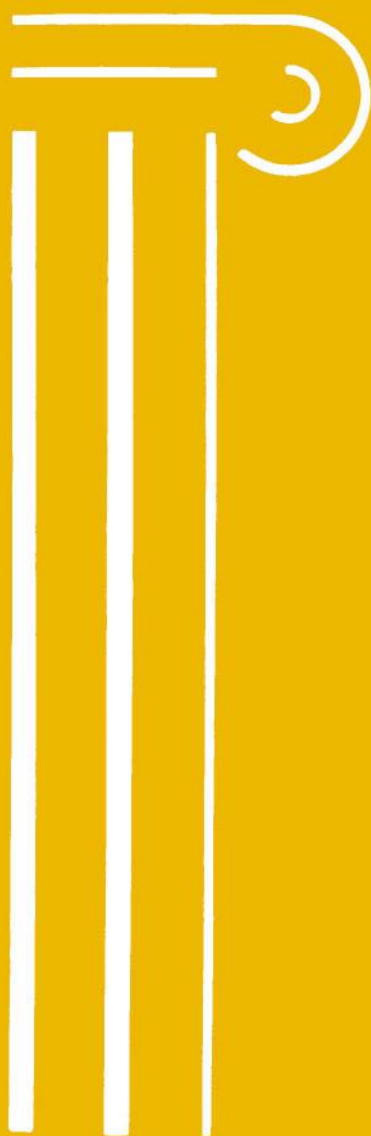


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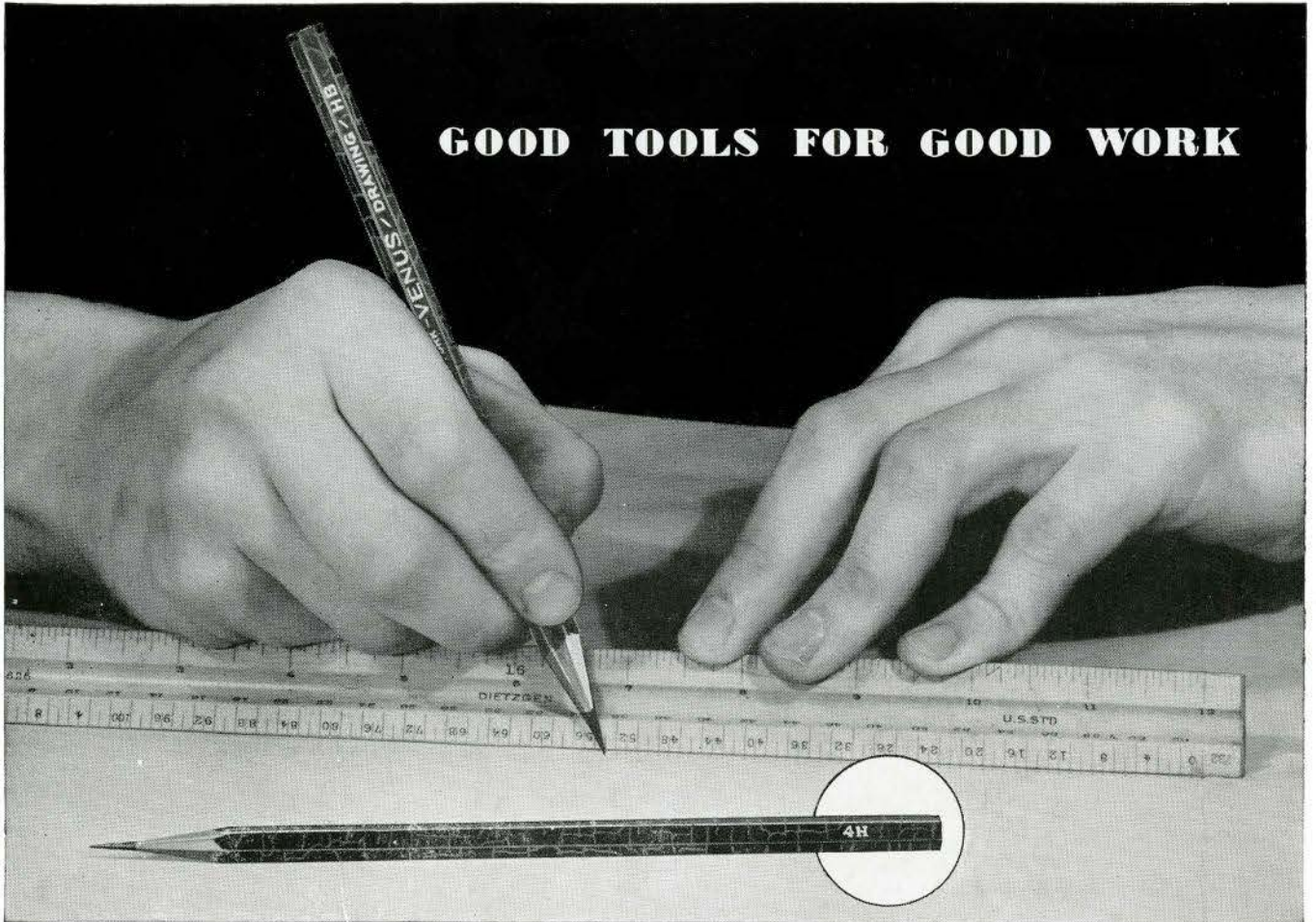


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NO. 4

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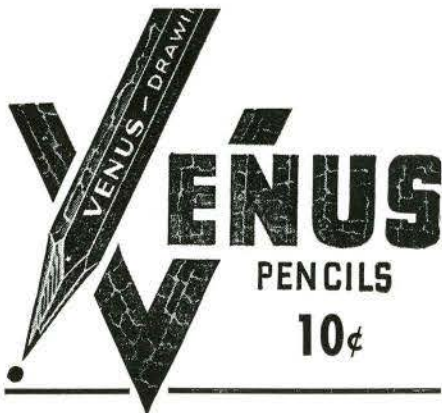
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FOR anyone interested in the future of Canada and particularly in its growth on the cultural side, nothing could be more stimulating than attending a meeting of new Canadians. We have been impressed by the keen desire which they show to do something for Canada out of gratitude for the privilege of living a decent life under the protection of the Canadian flag. If their plans can be developed, they will have an incalculable effect on Canada even before the war is ended. The absence of handicrafts in the Canadian Building at the World's Fair does not mean that we have no handicrafts, or that we take no interest in the handicrafts that we do possess. There are handicrafts in Canada in textiles, metal work, book binding and pottery of no mean order, but they will be infinitely enriched by the technical skill and the enthusiasm of the new Canadians. Some of the best pottery done in Canada today is the work of two new Canadians who learned their craft in Denmark. There is a Swedish architect in Toronto who intends designing and, probably making, modern furniture. Perhaps most exciting of all is the intention of a group of Czechs in Toronto to carry on their craft in decorative glass ware. Every day one hears of a metal worker or some other craftsman with the capital to start and the will to work. It is for the architects more than any other group in Canada to follow closely the movement that is gaining momentum around us and to take an active part in directing it. The architects in Scandinavia were largely responsible for the success of the handicraft movement in those countries. With their support few commercial or private buildings have been built in the last twenty years without the co-operation of workers in textiles, ceramics, metal and wood. Their buildings are not only well designed but there is a unity about them which comes from the unity of purpose of all who engaged in the task of building and furnishing. How far we fall short of that ideal, Canadian architects do not have to be reminded.

During the past year there has been ample evidence that Canadians and Americans have become alive to the commercial possibilities of Canadian handicrafts. We had the pleasure recently of meeting in Toronto the Canadian Trade Commissioner in New York, and two of the largest importers of homespun and other materials in the United States who were looking for sources of supply in Canada to take the place of European ones closed by war. We learned then that the amount of such material which formerly went to the United States was about one million yards per annum. If Canada could proceed to supply even one-fourth of that quantity during the period of the war, we would have done something to aid the war effort and to provide a stabilizing influence which would assist rehabilitation in the difficult period of the peace. Until we took an active part in the Handicraft Guild about a year ago, we had the feeling that it was an "arty" movement largely composed of people dabbling in handicrafts as a hobby. We soon found how misinformed we had been. There are hundreds of craftsmen who depend for a living on their craft; there are weaving groups making a decent living in what were starving fishing villages, and there are farmers' wives who spin, weave and dye from the products of their own farm. The architects' contribution can be in the business administration of the Guild activities, which are becoming increasingly complex, and in the capacity of critics. The Americans, whom we saw, were tremendously impressed with the technical ability shown in all the work exhibited for them, but they were not blind to weakness in design in some crafts. The architect is trained to see good design or poor, and he is one of the few people in a community who is competent to judge pottery, metal, fabrics or colour. The craftsmen, who are generally self taught, are usually only too anxious to receive criticism and to act upon advice.

The *Financial Post*, *Chatelaine* and the *Canadian Geographic* have all gone to considerable trouble to find out what the Guild is endeavouring to do, and what the market is in the United States. They have published excellent articles by trained observers who have studied the subject both in Canada and the United States, and all are agreed on the importance of quality and design. Any architect interested may get information from the *Journal* or if he is in Quebec from Mr. Galt Durnford, who is President of the Quebec Guild.

ORGANISATION OF ARCHITECTS IN FRANCE

LT.-COL. MAIGROT'S LETTER

THE following letter was received in response to an enquiry which Mr. Stanley Hall made of M. Emile Maigrot, Past-President of the Société des Architectes Diplômés par le Gouvernement. It will interest British architects to see how architects' services can be employed by a community which holds them in some regard, and is prepared to plan on a large scale, accepting what architects can do as an essential part of the scheme.

Monsieur le President,

I duly received the letter of 18 December, which your Secretary was good enough to send me, and to which I hasten to reply and furnish you with required information.

In France, as in England, the building trade (architects, contractors, clerks and workmen) is passing through a crisis of unemployment such as has hitherto never been reached.

All private building industry is at a standstill. There is no longer any private clientele. The corporate bodies (departments, towns and municipalities), with rare exceptions, are not even completing their building programmes commenced before the war. All efforts are being directed solely to work required in connection with the armament factories (gunpowder works, arsenals), to aviation programmes, and also to the housing of the populations which have withdrawn from districts once again visited by war.

For all this class of work it was not usual to have recourse to architects, but the High Commissioner for Building and Construction, to whom I have the honour to be attached, gave me, immediately I entered the Department, formal instructions to seek means to procure employment for architects in the works of national importance (defence works), and at the same time to do everything possible in order that private enterprise might be called in to collaborate in Government works.

It is a personal idea of his, to which he is very much attached, and since he took over the Department he has been displaying very marked activity in this direction.

We had not long to wait for the result. So far, it has enabled a certain number of our colleagues to become employed at once, both in Paris, in the central surveying centres, and in the local organisations created in the provinces through his instigation.

There could be no question, in view of the high figures reached in the cost of construction, of remunerating the architects in the form of fees (armaments contemplate 5 milliards, aviation 7 milliards), and it would have seemed presumptuous in wartime, when it is sought by all means to reduce the percentages of profits and eliminate all illicit gains, to allow architects alone to make very high profits.

Hence, the idea was conceived, during the war period, of regarding architects rather as being on an equal footing with the Army services, and of receiving remuneration which can be compared, according to the duties performed, with that of a lieutenant, captain, etc.

This first task having been accomplished, the general principle is as follows:

The central armaments organisation in Paris prepare the general surveys with their group of architects, and in the local centres, that is to say, on the spot (dockyards, gunpowder fac-

ories, and arsenals), another team of architects directs, ensures, and controls the execution of the works. In order to connect the central organisation in Paris with the provincial organisations, "flying" inspectors, so to speak, travel regularly from the one to the other and secure control.

As regards the material execution of the works, the General Commissioner has had recourse to existing organisations of building contractors (federations or syndicates) in each district in France. He has regarded the chairmen of these organisations, so to speak, as front rank men, to whom the task has been entrusted of distributing judiciously and with equity the works to be executed in the district. By so doing, the General Commissioner aimed at "feeding" local enterprise, as well as the artisans and all the small jobbers.

His great anxiety was to revive during the war period the professional life behind the fighting zones, maintaining, and quite rightly, that that was the only means whereby the economic life of the nation could be supported, and thus prepare for the return to more normal life conditions in the future.

This led him to consider the solution of certain problems which, for many years previously, had remained in abeyance in the offices and departments, in order to seek without delay suitable means of settling them.

On these lines, he studied important problems in connection with works such as, for instance, the slums, which, in Paris alone, represent 7 milliards; he personally sought the requisite financial and technical assistance suitable to guarantee the carrying out of these works without, however, calling upon the State for any burdensome participation.

The plans which he was able to devise and which he recommends are of such a nature that, on the other hand, by actually executing them, the works will prove an important source of revenue to the National Exchequer.

He also devoted his attention to another problem, that of housing the refugees.

He was strongly opposed to the idea of wooden hutting, the so-called huts which can be taken to pieces and which, in the great majority of cases, only lead to disappointment. These wooden huts had drawbacks, namely, that they lead to the impoverishment of the forests in France; they deprive our national defence of means which are directly necessary, and, as a result and of insufficiency, they entail wholesale purchases abroad which, by reason of the transfer of foreign exchange can but disturb the national economy.

Furthermore, if these huts had been built wholly of timber, their erection would have benefited only a certain branch. Accordingly, he not only recommended, but carried out a different plan.

He took the trouble to discover timber producing centres. There, on the spot, he had the necessary building timber prepared for huts of a standard type, and by close study and by bringing pressure to bear on the suppliers by way of competition, he succeeded in arriving at a relatively low cost price.

This building timber, completely prepared, finished and assembled, is forwarded from the assembling centre to the place where it is to be used.

On their arrival, these standard type houses are erected on standard instructions, and instead of making the walls of

wood, even double thickness, brick, ashlar, stone, etc., are used according to the district, briefly, the material which is there found.

Similarly, for the roofing, either tile or slate is resorted to in preference to all the fibre-cement combinations, bituminous carton, everite, etc., which are only means of replacement, but do not as a rule give much satisfaction.

Further, by employing the material available in the district and obtainable at the lowest figure, since it is used on the spot where it is made, this method enables recourse to be had, for carrying it out, to the artisans and local labour, the result of which is, although it may seem paradoxical, that, when planned and executed on these general directions, the cost price of these huts which we thus build "solid" is not appreciably higher than that of buildings of the same area and size built of wood.

Another point he had in mind led him to look for and determine wisely the spots to be selected for the erection of these huts, namely, spots which, after the war, would permit of retaining these buildings, adapting them either for holiday camps, meeting places, or halls, or paid-holiday camps, etc., all social problems which remained to be solved and which will thus be partially solved with what is undeniably a saving in the finances of the nation, since, instead of being pulled down after the war, they would be used again.

The foregoing is, Mr. Chairman, the role of the High Commissioner. He has also devoted his attention to the matter of regulating prices, by examining and checking contracts submitted to him, and also by communicating personally with the suppliers, for whom he has been able to lay down precise conditions.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that it has been possible to reach these results because, for once, a qualified professional—and I refer to my esteemed chief—has been put in the right place, who has handled as a business man a matter which, if it is closely connected with the needs of the present war, must nevertheless also be so treated during the peace, and the maximum qualities applied to it.

I think, mon cher President, that I have thus outlined for you our entire programme. I am pleased to have been able to place it before you and, if required, I am entirely at your disposal to expound it further, either wholly or in part, or complete it in any particular in which you may think it beneficial.

In conclusion, I would inform you that a recent decree has just appointed me chief architect in charge of the Camouflage Department of the Air Ministry, and that in this further sphere I am also at your disposal.

With fraternal greetings, I am, dear Mr. Chairman,
Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Maigrot, Lt-Col.

Secretary-General of the Permanent International Committee of Architects, Corresponding Member of the R.I.B.A.

P.S.—Please receive for yourself and my colleagues of the R.I.B.A. my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, together with the fervent hope that, united by one and the same sense of right, honour and liberty, we shall be able to resume, once peace is restored, the course of our activities.

—M.

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HOME-MADE THOUGHTS ON HANDICRAFTS

By HUMPHREY CARVER

"IT is the degradation of the operative into a machine," John Ruskin once observed, "which, more than any other evil of the times, is leading the mass of the nations everywhere into vain, incoherent, destructive struggling for a freedom of which they cannot explain the nature to themselves." Amidst today's cyclopean events a similar thought makes a discussion of handicrafts not entirely irrelevant. In fact, some may say that this war is the inevitable climax of a conflict which began when the first craftsman put away his own tools and got a job minding the machinery which belonged to a capitalist. That is the Marxian thesis. It is still a little uncertain, however, whether this really is the fight "for the ownership of the means of production" or whether it is merely a jousting contest between rival capitalist groups (the side which produces the largest number of airplanes per month to be declared *victor ludorum*). Marxians still stand on the sidelines.

But whichever fight it is, it certainly arises out of the abandonment of the system of handicraft and naturally prompts the academic question: has industrialization proved to be a good thing? As long ago as the 1880's William Morris asked himself the same question and replied that "as a condition of life, production by machinery is altogether an evil; as an instrument for forcing on us better conditions of life it has been indispensable." In losing his personal responsibility for the design of the articles which he produces, man has certainly suffered a degradation. When each craftsman, working with his own hands and tools, could incorporate in the local tradition some of his individual sense of color, pattern and form, then every craftsman was potentially an artist. We of the machine age must unhappily admit that since mechanical efficiency was substituted for the sensitivity of the hand a greater number of more ugly things has been produced than the world has ever before possessed. Perhaps in itself a good enough reason for wishing to blow our present civilization to pieces.

Horrified by the forbidding mass of ugliness with which commerce threatens to overwhelm us, it is hardly surprising that many pessimists should seek refuge in a return to the simpler life. This kind of escapism was the first reaction of those 19th century intellectuals who, appalled by the banalities with which Birmingham industry wooed the vulgar bourgeois, retreated into the arts and crafts movement. Attempting futilely to stem the tide of history, they sanctified the hand-made article and tried to revive the native traditions of mediaeval England. In spite of the fine work accomplished by such men as de Morgan, Cobden-Sanderson and Morris himself, the movement declined into a reactionary and sentimental spinsterhood. Isolating itself from the vigorous real world the arts and crafts movement in England must bear responsibility for much debased work as silly and irrelevant as the luscious bathos of factory design.

In the light of this unfortunate experience one may be inclined to view the emergence of a handicraft movement in Canada with some scepticism. What is its significance and how can it be saved from killing itself with too much pampering?

In those countries which are not completely industrialized and which still possess a peasant population, native handicrafts have survived into the middle of the 20th century. In recent years the roving eye of the American buyer has given them a new stimulation; many guileless Italians, Austrians

and Mexicans have been making money for the sophisticated Gifte Shoppes of the United States and Canada. Traditional handicrafts are still to be found at the fringes of our own Canadian civilization where the glories of industrialization have not reached the peasant populations of the pioneer west, Quebec and the maritimes. There is now a constant demand for Canadian hand-made rugs, quilts and textiles. We are aware that these are the last precious fruits of an age when people made things for the love of making them well and truly rather than with the intention of making money. And here we are faced with a dilemma.

If we are to stimulate these home crafts artificially they must axiomatically lose the very spontaneity which gives them such a priceless bloom. And if we so stimulate the "handicraft business" that we raise the income-level of the worker and so enable him to purchase industrial merchandise, then we are removing the very peasant environment in which alone those handicrafts can survive.

There appears to be no escape from this dilemma unless we can believe that the whole theme of modern history has in some way been misinterpreted. Is it possible that the apparent conflict between the handicraft tradition and machine production has been forced upon us unnecessarily, that the two can exist side by side and be regarded as complementary rather than conflicting? Is it possible that our destiny does not, in fact, lie in a complete mechanization and metropolitanization as we have somehow assumed? We cannot yet do more than toy with such questions. But when we enter upon a new kind of world after the war we will undoubtedly find ourselves motivated by ideals very different from those which inspired the first dizzy decade after 1918 and which proved so disastrous. A complete re-statement of the whole handicraft-versus-machine problem may prove to be a not unimportant part of that re-orientation. Already we may observe some indications of what is in the wind, of which the following are offered at random:

(1). The country which, during the last quarter century, has evolved the most well-rounded social pattern, is Sweden. An essential feature of that success has been the extraordinary accomplishment of integrating a lively handicraft tradition with a mechanized urban civilization. Handicrafts and industrial design have advanced side by side with equal distinction, each reacting upon the other to produce new forms of great beauty.

(2). In their efforts to crystallize a new architecture from contemporary materials, techniques and social requirements, modernists have discovered an unexpected kinship with genuine handicraftsmen whose works have a sincerity and functionalism altogether lacking in the general run of commercial goods. It is extremely suggestive that those architects who have most completely comprehended the essential beauties of industrial standardization have also completed the philosophical circle and called again upon the individual craftsmen for the application of color, texture and decoration.

(3). Within recent years we have gradually become aware that the early 20th century dream of the great metropolis was an illusion. Even the American utopia is no longer conceived in such form; planners dream of Greenbelt towns, semi-rural satellites and decentralized communities. Coupled with a desire for this kind of environment is a new educational direction. Much of the work under W.P.A. in the United States and the form of school syllabus, such as that recently

introduced in Ontario, indicate a desire to break down the rigidity of a purely mechanical system.

(4). It is in the nature of modern industry both to reduce the working hours in the week and, by an inherent tendency to develop seasonal trades, to reduce the working weeks in the year. Unless we are to become sickened and decadent from too much entertainment, the new leisure hours must be employed in a creative way. To use the hands in making beautiful and useful things is becoming a necessity for the minder of machines who is not content to become a mere pampered ant.

These random thoughts may at least suggest that in the post-war reorganization there may be a proper place for handicrafts; not as a commercial enterprise, nor as a toy for the idle rich, nor as a convenient escape for non-conforming intellectuals, but as an essential factor in our industrialized civilization. Industry has itself reached a kind of stalemate and commercial design has dried up the fountain of life in its unintelligent career of copyism. If the development of our national taste and style, our regional individuality, is not to be tied on to the hind wheels of American commerce

we must cultivate our own designers and allow them to use skilled craftsmen in the development of their ideas. The vigorous school of painting in eastern Canada and the high standard of our art schools and technical schools indicate that there would be no difficulty in establishing a virile group for this purpose. From their experience in designing for handicraft workers the best designers may then graduate into the more responsible positions as designers for industry. In this way, and in this way only, can handicrafts, designers and industry advance hand in hand in a new creative tradition.

Industry has done its worst in heaping upon us ugliness and war. Are we shortly to emerge from that long dark passage which William Morris knew to be ahead when he admitted that "the movement towards the revival of handicraft is contemptible on the surface, in face of the gigantic fabric of commercialism"? "Yet," he added, "taken in conjunction with the general movement towards freedom of life for all and as a token of the change which is transforming civilization into socialism, it is both noteworthy and encouraging."

(Reprinted, with the permission of the Editors, from a recent issue of The Canadian Forum.)

MISCELLANEA

SOME TIME AGO we asked the Secretary of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada to ask Provincial Secretaries for full particulars of architects on service at home or abroad. So far no information has been given us. It is a list that we should be proud to put in the *Journal*, and it may be that we could do something from time to time that would make architects on active service feel that they were not forgotten by the profession at home. Lt.-Col., now Squadron Leader Marani, used to tell a pathetic story of himself and his company in a very tight spot in France, "stormed at with shot and shell" when neither food nor ammunition could get to them—a letter arrived by messenger from the School of Architecture, University of Toronto, charging him with \$1.87 for a book he had not returned three years before. It is not for such base purposes that we would like to have a list of architect soldiers, but we feel something quite definite might be done to show our interest in them.

A MONTH or so ago we received a clipping to the effect that Mr. H. Claire Mott had been elected to Fellowship in the R.I.B.A. We announced the fact in the March *Journal*, and were horrified to receive a letter from Mr. Mott himself, denying the soft impeachment. As Fellowships in the R.I.B.A. are not made except on the application of the Fellow-elect himself, supported by two other Fellows, and the approval of Council, it is impossible that Mr. Mott should be a Fellow unwittingly. We regret having lost the original notice which was no bigger than a birth notice, and will, in future, not publish announcements of any kind without chapter, verse and written sanction.

WE are pleased to announce that Mr. A. P. C. Adamson, our Foreign Correspondent, has agreed to write a series of articles on Canadian Parliament Buildings. Mr. Adamson

will write about Victoria first, and the other parliament buildings in order as he comes East. Anyone with exciting data connected with these monuments or their architects should write to Mr. Adamson, care of the *Journal*. We have just read, unbeknown to Mr. Adamson, a diary which he kept on his honeymoon in Russia. It is of absorbing architectural interest and might be published with the author's permission.

AS a result of many requests in the questionnaire, we have arranged for pages of illustration and descriptive text on such subjects as glass, floor coverings, electric fixtures, door hardware, etc., to appear in the *Journal* from time to time. Different architects have each been set a job of selection which we hope will be of interest equally to architect and manufacturer.

THE pages of the architectural journals throughout the world present articles that would keep the *Journal* going for a generation. It is, however, our function to encourage articles from our own members as much as photographs of buildings which they have done. At the present moment there is a dearth of articles from the home front, and we would urge any member who has anything to say in letter or article to write us. This month we print a letter from a layman who asks permission to use our *Journal* to vent his wrath on the designers of hotel bathrooms. We remember staying in the Hotel Van . . . r in Van . . . r, and finding a large grating in our bathroom acting as a loudspeaker for a maids' common room. Their conversation, quite audible from our bedroom, would have provided excellent material for Arnold Bennett or Vicki Baum. We are delighted to assist Mr. T. G. Waller in his public-spirited effort to modernize the hotel bathroom and hope that so keen an observer will write us again.

— E. R. A.

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J. A. Bigonnesse
A. R. Cobb (F)
Prof. C. S. Burgess (F)
Robt. F. Duke

W. P. Over
H. R. Wiggs
Garnet W. Wilson
Bruce H. Wright
William Fredk. Gardiner

Housing

Wm. H. Holcombe, Chairman, 63 John Street South,
Hamilton
Murray Brown (F)
Jas. H. Craig (F)
William Fredk. Gardiner
Ralph C. Ham
J. L. Heans
Harold Lawson (F)
A. S. Mathers (F)
Marcel Parizeau

Public Relations

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Toronto
Jas. H. Craig (F)
H. L. Fetherstonhaugh (F)
W. L. Somerville (F)
W. A. West
J. L. Heans
J. J. Perrault
A. J. Hazelgrove (F)
C. W. U. Chivers
George J. Stephenson
J. Martland
Geo. C. Nairne

Professional Usages

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Toronto
W. A. West
J. L. Heans
J. J. Perrault
A. J. Hazelgrove (F)
C. W. U. Chivers
Geo. J. Stephenson
J. Martland
Geo. C. Nairne

Scholarships and Prizes

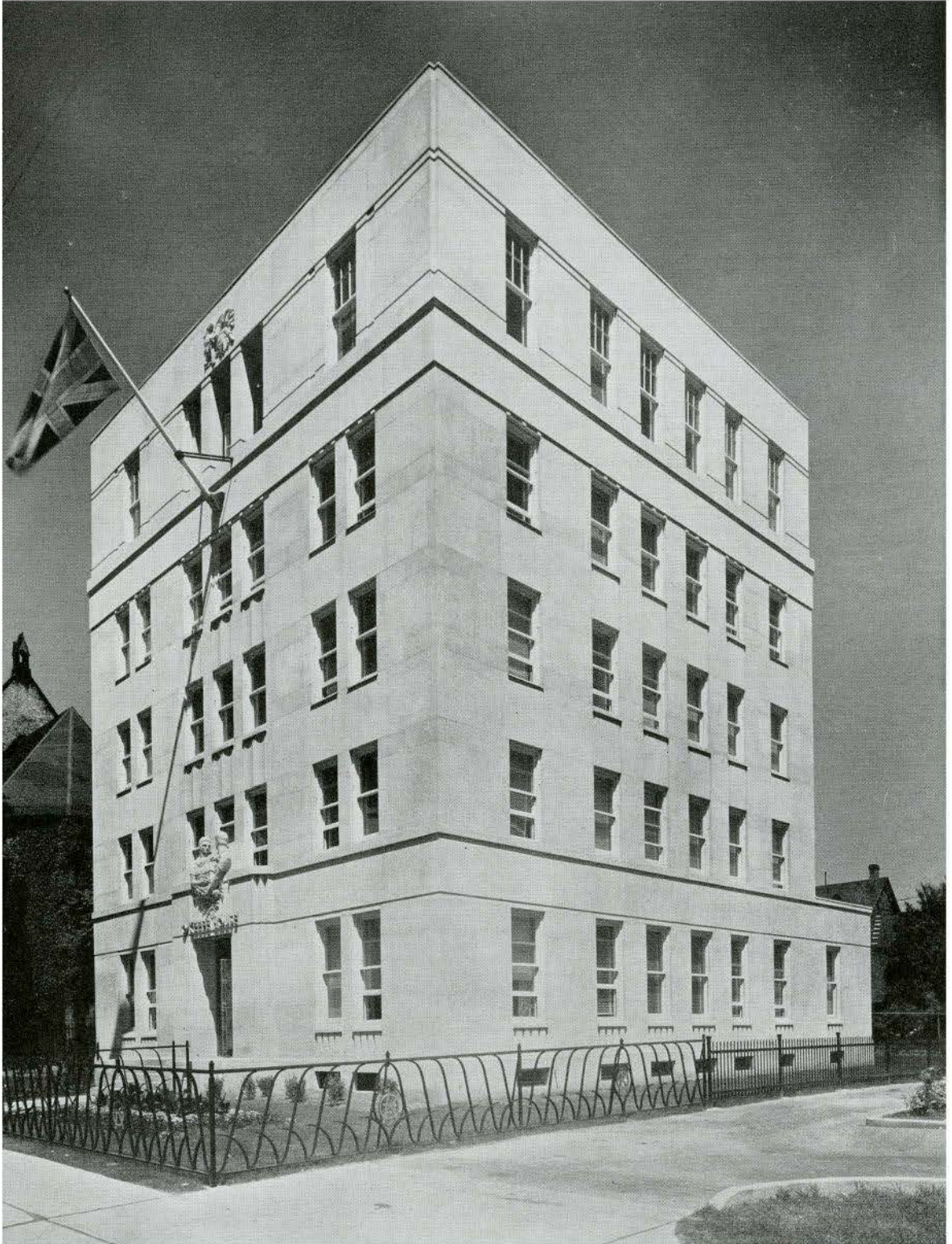
Forsey Page (F), Chairman, 20 St. Clair Avenue West,
Toronto
Prof. C. S. Burgess (F)
S. P. Dumaresq (F)
H. Claire Mott (F)
W. E. Noffke (F)
Prof. M. S. Osborne (F)
G. McL. Pitts (F)

Representatives of the R.A.I.C. on the R.I.B.A.

Murray Brown (F)
H. L. Fetherstonhaugh (F)

Representative of the R.A.I.C. on the C.E.S.A.

Col. C. J. Burritt



OFFICES OF O'KEEFE'S BREWING COMPANY, LIMITED, TORONTO, ONTARIO

CHAPMAN AND OXLEY, ARCHITECTS

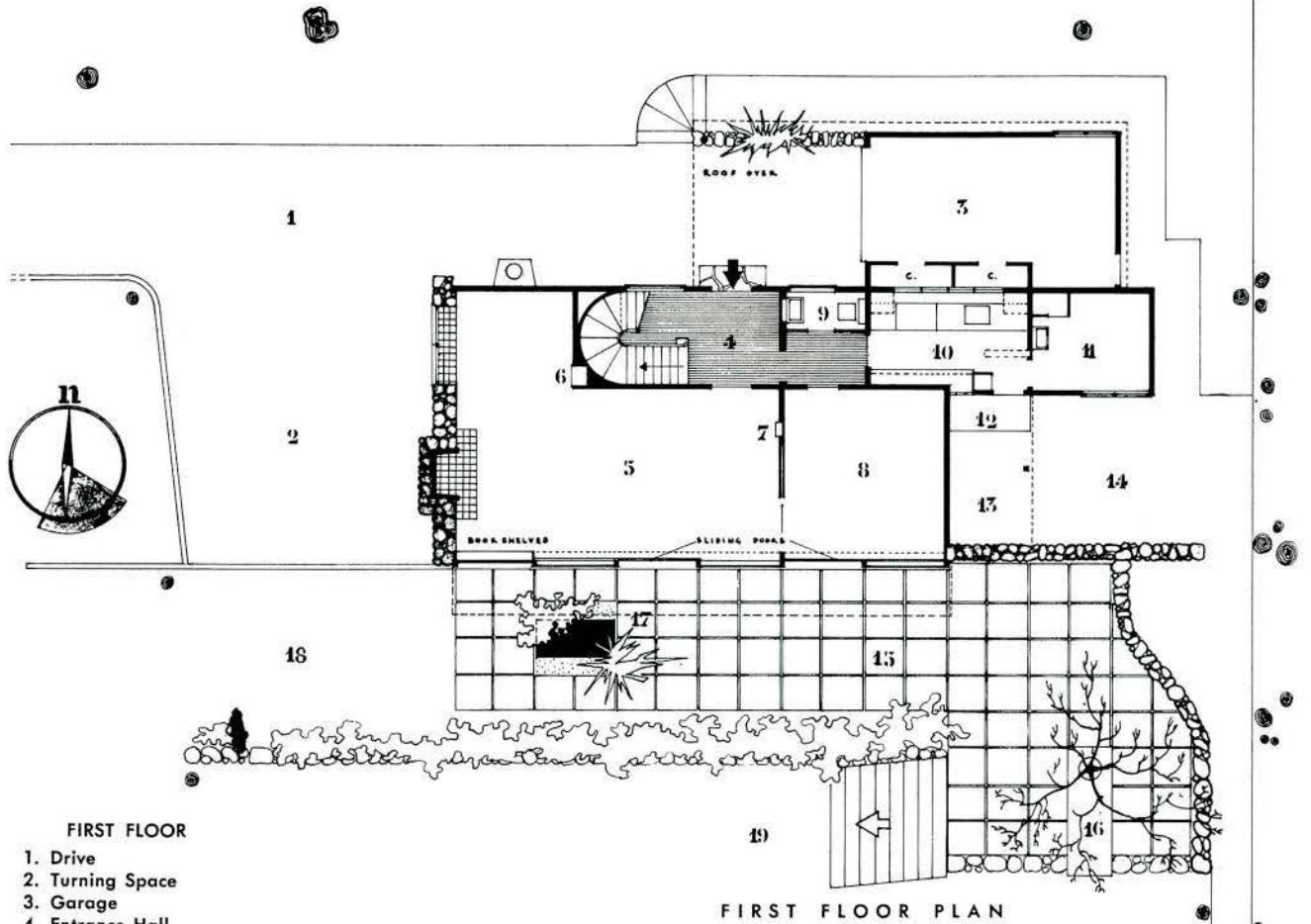


EXECUTIVE OFFICE



RECEPTION HALL

HOUSE OF MR. PETER THORNTON, CAULFEILD, BRITISH COLUMBIA
 PETER THORNTON, ARCHITECT



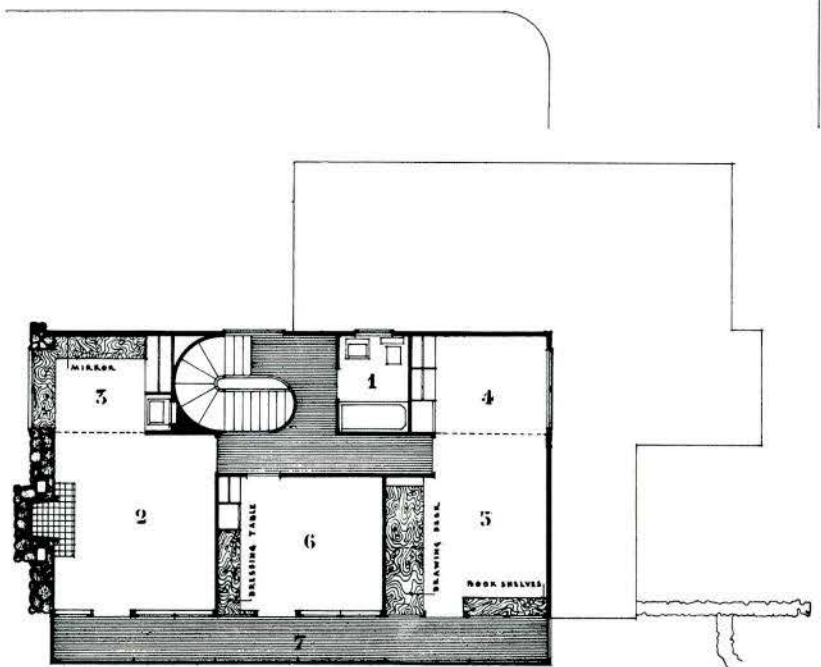
FIRST FLOOR

1. Drive
2. Turning Space
3. Garage
4. Entrance Hall
5. Living Room
6. Radio and Record Player
7. Loud Speaker
8. Dining Room
9. Wash Room
10. Kitchen
11. Maid's Room
12. Back Entrance
13. Roof over woodpile
14. Drying Yard
15. Terrace
16. Concrete Table
17. Tiled Pool and Fountain
18. Grass Ramp
19. Lawn (Slope to South)

SECOND FLOOR

1. Bathroom
2. Master Bedroom
3. Dressing Room (Built-in Furniture)
4. Bed Alcove
5. Studio
6. Guest Room
7. Gallery

Future extension over Kitchen and Maid's Room—a Dressing Room and second Bathroom.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



CONSTRUCTION

A mixture of Timber and Solid Masonry was chosen because both these materials are indigenous to this part of the world and seemed the most logical.

The South Wall of the house is built of 4" x 6" built up parts at 7'-3" centers with continuous beams or infilling of 3" solid cedar T. & G. The windows on the ground floor are of plate glass with sliding doors opening onto the terrace—the full width between posts (one sliding door from Living Room and one from the Dining Room). On the First floor three bedrooms open onto the gallery with a slat floor. The Gallery projects sufficiently to cut off the hot summer sun but not enough to prevent the sun in winter (which is lower in the sky) from coming into the house—the open gallery floor allows hot air to rise, preventing overheating and excess expansion of the plate glass.

The West Wall, which contains three flues and two fireplaces is 1'-9" thick solid concrete with cobble stones as a facing material.

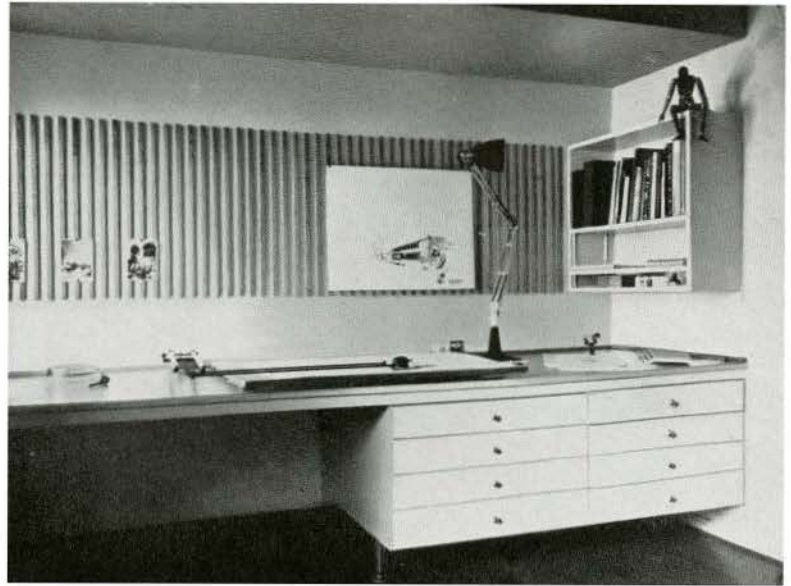
The rest of the walls are standard 2" x 4" stud walls with 10" cedar siding painted white on outside—insulation in walls is one layer of heavy rubberoid roofing in place of building paper.

The Roof is five-ply tar and gravel with a slope to the north of 9" and is insulated with 4" coarse saw-dust gauged with hydrated lime. The bedroom ceilings slope with the roof thus saving ceiling joists, and tending to make the rooms look larger.

Heating—Blown Hot Air—Iron Fireman Stoker.

Hot Water—Coil in furnace—Immersion heater for summer.

Cost of heating and hot water per year \$90.00 to \$100.00, proving that very large glass areas if properly curtained at night do not require a great deal more heat.



STUDIO FROM EAST



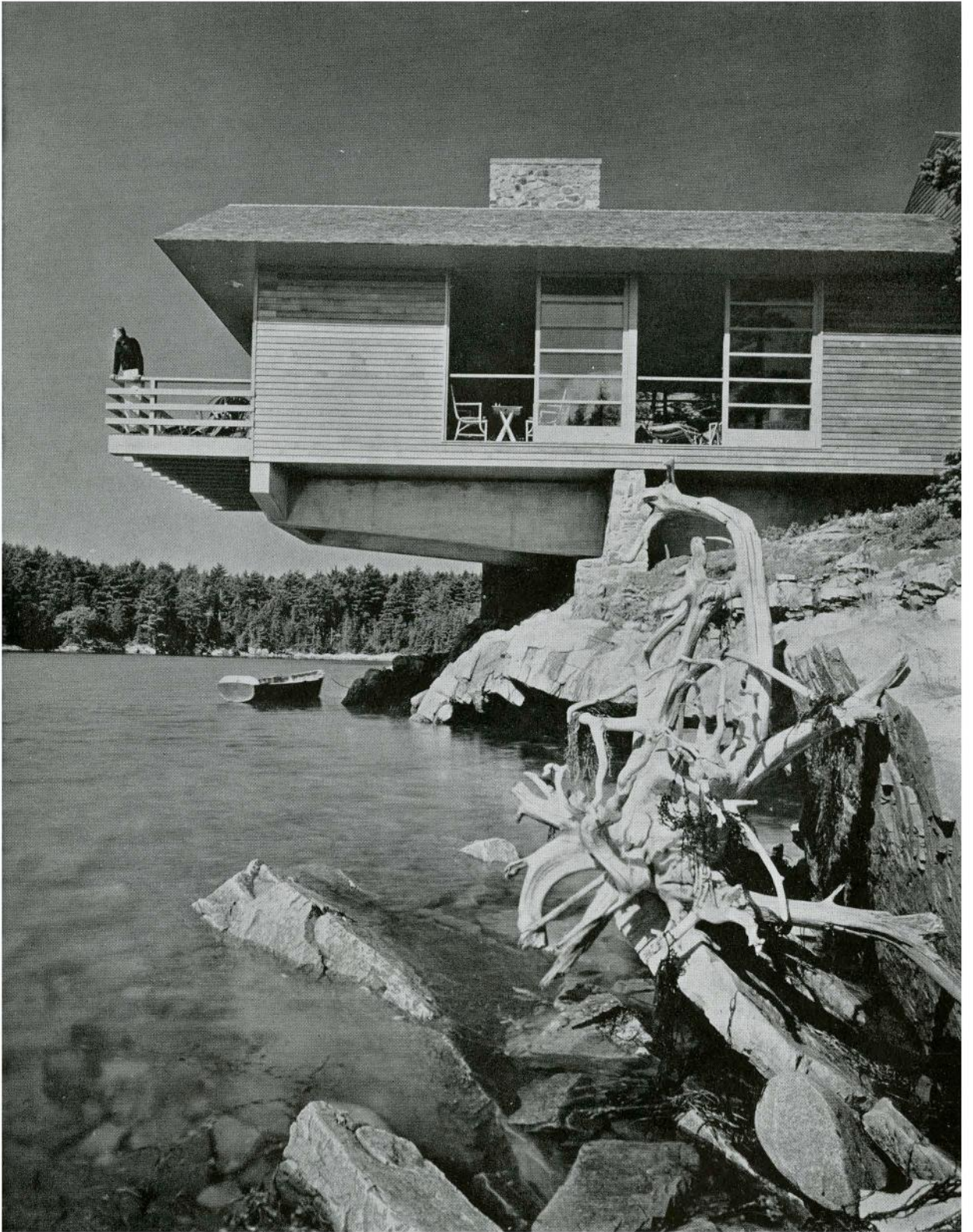
STUDIO FROM NORTH



DETAIL OF ELEVATION

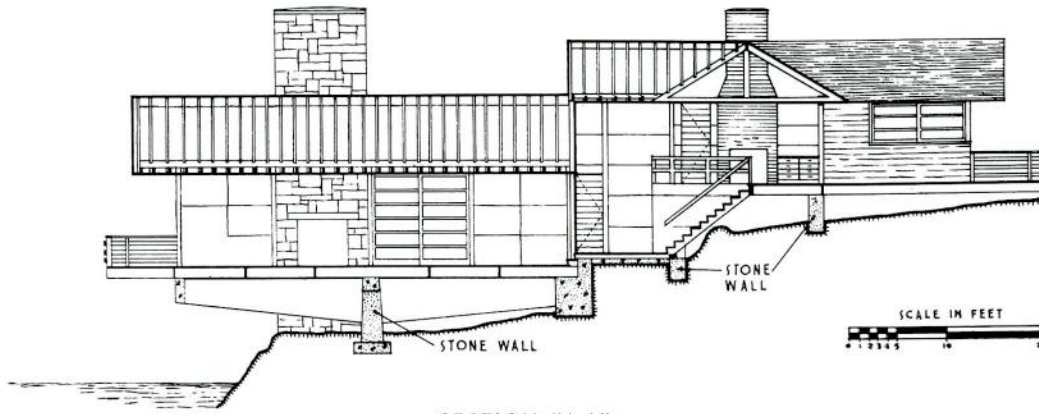


SOUTH FRONT FROM SOUTH-EAST

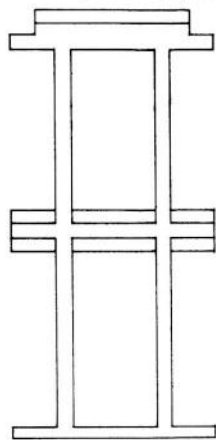
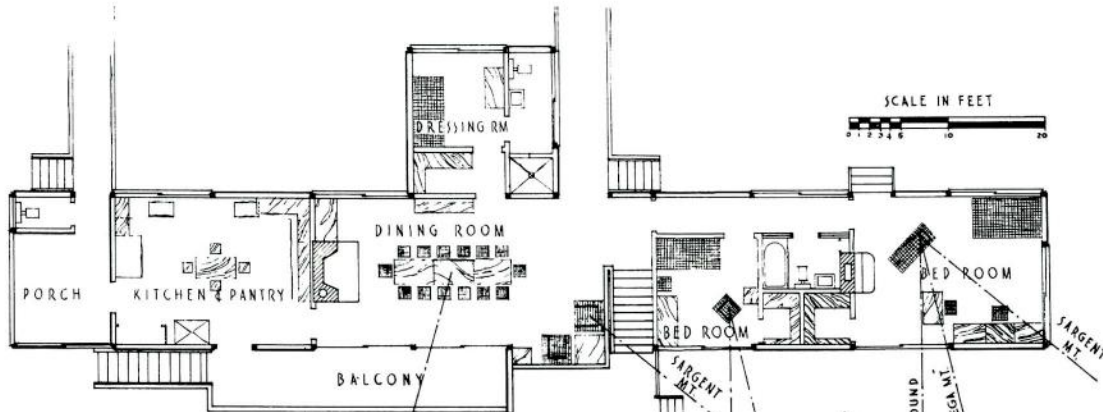


SUMMER HOUSE OF CLARA FARGO THOMAS
MT. DESERT ISLAND, MAINE, UNITED STATES

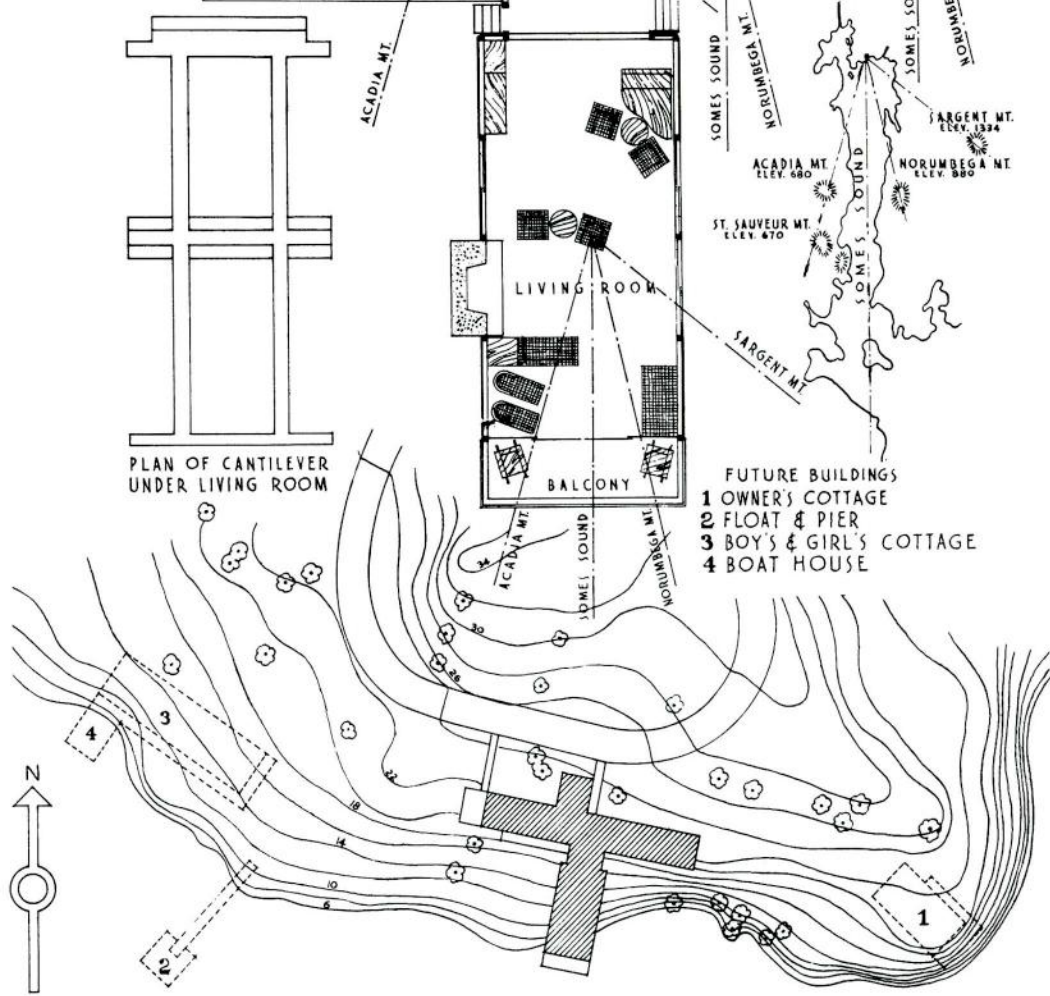
GEORGE HOWE, ARCHITECT



SECTION "A-A"



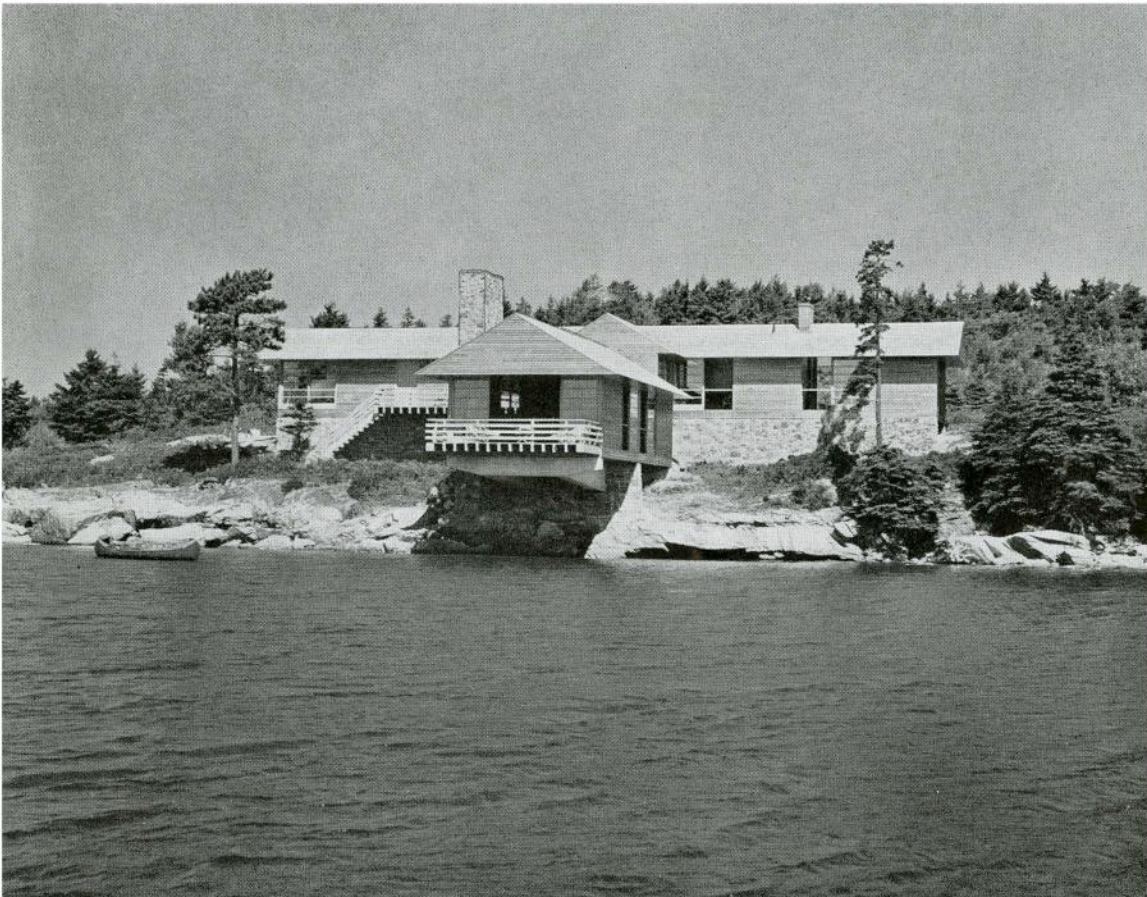
PLAN OF CANTILEVER UNDER LIVING ROOM



FLOOR PLAN



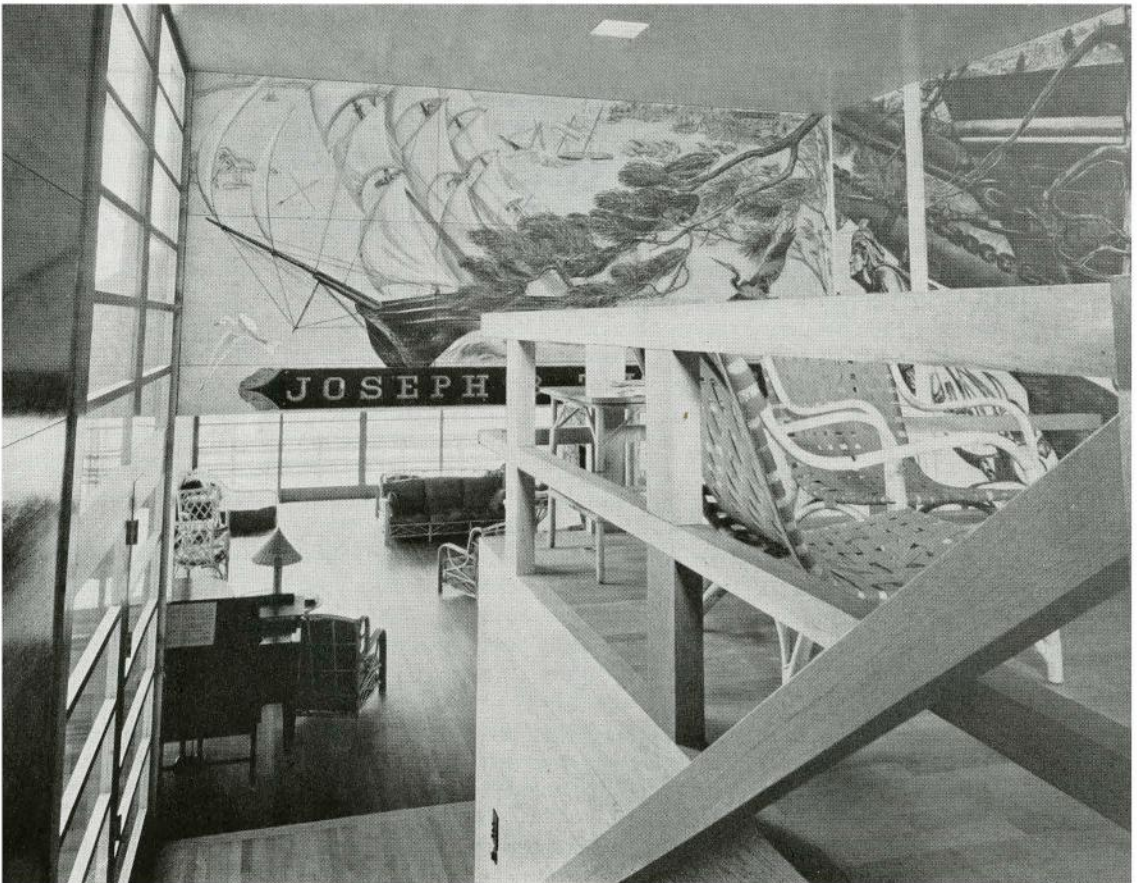
LIVING ROOM OVERHANG AND BALCONY FROM SOUTHWEST. AFTERNOON. LOW TIDE



HOUSE FROM THE SOUTH. NOON. HIGH TIDE



INTERIOR OF THE LIVING ROOM



LOOKING DOWN THE STAIR FROM UPPER WING INTO LIVING ROOM

THE ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 26, 1940

To the Officers and Members of
The Alberta Association of Architects.
Miss Buchanan and Gentlemen:—

It is a very great pleasure and a privilege to welcome you to this our Twenty-ninth Annual Meeting, being also the Thirty-third year since the incorporation of the Association—a welcome to those who have participated in these meetings for many years past—a welcome to those of recent years and a welcome to those who are here for the first time.

We meet at a time when practically the whole world is in a state of chaos, when the whole social, economic and political structure is being shaken to its very foundations, when faith and courage are being tested to the utmost, when it calls for fortitude and strength in the solution of our problems and perplexities.

I trust that your deliberations will be conducted with genuine sincerity, with vision and understanding, and as a result of these deliberations you will go forth with renewed courage and determination to meet the difficulties and complexities of life as they arise.

Since the last annual meeting held sixteen months ago the lot of the profession has been somewhat more satisfactory by comparison with the preceding year, due to increased activity in the building trades, but there is still room for a further improvement. What the future has in store is difficult to predict, nevertheless, Babson, in his forecast, appears to be quite hopeful and looks for a definite improvement in industrial construction and he sees an increased activity due to the boost in farm incomes. It is to be hoped that these predictions prove correct, for in the words of Longfellow in "The Builders":—

*"All are architects of Fate,
Working in these walls of Time."*

It is interesting to note that six additional new members have been admitted since the last annual meeting, and that the total membership is now twenty-six as compared with twenty, at September, 1938.

Since the passing of the new Architects' Act on the 31st day of March, 1938, several interesting phases relative to the operation of the Act have been brought to light, particularly with regard to Section 10 and the subsections thereof, dealing with the "Right to Practise", and it may not be out of place to refer to one or two of them here.

In one case, plans and specifications for the addition to an industrial building were prepared by a Registered Professional Engineer, and it was held, according to legal opinion, that despite the provisions of Section 10 (4) of the Act, these plans and specifications should have been prepared by or in consultation with a Registered or Licensed Architect before the authority appointed to pass, approve or accept such plans, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 (6) can so pass, approve or accept same.

In another case plans prepared by a person not registered or licensed were submitted for alterations to a building, and it was stated in the application for the building permit that the cost would be \$9,600.00. It was later found that the cost had considerably exceeded \$10,000.00 (\$16,283.25). It was held according to legal opinion that whilst the municipal authority could insist on the additional permit fee involved to cover the additional cost, nevertheless the authority could not demand further plans prepared by a registered architect,

although the cost was well in excess of \$10,000.00, as the right to insist upon the filing of plans and specifications is exhausted with the issue of the permit. It was further contended by the legal opinion that no conviction could be obtained under Section 10 (6) of the Statute under such circumstances, unless it could be shown that the estimate of \$10,000.00 or less originally made was mala fide.

In a further case, where plans and specifications had been prepared by a Registered Architect of another Province, where the cost of the building was \$5,600.00 and where reinforced concrete was involved in the design, it was held by legal opinion that although the building by-law required such plans and specifications to be prepared by an Architect or Engineer registered in the Province of Alberta, that under Section 10 (6) of the Statute it could not be insisted that such outside Architect collaborate with an Alberta Architect, and that proceedings could not be taken against the said Architect, so long as he remained outside of the jurisdiction of Alberta. On the other hand, under Section 10 (1) of the Statute, the opinion given was that the owner would be liable because he was employing, retaining or entering into a contract with a person other than a registered or licensed architect to do architectural work. In view of this situation, the owner deemed it advisable to have a collaborating architect appointed.

I trust the brief review of the foregoing cases will be of interest to the members and will help you to appreciate the full effect and value of the new Act.

Since the last annual meeting the new By-laws, etc., have been approved and are now to be considered in conjunction with the Act. A perusal of these will show that if they are to serve the purpose intended, and contemplated at the time they were drafted, there must be a whole-hearted co-operation between every member of the Association, so that we can secure a full measure of unity;—unity of purpose;—unity of ideals; for without these we cannot expect to attain to the best that underlies the teachings of the profession. The reverse of this would be to produce disunion and so become separated from all the traditions of the profession. With disunion we would be so hopelessly at variance as to destroy the continuity and the unity of all that is worth-while in the profession. In other words there would be no traditions left, and we would be divorced from everything that we value most in our profession. It will be seen then that we must have unity if we are to measure up to the highest ideals of the profession.

Since the last annual meeting, sixteen meetings of your Council have been held; many and varied problems have arisen and considerable business has been transacted. The new Act and the By-laws were reprinted, put up in book form and a copy sent to each member of the Association. A new Form of Contract was drafted, approved by the Solicitor and then printed. I wish here to thank the members of Council for their loyalty, co-operation and support. I wish, also, to pay a tribute to the Secretary for his untiring efforts and valuable assistance at all times and the other officers for their aid and encouragement.

As you are already aware, Professor Burgess and myself journeyed to Washington, D.C., to attend, as originally planned, the Fifteenth International Congress of Architects. Due, however, to the declaration of war the officials responsible, with much reluctance, decided to defer the sittings of the Congress. Despite this great disappointment, in which all

shared, we were extended a very cordial invitation to attend the Seventy-first Annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects. On our arrival we were given a very warm welcome and every assistance possible. We were rather surprised to find that we were the Canadian Delegation. Despite the cancellation of the Congress much of interest was arranged and we were wined and dined exceedingly well. The following visits were included in the arrangements; a tour around the City and vicinity; a trip to Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington; a trip down the Potomac River, landing at Old Point Comfort, thence by bus through Yorktown and on to Williamsburg, the original capital of Virginia; later returning by boat to Washington. Several Housing Projects were also visited, including the Community of Greenbelt. Much might be said regarding these visits, but as Professor Burgess has kindly consented to talk on the subject, I will leave it for him to supply the details.

I regret to inform you that Mr. H. Story has felt it necessary to submit his resignation. This has been laid over by your Council to be dealt with at this Annual Meeting. I hope that you will be able to arrive at some happy solution of the matter.

May I suggest that consideration might again be given as to the advisability of holding our Annual Meeting at a more central point.

Now that my year is drawing to a close, may I express my deep appreciation of the honour bestowed upon, and the trust reposed in me, in electing me as your President. I trust that my efforts to promote the welfare of your Association may be productive of much good, in furthering its aims and objects, and I hope that the coming year may be successful in every way.

—J. Martland.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

51 North Rosslyn Avenue,
Hamilton, Ontario,
March 13th, 1940.

The Editor,

Sir:

The opportunity to offer some constructive criticism to contractors engaged in building hotels throughout the country has finally arrived and I choose your publication as an indirect way of attracting the attention of the aforementioned builders.

There are a number of objectionable features found in most hotels, be they of ancient, semi-old or ultra-modern construction.

Walls—Many are not soundproof, with the result that quiet guests are disturbed by next-door or across-the-hall beverage parties.

Walls are frequently bare of pictures, thereby creating an institutional atmosphere.

Locks—Hotel bedroom locks together with key tabs are among the noisiest inventions of man. Surely the world is ready for a quiet non-spring lock which does not necessitate slamming.

Doors—Motor car manufacturers have adopted a door framed in sponge rubber. Are these not available for hotel use? Mysterious murders in hotels may be conceivably traceable to irate guests aroused from deep slumber by some door-slamming jackass.

Hardware—The metal plates surrounding keyholes might give way to a non-metallic composition such as bakelite. The general idea being the lessening of noise.

Lights—Hall lights should not be placed opposite the fan-lights of bedroom doors. What is the objection to using such lights on the floor in the manner of lighting theatre aisles?

General bedroom lighting is inadequate and unsuited for either reading or writing. Shaving mirrors are oftentimes lighted but dresser mirrors are dark. Portable lights are badly needed for desk use or to light up the inside of trunks and club bags.

Toilets—These are designed with broadcasting facilities to acquaint the world with the fact of being in use. Have mufflers gone out of style?

Rubber mats—Mostly lacking for use under wash basins.

Non-skid mats—Seldom found in hotels for use to prevent slipping in bathtubs or under showers.

Venetian Blinds—The more general use of these blinds would dispense with frowsy, dusty curtains.

Towels—When a room is occupied by two persons, not less than four towels should be supplied, *each with a separate colored border*. This would allow of distinguishing between face and body towels as well as affording selectivity for individual use.

Towel racks—Seldom generous enough in capacity and usually cunningly placed immediately above an open toilet to facilitate the easy slipping therein.

Floors—Rubber tile or inlaid linoleum is much to be preferred to dirty hardwood or soiled rugs.

Halls—Still badly in need of sound-absorbing covering.

Washcloth racks—Entirely missing.

Beverage room doors—Seldom equipped with shock absorbers.

Rotunda lighting—Lousy for reading purposes.

Dining room lighting—Ditto.

Bedroom desks—Need sound-proofing against the pounding of typewriters.

The above criticisms are not strictly confined to architects and contractors but it has occurred to me that you may be able to pass on these complaints to whatever source as will promise relief to the long-suffering travelling public. Hotels who lose out to tourist homes have only themselves to blame for in the latter are found many comforts not afforded in even modern hotels. Volumes could be written about rummy beds and scant bedclothing, mussy linen, mangled laundry and unappetizing meals. Noise is one of the worst features of all hotels and whatever architects and contractors can do to eliminate same will be deeply appreciated by myself and a few million other persons forced to travel about the globe.

Yours faithfully,

T. G. Waller.

PROVINCIAL PAGE

ALBERTA

Within the last month some particulars have been announced regarding new buildings for the airport at Edmonton. Plans for these were submitted to the city officials. The city engineer suggested some re-arrangements. Fifteen buildings in all are proposed of which the largest is a hangar 265 feet by 165 feet. Two smaller hangars form part of the scheme. The other buildings include hospital, garage, workshop, stores building, mess rooms and quarters for officers, for non-commissioned officers, and for other ranks. The runways are to be increased to about three times their present width. Although a cost of \$300,000 has been mentioned for this work this is probably a mere guess made before the completion of the plans. It is expected that tenders will be called for before the end of March.

Calgary is also to become an important centre under the new air training scheme, but just what buildings will be required has not yet been announced. Some uneasiness is expressed amongst architectural, building and other circles as to the share in these schemes to be contributed locally. Federal authorities, it is said, have a way of overlooking all local experience, knowledge and skill as something of which they are entirely independent and for which they have no use. Meanwhile, local men look on and claim that work is done in a way that seems to them to show inexcusable ignorance and wastefulness. What truth, if any, there may be in this claim the writer does not attempt to judge, but there seems to be occasion at least for better and more cordial co-operation.

The seasonal slackness of building work just now in this province is indicated by the fact that the total building permits for the city of Edmonton during the month of February amounted to less than \$8,000, divided amongst 16 permits.

—*Cecil S. Burgess.*

BRITISH COLUMBIA

It is with great pleasure that we learn of the honour conferred on Mr. W. F. Williams of Nelson, B.C., in recognition of his work as designer of the Canadian Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. The City of New York has bestowed on him the Silver Medal For Distinguished Service, by virtue of which he becomes an Honorary Citizen of the City of New York.

We would take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. Williams on his achievement and the honour which it has brought him. We feel highly gratified that this honour has been bestowed on one of our own members of the A.I.B.C.

That youth is the age of optimism has been well demonstrated by the additions to the Register of the A.I.B.C. during the past four months. While the older generation has been looking forward with some apprehension to the war period ahead, seven young men have taken the step of registering themselves as architects in this province. Four of them are graduates of Canadian universities, two come from the Architectural Association of London, England, and one from the University of Washington, U.S.A.

From the University of Toronto comes Edward C. Pratt who won the R.A.I.C. Gold Medal in 1937 and 1938, and William H. Birmingham who holds a B.A. degree from the University of British Columbia.

McGill University in Montreal sends us H. C. Hammond who graduated in 1937, while C. Dexter Stockdill comes from the University of Manitoba, graduating in 1938.

The Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, England, is responsible for Peter M. Thornton and John H. Wade, both of whom are Associates of the R.I.B.A., and the University of Washington in the State to the south of us is represented by Robert R. McKee, Jr. We welcome them to our Institute and hope that their faith will be justified by a successful period of building activity.

The Y.M.C.A. in Vancouver has for many years been functioning under the handicap of an inadequate and out-of-date building, and we are glad to hear that at last they are proposing to build. Architects McCarter & Nairne are now calling for tenders on a new building to be erected on an important corner lot on Burrard Street, with a frontage of 132'0" on the two streets. The building will be four storeys high.

Hospital building has been quite active recently and further projects are proposed for the very near future. School building has also had a good share in current building operations, particularly in Vancouver. These two fields of professional endeavour are largely absorbed, however, by governmental bodies, and do not bring all the benefit they might to private practice.

—*David Colville.*

MANITOBA

It is a pleasure to announce the election to membership in the Manitoba Association of Architects, Associate Professor John A. Russell, B.Arch., M.Arch. (M.I.T.), Roy Sellors, B.Arch. (Manitoba), M.Arch. (M.I.T.) and Edmund Sellors, B.Arch. (Manitoba).

In the year 1939 nearly 6,500 new family dwelling units were built in Canada, and over 20 million dollars spent for home construction. During this period only 192 dwellings were built in Winnipeg and 107 were demolished. According to a late report of Mr. Alex. Officer, chief of the sanitation and housing division, the present housing conditions in Winnipeg are rapidly developing into slum conditions. A great many houses built for a single family are filled by people of all ages to such an extent that every available square foot of space is in constant use day and night. There are only 314 vacant houses in Winnipeg and of this number only 130 are habitable without repairs while 69 require extensive repairs or are entirely unfit for occupancy. In spite of an increase of 169 suites, there were 101 fewer vacancies at the end of the year than at the beginning. Of nearly 11,000 suites in the city there were only 390 vacancies in 1939 compared with 1530 in 1931.

During the past five years there were 14,816 marriages and only 989 suites and dwellings built, therefore only one dwelling was provided for every 15 marriages. Unless some steps are taken to alleviate congestion there is every indication of a serious shortage of housing after the war is over and the soldiers return to civil life. Due to a lack of housing legislation after the last war there was a severe congestion of population in the cities. There does seem to be every indication that we are falling behind in our endeavour to supply the normal housing needs of our population in spite of the excellent work being carried on by the National Housing Act. In some cities where large air schools are being located it may be found necessary to provide housing as a war measure. If this is done it is to be hoped that the government will give the matter the consideration it deserves and build with both beauty and permanency. I remember very well some of the hovels that came out of the last war marked as temporary but

that unfortunately held together long enough to be classed as permanent.

As the anniversary of the Royal Visit approaches, I recall the feverish activities to do everything possible to beautify the city. There should be some such inspiration each year in Winnipeg. It seems to take some such occasion to awaken us to the possibilities of our city. The paving of the Mall in front of the Parliament Building alone had the effect of brightening that entire section. Perhaps another occasion might bring down the billboards that line the Osborne Street approach to the city from the south.

—Milton S. Osborne.

ONTARIO

Our notes this month are, of necessity, concerned more with architects than with architecture. Whether this condition will change, now that the Federal election has removed the disturbing factor of political uncertainty, remains to be seen.

We have enjoyed a visit from one of the most interesting figures in European architecture, Serge Chermayeff. He spoke twice in Toronto; at the March luncheon of the local Chapter and at the Art Gallery. A faculty for close observation and keen analysis, coupled with thorough-going intellectual honesty and an entertaining facility of expression, held the interest and compelled the respect of those who heard him, but in spite of them there is room for doubt whether architecture is to become a sort of poor relation to science and technology.

There is not much point, however, to our own professional discussions unless we can make some impression on the world around us. For this reason it is refreshing to note that an architect was invited to address the Convention of the Ontario Property Owners' Association. In his paper on "Modern Rehabilitation", James H. Craig covered the broad field which includes actual physical deterioration, and unnecessary obsolescence due to lack of zoning and the absurd rigidities of property taxation. The address was also heard by representatives of a number of organizations connected with real estate and the building industry.

Another note in the same vein—an architect has been elected to the Directorate of the Canadian National Exhibition, in the person of Mackenzie Waters. In extending congratulations to both parties, we hope that the C.N.E. will make the fullest possible use of its new Director's ability and energy.

The Toronto Chapter has been temporarily deprived of its Chairman, F. H. Marani, who has accepted a post at Ottawa with the R.C.A.F. During his absence, Chapter activities will be in charge of the Vice-Chairman, Jocelyn Davidson.

It seems a long way back now to the days of W. G. Storm; yet the late S. H. Townsend, who died quite recently in Toronto, was a student in his office. Mr. Townsend practised in Toronto for many years, his work being almost exclusively residential. He was a member of the Toronto Architectural Guild, and took an active part in the founding and early development of the Ontario Association.

—Gladstone Evans.

QUEBEC

Readers of the Provincial Page will note with regret that Professor Turner is no longer contributing the Quebec letter. Mr. Marcel Parizeau and the writer will endeavor to deliver the news each month, alternately in French and English. Professor Turner carried on this work for twenty-five issues of the Journal, choosing his material carefully and presenting it in a superlative manner. We will miss his letters very much. In the meantime, readers outside of our Province can brush up their French in reading Mr. Parizeau's excellent prose as he is a stylist *de premiere classe*.

It is with profound regret that we record the death of the wife of W. S. Maxwell, past president of the R.A.I.C. Mrs. Maxwell, while on a pleasure trip with her niece, was suddenly stricken at Buenos Aires. We extend our deepest sympathy to our confrere and know that this sentiment will be shared by his friends everywhere.

We are moving this year!

On or about May 1st the office of the Quebec Association will be at 761 New Birks Building, Cathcart Street, Montreal. There will be a general office, library and a Council room large enough for committee meetings and moderate sized gatherings.

We will miss our former commodious premises on Dorchester Street—especially the great room which was ideal for exhibitions and big parties. It was a beautiful room with a high ceiling and tastefully decorated and finished in Mr. W. S. Maxwell's impeccable taste. When the war ends perhaps we may again consider more ample space and appreciate it better than we did before.

On the evening of March 20th, members of our Association and undergraduates from the two architectural schools attended a lecture by Mr. Serge Chermayeff on the Meaning of Modern Architecture. The speaker developed his philosophy with crystal clarity, stressing the social implications and their effect on the architectural profession. The entire talk was meat rich, stimulating, provocative, and on a lofty plane, lending itself to a variety of interpretation depending upon the mentality and experience of the individual auditor. Mr. Chermayeff spoke freely and frankly to us not only about our problems but also our ineffectiveness in attacking those problems. It was a bad night for the ivory tower dwellers and the lone wolves. After the lecture Questions and Answers furnished further profit and diversion, followed by refreshments and informal group discussions which continued until a late hour, thus terminating one of our most successful evenings.

The Spring Show is now on at the Art Gallery and as usual the Architectural Section gets scant support from our members, although there could not be a better place or opportunity to "show our stuff", and incidentally get some dignified publicity.

—Harold Lawson.

CORRECTION

Mr. C. E. Pratt of Vancouver was not mentioned as the winner of one of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada medals given to outstanding graduates. Mr. Pratt is a graduate of the School of Architecture, University of Toronto. The reason for the omission is shrouded in mystery, but the fault is neither that of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada nor the Journal.

In the March Journal the winner of the Bronze Medal (Class A) was described as Mr. Martin Lloyd instead of Mr. Lloyd Martin and Miss Ruth Scott's name was omitted from the Mentions in (Class B)—both of the University of Manitoba. The reason for the omission is also mysterious. The judges had two lists of winners—one, unofficial, which was complete (read at the Annual Dinner), and one official, handed to the editor which was incomplete and inverted Mr. Martin and omitted Miss Scott.—*Ed.*

POSITION REQUIRED

Architect having extensive knowledge of office and apartment building design desires connection with organization where such experience would be of value.

R. A. S.

c/o Journal, R.A.I.C.



Invaluable for
modernizing
old buildings...

SPUN ROCK WOOL

Reg'd.

THIS Canadian insulation of unquestionable superiority is invaluable in bringing old, draughty buildings into line with modern requirements. Light-weight, fire-proof, easily installed—it adds permanency wherever it is used.

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