

# CONSTRUCTION

A JOURNAL FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL  
ENGINEERING AND CONTRACTING  
INTERESTS OF CANADA



H. GAGNIER, LIMITED, PUBLISHERS

Corner Richmond and Sheppard Streets.

TORONTO - - - CANADA

M. B. TOUTLOFF, Editor

BRANCH OFFICES:

MONTREAL—171 St. James Street,  
E. R. Milling, Representative.

WINNIPEG—336 Qu'Appelle Street,  
F. C. Pickwell, Representative.

NEW YORK—156 Fifth Avenue,  
A. R. Lowe, Representative

**CORRESPONDENCE.**—All correspondence should be addressed to "CONSTRUCTION," Corner Richmond and Sheppard Streets, Toronto, Canada.  
**SUBSCRIPTIONS.**—Canada and Great Britain, \$3.00 per annum. United States, the Continent and all Postal Union countries, \$4.00 per annum, in advance. Single copies, 35c.

**ADVERTISEMENTS.**—Changes of, or new advertisements must reach the Head Office not later than the twentieth of the month preceding publication to ensure insertion. Mailing date is on the tenth of each month. Advertising rates on application.

**CONTRIBUTIONS.**—The Editor will be glad to consider contributions dealing with matters of general interest to the readers of this Journal. When payment is desired, this fact should be stated. We are always glad to receive the loan of photographs and plans of interesting Canadian work. The originals will be carefully preserved and returned.

Entered as Second Class Matter in the Post Office at Toronto, Canada.

WESTON WRIGLEY, Business Manager

FRED. T. HOLLIDAY, Advertising Representative

**Vol. XI Toronto, June, 1918 No. 6**

## *The Housing Situation in Canada.*

The fact that steps are being formulated to bring about an improvement in the present situation shows that serious consideration is being given by public officials and others to the growing scarcity of houses in our cities and industrial districts. One evidence of this is the proposal put forth in Toronto to relax the building regulations so as to permit of the erection of small three-storey apartments in present restricted areas, as well as to sanction the remodelling of existing buildings into apartments where such changes are now prohibited by regulation. It is pointed out that unless some measure is taken to insure the provision of more housing accommodations now, the city will be confronted with a condition many times more serious after the war. Toronto alone expects an increase this year of thirteen thousand to her present population, and it is estimated by those best competent to judge that within the next three to four years from twenty to twenty-five thousand additional houses will be necessary to meet the city's growing requirements.

That the situation is an acute one in a general way is also indicated in the report of the executive committee presented at the recent convention of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and likewise in the action of the Ontario Government in appointing a committee under the chairmanship of Sir John Willison to investigate housing conditions throughout the province.

According to the report of the manufacturers, accommodations for housing the working class, which were far from being satisfactory in pre-war days, have in the last three years grown steadily worse. This is due among other causes to the fact that Government factories have been erected in Canada without provisions being made to house the workers, and also to the fact that large war orders have resulted in private corporations increasing the population of certain districts without any corresponding development in the establishment of housing facilities.

Taking these circumstances into consideration and recognizing that private enterprise for obvious reasons, is not building houses anywhere in proportion to present needs, a condition exists which is forcing a large portion of a growing population to occupy overcrowded and unsanitary habitations, and these are available only at increased rentals to what the tenants should be expected to pay.

Just how the problem can best be met is something which remains to be seen. It looks as though it is something with which both the Government and municipalities will have to earnestly deal, and in which the manufacturers in their own interest will in all likelihood show a willing disposition to co-operate. Conditions in Canada are not unlike those in England and the United States, where both the Government and factory owners are aiding and financing housing developments in the industrial areas. Even this has already been done by certain manufacturers in Canada on a small scale.

The main thing in solving the present problem is to deal with it intelligently, and there is a promise of this in the committee which the Ontario Government has appointed. In Sir John Willison the committee will have a capable chairman gifted with observation and executive ability, who will be able to give the committee the benefit of his counsel and experience in similar work. It is likewise fortunate in having as a member Mr. Frank Beer, who will bring to the board a practical knowledge gained as president of the Toronto Housing Company, which has previously dealt with similar problems. Other members include progressive citizens and representatives of the laboring interests, giving the committee a personnel which should enable it to decide on a policy based upon sound and definite conclusions.