

Hynes and his fellow-workers for the preparation of the memorial he has just placed before us.

It seems to me that the lack of recognition on the part of the Dominion Government may possibly be due to lack of knowledge of the various members of the Dominion Government. If we were to take the entire Government as a body, I think we would find only a very small percentage of its members who know that there is such an institution as the Royal Institute of Architects, and I believe this is really a matter which should be laid before them. Having taken it up, we should keep at it. Do not drop it after presenting the petition. It is something that must be followed up. If you want to get anything, it is not sufficient simply to ask for it; you must keep on asking until you get it.

I am satisfied that if we follow up the recommendations set forth in the memorial we have just heard we will arrive at the final goal we are endeavoring to reach. I do not know that I need say anything more, except that I believe this to be a move in the right direction, and that it is time Canadian architects should be recognized according to the ability which they have shown themselves as capable of putting forth.

The President: What do you think of the subject, Mr. Maxwell?

Mr. Maxwell: The idea, to my mind, is an excellent one. It requires considerable digesting, of course, but I feel that it should be urged forward with all the energy possible. It seems to me that there has been a little more recognition of Canadian architects within the last two years than was formerly the case. Of course, nine-tenths of the population does not know that the R.A.I.C. exists. I happen to know of its existence myself once a year, because I get a notice.

Mr. Acton Bond: I am very much in favor of the movement. I think we should carefully consider the material which has just been placed before us by Mr. Hynes, and should urge the subject forward as soon as possible.

My idea is that a committee should be appointed to take the matter up, and present it as carefully as possible, and as soon as we can.

Mr. Macdonald: It seems to me that when a measure is introduced before the House it does not depend altogether on the presentation of the case as to whether it shall or shall not be accepted. I think the representatives in the House from the different provinces should be fully educated and informed regarding conditions as they exist, so that before they come to deal with the matter in the House they are aware of its nature, and you have a measure of support which can be depended upon and which will make it an active issue when the question comes up.

I offer the suggestion that the representatives from the different provinces should be fully informed in advance, so that they may know the nature of our complaint and the remedy we seek.

Mr. Amos: Is it the intention to try to have a law passed which will prohibit the employment of other than Canadian architects? If that be the case, I do not think we shall succeed. I think we should ask the Government to encourage the Canadian architects exclusively. In their specifications they absolutely forbid any American or imported material being used when Canadian products of equal quality can be obtained. Of course, the case is different in regard to a profession. There might be some instance where a European, or a specialist of some other nation, could be with advantage called into consultation. If there were a law passed preventing this it might prove awkward in certain cases where only a Canadian would have to pass on a point.

I would strongly suggest that the Ministry be interviewed, and the desirability of giving Canadians a fair deal—more fair than they have been getting in the past—should be pointed out to them.

I would suggest, also, that if the Canadians were not entirely trusted in the past through want of experience and want of knowledge, that the Government should subsidize the various schools of architecture, in the way of special prizes, for instance. In Paris the Government gives special prizes, which is really a subsidizing of the candidates. Why should we not have that in this country, and give our students a greater incentive to develop the profession.

Mr. Hynes: I would be very sorry to think that we were asking for a Chinese wall, or anything of that kind. As a matter of fact, we are only asking for proper recognition.

It has been stated that we should inform the members of Parliament and the members of the provincial legislatures as to the nature of our complaint and the remedy we seek. For two years I have tried to deal with this question as seriously as I could, and I must say I found very few architects who take much interest in it. I think that is one reason why there is no interest shown in it before the legislatures.

I have found very few architects who can agree as to what they consider should be the platform to present before the provincial governments, or upon which this Association should stand before the Federal Government. Until we find some ground upon which we are unanimous, we cannot expect to get the hearing we should get.

I think the situation is very clear as far as the practice of architecture is concerned. It is a matter that must be dealt with by the provinces. They have authority over manhood and property rights, and the practice of architecture comes under the former law.

The difference between our profession and the professions of law, medicine, etc., is that the men in those other professions when given their degrees, have the work in the province conserved for them. In our profession, the provinces provide the technical education, but does not conserve the practice for the men they train.

If it is good policy to conserve the practice for one branch of technically educated men, why is it not equally good practice to conserve it for other technically educated men?

In Ontario, and I have no doubt in the other provinces, we point with considerable pride to the standard of practice in medicine, law, dentistry, veterinary surgery, chemistry, etc. We are ready to meet the world in these things, and the practices in the provinces are conserved for the men who are educated there for these professions. The greater number of men who take the courses remain in the country and practice their profession.

In the University of Toronto the largest single faculty is that of engineering. Up to twelve or fifteen years ago 50 per cent. of the students of that faculty left Canada, and to-day, I believe, 50 per cent. of them leave the province. It costs the Province of Ontario two-thirds of the expense of educating a student; in other words, the fees of Toronto University are just

about one-third of what it costs to keep the University running, and the province fails in economy in spending money to educate people who do not remain in it and practice their professions after they are educated.

The president of the college told me on one occasion that two of his most prominent students had gone to Pennsylvania, and one had gone to New York. The Ontario Department of Education is not in existence to educate men for New York or Pennsylvania. Its object is to educate men for Ontario.

It is necessary economically that the work should be conserved for the men who are trained in the province, and it is economically right as well; yet we are losing the very best men we train because the field is larger elsewhere and the best things that are in our own field are not given to the local practitioner.

My idea is that our educational departments should follow the example of the State of Illinois, where they have established a Department of Education and Registration. They train the men, and register them, and the practice in the state is conserved for them under certain very liberal conditions. I think this is the nearest to an ideal working scheme that has yet been put forward, and it might well be looked into by the Canadian provinces with a view to adoption.

When it comes to a question of dealing with our Dominion Government, the case is somewhat different, because the Dominion Government is not in a position to pass legislation controlling our practice. It is not within the sphere of the Dominion Government, but it is in a position to give us recognition and to see that other large corporations recognize the local practitioner.

Mr. Monette: We have heard many suggestions on this subject, and I have one to make which may meet with your approval. We are not represented in the Government at the present time. Why should we not be represented? I think the best thing we could do would be to elect some of our members to represent us. If we did this, our interests would be protected.

As it is, the Government is made up of too many lawyers, too many doctors, and too many of other professions, and the architects are not represented.

The President: I am sure we have all listened with a great deal of interest to what has been said on this important question. We all seem to endorse the principle set out in the memorial just presented to us, but we have not gone any further. For my own part, I think something should be done at this meeting. Perhaps a Committee might be formed to study the subject and draw up a memorial along the lines of the views set forth here this morning.

We have been working on this matter for a number of years. Unfortunately, the time was not favorable for us to lay a proposition before the Government, but I think the time is now ripe, and the sooner something is done the better. It will be.

It might be well for somebody to suggest that a Committee be appointed to take some definite action.

Mr. Maxwell: The Council which will be elected will hold office for a couple of years probably, and would, I think, be in the best position to decide as to what should be done.

The President: Would you make a motion along the lines that the Council should take the matter up?

Mr. Maxwell: Unfortunately, I am not sufficiently in touch with what has taken place so far to make any suggestion of a definite nature.

Mr. Brown: I think the meeting should say whether it wishes a committee appointed outside the Council, or whether it would be better to leave the matter in the hands of the Council.

Mr. Beaugrand Champagne: I would move that the matter be left in the hands of the Council, for immediate action.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hynes, and unanimously carried.

Mr. Riley: Is it the intention to deal with the Federal Government, or to deal with each of the provincial governments?

Mr. Hynes: Each provincial association will have to deal with its own provincial government, and this Institute will deal with the Federal Government.

The provincial societies should keep in touch with each other and have an interchange of thought, and whatever action is taken should be uniform. Of course, it would have to be through the respective societies to their respective governments.

Mr. Wickson: If any delegation were appointed to approach the Government, I think it would be most desirable to have representatives from all the provinces in attendance. The members of the Government are influenced to a great extent by the fact of the thing being representative of the country, and not a local matter.

I also think that the deputation should be as large as possible, and that those who are anywhere within reach should form part of it, and the distant parts of the country should be represented by at least one or two members.

The President: I think it is a very good idea that every one who can possibly do so should be present to show that we are all interested in the matter.

In answer to Mr. Hynes' statement that there is not much discussion on the subject, I would say that this may be due to the fact that we all think as he does.

Mr. Hynes: I think it is due to the fact that there is no unanimity. I think we should all read Sydney Webb's paper before the Royal Institute of British Architects, to get some idea of what part the architect plays in the community. With that as a starting point we may get to something definite.

The unfortunate thing is that we seem to want the Government to do something for us, without having made up our minds definitely as to what we want. I have an idea that the duty of every citizen is to render service, and if the Government will give us the proper legal facilities we can be of service to the Government. If the provinces will give us proper facilities, we can do untold work in town planning for the community. If the Dominion Government will give us a proper status we can get a real type and air of Canadian atmosphere for our buildings and our structures, and there will not be an imported art dumped in on us—it will be something of our own.

Mr. Venne: I notice that a good deal of importance seems to be attached to the fact that the governments should do something for the profession. As a matter of fact, something has been done by the Province of Quebec, for instance.

There is another point which has not been dealt with, and that is in regard to our large public corporations. Our banks, which draw their revenues from the country, and our railway