.

The 1934 Convention was held in Washington, in May. The effects of four years of economic starvation upon architecture and architects were in the minds of the delegates who composed that Convention. They received with interest and approval the report of the Board of Directors on the subject of Unification. (Page 21 of the 1934 May OCTAGON). That report covered the admission of California and Michigan. It offered no extension of the unification program. But when the subject came on the floor there was a demand for more comprehensive action, which resulted in the unanimous adoption of the following resolutions:

Whereas, The unification of the entire architectural profession in a single, strong national organization representing numerically the architects of the country is essential, particularly in view of the requirements of the proposed NRA Code for Architects, and

Whereas, The American Institute of Architects is the logical nucleus for such an organization; therefore be it

Resolved, That changes be made in the organization of The American Institute of Architects, such that

(a) It will be practicable for all state societies, other unaffiliated architectural organizations and individuals to affiliate with The American Institute of Architects, and that

(b) In order to assure a status satisfactory to the members of the organizations proposed to be so affiliated, provision shall be made, at no greater expense to their members, for the effective maintenance and prosecution of state and local functions with as much freedom as is now enjoyed by the local organizations, and that

organizations, and that (c) To this end, the present regional divisions of The American Institute of Architects shall be modified and, within them, auronomous state divisions shall be established which together will form the national unit, as many chapters being formed within the jurisdiction of the state division as the geographical and numerical requirements dictate and these chapter and state organizations jointly taking the place of the present chapter and unaffiliated organizations; and be it further

Resolved, That the President be authorized to appoint a committee of three members to promote the unification program of the Architectural Profession, the said committee to report its recommendations to the Board of Directors of The American Institute of Architects not later than September 30, 1934, and the said Board shall have full power to determine and act in this matter for and in behalf of The American Institute of Architects as represented at this Convention. As instructed in the second resolution the Board appointed a Committee on Unification of the Architectural Profession, with the following personnel:

Edwin Bergstrom, Chairm	anLos Angeles
Franklin O. Adams	Tampa
John R. Fugard	Chicago
Ralph W. Gray	Boston
Ralph T. Walker	New York

The instructions to the Committee were contained in the resolutions of the Convention.

The Committee made its report under date of December 5, 1934, to the Executive Committee at its recent December meeting.

The substance of that report, and the resolutions of the Executive Committee thereon, will be published in full in the January number of THE OCTAGON. From all of this it is apparent that the delegates composing the last three conventions of the Institute have determined upon a certain objective, the attainment of which they believe to be for the good of architecture and for the good of those who practice architecture.

There may have been a day when truth and beauty needed no defense, when professional purity assured public recognition of the value of architectural service. Today is another day. In the judgment of many the cause of architecture and the architect needs the united, aggressive support of all men who merit and uses the title "Architect."

At the next Convention, the Institute must determine whether or not it will become in fact the national organization of the entire architectural profession, or leave the responsibility, the hard work, and the dangers of that job to some other body.

# The St. Louis Better Housing Campaign

BY W. O. MULLGARDT, PRESIDENT, THE ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

I STRUCK me as being rather amusing that the Institute's telegram requesting me to send a report of the St. Louis Chapter's activities in the Federal Housing Administration's program should find me at the office on Saturday morning for the first time in many many months, and also in the midst of hunting up my tools (don't know yet who in the hell swiped my dividers) to begin a new job. Now I'm not saying one way or another that the Better Housing Campaign had anything to do with the new job, but we in St. Louis are an optimistic lot.

If anyone were to look over the Chapter's minutes covering the last two years, the records would disclose that our members have been decidedly modernize minded for at least that length of time, only we called it "renovize" as Philadelphia did. Just why we didn't get it over is no longer of any concern, since the programs of "F. H. A." and the "B. H. C." are in full swing in St. Louis and our fellows are pushing hard from both sides.

It is quite possible that because of these endeavors an architect was put on the Better Housing Campaign's Executive Committee; it also may be that the high class men who organized the Committee had an appreciation of the profession's importance in a building program, and so we were asked to cooperate.

At any rate out of these activities there grew first of all an Architects' Advisory Committee—to organize and maintain an advisory bureau at campaign headquarters. Arrangements have been made whereby a competent architect will be on duty every Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon, from 2 to 5 o'clock, to serve accordingly. To give the Committee special color, interest and importance, the membership was made up of all past Presidents of the Chapter.

Of course the bureau has not been obliged to increase its force as yet but the activity is still young, and the majority of people who are fulfilling their pledges as a result of the Campaign are, so far, small modernizers (average to date—\$193.60). Apparently many of them do not think that they need an architect. It is also doubtful if this particular class knows how to make use of an architect. Just the same our faithful members are quite content to keep their advice until called upon, believing that eventually even the small modernizer will learn the value of the architect's service. The architects' bureau is being publicized through the campaign literature, and over the radio in connection with campaign talks.

Of course there is going to be an exhibit house in fa.t two of them; one to remain as is, the other to be modernized. The job has been completely handed over to a Chapter committee. Before the week is over, these houses will be moved and placed on our Municipal Plaza.

Another committee is preparing an elaborate exhibit for the Better Housing Exposition to be held in our new Municipal Auditorium in January. There we intend to tell the architects' story not only through plans, specifications, models and rendered drawings, but through featured quotations taken from the A. I. A. standard documents. These will be enlarged photostatic reproductions quoting objects of the Institute; forms of agreement between architect and owner, contractor and owner, and so on. It might be said that efforts at this time will

be to spot light the architect for the Title II home builder.

A

Because the Federal Housing Administration holds the public interest at present, it was natural to choose this subject as the theme for our last regular meeting. We were fortunate in obtaining Paul E. Kendall, State Director, and Meredith Jones, District Director of F. H. A.; Arthur A. Blumeyer, Chairman, and A. S. Cale, Executive Secretary of the St. Louis Better Housing Campaign; and John Ring, Jr., Director of the Industrial Bureau of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, as speakers.

To make the event perfect in every respect, E. J. Russell, President of The American Institute of Architects, consented to preside, and did so in his usual interesting manner.

While the officials of the campaign described the object and machinery of the Housing Act, our presiding officer urged the members to take full advantage of the opportunities which the new recovery legislation offers. Further encouragement was injected through a letter received and read from James A. Moffett, Federal Housing Administrator, in which he commended the St. Louis Chapter for its cooperation and for having "put its shoulder to the wheel in a particularly effective way."

It was a dinner meeting and 94 men were present; the whole made up of speakers, members of the St. Louis Producers' Council, representatives of P. W. A., H. O. L. C., various building organizations, and Chapter members. Believe it or not the Chapter footed the bill!

profession is, we believe, in pleasing harmony with the statement of purposes in our Constitution and By-Laws. We recall our commitment to be of service to society.

In short, the St. Louis Chapter has engaged in a series of activities which command public interest. They are designed, first to get attention, to inform, and then—in all frankness—to sell both the Better Housing Campaign and the Architect. To make sure that both objectives are fully served and obtained, a firm of public relations counsellors has been retained to supervise those activities which concern the public and to handle newspaper publicity. Newsworthy activities are reported to the papers and splendid coverage has been given them. Just so with radio time, which is being used by our members several times each week.

Naturally you will ask what about the Better Housing Campaign itself, and does it justify all this?

The campaign was begun by the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce on November 5th with Walter W. Head, President of the General American Life Insurance Company, as General Chairman. An Executive Committee, a sales or canvassing organization, speakers and publicity bureau, and women's organization were set up, all headed by prominent citizens. The Government is furnishing and is now paying nearly 1,000 men C. W. A. wages to make a door to door canvass.

The Campaign's goal is \$10,000,000 in pledges, to be obtained by February 1st. Again, it is true that the activity is young and the reports are for small jobs; but we consider that fruitful soil is now being turned over.

Question: Does this justify the Chapter's activities? Not in dollars and cents to date but, in our opinion, it's like any other good investment made for future benefit.

The members of the St. Louis Chapter are tired of sitting in a pasture with a bucket between their knees waiting for the cow to back up and deliver, so we are going to drive up and feed the cow.

## Housing Advisory Council Appointed

THE Federal Housing Administration announces the appointment of a Housing Advisory Council, consisting of twenty-five representatives covering seven broad functions in the housing field, namely architecture, construction, materials, labor, city planning, housing and finance. This council will meet twice a month and make its recommendations to James A. Moffett, Housing Administrator.

to James A. Moffett, Housing Administrator. The Chairman is James D. Dusenberry, who is Director of the Construction and Real Estate Division of F. H. A. The architect members of this new Council, which will have great influence in the development of the program of F. H. A., are:

Stephen F. Voorhees, New York-The American Institute of Architects.

Joseph W. Holman, Nashville-National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

Frederick L. Ackerman, New York-New York City Housing Authority.

Sullivan W. Jones, New York-National Construction Planning and Adjustment Board.

# Modern Housing Institute

For architects, engineers, experienced draftsmen and graduate students, November 26th-March 11th 1934-1935

THE purpose of the Housing Institute Seminar is to afford to graduate architects and engineers as well as to others either already in housing work or contemplating entering this field, opportunities to study the technical, social and economic implications of the low cost housing that has come to the fore both as a government activity and as an outlet for private investment. The training of technicians with a knowledge of low cost housing is essential to the success of a national housing movement.

Range of Study: The Institute will train technicians in the problems of economical planning of buildings and sites consistent with the economic resources of the people to be housed and the various problems of management entailed in the maintenance of the dwellings at small expense, without encroaching upon the specific services provided in a specific housing project. The work of the students will be divided into two parts—design and seminar discussions of the various technical, social, economic and aesthetic implications of low cost housing.

Design: The work in design will consist of the development of a series of apartment plans for families of various sizes and incomes, the preparation of plans of the interior of the buildings outside the private apartments with a view to determining the distributions of hall, basement and business spaces and the development of elevations consistent with the best lighting ventilation and aesthetic requirements. Site plans for large scale housing of sufficient size to create a well integrated neighborhood will also be studied. As far as possible the students will be assigned projects which will harmonize with the needs of their own communities or the communities in which they may expect to work. The work in design will be carried on four days a week from 9:00 a. m. to noon and each day a critic will be assigned to examine and discuss the work with the students as they progress. This will be in the nature of individual work.

Seminars: The seminars will be conducted in the afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 p. m., four days a week by specially designated persons experienced in low cost housing work, each subject being assigned to one or more persons, as follows:

Robert D. Kohn	Frederick Ackerman
Dr. Carol Aronovici	William F. Lamb
Mrs. Irvin Bussing	Albert Mayer
Harold Buttenheim	Lewis Mumford
Henry Churchill	Bernard J. Newman
A. Goldfold	Ira S. Robbins
George Gove	R. H. Shreve
Horatio B. Hackett	Clarence Stein
Arthur Holden	Ralph Walker
S. Clements Horsley	Coleman Woodbury
Stanley M. Isaacs	Henry Wright

Management: A special course will be organized for training in management of large scale, low cost housing. This training will include the various technical, administrative, financial and social services entailed.

Admission: The number of students admitted to the course will be limited to 40 and will be on a competitive basis, the acceptance of candidates being based on preparation, experience, relation to the community and personality.

Certification: A certification will be furnished upon request for the satisfactory completion of any of these courses. Two points university credit may be granted for each of the courses, provided application for such credit is made at the time of registration.

Details: For further information regarding the general curriculum, the amount of time allocated to each subject, the tuition, and other details, address the Executive Secretary, The Department of Architecture, New York University, 1071 Sixth Avenue, New York City.

Note:-At the request of Dr. Carol Aronovici, Director of the Housing Research Bureau of New York (City, THE OCTAGON is glad to print the above announcement.

## Modern Housing

By Catherine Bauer. Miss Bauer analyzes the achievements of the various European countries since the war, during which period they have built more than four million new dwellings with governmental aid and control, on a public utility basis, and relates these achievements to the immediate problems now confronting America. With the assistance of the Carnegie Corporation the author has made the first detailed and comprehensive study of the problem. The book includes an analysis of nineteenth century cities; the background of the modern housing movement; a summary of actual housing achievements of various European countries; a description of the "elements of modern housing"; and a discussion of specific issues now facing this country. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company, 2 Park Street, Boston, Mass. Price, \$5.00.

## A JOURNAL OF THE A. I. A.

# A Digest of the Competition Code

A NEW INSTITUTE DOCUMENT

SUPPLEMENTARY TO A. I. A. DOCUMENTS NOS. 213 AND 238

#### A. I. A. Document, No. 263

#### I. Definition.

A competition exists when two or more architects prepare sketches at the same time for the same project.

#### II. Professional Advisor.

An Architect of good standing and preferably with experience in competitions must be appointed as a Professional Advisor, whose duties shall consist in advising the owner, drafting the program, answering anonymous questions of competitors, examining the submitted drawings to ascertain that they comply with the program, and in general in assuming all responsibility for the conduct of the competition. All communications must emanate from him.

#### III. Program.

A definite program must be drawn by the Professional Advisor, stating-

(a) The title and purpose of the competition.(b) The authority and personnel of those holding the competition.

(c) The kind of competition. If open, state whether in one or two stages, with names of invited competitors if any. If invited, names of competitors.

Amount of fees to invited competitors, or prizes, if any, with date of payment.

(d) An agreement on the part of the owner to sign a contract with the successful competitor for all architectural work and fixed furniture, (and for treatment of adjacent grounds and for equipment if agreed on) at a rate of compensation consistent with the customary best architectural practice.

(e) Date and place for receipt of submissions. Time allowed should be ample and not extended except under extraordinary circumstances.

(f) Details of judgment: Date, Personnel of Jury (which must contain at least three members, one of whom must be a qualified architect), Method of Selection of Jury (by appointment or by vote of competitors), Authority of Jury.

(g) Provision for elucidation of the program. Questions must be made anonymously to the Professional Advisor, who will answer by simultaneous bulletins to all competitors, and these bulletins shall become part of the program.  (h) Provision for anonymity during progress of the competition. No competitor shall communicate verbally or in writing with the Building Committee, Jury, or with the Professional Advisor except as in item (g) above.
(i) Provision for anonymity of submissions.

(i) Provision for anonymity of submissions. Accompanying each submission shall be a plain opaque envelope containing the competitor's name and address. Envelopes and drawings of each submission shall be given identical numbers by the Professional Advisor and remain unopened until the award of the competition.

(j) Cost of Work: Preferably expressed by its cubic contents (the amount available divided by a carefully computed cubic foot price will give the cube to be allowed).

(k) Number, scale, and manner of presentation of drawings, uniform to all competitors. No alternate schemes should be allowed. Written description unnecessary.

(1) Details of site, with survey giving grades, dimensions, location of large trees, etc.

(m) Detailed information regarding the proposed structure, its purpose, size and number of spaces with their necessary propinquity or location.

(n) Method of computing cubage and its expression by tabulation or diagram.

(o) Provision for notification of award.

(p) Provision for return of submissions and their exhibition if agreed on by all competitors. Submissions are not to be exhibited or made public until after the award.

(q) Provision for penalty of disqualification of any competitor violating any of the above mandatory requirements.

#### IV. Requirements Mandatory for the Approval of A Competition program.

Paragraph I.

Paragraph II.

Paragraph III, items (d), (f), (h), (i) and (q).

#### V. Preliminary Draft of program.

A preliminary draft of the program should be submitted to the Sub-committee on Competitions of the Chapter in whose district the competition is held, prior to submission to the owner. The final approval of the Sub-committee should be attached to the program, and no Institute member can participate in any competition not so approved.

#### NINTH COMPETITION-1935

THE Governing Committee of the James Harrison Steedman Memorial Fellowship in Architecture announces the ninth competition for this Fellowship, to be held in the Spring of the year 1935.

#### The Fellowship

This Fellowship is founded in memory of James Harrison Steedman, M.E., Washington University —1889, First Lieutenant U. S. Naval Reserves, Assistant Engineer Officer U. S. S. Oklahoma in 1917 and 1918, who at the age of fifty, suffering from a malady curable only by rest, refused to quit his post and knowingly made the great sacrifice.

The purpose of this Fellowship is to assist well qualified achitectural graduates to benefit by a year in travel and the study of architecture in foreign countries, subject to the approval of the Committee and under the guidance and control of the School of Architecture of Washington University. To this end an annual award of fifteen hundred dollars is offered to the winner.

#### Qualifications of Candidates

This Fellowship is open on equal terms to all graduates in architecture of recognized architectural schools of the United States. Such candidates must be American citizens of good moral character, and shall have had at least one year of practical work in the office of an architect, including one year's residence in the City of St. Louis, Mo., before being entitled to assume the benefits of the Fellowship. All candidates shall be between twenty-one and thirty-one years of age at the time of appointment to this Fellowship.

#### Registration

Application blanks for registration can be obtained at any time upon written request addressed to the acting head of the School of Architecture of Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., to whom application blanks properly filled out must be returned not later than January 18, 1935. Any requests for supplementary information relative to the rules and regulations governing the Competition shall be made at the same time.

Any candidate who holds a degree not conferred by Washington University must submit with his application a transcript of the record of his scholastic work.

Each application must bear the endorsement of three members of The American Institute of Architects, one of whom at least must be a resident of the City of St. Louis.

#### Information

For further information address the Chairman of the Governing Committee, Louis LaBeaume, 315 North Seventh Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

## Better Homes In America Competition

#### Purpose

The purpose of this competition is to discover and call attention to the best small houses actually constructed during the given period, and thus to stimulate interest in eliminating faulty design and construction of the small house.

#### Six Medal Awards

A medal will be awarded to the practicing architect for the best design submitted for each type of house listed below—three medals in all for Group I and one each for Groups II, III and IV.

#### Group I-Detached One-Family Dwellings

Class A One-story house. Storage space but no living accommodations may occur in roof space.

Class B Story-and-a-half house. Living accommodations partly in a second story which is actually a "half story."

Class C Two-story house.

#### Group II-Semi-Detached One-Family Dwellings

("Double house" or "twin house"). One wall of the house is a party wall. Open space on the remaining three sides.

#### Group III-Two-Family Dwellings

("Two-flat houses"). Two families placed one above the other.

#### Group IV-Row or Group Dwellings

One-family dwellings in rows—both side walls are party walls except for end houses. Heating units may be for each individual dwelling or may be of centralized type.

#### The Jury

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

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

The awards will be made by a jury of five architects appointed by the President of The American Institute of Architects. All awards will be made and announced about February 15, 1935, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

Competitors

The competition is open to all architects in the United States.

Closing Date

The exhibits, mounted, must be delivered to the

Office of Better Homes in America, Room 1805, 101 Park Avenue, New York City, on or before January 30, 1935, at 5 P. M.

They will be handled as carefully as possible but must be sent at the risk of the competitor. If any value is placed upon them by the sender he should take such steps as he sees fit to insure them against loss.

#### Other Requirements

For further essential information, concerning cubage in all groups, photographs and plans, etc., address Better Homes in America, James Ford, Consultant, 101 Park Avenue, New York City.

# With The Chapters And State Associations

#### Boston.

The December meeting of the Chapter was addressed by Charles Butler, F. A. I. A., Vice-Chairman of the Institute's Committee on Education on the subject of "The Education and Registration of Architects." It is being increasingly recognized by the architects in Massachusetts that action on registration will be obligatory.

The Boston Society of Architects has received an acceptance from E. J. Russell, President of the A. I. A., to its invitation to be its guest of honor at the January meeting, to address the members and architectural students who will be present.

#### Brooklyn.

Herbert C. Bowman, President of the Chapter, introduced Samuel Fassler, Commissioner of the Department of Buildings of Manhattan, at the November meeting of the Chapter. Mr. Fassler said he had just returned from Washington where Secretary Ickes had agreed that help should be given the home owner who has no funds, and no regular income to repair his home.

The Chapter celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its founding at dinner and a meeting on December 17, an account of which will appear in the January OCTAGON.

#### Buffalo.

The minutes of the meeting in November report an exhibition of low cost housing scheduled to be held at the Buffalo Art Museum in February, 1935. The Secretary was directed to write approving the project, and advising that the Chapter was definitely interested in the proposed Housing Show and would be pleased if called upon to assist in any way.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we notify all civic associations in the City of Buffalo that the Buffalo Chapter A. I. A. is willing and ready to serve them by furnishing propaganda drawings for proposed civic improvements, etc., and do all it can to foster architectural improvements in the City of Buffalo. Charges to be a nominal amount (possibly \$25.00). Proceeds, if any, to be paid into the Chapter treasury.

#### Chicago.

The December meeting was preceded by a dinner at which sixty members and guests were present.

The speaker of the evening was C. C. Zantzinger, President of the Philadelphia Chapter, and Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Architectural Education of the Committee on Education of the Institute.

Mr. Zantzinger spoke on the situation in Washington with respect to the employment of private architects, and also on the work of the Committee on Education.

Following Mr. Zantzinger, President Hall introduced the next speaker, R. C. Jones, of Minneapolis, President of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.

Following Mr. Jones, an open forum discussion was entered into, which was led at the request of the chair, by C. C. Zantzinger, H. K. Holsman and Arthur Dean.

Other speakers taking a leading part in the discussions were W. B. Mundie, I. K. Pond, John R. Fugard, and Elmer Jensen.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Hall called for a rising vote of thanks and appreciation to Mr. Zantzinger, which was unanimously accorded.

The President of the Chapter, Emery Stanford Hall, has sent a letter to each member of the Chapter, for information to assist him in doing all in his power to fulfill the function of the Chapter to its members, and the community. He said that the peculiar circumstances which exist create his position as a sort of clearing house for information about architects. Questions were as follows:

What architects live in thus and such neighborhoods? What is their education and experience? Are they particularly well equipped along certain lines? Would they be willing to accept small jobs in their immediate neighborhoods and give them careful, competent care so as to reflect credit on their profession? Can they be trusted to advise their clients correctly concerning state building laws and zoning and building ordinances? Could they be trusted to place their clients' and the public's interest first on small as well as large projects? Would they be clever and resourceful with small remodeling work? Have they had experience in taking bids on separate trade contracts, organizing and letting separate contracts on building projects, so as to get satisfactory results for their clients? Could they be relied on to do really effective committee work? What committees would be the most effective place for them to work? What subject are they best prepared by experience and education to discuss in Chapter meetings?

The letter further stated that the Chapter had no properly indexed answers to these questions. It had no funds budgeted and available for this purpose. Therefore, with the help of the members of the Chapter, the desired information would be obtained by each one filling in the duplicate cards as enclosed, and returning them promptly to the Secretary of the Chapter.

#### Delaware.

At the October meeting there was a discussion on the condition of the architectural profession in the State with relation to architects who make a practice of both planning and building. Methods of combatting this practice were discussed, together with methods of educating the public to the advantages of the services of a legitimate architect. Following this discussion the President appointed a committee of three to prepare a program and develop methods of educating the public regarding the services of the architect and make a report to the next meeting. Those appointed were G. Morris Whiteside, Chairman; E. William Martin and Walter Carlson, members.

#### Georgia.

Eugene C. Wachendorff reported to the November meeting of the Chapter a conversation with the State Engineer for the Georgia Emergency Relief Administration, who had expressed himself very favorably toward the use by the G. E. R. A. of architects on their building projects, but had expressed the view that it was up to the architects as a group to establish their status with the G. E. R. A. and develop a method by which their services could be used.

After some discussion a motion was presented and passed directing the Executive Board to take up the matter with the State Engineer and other officials of the G. E. R. A. with the purpose of establishing terms and conditions under which architectural services could be available for the work of the Relief Administration.

At the December meeting, the Committee reported on its interview with the State Engineer, and stated that they had been cordially received. Information was given to them that an order had been issued making it obligatory for building projects under G. E. R. A. funds to have complete working drawings signed by a registered architect.

#### Oregon.

At a recent meeting a written report, prepared by Aandahl, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, stated that a committee of the City Club has recommended that the interior of the Old Post Office building be remodeled to accommodate Government offices.

Stanton moved that, in cooperation with other societies of like mind, the report be followed up and a request be made to the City Council to act in line with the recommendation of the City Club. Seconded and carried. The names of a number of prospective Associates were discussed.

A discussion of the mentor system advocated by N. C. R. A. Boards was led by Stanton, who suggested that architects resume the custom of visiting the architectural school at Eugene each term. Parker read several letters from Lawrence pertaining to the proposed mentor system and one letter objecting to the proposed amendment to the Oregon Registration Law. The Education Committee was instructed to make a further study of the mentor system and bring in a report with recommendations at the next meeting. It was announced that the O. B. C. has written a letter to the Mayor requesting that technical men be appointed to the vacancies on the City Planning Commission.

Jacobberger led the discussion of the proposed amendment to the Registration Law.

It was moved by Bear that the Chapter endorse the spirit of the proposed amendment and that efforts be continued for its enactment. Carried.

#### St. Louis.

A memorial tablet to Mr. John Lawrence Mauran, Past-President of The American Institute of Architects, was dedicated at the Church of the Messiah, in St. Louis, on Sunday afternoon, December 2nd.

All achitects of the city were invited to attend the dedication ceremony.

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At a recent meeting of the Chapter a report was read concerning three meetings during the summer with the St. Louis Building Congress, protesting against the announced program of the City to employ draftsmen, engineers, and building tradesmen directly. A committee had been appointed by the vice-chairman to draw up necessary legislation. President Mullgardt commented on this report and on the personnel of this committee because there were no architects on it. He suggested that the better way would be for the architects to lead their own battle and get the others to help. He made a spirited appeal for cooperation and more effort in this vital matter. It was suggested that the present Public Works Committee of the Chapter carry on and proceed with renewed vigor.

The President suggested that the Chapter take advantage of the free space offered for the Modern Home Exposition to be held in the new Auditorium. The letter offering the space suggested two committees: one to arrange the exhibit, and other to cooperate in arranging the exhibit space. He also reported that at last progress was being made in the modernizing campaign.

#### Southern California.

There has been received from the Secretary of the Southern California Chapter, Eugene Weston, Jr., a series of interesting and attractively prepared notices of chapter meetings and chapter activities.

Each month the notice was printed in different type, and on paper of another color. A few of the announcements were headed with the Institute seal. Perhaps the most striking of all was the announcement for the November meeting, printed in black ink, with the Institute seal also in black, on a dull silvered, light-weight cardboard.

In September the Chapter sponsored an exhibition of 135 photographs of the work of contemporary architects in Mexico, which is the first exchange exhibit prepared by the University of Mexico. The exhibit was shown in the patio of the International Institute in Los Angeles. The Mexican Consul, and other prominent Mexicans, interested in the Fine Arts, were guests of the Chapter. They were welcomed by the members and their wives at a reception from 6:30 to 7:30 P. M. After the reception a Mexican dinner was served. Entertainment was furnished during the evening by a Mexican orchestra and Mexican dancers from the Club of Monte Carlo.

A short program followed the dinner, with Carleton M. Winslow acting as Chairman. Senor Alejandro V. Martinez, Consul of Mexico, spoke to the members and guests. A. E. Rosenheim, F. A. I. A., spoke briefly on the significance of Fellowship in the Institute. David J. Witmer, elected a Fellow of the Institute by the Jury of Fellows, in May, 1934, was presented with his certificate of Fellowship by Sumner P. Hunt, F. A. I. A.

The remaining hours of the evening were devoted to reviewing the exhibition and to dancing.

#### Tennessee.

The four divisions of the Tennessee Chapter met in November at Nashville with large representations from all divisions. The meeting was held in the Hermitage Hotel with President J. Frazer Smith presiding.

Drawings of the State Capitol prepared under H. A. B. S. were presented to Governor McAlister. The Governor was petitioned to have a building commission appointed for the purpose of preserving the Capitol in its original historical condition.

Discussion ensued and action was taken on the following matters: Appointment of members to State License Board, Policy of the National Treasury Department as to architects in private practice, privilege tax for architects, the H. A. B. S. as a relief measure, new memberships and reinstatements, and the possibilities of strengthening the position of the architect.

President Smith addressed the meeting on the present day problems of the architect. Joseph W. Holman spoke on the subject of the National Association of State Licensing Boards. Henry C. Hibbs read a report on the recent decisions of the Supreme Court on the validity of the License Law for Architects. Leo S. Trainor of Washington, D. C., gave an illustrated lecture on "Waterproof Masonry." Major Charles C. Anthony addressed the meeting on the accomplishments and possibilities of Items I, II, and III of the Federal Housing Act.

#### Washington, D. C.

At its opening meeting of the season, in October, the Chapter had as a guest Howard P. Vermilya of the Federal Housing Administration, and John Poole of the local Better Homes Committee, to explain to the Chapter, first hand, the program of the F. H. A. Since that time, these gentlemen have appeared at various executive meetings to explain further details of the Federal Housing Act.

In November an Exposition was arranged showing modernization features of the home to the public. This exposition was made possible, directly, by Arthur B. Heaton, Institute member of the Chapter, who, with five other members of the committee, worked wholeheartedly in arranging the event. The architects had a booth with an exhibit showing alteration work before and after, with literature on the Housing Act, and also arranged to have men stationed at the booth continually to explain some of the problems of building. T. L. Eschweiler reports that henceforth the "Wisconsin Architect," the official publication of the State Association, will become the official publication of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Institute, and of The Building Congress as well.

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Association was held in Milwaukee, on November 16th.

# As of Interest

#### The Producers' Council Meeting.

The eleventh semi-annual meeting of The Producers' Council was held in New York, on October 31st. President Bebb opened the afternoon session with a presentation of the key-note for the meeting—"Revival of Building and the Use of Quality Products," adopted as the theme for the Council and Clubs during the coming year. J. C. Knapp, Vice-President of the Otis Elevator Company gave a most interesting talk on the subject of "Obsolescence Insurance," pointing out the mistakes and wastefulness of present practices in operating real estate and advocating obsolescence insurance as the most scientific method for protecting investment in building construction. Thomas S. Holden, Vice-President of the F. W. Dodge Corporation, spoke on "Housing-America's Biggest Business Opportunity." He pointed out the vast potential market for housing as indicated by various surveys, and stressed the need for developing ways and means for financing housing for the three large groups of people who make up the main divisions of this great market. He expressed the opinion that "reconditioning, replacement, extension and improvement of the Nation's housing facilities offer one of the biggest opportunities for expansion during the next couple of decades that is now visible to American business." At the dinner, the National Housing Act was the basic topic for discussion, with three instructive addresses covering the various phases of the Act from the viewpoint of each speaker. The speakers were R. M. Catharine, Special Assistant to the Administrator, F. H. A.; Fred L. Ackerman, F. A. I. A., Technical Director of the New York City Housing Authority; M. J. Beirn, Vice-President and General Manager of Sales, American Radiator-Standard Sanitary Corporation.

#### **Royal Institute of British Architects.**

President Russell sent to the R. I. B. A., in London, on behalf of The American Institute of Architects, a cablegram congratulating the British architects and extending best wishes on the occasion of their Centenary Celebration Conference, in November.

Announcement of the 1935 Annual Conference of the R. I. B. A., to be held in Glasgow, has been received. An interesting program has been arranged. The dates are from June 19 to 22, 1935. A cordial invitation is extended to any American architects who are likely to be in Europe at that time. Upon communicating with Ian MacAlister, the Secretary, he will be glad to send copies of the program of the Conference.

#### Encouragement of Architecture.

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS, one of the leading magazines, published by the Meredith Publishing Company, Des Moines, Iowa, is unique in its field in that it has an Architect-Editor, John Normile, A. I. A.

A recent series of articles, sponsored by Mr. Normile and written in a most entertaining and instructive fashion have appeared in "Better Homes and Gardens." They emphasize the aesthetic and definite value of architectural service, and in doing so present the case in nontechnical terms in a manner most convincing to the average lay reader. Architects have expressed the opinion that the publication of these articles and the editorial policy responsible therefor constitute a public service which will be appreciated by the public and by the architectural profession.

#### "The Design of Residential Areas."

By Thomas Adams, City Planner. Published by the Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. Price \$3.00.

In this book Mr. Adams considers fundamentally two things: first, what are reasonably good living conditions; then what is their least cost,—in thought, in effort, in money, and in the necessary relinquishment of some conflicting objectives. The first part discusses the general principles underlying these two problems. The second part takes up basic requirements in civic design, the civic pattern, elements in the neighborhood plan, the cost of the lot, and the home neighborhood pattern; and it gives practical examples of neighborhood and town planning in this country and in England. The study does not blindly accept any present conditions as immutable. It is broad enough to consider that changes in economic conditions should involve changes in public policies. b

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#### "Model Laws for Planning Cities, Counties, and States."

By Edward M. Bassett, Frank B. Williams, Alfred Bettman, and Robert Whitten. Since the publication of Standard Zoning and Planning Acts of the United States Department of Commerce, the first basic legislative forms for planning, there is believed to be a need of typical or model acts, each based upon a single conception of the purpose in view, dealing with planning, zoning, subdivision regulation, and protection of mapped streets, applying to cities, counties, regions, and states, and inevitably bearing certain implications and suggestions even as to national planning. This book would be of assistance in planning legislation. Besides general discussions and recommendations regarding legislative forms, two comprehensive sets of model laws are included. The book is an octavo volume, 137 pages, and the price \$2.50, postpaid. Publisher : Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass.

#### "Planning for Housing."

The Massachusetts Federation of Planning Boards presents two papers of outstanding importance that were delivered at the twenty-first annual conference in Brookline, Mass., October 4 and 5. In the Foreword it is stated that they merit the most careful study and consideration by planning board members and by all interested in the development of their communities. Particular attention is called to the significance of Mr. Harold S. Buttenheim's suggestion for a civic crusade and to Professor Ross F. Tucker's plea for an adequate consideration of the problem of housing for all the people. Both of the papers contain material of live interest and concern for every planning board member who is alive to the present economic and political situation. The two papers appearing in the pamph-let are "Planning for Housing" by Professor Tucker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and "Shall Our City Plans Gather Dust-Or Make the Dirt Fly?", by Mr. Buttenheim, Editor of The American City. This Bulletin No. 31 may be obtained from Henry B. Alvord, Secretary, Massachusetts Federation of Planning Boards, 316 Huntington Avenue, Boston.

#### "The Modern House."

By F. R. S. Yorke. The first book on the subject in America is complete in illustration, understandable and sound in text discussion. It includes a discussion of the house from the point of view of needs in planning rooms and shaping the space and volume of the house. A chapter is devoted to the design and construction of the prefabricated and experimental house. It is decidedly a book for architects, students of architecture, and draftsmen, as well as for the layman. Published by The Architectural Record, 119 West 40th Street, New York. Price, \$6.00.

#### Story of England's Architecture.

By Thomas E. Tallmadge, F. A. I. A. Published by W. W. Norton and Co., New York City.

A current review reads as follows: Mr. Tallmadge writes with authority and with brilliant clearness; the whole evolution of English building, through 'Norman energy,' 'Gothic ecstasy,' the Renaissance and 'Classic Culmination,' and succeeding styles, is here described in a new way. If we must have the literature of escape, this is about as fine as any.

#### "Sing, Old House."

This handsome volume by Mrs. Marion Nicholl Rawson is published by E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. 286 Fourth Avenue, New York City. Price, \$5.00.

A current review says: Mrs. Rawson, well known authority on the life and scenes of early New England, has spent many years in the study of beautiful American houses that have come to old age. She writes about them as though they were old people. Her book is divided into three periods: The Early Colonial, 1600 to 1720; The Georgian, 1720 to 1783; The Post-Revolutionary, 1783-1820. From beginning to end the volume is filled with information which Mrs. Rawson has gained, not from books, but from a study of the old houses themselves. You will get some idea of the great scope of her work by the fact that she has a list of the houses built in the 1600s in the United States, and also that she has made a comparative study of the English, Dutch, and other types. Likewise, she has made a study of contemporaneous building in various states during different periods. No book could be more timely than this one. It may save many a priceless relic from unintended ruin.

#### Sullivan's "Kindergarten Chats" Published.

By arrangement with the estate of Louis H. Sullivan, Scarab Professional Architectural Fraternity will publish in book form "Kindergarten Chats," a series of lectures on architecture, education and democracy. This volume, with many illustrations, bound in cloth, will be off the press early in December. Address orders to Scarab Fraternity, 306 Marvin Hall, Lawrence, Kansas. The edition is limited. Price \$2.50 per copy.

#### **Construction Materials Index.**

By E. L. Norberg, Chairman of Standards Committee, Northern California Chapter, A. I. A. Published by Construction Materials Research Company, 329 Minna Street, San Francisco, California. Price, \$10.00. This new project in the construction industry field is described as an annual publication compiled to assist the practicing architect, construction engineer, purchasing agent, and general contractor to readily obtain the many and varied facts and other data required to function with accuracy and dispatch, and also . . . to inaugurate a medium where the manufacturer and the supply dealers may provide the construction industry with a properly compiled index of their products in the most effective and reasonable manner.

It is endorsed by architectural organizations and the contracting and building products organizations of Northern California.

#### The Distribution of Soil Pressure Beneath a Footing.

Bulletin No. 43 of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, by F. E. Giesecke, W. H. Badgett, and J. R. D. Eddy. The bulletin was sent to each civil engineer and architect in Texas. Mr. Giesecke, College Architect and Director for the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, states that so far as he knows this study is the first one of the pressure distribution under a large footing in an actual building and believes the results should be very interesting and valuable to architects and civil engineers. Address: College Station, Texas.

#### Services of the National Bureau of Standards to the Home Building Industry.

Is the title of a leaflet briefly describing services of the Bureau. It was prepared as a supplement to an exhibit of home building materials recently on display in New York at an exposition sponsored by the New York City Housing Authority. Copies may be obtained from the Bureau of Stands, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

#### American Civic Annual, Volume V.

Published by the American Civic Association, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C. Price \$3.00.

This volume contains important articles on recent Federal activity in the fields of planning and civic improvement, and also many accounts of civic achievements in various parts of the country. A valuable reference work.

# Applications for Membership

#### December 31, 1934

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE:

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors, or its Executive Committee, for action on their admission to the Institute, and if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

Baltimore Chapter	Louis McLane Fisher, Edward Hughes Glidden, Jr., Charles M. Nes, Jr.
Boston Chapter	WALLACE E. DIBBLE, WILLIAM LAWRENCE GALVIN, OTTO EDMOND HERMES, HALSEY BOARDMAN HORNER, G. HOLMES PERKINS, HENRY JOSEPH TESSIER
Brooklyn Chapter	HANS C. MEYER
Chicago Chapter	
	HENRY HOFMEISTER, FREDERICK A. KETCHER
Philadelphia Chapter	
	MARCEL BOULICAULT, ARTHUR E. KOELLE, CARL F. SCHLOEMANN
Tennessee Chapter	CARL C. HEVER, WALK CLARIDGE JONES, JR., RALPH C. ROUDEBUSH

You are invited, as directed by the By-Laws, to send privileged communications before February 15, 1935, on the eligibility of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors on their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request, within the thirty-day period, an extension of time for purpose of investigation

CHARLES T. INGHAM, Secretary.

