

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, 50c.

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, Nov., 1918 No. 11

Better Prospects for Building

War-time restrictions will now release materials to their former uses. Consequently steel and other products required for building will become more available with the result that a resumption of work on a large number of suspended projects can be looked for, in addition to the erection of an increasing amount of newly planned work.

The feeling of optimism based on the recent turn of affairs not only warrant this assumption, but there are certain definite signs which point to an early return to former conditions. A hurried survey of the field already reveals a state of preliminary activity in many of the architectural offices. In a number of cases there is a demand for the services of competent draughtsmen, which indicates that the planning of new structures has arrived at a stage which practically assures early developments.

Among deferred projects in Toronto alone are a modern departmental store and large mail order house, each running into the millions, which will now undoubtedly go ahead. In fact almost every city or town of prominence in the Dominion has its quota of postponed and after-the-war work which under the influence of peace will materialize to a very large extent. Hardly a community exists but what has outgrown its school accommodations and will require new buildings. The housing problem will also likely be given more direct consideration. Moderate price dwellings are badly needed, while owners contemplating better residential work which has been deferred out of deference to the war sentiment, will now proceed to build. There are also a large number of churches for which funds are available and which in a number of cases have their basements completed, to be started and brought to completion.

Labor will also be easier to obtain, as a percentage of men released from munition work and returning from overseas will again take up the building trades and help the situation along. Prices, however, will probably remain as they are for some time, probably permanently, but this will not be such a deterring factor as heretofore. It is now more or less generally accepted that wages will stay pretty close to where they are, in which event the manufacturer and supply dealer will have to hold to present prices. The dollar has apparently taken on a new standard of value, and reconciled to this new condition owners who are going to build will no longer hold back proposed work.

At the very least there is much to look forward to. Of course getting back to a pre-wartime basis is going to be a gradual process, but the prospects are such as to justify the prediction that building work at any rate will increase steadily in volume, and that with the opening of the Spring season a vastly improved condition will exist.

U.S. Building Restriction Removed

All restrictions on non-war construction throughout the United States have now been officially removed. According to the U.S. Official Bulletin, formal notice to this effect has been telegraphed to the chairmen of all the State Councils of Defence by D. R. McLennan, chief of the non-war construction section of the War Industries Board.

The action taken permits all building operations of whatever character, held up in the interest of the war programme, to proceed. No further permits will be required from the War Industries Board or the State Councils, through whom control over the situation in each State was maintained.