

CONSTRUCTION

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Ontario Architect's Association Pursuing Active Policy

It must be said that since the convention last fall, the Ontario Association of Architects has been pursuing an active policy in reference to the affairs and interests which it represents. One of the signs of new life in the association is the fact that fees can no longer remain unpaid for several years before a member is dropped. This decision was reached at a recent meeting of the Council. While there was some excuse for arrears during the period of the war when things were more or less disorganized, it is now felt that any further postponement of dues is entirely unwarranted, and that in order to retain membership standing those who have been neglecting their annual payments will from now on be expected to remit promptly.

Another matter which the Council has before it is the report of the committee embodying recommendations on which an increase in architectural fees will likely be adopted, the proposed

new schedule being so drafted as to be simple in form and eliminate all superfluous wording.

Moreover, attention is being given to a number of matters of public interest. As recently pointed out in the daily press, steps are being taken by the association to interest the Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club and the local branch of the Manufacturers' Association in the suggestion recently made that the present was an opportune time for the development of the Toronto Exhibition Grounds to be taken up. It is pointed out in this connection that the public service committee of the Board of Trade have endorsed the suggestion that a well studied plan for the growth of the grounds and buildings be prepared before the new Live Stock Arena is finally located.

Altogether the association seems to have an active executive at its head, and a continuation of the present policy is bound to lead to definite results.

Canadian Architects and Canadian Materials

A letter recently sent out by President Herbert E. Moore of the Ontario Association of Architects, is timely and quite explains itself. It does not touch upon a new condition, but rather on the old one that within the last few years has become seriously aggravated and which with the existing adverse rate of exchange presents a somewhat new economic phase. The letter reads as follows:

To the Members of the

Ontario Association of Architects:

During the war there was considerable comment and discussion amongst architects concerning the use of imported materials and the employing of professional talent from the United States, in the erection of some of our principal buildings. Since that time, a great deal has happened to further accentuate conditions, namely:

1. Rate of currency exchange with the United States, which shows at the present time something like 12 per cent. against our money.
2. Various warnings by our educational authorities, urging the utilization of Canadian brains as well as Canadian material resources.
3. The effort of the Association of Canadian Building and Construction Industries for the use of Canadian goods, showing that the business interests are alive on this question.

Time and again architects are asked, "What are you doing in this matter?" and so far as one can see, very little has been attempted by way of sympathetic effort. In some cases, individual efforts have been passively looked upon as an outburst of some crank, who either has an axe to grind or has some mistaken idea as to the possibilities of business in its relation to patriotism.

It would seem that this question has reached a vital point; one where we, as architects, should state our position, and I would therefore ask you for your views, with any suggestions you might have concerning the advisability of placing our association on record before the Government and the public, and an answer to the question, "What are we doing in our practice to help Canadian resources?"