

can help them in this, the passage of the Act will be more than justified.

The whole benefit of the Act (if passed) will accrue both to the profession of Architecture, as well as to the general public, in the future (and by no means in the immediate future)—not in the present.

It is framed almost entirely in the interests of the young men who are just now entering, and who will continue to enter the ranks of the profession. It is to insist that they shall educate themselves thoroughly and properly for the work they shall eventually be called upon to carry out, and to induce them to take advantage of the various means of study which are so reasonably and liberally offered to them. They can enter the office of some member of the Association in the ordinary way, serving a certain number of years under indentures, or they may graduate from the School of Science (curtailing by so doing the period of office work) but all shall be required to offer themselves for examinations to be held from time to time and pass each and all of them successfully before being permitted to register and practice under the title of Architect.

The Government has only recently established a chair of Architecture at the School of Practical Science. The Association can help greatly in making this Department a success and I can say without a doubt that we are most anxious and most desirous of assisting it by every means in our power. As things are at present, however, it is easy to see that there is little to tempt the ordinary young man to spend the time and money necessary to take the course if, at the end of it, he will occupy in the eyes of the public no better position in the profession to which it leads than that of any other youth who may have passed a year or two wandering from one office to another, or a builder's foreman who aspires to dub himself a professional man, or an auctioneer, or an undertaker, or anybody else who chooses to stick up his shingle and call himself an Architect.

It is only the very exceptional student who will avail himself of the great advantages of the School, and as the supply of exceptional young men is limited in all walks of life, the number of students at the School (if things remain as they are) will necessarily be much curtailed.

The Government must surely wish to see the School succeed—else what on earth was the use of their spending the money wherewith to start it, but if young men are to be induced to enter it at all it must be clearly shewn that it is to their advantage, (and by advantage I do not mean merely the advantage which a man gains over his fellows by means of a more thorough education) but it must be shewn also that the profession which they intend entering (and to which the course they are taking at the School is merely a stepping stone) carries with it a title which will give them a definite standing in the community—that it is a profession which can only be entered by men who have devoted much care, time and attention to their education and to the acquiring of that special knowledge necessary to the satisfactory practice of their calling. I say most unhesitatingly that the Government will discover that these young men having taken the time, and having gone through the labour and exertion of preparing themselves for the necessary examinations, and having passed them successfully, will expect, and very properly, and very naturally, expect, that they will find themselves in a somewhat different position, in that profession, for the practise of which they have spent so much labour and time in preparing themselves, from that occupied by a man who may have given himself no further trouble than having a sign painted.

We follow the shorter road rather than the longer as a rule. The public does not concern itself greatly as to the manner of education previously followed by men who have hung out a sign in hopes of attracting business. Anyone or everyone can, at present, if he so choose, call himself an Architect, and there exists no means by which the public can know whether he derived the title by working through the School of Architecture or by working through a saw-mill—it's all one to them, until something happens, and then the whole profession suffers.

The thing is ridiculous and absurd, and neither the profession nor the School can possibly be the success they might be until things are altered.

We should like above all things to make the young men go through the course of education which is necessary, but we have no means of compelling them. A good deal is done by persuasion and by shewing them the advantages which they will undoubtedly reap in the future. The few who do take the advice and prepare and offer themselves for examination deserve great credit.

But unfortunately the number (at no time as large as it should have been) is growing smaller. They find it irksome and only the enthusiastic ones persevere; the rest become disheartened and drop off. "What is the good," they say, "So-and-So has been studying in an office for a year or two and now he has started up in business for himself, has got several things to do and calls himself a full-fledged Architect. What's the use of my slaving away for four or five years and working up a lot of examinations, when so far as the public can tell there's no difference between us."

It is foolish I admit, but it is not unnatural, and the consequence is that the country is being flooded with a lot of half-educated young men calling themselves Architects who can many of them make pretty drawings and sketches, but who can have never in all their lives done any real good honest hard work in reading up the perhaps somewhat dry, possibly uninteresting, but nevertheless absolutely necessary, practical and scientific side of the education of an Architect, (a side which cannot possibly be neglected without very great, and possibly very serious detriment, to the interests of their future clients.)

This Bill would in a large measure stop all this, as students

would have to work properly at the practical side of their professional education in order to successfully pass their examinations.

If they did not choose to do so, if they were too lazy, too idle, or too incompetent, why then they would drop out and follow some other walk in life. Or should they see fit notwithstanding their failure, still to pursue the practice of Architecture they would be at perfect liberty to do so, there would be nothing to stop them nor would the Act interfere with them in any way, that is so long as they did not presume to use the title "Architect." That honorable appellation would be reserved for such only as have prepared themselves for the responsibilities of the position by a steady course of honest conscientious study, and that is what after a lapse of fifteen or twenty years the title of Architect will come to mean in the eyes of the public, a distinction by which men can tell the difference between one who has been properly and scientifically educated for his calling in life and one who has picked up such knowledge as he may possess at hap-hazard. Surely, gentlemen, this is not asking much at the hands of any Government.

To us of this generation the passing of the Act can make little if indeed any difference, save that as the years go on the young men will come into the arena better equipped, better educated, and therefore more formidable rivals to the older men who had not in their day the advantages now at the hands of the younger ones.

It is the students of to-day and the public of the future who will reap the fruits of our labours. Certainly we who are moving in the matter can be held guiltless of self-seeking, for of any actual personal immediate advantages there are none. Of a truth it may be said that we are sowing where we shall not reap.

All this I am afraid you will say is going over old and familiar ground, and I feel tempted to apologize for taking up so much of your time with it. But I cannot help feeling very seriously that the importance of it to the very life and existence of the Association is so great that it cannot be traversed too often. I want very much to bring it home to all of you that it is absolutely necessary, in order that we may be able to discuss the question thoroughly, that we should have the whole details of this proposed legislation at our finger ends, and be thoroughly conversant with every phase of it. It is the one great thing we must succeed in carrying out if the future work of the Association is to be crowned with success.

There is still time before the House meets for all of us to do something towards familiarizing the members of the Legislature with our aims, and I shall not I am sure appeal in vain to this Association when I ask them to do all they can in that direction.

Owing to various circumstances, the Act could not last year be introduced until almost the close of the session and it was felt to be unwise to court a possible defeat by bringing it up at a time when full discussion could not have been given to it or the members of the House made fully conversant with all its details. On the advice therefore of our friends in the House we decided to withdraw it.

It is hoped that this year it will be presented early in the session, but before that occurs it will be necessary for us to see that if possible every member of the Legislature is thoroughly informed personally of the details of the measure. If this is done it is hardly possible to imagine that any active opposition to its passage can be offered.

I have occupied so much of your time with this question of Legislation that I fear to try your patience longer, but I should like to say something about what is usually called the ethics of the profession. We hear a lot about ethics. It is a fine high-sounding term most frequently employed when one Architect thinks another has charged less than the usual five per cent. commission. Then the injured one gets on a pedestal and talks ethics. It sounds well and means nothing. It is a sort of architectural form of swearing, for one hears it most when there has been a row of some sort and this row is almost invariably about money matters of one kind or another. Or the injured man writes to the Council asking what they are going to do about it, for it seems to be thought in some quarters that this Association is a sort of trades union and that everybody belonging to it does and must charge all their clients nothing less than the acknowledged tariff list of fees.

I am afraid also that by some it is considered that the legislation we are seeking will in some mysterious way give to every man the legitimate scale of fees whether he will or no. Anyone indulging in that view is going to be disappointed. The legislation asked for, or any other legislation, will never do that for us. We are going to collect the same fees we have always done; neither more, nor less. The passing or the non-passing of the Act will make no difference whatever in that respect. This Association does not say anywhere that every man belonging to it is bound to charge the full fees, and on that ground nobody can blame any member who is foolish enough (or honest enough as the case may be) to ask less than the tariff allows him. The Council have been asked from time to time questions on this subject and have had complaints made that this member or that member is doing work for less than the usual rates. The Council can do nothing in such matters, nor can they take cognizance of any such complaints. There is a table of fees, certainly, which architects are in the habit generally of following, but that list was in existence long before this Association was formed. Members of this Association can adopt it or not just as they deem fit, but the Council have no power to compel them to do so.

This Association is not a Court of Justice, it is not inaugurated as such nor was it ever intended to be anything of the kind. The council does not sit in order to hear charges brought by one member against another with respect to the fees he asks or as to the manner in which he chooses to conduct his business.