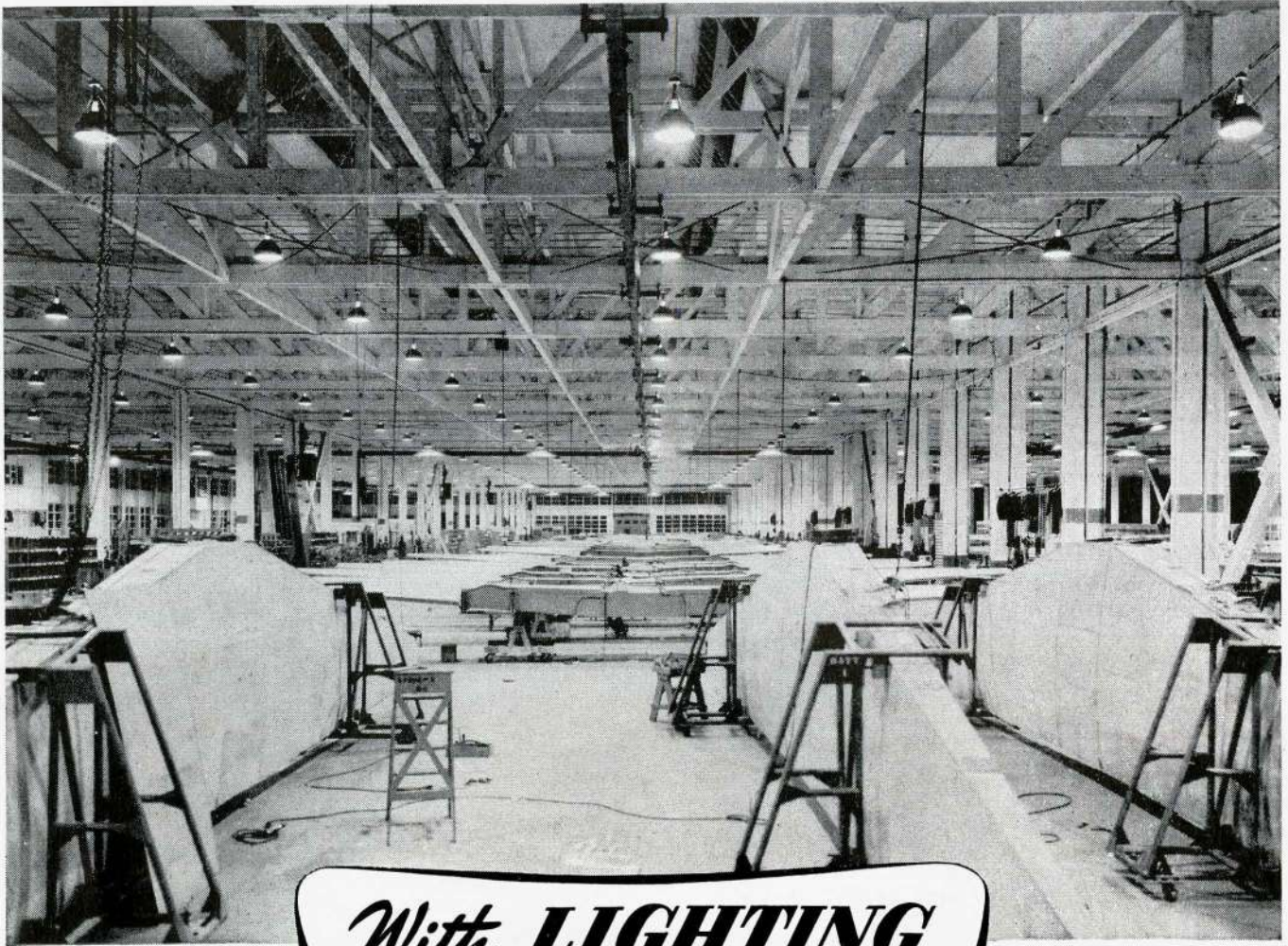


JOURNAL

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL
INSTITUTE OF CANADA



VOL. 20 TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1943 NO. 12



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JOURNAL

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Serial No. 220

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1943

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R. A. I. C. JOURNAL

DECEMBER 1943

THE year 1943 has been one of constructive effort and progress for our profession. Its activities have brought us into realistic contact with related national organizations and into a closer co-operation with all those agencies throughout Canada whose aim and purpose is a fuller and richer life for the community. We have had an opportunity to serve and in that service we have created a larger place and appreciation in the councils of the nation and in the minds of the people.

THIS growth in stature of his national organization may not be obvious to every member, engrossed as he is in the daily routine or in some specific task undertaken in the interests of the profession. Nevertheless, these individual efforts, the work of the various committees and groups, the suggestions and ideas which have been brought forward, correlated and combined, have made a contribution which gives definite promise of being reflected in the national policy.

AS with every earnest and progressive group, our ambition outstrips the possibilities of the immediate achievement of our objective and we are often impatient at the long period of preparation and education which is required to bring an idea to ultimate fulfilment. This is particularly true of those larger ideals of national life which our profession is endeavouring to bring home to the people of Canada, concentrated as they are on the war effort. We can look back, however, with a degree of satisfaction, on our accomplishments to date.

OUR programme has been carried out on a definite priority basis. Education comes first. It is the corner-stone of the profession and of the Institute. Through the efforts of our Committee on Architectural Training, our Component Associations and our individual members, the courses in our Architectural Schools are being periodically reviewed and reorganized to meet the ever-advancing requirements of the times. First and foremost, the architect must maintain his place as the practical planner and designer in the professional sphere of the construction industry. No longer shall the unqualified who strive to usurp his function disparage him as "only a drawer of pretty pictures."

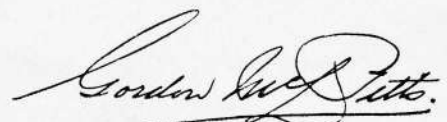
THE Institute has taken a leading part in solving a number of Canada's post-war problems falling within the purview of our profession. It was the first to recommend to the Dominion Government the creation of A Central Planning Authority, or Ministry of Reconstruction, together with other concrete proposals for the stimulation of post-war building activities.

OUR National and Provincial organizations have consistently stressed the social and economic necessity for Housing and Community Planning, and for the best technical and scientific use of labour and materials in the design of even the most modest of homes. Our members have voluntarily undertaken community planning projects, prepared enabling Acts, promoted public education on Housing, acted on Boards and Committees and otherwise contributed to the promotion of better Canadian housing.

ONE of the main functions of the Institute is to maintain the solidarity and unity of effort of the profession across Canada. It is most important for the achievement of our maximum contribution that there should be the fullest co-operation and harmony throughout our organization. The task to which we have set ourselves is great in relation to our numbers and it is therefore imperative for success that we achieve the highest degree of unanimity and co-ordination.

AT this time it is my pleasant duty to extend the thanks and deep appreciation of the general membership of the Institute to those officers, members of committees and individuals who, through their earnest and unselfish endeavours, have contributed to the high measure of success which has crowned the work of the Institute during the past year. To this I would add my personal thanks for the support and assistance which I have received from all members of the Institute in their various capacities during my term of office.

AND, as at last the lights come on again, one by one, I wish you each and all, A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year in the true spirit of "Peace on Earth, Good-will to Men."



President

THE WORK OF THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

By RONALD WAY

Historian to The Niagara Parks Commission

ONTARIO'S NIAGARA PARKS

Just over half a century ago, the foresight of Ontario's Government gave birth to the Niagara Parks. Located in the famous Niagara Peninsula of the Province of Ontario, they border the Canadian bank of the Niagara for its full length from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. Thirty-five miles of magnificent parklands include internationally famed gardens, rare floral displays, ancient fortifications, old battlefields and historic sites of interest and significance to the whole world. Sentiment and history are here combined with the handiwork of nature and man at their best. The places for viewing the full majesty of the Niagara River, above and below the mighty cataract, are preserved in a state of natural beauty for the pleasure and advantage of countless visitors from every part of Canada, the United States and the world.

Before the establishment of the Niagara Parks, the Falls had been the lair of rapacious cabmen and unscrupulous concessionaires located on both the Canadian and American shores for the ruthless exploitation of visitors. To the late Lord Dufferin, Governor-General of Canada from 1872 to 1878, belongs the credit for the first official action toward the betterment of conditions, so that he has been called by many "The father of the international parks at Niagara Falls". It was in 1878 that His Excellency made his appeal, but not until 1885 was an act finally passed by the Ontario legislature creating the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park Commission with wide powers over the Canadian bank of the river.

The original Queen Victoria Park contained only one hundred and fifty-four acres and was one of the earliest experiments in self-supporting public ownership. Today, the area under the control of the Commissioners is more than sixteen times that of the first park property and represents assets in lands and buildings in excess of \$6,000,000.00. Their jurisdiction now extends over an aggregate of some 2,600 acres, comprising Queen Victoria Park at the Falls, Queenston Heights Park, Niagara Glen, the Old Fort grounds at Fort Erie, the historic Fort George area and Butler's Burial Ground at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Lundy's Lane Burial Ground, the Chain Reserve¹ along the Niagara River from Queen Victoria Park to Niagara-on-the-Lake together with the talus lying between the Reserve and the water's edge, and finally, the Chain Reserve along the river, including the lands purchased for boulevard purposes between Queen Victoria Park and Fort Erie.

POLICY OF THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

In the improvement and development of the Niagara Parks the general policy of the Commissioners has been determined by three distinct characteristics of the district committed to their special care. As the location of the Falls proper, the area has a scenic character known throughout the civilized world; as the meeting-place of the First Legislature of Upper Canada

and the theatre of some of the most stirring scenes and heroic fighting of the war of 1812, it has memories for Canadians that will never die; and, as the scene of one of the most wonderful hydro-electric developments in the world, it has special attraction for those interested in the mechanical arts.

The physical aspect has been concerned with such matters as landscaping, gardening and the location and design of necessary structures. While the original conception of the Government and the Commission was no more than the acquirement and preservation of lands immediately surrounding the Falls, that initial scheme broadened and widened to practically embrace the whole territory along the shore of the Niagara River. Because of this extensive topography, it was realized that a variety of decorative treatment was essential. Each park in the system, as well as the various sections of the boulevard, required distinctive designs in order to produce the best scenic effects, not only in each individual park but throughout the whole area. During the work of improvement in the vicinity of the Falls, only the desirable features of the existing landscape were preserved and, wherever possible, the utilitarian and the ornamental were combined. The unification of the existing features with those introduced to enhance the aesthetic qualities of the scheme, and the proportion in which other features should be employed, were carefully planned so that each would contribute to the harmony of the whole. At the Niagara Glen, on the other hand, every consideration has given way to that of preserving the wild and rugged qualities of the natural scenery, with the sole exception of providing in an inconspicuous manner facilities for making this spot accessible to the public. In the ornamentation of the Niagara River Boulevard, the sections were not considered individually, but as a whole, each being so proportionally and relatively adapted as to form units of a harmonious design and to create when fitted together, a normal state of completeness.

With respect to gardening, the early policy of the Commission was to secure, as far as was possible, specimens of all the desirable trees, shrubs and flowers which might reasonably be expected to thrive within the Park. Through the continuation of this policy there gradually developed a comprehensive botanical garden, the object of which has been the collection and preservation of flora indigenous to the country, together with the introduction of useful and ornamental exotic subjects, so that Horticultural and Botanical Science might benefit materially. Marked advances have lately been made through the extension of the flower beds in Queen Victoria Park, the building of the Oakes Garden Theatre, the planting of the talus to make the banks of the Niagara gorge more attractive, the beginning of an arboretum along the Niagara Glen and liberal planting of flowering trees along the full length of the Niagara River Boulevard, and indirectly by planting out extensive nurseries with seeds, cuttings and nursery tree and shrub stock to provide for future plantings.

In the location and design of necessary buildings and structures, the advice of eminent landscape architects has usually been sought. Whether for public convenience, the requirements of the power companies or for the purposes of Park adminis-

¹A reservation of government land, sixty-six feet in width, which extended along the top of the Niagara's bank and was originally intended for military purposes.

tration, the primary thought in planning all artificial constructions has been the achievement of complete harmony with the scenic surroundings. Generally speaking, they are unobtrusive but handsome structures, simple in treatment, with proportions that appeal to the eye yet balance and blend with the environment. The aim of the Commission has been to make buildings and structures noteworthy, not in themselves, but only in what they are able to add to the Park in the way of accessibility, safety and convenience.

The educational policy of the Niagara Parks Commissioners has been threefold. First, through the preservation of scenic beauty and the creation of aesthetic values, they have cultivated a public appreciation of the beautiful. Second, through the application of scientific gardening they have created opportunities for the study of Horticulture and Botany, notably in the establishment of a school for apprentice gardeners. And third, through the preservation of historic memories they have contributed in no small measure to the development of patriotism and the highest qualities of Canadian citizenship. The latter aspect is a somewhat unorthodox departure from the usual conception of park planning and requires an explanation. Throughout Ontario's Niagara Parks is perhaps concentrated more vital history than in any similar area of North America. Every mile or so along the Parkway from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario the traveller reaches the scene of some past event which has influenced the destiny of this country. To mark these sites, the Commissioners have encouraged, or themselves undertaken, the erection of monuments and commemorative tablets. Furthermore they have embarked recently upon a programme of historical restorations. The policy of rebuilding important structures such as Fort George, Navy Hall, Fort Erie and the William Lyon Mackenzie home, instead of merely preserving the unintelligible ruins has contributed to the teaching of Canadian history and the development of patriotism and high ideals.

On the purely financial side, the work of the Niagara Parks Commission ranks with any similar achievement in modern times. Apart from guaranteeing the various bond issues, the Provincial Legislature has not been called upon for assistance. Throughout the almost three score years of the Park's history, the various members of the Commission—almost without exception men of extensive affairs and pressing responsibilities in other directions—have given gratuitously time and attention, which otherwise might have been employed to their personal advantage, in order to plan and execute every financial measure necessary for the creation and preservation of the Niagara Parks. To start with nothing but goodwill in the form of the guarantee of debentures, to meet all interest charges, to pay off every bond issue as it became due and at the same time constantly improve and adequately maintain the expanding park system is an accomplishment in which the people of Ontario may well take pride.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Brief descriptions of some of the latest achievements of the Commission may be of interest.

Oakes Garden Theatre

A comparatively recent addition to the beauties of the Niagara Parks is the Oakes Garden Theatre, located a mere stone's throw to the north of Queen Victoria Park on the former site of the world-famous Clifton Hotel, which was swept by fire in December, 1932. This garden project, begun in 1935, was named in honour of the late Sir Harry Oakes who donated the land and it was decided to devise the landscaping so as to take advantage of the difference in levels on the side of the Clifton

Hill. The architectural design chosen by the Commissioners was that of a unique amphitheatre which in some respects suggests the theatres of the ancient Greeks, although with many radical departures as to detail. It is fan-shaped, with the stage so placed that the panorama of the Falls forms a natural backdrop, while at the rear there is a curved pergola connecting two open pavilions, one oriented on the axis of the Horseshoe Falls, the other on that of the American Falls. Sloping terraces, rock gardens, lily ponds, shrubbery and wide promenades adjoin the amphitheatre, the whole being surrounded by an ornamental stone wall. In conjunction with the unrivalled location, no place could be more lovely in architecture, landscaping and appeal. The formal opening of the Oakes Garden Theatre took place on September 18, 1937 and since then the fame of this garden development has spread far and wide until it is today one of the chief attractions of the Niagara Parks. Within its amphitheatre, choral programmes, band concerts and exhibitions of folk dancing have been presented from time to time under the auspices of the Commissioners, proving that in addition to being superbly beautiful the Oakes Garden Theatre can also be utilitarian.

Rainbow Gardens

When the present Rainbow Bridge was constructed to replace the former Falls View Bridge, destroyed by an ice-jam on January 27, 1938, the bridge authorities and the Niagara Parks Commission co-operated to make the Canadian terminal an outstanding example of beauty and utility. In 1941, the Commissioners undertook the landscaping of an area in the vicinity of the bridge to harmonize with the formal style of the neighbouring Oakes Garden Theatre, the latter being extended to form a direct connecting link with the bridge plaza. This new development, known as the "Rainbow Gardens" has followed the same levels as the Oakes Garden Theatre and shares the general theme of broad lawns studded with gardens of intricate design.

Adjacent to the Oakes Garden Theatre and constructed at the same time, is the impressive "Clifton Memorial Arch", which has been erected to the memory of the early pioneers of Canada. Symbolic historical figures in bold relief are carved upon its limestone faces, together with appropriate inscriptions and names of persons who lost their lives during the struggle for responsible government. The principal inscription is as follows:

"This Memorial was erected to Honour the Memory of the Men and Women in this land, throughout their generations who braved the wilderness, maintained the settlement, performed the common task without praise or glory and were the pioneers of political freedom and a system of responsible government which became the cornerstone of the British Commonwealth of Nations".

River Road Reconstruction

The River Road which follows the edge of the gorge within the municipality of Niagara Falls has been under the control of the Commission since 1888. When, in 1932, the International Railway Company abandoned its right of way upon this section of the Parkway, it became possible to transform a narrow and dangerous roadway into a widened modern highway. During 1935 and 1936, great improvements were made in this connecting link between Queen Victoria Park and the Parkway area north of the Whirlpool Rapids. The tracks and ties of the electric railroad were sold and taken up, a stone parapet wall paralleled by a sidewalk with a two-step curb was erected for the safety of both motorists and pedestrians and the entire roadway was widened and repaved. Alterations were also carried out in the vicinity of the Lower Arch Bridge, where unsightly buildings which disfigured the bridge approaches

were removed, while further to the north a new garden of early roses was set out near the Whirlpool Rapids. At a ceremony that took place on October 10, 1936, the vastly improved River Road, now a credit to the Park and the municipality was officially opened to the public.

New Restaurant at Queenston Heights Park

The original restaurant at Queenston Heights, constructed in 1900, had been poorly placed and after many years' service was considered both obsolete and out of keeping with its surroundings. The Commissioners, therefore, undertook the erection of a handsome modern restaurant of Queenston limestone, roofed in red tile, and more in harmony with the general style of architecture throughout the Park system. Work was commenced in November, 1939, and completed by June, 1940, the old structure being removed at the same time and the site graded and planted. The former building had been located without regard to possible vistas, but the new Queenston Heights Restaurant occupies a delightful spot on the brink of the escarpment where diners may enjoy a magnificent view extending to Lake Ontario.

The School for Apprentice Gardeners

The Apprentice Gardeners School of the Niagara Parks Commission, founded on July 26, 1936, is the only institution of its kind in North America. Courses in Horticulture are available at many colleges, but a boarding school with full-time employment in practical work, and theory only as a side-line, was a new idea in Canada or the United States. In establishing the School, the Commissioners had realized that most of the small and ever-dwindling supply of expert gardeners available in this country were elderly men who had come out originally from Great Britain and, since such emigration had practically ceased, there was an urgent need for the training of Canadian boys in this work.

Organized upon British lines, the Training School offers a comprehensive three-year course in an institution that has eighty acres of fertile soil for its principal class-room and the entire area of the Niagara Parks for the execution of project work. The curriculum includes botany, chemistry, soil and fertilization courses, surveying, landscape gardening, flower cultivation, vegetable gardening, tree surgery, fruit growing and management. When weather permits, the emphasis is upon practical work, but in winter open-air work is generally impossible and more time is devoted to lectures.

The young men live at the Training School in an attractive stone residence known as "The Bothy", of which the nucleus is an old Colonial farm-house to which additions have been made so as to provide accommodation for twenty-four students. The boys care for their own quarters and all the vegetables consumed at the School are grown on the property.

The seven years that have elapsed since the founding of the School have shown the project to be both practical and workable and its radically different methods of instruction have won favourable comments from educationalists everywhere. Graduates have fitted excellently into the permanent staff of the Niagara Parks Commission, while those who have entered into private enterprises have been uniformly successful. The site of what was once a rough farm with coarse undrained soil, not too high in nutritive qualities, contrasted with the level area now visible with its iris, rose and perennial gardens, the excellent vegetable garden, the nursery section and other developments which have been brought into being by the students themselves, never fails to win commendation from all who visit the School and its grounds.

Mather Park

Mather Park at Fort Erie is a new addition to the Niagara

Parks System and has been named in honour of the late Alonzo C. Mather, a wealthy inventor and manufacturer of Chicago, whose generous gift of land and money contributed greatly to park establishment at this location. Almost half a century ago, Mather had planned to finance the cost of a bridge between Buffalo and Fort Erie on a site close to the location of the present Peace Bridge. Although successful in acquiring considerable acreage on the Canadian side for a terminus, he failed to secure the complementary terminus on the American shore.

Several years before his death, this visionary, who was also a philanthropist, gave to the Niagara Parks Commission seventy-five acres of land, fronting on the Niagara River immediately south of the Canadian approach to the Peace Bridge, together with the sum of \$35,000 towards the development of a park and the erection of a memorial gateway on the site. The project was undertaken without delay and an outstanding event of 1940 was the official opening of Mather Park on August 31st, when a service of dedication was carried out within the completed Memorial Gateway, which is an impressive arch in modern monumental design, located at the important junction of the Peace Bridge outlet from Buffalo, the Niagara River Boulevard, the Garrison Road and the provincial highway leading to points in Western Ontario.

In January of the following year, the death of Alonzo C. Mather occurred at the extreme age of ninety-two. That his affection for Canada and especially for the Niagara district was unusually deep was still further revealed in his will, by which he left the sum of \$250,000 jointly to the Peace Bridge authorities and to the Niagara Parks Commission, to be spent for the erection of suitable memorials to the memory of Canadians and Americans who have contributed to the building up of friendly relations between their two countries and in maintaining and beautifying Mather Park. By an agreement arrived at during the probate of the will, the general terms of the bequest have been translated into a number of specific projects such as a modern lighting system at the Peace Bridge, the erection of memorial plaques on the bridge, and the landscaping and improving of the Mather Park lands, together with the construction of a memorial building at the Canadian entrance of the bridge.

Although Mather Park is still in a state of development, a great deal has already been accomplished. By means of a recently completed seawall, lands have been reclaimed from the Lake and the Park now extends from the Peace Bridge to the grounds of the Old Fort—a distance of half a mile. With its beautiful arch; attractive gardens, bold sweep of traffic circles and promise of arboricultural developments, Mather Park is destined to be a place of rare beauty and a fitting entrance to the Niagara Parks.

Projects for the restoration of historic sites have occupied an important place in the work of the Niagara Parks Commission for almost a decade.

Old Fort Erie Restoration

On the brow of a slight promontory overlooking the point where the Niagara River discharges from Lake Erie, is the Old Fort from which the town of Fort Erie, Ontario, derives its name. The present Fort Erie, the third fort to occupy the site, was erected just prior to and during the troubled days of 1812 to 1814 when the United States and Canada were at war. Captured by the Americans, in turn besieged by the British, the Old Fort was the scene of one of the most desperate struggles along the Niagara Frontier. Construction of the fort was authorized on January 9, 1804, and the intention was that it should consist of four bastions connected with curtains in the form of a simple square with all works and buildings constructed of

solid masonry. The work was proceeded with intermittently, and when war broke out in 1812 the fort was not nearly completed. On July 3, 1814, Fort Erie was attacked by 4,500 Americans under General Brown. In the British garrison were only 170 men and after a few shots Major Buck, the British commander, surrendered.

The Americans strengthened the fort and under the direction of their engineers prepared an extensive enclosed camp. On August 14, 1814, the British under Lieutenant-Colonel Drummond made a valiant but futile assault on the fort. In November the Americans recrossed the river and abandoned the fort. Before leaving, however, the buildings were extensively mined and the fort was almost completely blown up. In 1825 a commission sent out by Lord Wellington reported "the remains of an old fort, and a range of barracks perfectly in ruins and abandoned."

The work of restoration was begun in the spring of 1937 under a joint scheme sponsored by the Ontario and Dominion governments, and was completed July 1, 1939, when the fort was officially opened. The objective was the reconstruction of the third Fort Erie exactly as it stood in its most famous hour—on the night of the British assault August 14, 1814. Although it has not been possible to reconstruct either the American or British entrenchments, outside the fort, the restoration of the fort proper has been founded upon careful research and painstaking workmanship. Some of the barrack rooms are now refurnished as they were when occupied by soldiers of more than a century ago; others display separate and specialized collections including some three thousand buttons, regimental badges, and buckles, and even the leather of shoes that the soldiers wore—all excavated from the ruins during the restoration. Among grim mementoes of the siege are bayonets bent in fantastic shapes by the explosion of the northeast bastion. In addition, there has been assembled martial equipment of the period and a superb collection of military prints.

William Lyon Mackenzie Home Restoration

At Queenston, the Commissioners have rebuilt from its ruins the building once occupied by the celebrated William Lyon Mackenzie. Formerly a successful merchant at Dundas, he came here to live in the autumn of 1824 and opened a general store. Although he stayed at Queenston only a year, it was there that he decided to abandon commerce for politics and as a journalist took the first step in his subsequently eventful career. It may almost be said that the great struggle against the Family Compact and the agitation for political reform began at Queenston when Mackenzie published the first number of the *Colonial Advocate* on May 18, 1824.

On June 18, 1938, the present Prime Minister of Canada formally opened the reconstructed building, reproduction of the handsome limestone structure in which his grandfather, William Lyon Mackenzie had once resided. The distinguished visitor read a letter written by Mackenzie wherein the latter referred to the planting of locust trees in front of his home, following which the Prime Minister noted that the trees were today mature and sheltered the replica of that home. In connection with the restoration, the Commissioners were fortunate in securing an historic piece of printing machinery—no less than the original handpress which was once contained in the building. There is ample evidence to support the authenticity of this relic which now occupies a prominent place in the reconstructed Mackenzie house at Queenston.

Restoration of Fort George at Niagara-on-the-Lake

The original fort was constructed by Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe between 1796 and 1799 to replace Fort Niagara which was transferred to the United States after the American Revolu-

tion. It occupied a height close to the river's bank nearly a mile above the town of Niagara and was the principal British post on the Niagara Frontier until 1813. Fort George fell to the Americans after a brave resistance on May 27, 1813, but, before withdrawing, the British garrison set fire to its buildings and blew up its earthworks.

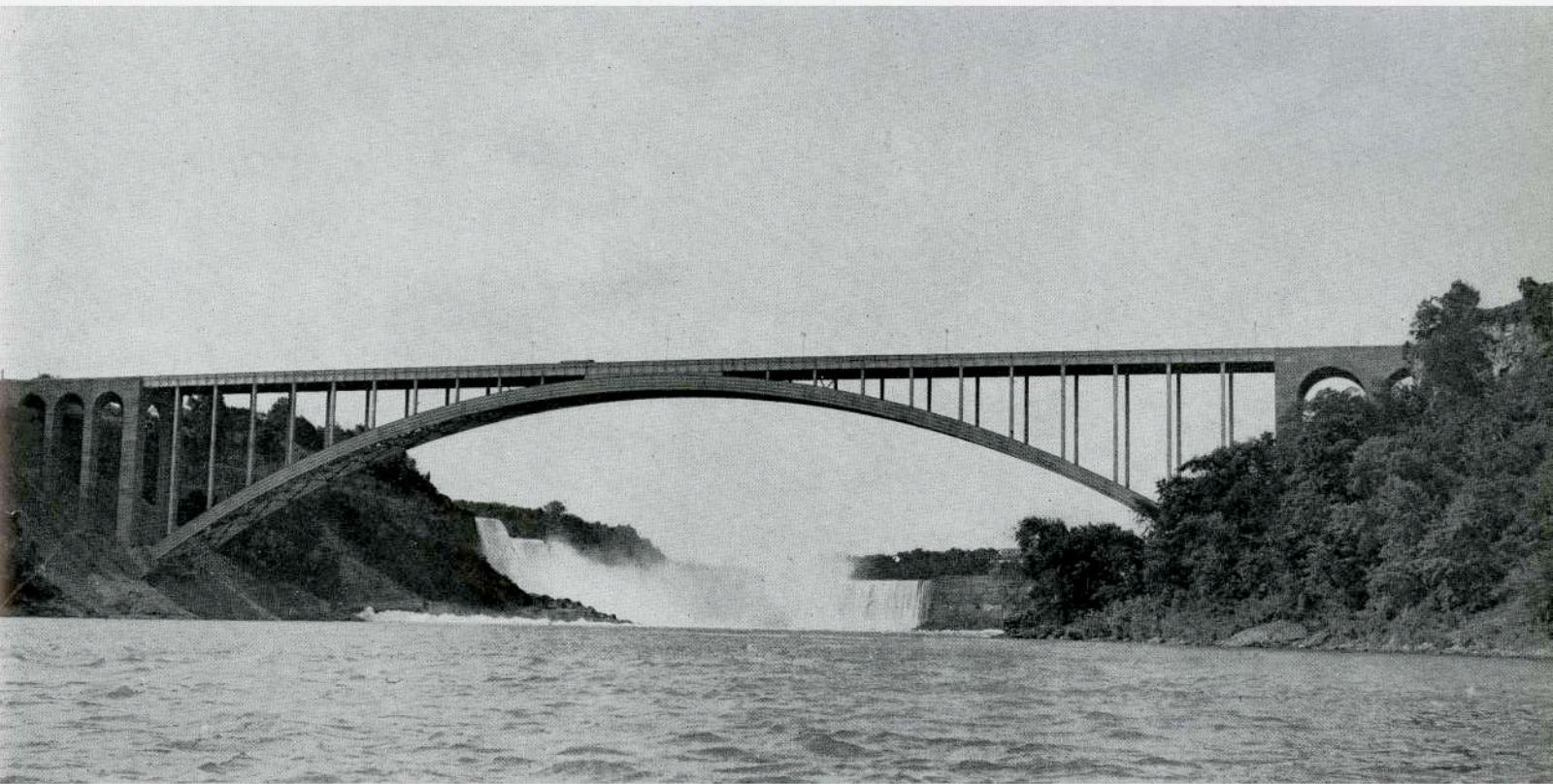
Between 1799 and 1813 there were no important alterations in the structure of the fort. An official military report of the spring of 1812 described Fort George as an irregular field work, consisting of six small bastions faced with framed timber and plank and connected with a loopholed stockade twelve feet high, outside which there was a shallow dry ditch. The solid earth bastions were floored with plank to form platforms for cannon and the parapets pierced with numerous gun embrasures. Within the fort were five defensible barrack buildings or blockhouses, separate officers' quarters, a guardhouse, storehouses, a kitchen, and a powder magazine. There was also a small octagonal blockhouse in the redan on the south-east front. All of the blockhouses were constructed of squared logs, were two stories in height and had splinter-proof roofs. The powder magazine, built of solid masonry with bomb-proof arches, was enclosed by a thick high embankment of earth to protect it from gun-fire.

On the margin of the river and immediately in advance of Fort George were four clapboarded buildings known collectively as "Navy Hall", which had been constructed during the American Revolution to serve as winter quarters for the officers and seamen of the Provincial Marine on Lake Ontario. Nearby was a good-sized wharf, and at this period, these buildings were utilized for military stores. The largest, frequently referred to as the "Red Barracks", is in existence today and has been preserved by the Niagara Parks Commission.

Perhaps the most important decision connected with the restoration of Fort George was choice of the period in its history to be represented by its construction. The first fort had opposed the Americans in the War of 1812. There General Brock, the hero of Upper Canada, had his headquarters and there he was buried after the Battle of Queenston Heights in 1812. The second Fort George, constructed by the Americans and afterwards garrisoned by the British for only a short time, was never attacked and had few historical associations for Canadians. For these reasons, it was decided that Fort George might best be restored to its original state as built by the orders of Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe in 1796.

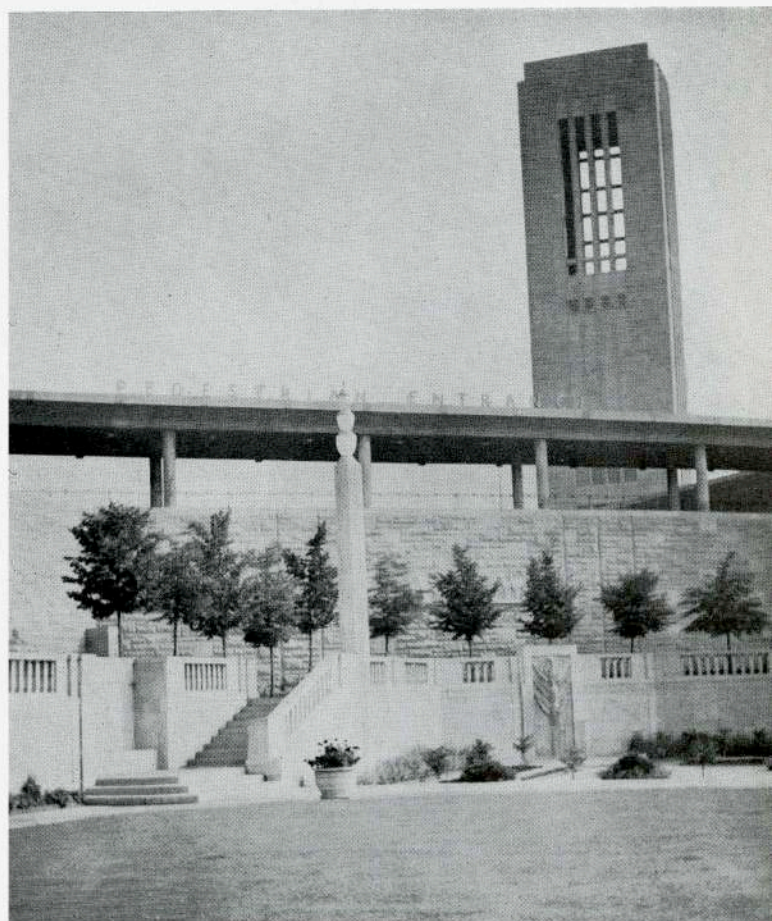
The work of restoration was commenced by the Niagara Parks Commission in the spring of 1937 and was completed during the summer of 1940. The bastions, stockades, and other defences have all been carefully rebuilt according to the original plans of the Royal Engineers. Eleven of the fourteen initial buildings have also been restored. The officers' quarters, some of the soldiers' barrack rooms, the guard room, the kitchen and the artificers' shop are refurnished as they were when occupied by British troops from 1797 to 1813.

The Niagara Parks Commissioners have recently defined their work as preservation, restoration, commemoration, beautification and attraction, a programme to which, since the inception of the Park, they have assiduously applied themselves to the limit of their finances. While a great deal has been accomplished within these classifications and Ontario's Niagara Parks constitute an unrivalled achievement it must not be supposed that the work is now complete. Throughout the Commission's history, many plans and projects, the need of which was always apparent, have had to be postponed time after time because the financial situation would not permit of more active growth. In every field of endeavour, much remains to be done before the work will even approach completion, and beyond that the task of preservation and maintenance must always continue.



THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE TO
BRIDGE FROM GARDEN
WALL FOUNTAIN, CANADA GEESSE
BY ELIZABETH WYNN WOOD, A.R.C.A.
W. L. SOMERVILLE, ARCHITECT
DUNINGTON-GRUBB & STENSSON,
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS





CARILLON TOWER FROM GARDEN
 BELLS WILL BE VISIBLE WHEN INSTALLED
 W. L. SOMERVILLE, ARCHITECT
 DUNINGTON-GRUBB & STENSSON,
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



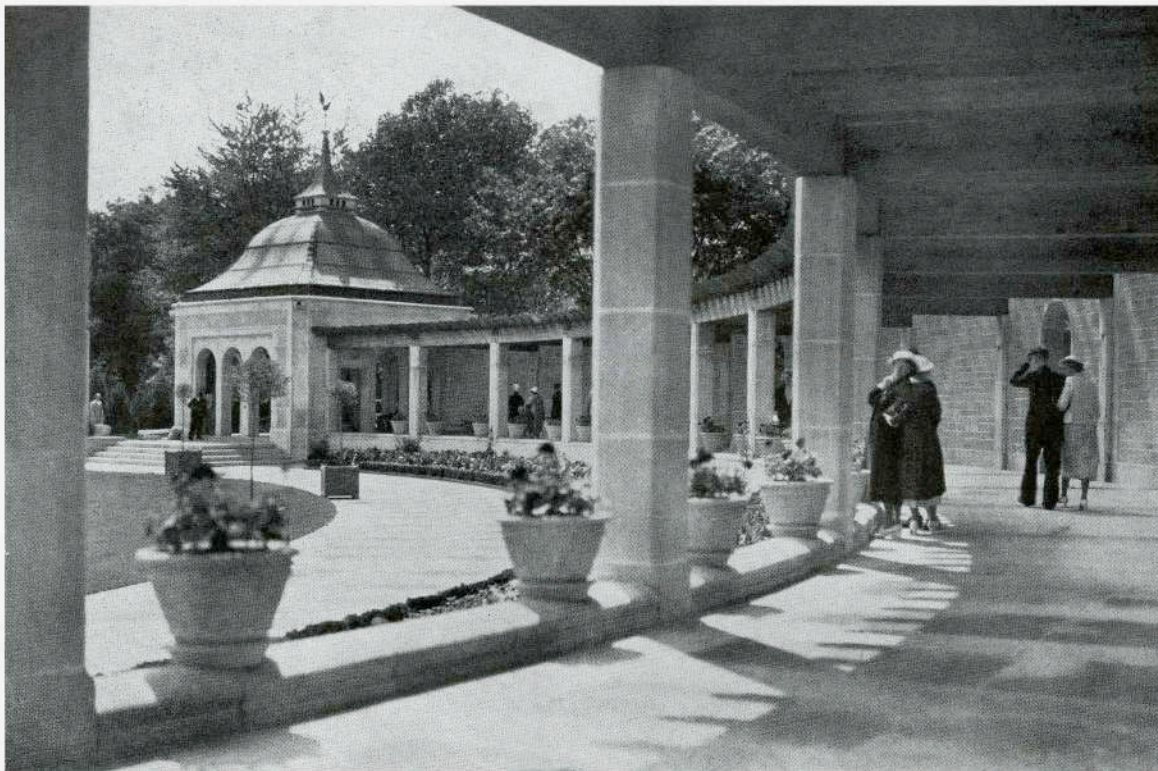
APPROACH TO BUS TERMINAL
 WAITING ROOM FROM RIVER ROAD
 DRINKING FOUNTAIN IN FOREGROUND
 BY ELIZABETH WYNN WOOD, A.R.C.A.
 W. L. SOMERVILLE, ARCHITECT
 DUNINGTON-GRUBB & STENSSON,
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



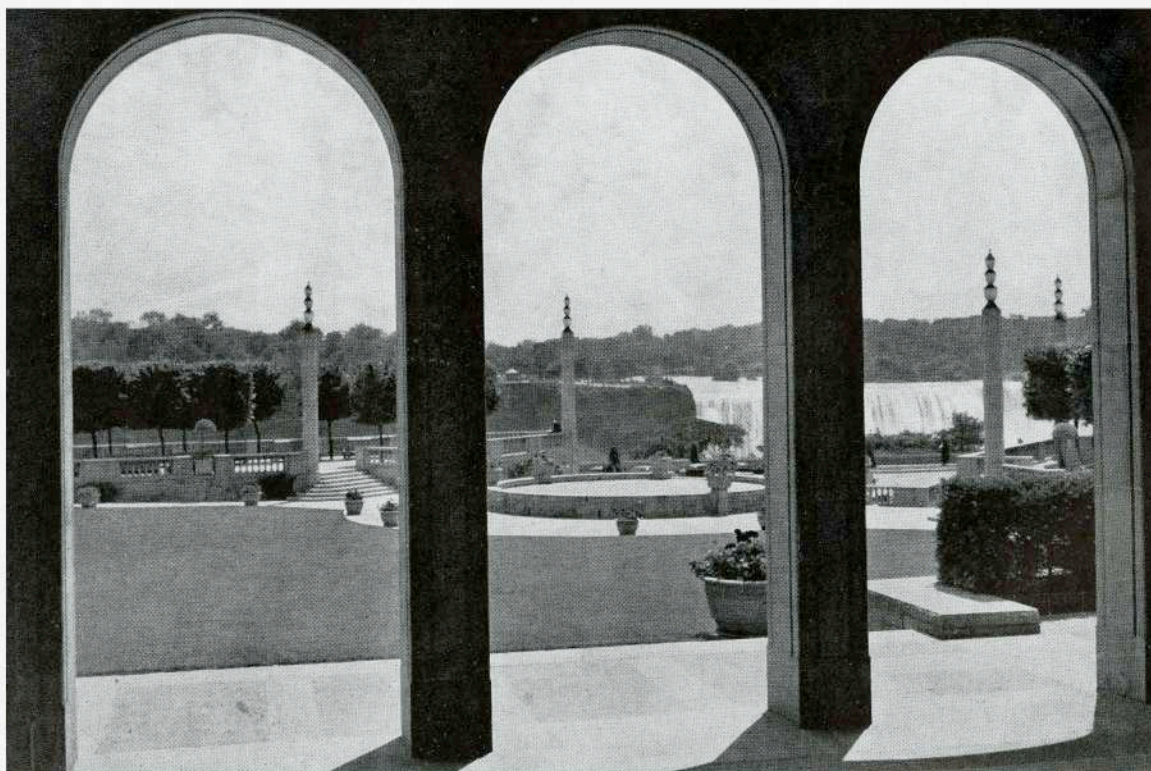
OAKES GARDEN THEATRE
DUNINGTON-GRUBB & STENSSON, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



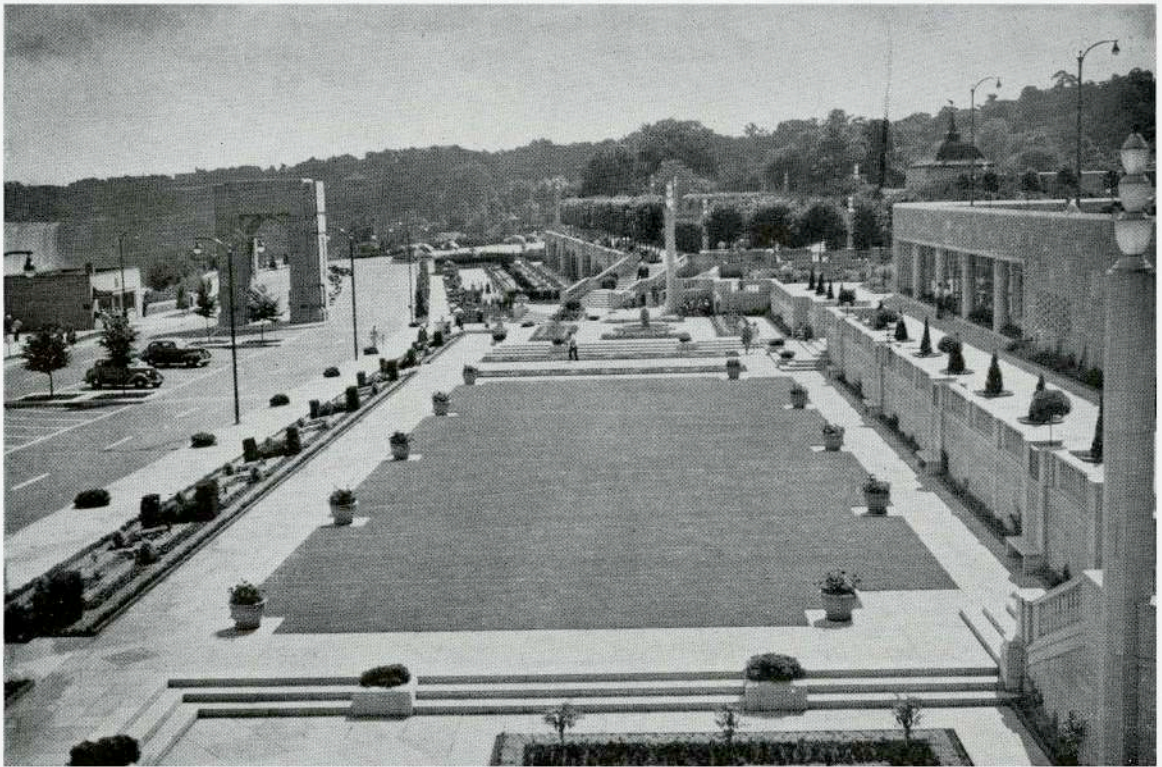
UPPER TERRACE, OAKES GARDEN THEATRE



PERGOLA, OAKES GARDEN THEATRE



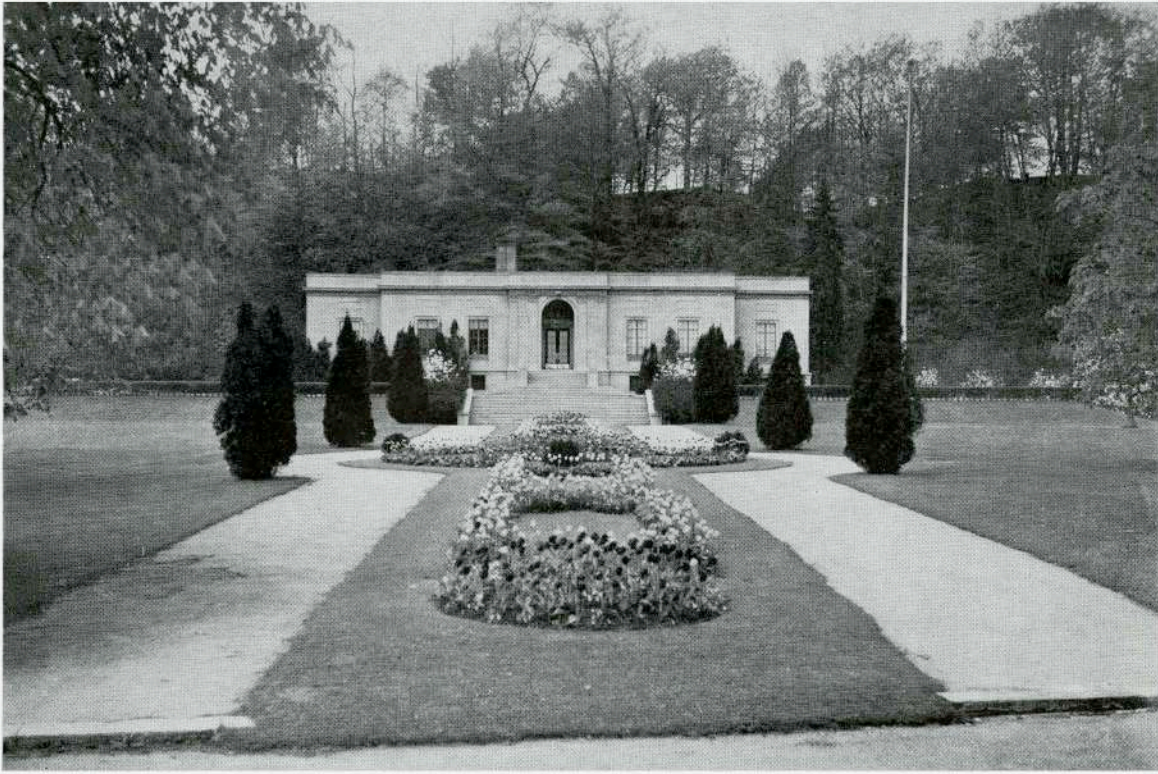
VIEW OF GARDEN FROM PERGOLA PAVILION
DUNINGTON-GRUBB & STENSSON, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



A PORTION OF THE RAINBOW GARDENS WITH CLIFTON MEMORIAL ARCH
ON THE LEFT
DUNINGTON-GRUBB & STENSSON, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



PORTION OF OAKES GARDEN ON RIVER ROAD
DUNINGTON-GRUBB & STENSSON, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



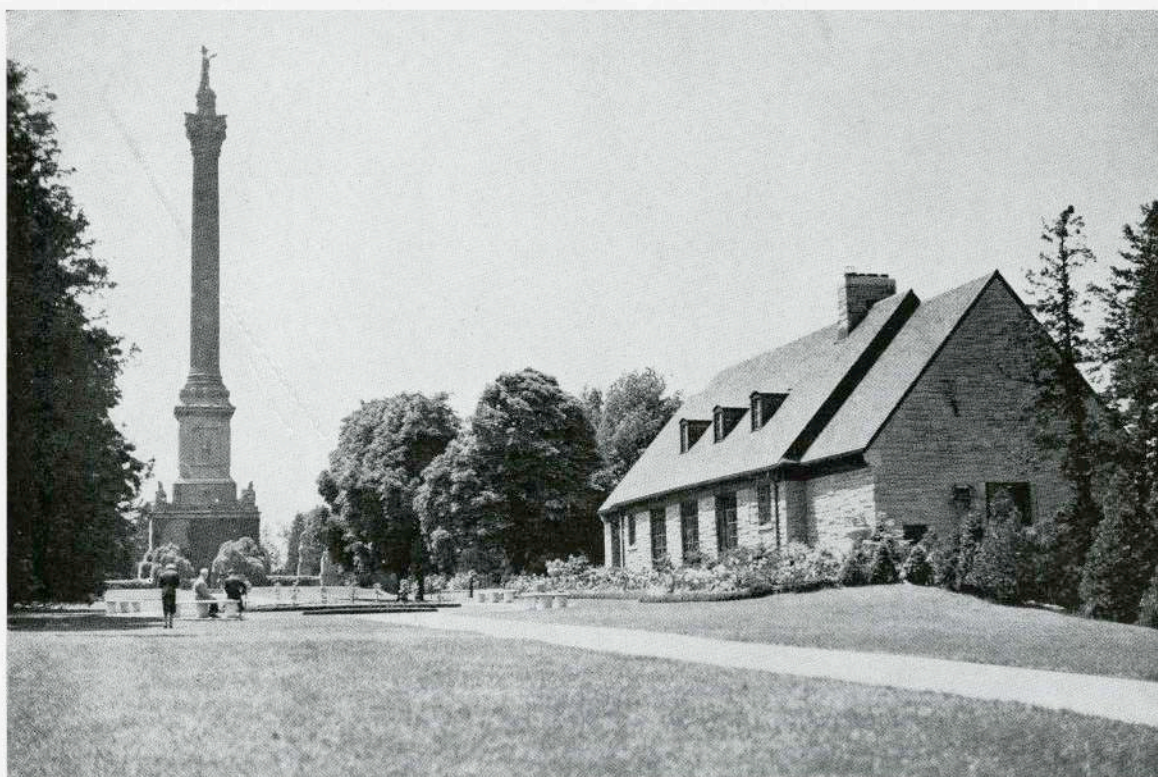
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, QUEEN VICTORIA PARK
FINDLAY AND MANN, ARCHITECTS



RESTORED RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE, QUEENSTON
A. E. NICHOLSON, ARCHITECT



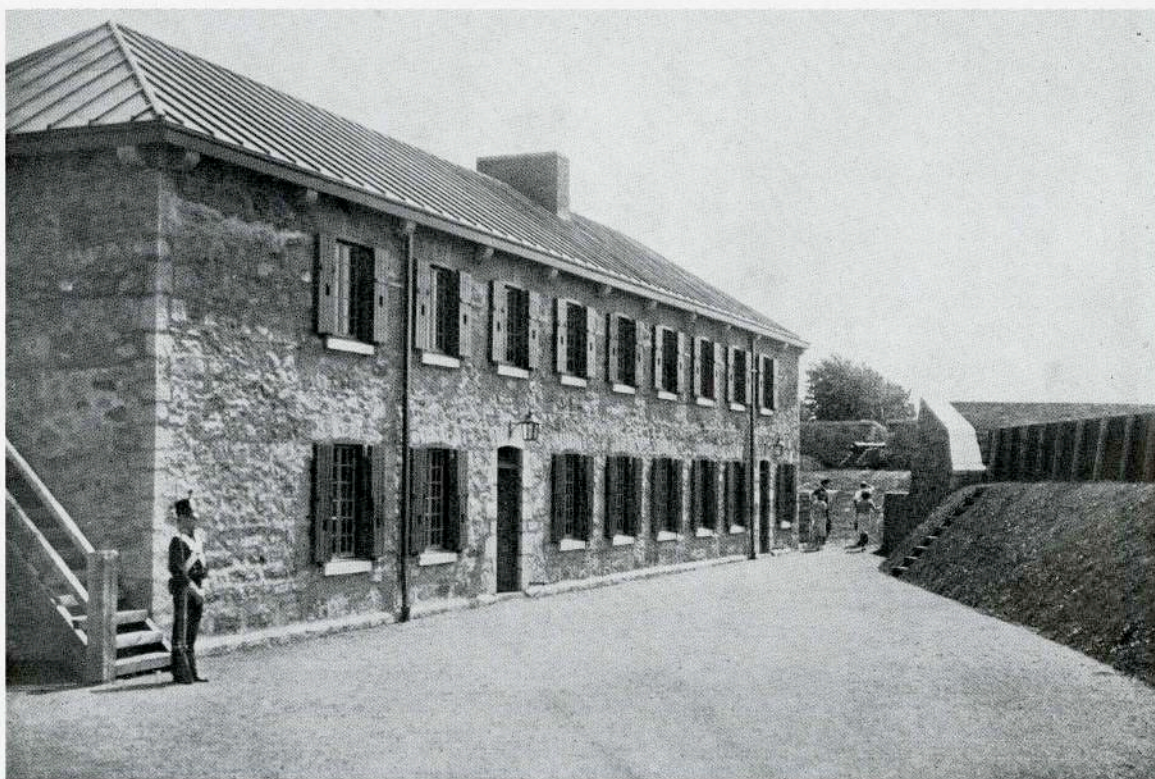
A VIEW OF THE LOWER NIAGARA RIVER TAKEN FROM
THE BALCONY OF QUEENSTON HEIGHTS RESTAURANT



NEW RESTAURANT AT QUEENSTON HEIGHTS WITH BROCK'S MONUMENT IN BACKGROUND
R. E. McDONNELL, ARCHITECT



MATHER PARK GATE, MATHER PARK, FORT ERIE
HUMPHREY CARVER AND CARL BORGSTROM, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



RESTORATION, OLD FORT ERIE
W. L. SOMERVILLE, ARCHITECT

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, held in the offices of the Institute on Friday, September 24th, 1943.

In connection with the Gallup Poll on Housing, the President reported that he had arranged an appointment with Mr. Saunders, Editorial Director of the Gallup Poll in Canada, who had agreed to finance and make all necessary arrangements for the taking of such a poll in Canada, on the condition that the R.A.I.C. would provide the questions.

Messrs. Larose, Smith, Lawson, Hazelgrove and Page, were appointed as a group to draw up popular leading questions to be submitted to Mr. Saunders for polling.

A conference on Post-War Planning was held in connection with the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, on June 8th and 9th, and was attended by Mr. W. L. Somerville as R.A.I.C. representative. According to Mr. Somerville's report, discussion was given to post-war as compared with pre-war conditions, and the Industrial situation in the post-war period.

A brief presented to the National War Labour Board, on May 26th, 1943, "unanimously and unalterably opposed the forcible inclusion of professional men in any compulsory collective bargaining legislation" and requested that the Board consider favourably their representations when recommending or preparing labour legislation. Mr. A. J. Hazelgrove attended a meeting held prior to this presentation as R.A.I.C. representative. Other organizations included the Canadian Institute of Chemistry, the Engineering Institute of Canada, the Dominion Council of Professional Engineers, and the Corporation of Professional Engineers.

In accordance with Minute No. 346, Mr. Lawson reviewed Dr. Firestone's confidential report "The Construction Industry in Relation to Post-War Economic Policy" and reported that it contained matter of much interest to the architectural profession. The Housing Administration of the Dominion Government has issued a booklet entitled "The Labour Value of the Building Dollar" which covers most of the report in briefer form.

The Chairman of the Editorial Board of the *Journal* reported that the Board had in prospect a somewhat unique advertising project, which envisioned persuading national advertisers to take space in some national magazines with a series of advertisements advocating "Commissions for Architects NOW". For such space as they might use the *Journal* would offer to them corresponding space gratis in the *Journal*, where they could tell their own story direct to the architects.

The Chairman of the Toronto Reconstruction Committee submitted a letter he had sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, suggesting that the government institute a scheme allowing private enterprise to immediately undertake the preparation of plans and specifications for post-war works, charging the cost of such works to current expenses, providing a means whereby private enterprise could bridge the post-war gap by making plans for work immediately available upon the cessation of hostilities. The R.A.I.C. has also been trying to promote this idea, although through different channels, therefore it was moved and carried that the President support this idea on behalf of the Institute in a letter to the Prime Minister.

The Chairman of the Professional Practice Committee submitted the following suggestions to the Council for their approval.

1. That the Committee endeavour to prepare a resumé of the courses in Professional Practice as taught in the four accredited schools in Canada for publication in the *Journal*.
2. That a comparative outline of the Architects' Act in each of the provinces be prepared for publication.

The Executive recommended that the committee be requested to carry out the suggestion advanced by their Chairman. In connection with proposal No. 2, it was suggested that students in the various architectural schools might carry out such a comparison as a basis for a competition for a prize to be awarded by the Institute for the best presentation on the subject. The students would thus become familiar with the various provincial Acts, their advantages, and their short-comings. This suggestion was passed on to the committee for their consideration and discussion with the school authorities.

The Chairman of the Committee for Scholarships and Prizes reported that medals had been presented by the R.A.I.C. to the four outstanding graduates of the Schools of Architecture, namely; James A. Murray, University of Toronto; Pierre Boulva, Ecole des Beaux Arts; Ronald Whitely, University of Manitoba; and James Lambert, McGill University.

The President reported that on July 22nd, a meeting of the National Construction Council had been held jointly with the Heavy Industries Federation with the object of arriving at a joint approach to Post-War Planning. The President attended as R.A.I.C. representative. At the meeting a Draft of Organization was presented, covering four phases of the programme which was later sent to all the members of the Council of the R.A.I.C. and to the Secretaries of the Provincial Associations for their comments.

Professor John Bland, who had been invited to attend this meeting of the Executive Committee, reported that an extension course would commence at McGill University on November 2nd, on Housing and Community Planning with special reference to Post-War opportunities. The President suggested that the speaker's manuscripts be obtained and the highlights be summarized for publication, that the C.B.C. were interested in sponsoring a series of programmes in connection with Town and Community Planning.

A Town Planning questionnaire was sent by the President to the Secretaries of the Provincial Associations for the purpose of increasing interest and activity along these lines. It was suggested that Professor Arthur be asked to carry on the work and that a chart be drawn up showing the progress being made in Canadian centres with a population of 7,000 and over.

A memorandum was drawn up by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce on Planning for Post-War Reconstruction for the purpose of determining a policy to meet post-war reconstruction problems. A questionnaire was included as to what action should be taken by Dominion, Provincial and Municipal Governments, and by business or other interests. This document was dispatched by the President on September 8th, to the members of the Council and to the Secretaries of the Provincial Associations for the benefit of their comments.

It was reported that a pamphlet "Planning the Canada of Tomorrow" prepared by the President, had been circulated to various interested persons and associations with very favourable results, and that several requests had been received from various organizations for additional copies.

The President reported that an Interim Report on the "Training of Architects in Town Planning" had been sent to him by the R.I.B.A. containing much informative data on the subject, and copies of the report were sent to the members of the Council and to the Secretaries of the Provincial Associations. It was to be hoped that the members would appreciate the necessity of taking immediate steps to establish in the minds of the public, the claim of the profession upon the practice of Town Planning in its broadest sense and that this report would give them an opportunity to acquire the latest and best information on the practice of this branch of the art and also stimulate discussion and encourage the planning of a programme.

A Housing Conversion Plan was presented to the Executive by the President, which stated in condition No. 9 that plans for alterations were to be prepared by local architects of the architectural division of the National Housing Administration, and that private architects, when rendering block plans with no elevation, would receive 2% of the costs of conversion. It was agreed by the Executive that the policy of the Institute would be to submit plans at the rate of 2%, but that specifications, supervision and details should not be rendered for less than 7%.

Members were in agreement that the remuneration paid to architects and engineers in the Armed Services was lower than that paid to members of the other professions, and that efforts should be made to remedy this in co-operation with the Engineering Institute.

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, held in the offices of the Institute on Friday, October 29th, 1943.

The Chairman of the Editorial Board reported that efforts of the Board to induce national advertisers to undertake a campaign designed to encourage the commissioning of architects NOW had resulted in a series of advertisements by Lowe Bros. in national magazines and that Mr. Legate of the MacLaren Advertising Agency had been enthusiastic about the prospects of convincing other national advertisers to undertake similar series of advertisements. A suggestion to decrease the physical size of the *Journal* was not favoured unless a paper shortage should dictate it.

The Chairman of the Housing Committee reported that the proposed "Enabling Act" for the Province of Quebec had been completed and was ready for presentation to the Provincial Government. It was recommended that this Act be published in the *Journal* upon its release by the P.Q.A.A., in order that it might be brought to the attention of the members of the profession in other provinces.

It was agreed that Canada's Post-War Reconstruction Policy should be enunciated by the Government at the earliest possible date and that the Institute and other organizations which could be encouraged to support it, should continue their efforts toward the establishment of a Central Planning Authority.

It was reported that at Toronto University, arrangements had practically been completed for an extension course on Town Planning and Housing and it was expected that the course would commence in December.

The programme for the Annual Meeting was finally revised and approved, and further details left to the decision of the Committee on Arrangements.

The President reported that he had received a letter from Sir Ian MacAlister, Secretary of the R.I.B.A., stating that his thirty years of service as Secretary of that Institute terminated in February, 1944. Sir Ian expressed his pleasure in working with the affiliated societies throughout the world, and especially with the R.A.I.C. In this connection the President will write to Sir Ian MacAlister, expressing the feelings of appreciation of the Institute for his devoted service and also to Mr. Sylvester Sullivan regarding the contribution of a testimonial to Sir Ian from the R.A.I.C.

OBITUARY

LT.-COL. SANFORD FLEMING SMITH, D.S.O.
1873 - 1943

Lt.-Col. Smith died at his home "Tree Tops", Riverside Drive, Toronto, on Sunday, October the 17th, after an illness of about a year. Colonel Smith practised architecture in Toronto since 1898. First, in the firm Bond & Smith, and later by himself.

At the time of the first Great War Colonel Smith was instrumental in recruiting the fourth Canadian Mounted Rifles which as Colonel he took to France in 1915. Later he was transferred to the Canadian Light Horse which he commanded until the Armistice.

On returning home after the war he commanded the Governor-General's Body Guard and later the first Mounted Brigade from which he retired in 1934.

Colonel Smith was a member of the Toronto Hunt Club, was a Rotarian and a member of Ashlar Lodge A.F. and A.M. He is survived by his widow, Breyman Mallock Smith and one daughter, Mrs. Beatty, wife of Captain William L. Beatty.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Annual Meeting this year has, for reasons which will be explained in the next issue of the *Journal*, been advanced one month, and will take place on Friday and Saturday, the 28th and 29th of January, 1944.

THE PROVINCIAL PAGE

ALBERTA

In the early days of ancient Egypt the prime minister was also chief architect because the main preoccupation of the Pharaohs was with the colossal public monuments of the country. This was an admirable arrangement which suited the times and circumstances and, probably, the architects. It produced those pyramids and temples which well expressed a civilization that rose like a firm rock amidst the weltering ocean of surrounding barbarism.

To-day, things are not so simple. We are surrounded with a weltering ocean of interests, in apparent conflict, and our chief preoccupation must be with straightening out and producing some order in this chaos of interests.

The foregoing portentous remarks are intended to introduce and to foreshadow a consideration of the situation of the town planner of the coming day whose chief duty must be the co-ordination of the many interests involved in the word "city", in order to make of the city something worth living in and worth living for.

What must be the duties of the town planner? Surely first, to know his city, (his city, for no outsider can do this job) its reason for being there at all, its business, manufactures, trade, exports and imports and how these operate—its whole existence problem. He must know it in its extent, its geography and its geology. He must have a sympathetic acquaintance with its people, their joys and sorrows, their struggles, habits of work and recreation, their ambitions and aspirations. He must be well read in the Book of Statistics, vital statistics, health statistics, trade statistics, building statistics. He must be able to make the dry bones of statistics take living form and to provide an environment suited to that living form. He must continually perambulate his city observing what is wrong with a view to putting it right, and what is good with a view to make it better, every day and in every way better. He must have a keen eye for opportunities for these things and for the latent possibilities for beauty. He must have and exercise the imagination and the power to visualize them and to realize them. He cannot do all these things of his own mere personal motion, like fabled kings of old. But—blessed resource—he can co-operate.

In face of his large and splendid task he may, with some comfort, pause a moment to count the things he need not be, or know, or interfere with. He need not be an architect. He will find many only too anxious to help him here. He need not be civil engineer, property assessor, lawyer, land surveyor, fire chief, traffic manager, medical officer, relief officer, policeman, alderman, mayor. There are other and special applicants for all these jobs, let them have them and welcome. He can surround himself with these as with a mined and barb-wired defence, protected front, flanks and rear. He can accomplish this—with heaven's good help—by becoming himself a city official. In this situation he must act in loyal co-operation with all civic departments, his own "not least but honoured of them all". As he specially has this co-operative duty he becomes the chief co-ordinator of all civic work, to turn it in the direction of the city of his dreams.

This is no mean station, the town planner becomes the major duomo of the city, the right-hand man of ephemeral mayors as they pass in succession. He is chairman of the council of guiding experts. He must not, however, tarry too long in the chair, but more often be found on his office stool. With information gathered from the sources and offices around him, he must make his maps, plans, charts and diagrams, those mystic

symbols that throb with life to the mind of the initiated, enabling him to grasp whole complex situations at one glance, and he must keep these alive from day to day and from year to year. Drawing upon these sources he proceeds to create the city of the future, desired of men, in large outline for others of varied technical accomplishments to fill in under the guidance of his own broad-based, far-garnered wisdom. What purer pleasure can any Christian soul desire?

Here, however, I must pinch myself. I have been dreaming. The town planner is a purely mythical creature, not even an antediluvian. The species has not yet come into existence. We have no town planners. We are going to need them and must create them.

Cecil S. Burgess.

MANITOBA

As the Christmas Season is approaching, the fifth under warring conditions, the absence of many of our members on Active Service is more closely brought to our memory, to them we express our sincere regards and kindly Christmas Greetings, hoping for their early return to more pleasant duties in their homeland. To all our other Provincial Associations, kindly greetings with happy and prosperous times ahead for everyone.

The future of Architecture following the termination of the war cannot well be pre-determined, it may not continue in the form as during many former decades. Little has been accomplished in the past with respect to construction of rented homes principally for industrial workers, such a form of construction will entail annual mass construction, with complete liquidation from thirty-three to thirty-five years. The financing does not create any difficulty, the real problem is the removal of derelict properties in large areas to conform with the new town planning. This is a project, if carefully planned and studied, will provide opportunities to all connected with the building trades and other trades indirectly connected as railways, lumbering, mines, etc.

Our Association welcomes the return to its Council Meetings of Mr. William Fingland, who for a lengthy period was a hospital patient.

We heartily express our congratulations to the Professors of the Manitoba School of Architecture, Professors M. S. Osborne and J. A. Russell and to the students for a splendid exhibition illustrating "New Horizons in Architecture" displayed at the Art School in the Civic Auditorium, Winnipeg.

The Council discussed a proposition with reference to the establishment of Reciprocal Registration, between the Architects' Registration Council of Great Britain and our own Association, in all probability leading to reciprocal registration throughout the Empire, our Council is favourably disposed towards the project.

Regrets are expressed to Mr. Fred Watts by reason of his resignation from our Association, however Manitoba's loss will be Ontario's gain.

Copies of "Homes or Hovels" were mailed to all our members, also to members of the Manitoba Legislature, Winnipeg City Council and others interested in housing with the compliments of the Manitoba Association of Architects.

E. Parkinson.

ONTARIO

Since the May issue of the *Journal* the readers of the Ontario part of the Provincial page have had a pleasant trip away from Toronto.

News and views came in from Hamilton, London, Ottawa and Belleville and very interesting, sparkling and different they were.

We are back in Toronto again this month and with the state of our Union Station these week-ends it is just as well the trip wasn't by rail. When one stands far enough away on Front Street to avoid too much pushing around, and surveys what might be viewed as potential after-the-war clients, the outlook for us all seems bright indeed. But will they all disappear when we have materials and workmen but don't have to have licences?

It would seem that architects and other groups are working toward a better post-war world and if we all work hard enough and long enough who knows what might happen! After all, Ottawa did give up the idea of adding a new wing to the 1914 temporary Christie Street hospital. There is an example of what strongly organized action by vigorous bodies of public-spirited citizens can accomplish.

The Toronto Chapter has been busy during the past months with its own little problems as well as acting on, or for, various public committees. A representative was appointed to the Special Committee on Toronto's Post-War Programme. There are about twenty-four other organizations represented but still, we have our place. The Chapter is co-operating with the Builders' Exchange and Construction Association of Toronto in their post-war plans and has sent on to the O.A.A. Council the findings of the Chapter Round-Table Discussions of last Winter, which report appeared in the October issue of the *Journal*.

The Chapter Executive held two special meetings with experts in structural design and sent on a recommendation to the E.I.C. to fully consider having the higher unit stresses, which are in use now as an emergency measure, adopted in the Building By-Laws for after the war. A Luncheon meeting was held at the University Club in October and the members aren't quite as vague about Electronics after the lecture given by a C.G.E. engineer at the meeting.

The news item of the month is, of course, the new military hospital and in this, the Toronto Chapter was active with its advice and recommendations to the committees that reported to Ottawa. We even had two members invited to the ceremony when the Minister of Pensions and National Health turned the first sod. Its something of great interest to all architects when a building like that isn't done by the Department of Public Works and we shout our congratulations to Messrs. Allward & Gouinlock, the Toronto firm that is going to design it.

Harland Steele.

SASKATCHEWAN

The annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Association of Architects was held in Regina on November 15th. Officers elected for 1943-44 were: President, W. G. VanEgmond, Regina; 1st Vice-President, F. H. Portnall, Regina; 2nd Vice-President, John C. Webster, Saskatoon; Secretary-Treasurer, E. J. Gilbert, Saskatoon.

Other members of Council are: Stan. E. Storey, Past President; Prof. R. A. Spencer, representing the University of Saskatchewan, and David Webster.

The Association discussed the advisability of a standard building code for Saskatchewan. Enquiries showed that many building bylaws in use by Saskatchewan cities are obsolete

and the majority of Building Inspectors would welcome a standard Saskatchewan Code along the lines of the National Building Code. The meeting resolved to bring the matter to the attention of the Saskatchewan Government for consideration.

Post-war reconstruction was discussed at length. The Government of Saskatchewan has appointed the Saskatchewan Reconstruction Council to study the problem and to receive representations from organizations and corporations interested. The Saskatchewan Association of Architects appointed a committee to prepare and present a brief to the Reconstruction Council stressing the necessity for having plans prepared at once for post-war projects.

A suggestion was made at the meeting which sounds good. It is passed along for the consideration of other Associations. It all arose out of a discussion as to what a Western Delegate can accomplish by going East to the R.A.I.C. convention. Any Westerner who has attended a convention will vouch for the fact that he accomplishes a very good time for himself, but the amount of routine business which must be put through in a specified time precludes the possibility of individual delegates contributing much to the meetings. So someone suggested that the R.A.I.C. President visit the Western Associations for a change. Annual or general meetings of the Associations could be arranged to suit his itinerary. While most Westerners are acquainted with the East, it must be admitted that a great many Easterners know little or nothing of the West and its problems.

A visit from the R.A.I.C. President would be welcomed by the Saskatchewan Association and other Western Associations would doubtless feel as we do. The practice is followed by the President of the Engineering Institute of Canada, who lately visited Saskatoon and addressed a meeting.

In the past Saskatchewan has contributed very little to the Provincial page of the *Journal*. The boys have decided to change all that, and commencing with the January issue of the *Journal* have promised, each month, to put in writing, the western viewpoint which they have expressed with such eloquence at all annual meetings since annual meetings began.

E. J. Gilbert.

NOTICE

The School of Architecture at the University of Toronto wishes to bring to the attention of all architects in Canada, a course of lectures with discussion on town planning and housing, which may be received through the mail. The course, which is sponsored by the Ontario Government, will include among its lecturers Lawrence Orton, City Planning Commissioner of New York and Messrs. Clarence Stein, Carol Aronovici, Walter Blucher, three of the outstanding United States planners as well as most of the principal Canadian authorities, such as Leonard Marsh, Professor Curtis, Benjamin Higgins, Norman Wilson, Professor Arthur, etc. Verbatim reports of the twenty-three lectures with very brief accounts of the following discussions will be sent to anyone in Canada interested for \$7.50. The price to those attending the course in person is \$15.00. The staff of the School of Architecture feel that this is a great opportunity for any architect to get a sound Canadian basis for an understanding of urban economics, housing estates, legislation needs, urban engineering, urban society, public health engineering, as well as the technique of such things as neighbourhood planning, zoning, and the street system. Copies of the curriculum may be obtained from and applications should be sent to School of Architecture, with cheques payable to "The Bursar", University of Toronto.