

this organization the officially recognized body of architects in the province, and placed with it certain powers in connection with the proposed examination. The bill presented at last year's legislature provided that the examination as conducted by the Government could be placed in the hands of the Toronto University, or some other independent body the Government might see fit to choose. But, unfortunately, after the examination was passed by the applicant the government ceased to have any direct connection with the officially qualified architect, who was obliged by the proposed law to pay his annual dues into the Ontario Association of Architects.

This law was strongly opposed by those architects who were not members of the O. A. A. They declared that they were perfectly willing to qualify before a government board of examiners, but did not see why they should be required by law to join and annually pay dues into any architectural association to be permitted to practice their profession in the Province of Ontario.

The result was that the bill was abandoned, in view of the strenuous opposition to it. While we might say that we are strongly opposed to any such bill favoring any private association in the matter of such legislation and granting powers such as will tend to place the control of the practice of so important a profession as architecture in the hands of any private organization, we have every reason to believe that the Ontario Association of Architects did not petition for such legislation with the view of obtaining arbitrary powers in the matter of controlling the practice of architecture within their association. It was purely a means to an end and the bill was drawn up by the association purely with a view of providing some means whereby some official standard of qualification could be established in this province, and we have every reason to believe that the O. A. A. would gladly endorse any other legislation (that would be satisfactory to the profession in the province generally, and that would conserve the interests of the public at large) designed to establish a government standard of qualification, and thus promote generally a better standard of building throughout the province.

The provinces of Quebec and Alberta have a law of the same nature as that proposed by the Ontario Association of Architects, but it is quite beyond all possibility to have such legislation passed by the Ontario Legislature. What is wanted in Ontario is an Architects' License law of the same type as that which has been in force in the State of Illinois and has operated so successfully during the past ten years. The states of California and New Jersey have adopted laws modelled after the Illinois law, and in each case they have worked out most satisfactorily, raising to a very appreciable extent as they have the standard of architecture and building. These laws have proven to be a great protection to the building public generally and have had a tendency of more clearly defining the responsibilities of the architect and the contractor, which fact has operated for the benefit of both the legitimate architect and contractor.

There is a bill now before the British Parliament known as the "Architects' Act," which provides for a very elaborate system of governmental examination and which, in general principles, is almost identical with the Illinois law, although somewhat more complicated and thorough. Indications are that the bill will be passed.

It is rapidly becoming a pretty generally recognized fact, the world over, that public safety and welfare demands that the practice of architecture should be under government control, and in a rapidly growing country like Canada, where there is such a vast amount of building, it appears to us that now is the time to solve this question, in so far as it will take thirty or forty years to reap the full benefit of such a law. The Province of Ontario, the largest in the Dominion, should, we believe, take the lead in this matter, and set an example for the rest of the Dominion.

The position of the architect in relation to the question of government control of the practice of the profession is stated very clearly in the report of the Committee on Registration of Architects made to the last convention of the American Institute of Architects.

"An architect's license law must necessarily be enacted under the police powers given to the legislatures of the several states by their constitutions, to regulate the acts of incompetent persons or even prevent incompetent persons from performing acts which might result in danger to the community. It is very clear that such laws should be enacted rather on the demand of those who need such protection than of those who are to be regulated by it. * * * No law which regulates the practice of architecture in the interests of architects should be or ever will be enacted. It is the people only who should be interested in their enactment."

It, therefore, may be seen that the interest manifested by architects in the passage of a law providing for the "Registration of Architects," is simply prompted by purely unselfish motives and they have become active in their support of such legislation only because of the fact that their knowledge of the importance of allowing only properly qualified men to become eligible for the practice of the profession. They ask the public to protect itself against the incompetent by forcing the architect to submit to a government examination only because they realize much more fully than does the layman the importance of the essential requirements of the architect.

SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDITIONS —REPORTS FROM MANUFACTURING INTERESTS OF U.S.A. SHOW BIG IMPROVEMENT.

EARLY LAST MONTH a circular letter was sent to every member of the National Association of Manufacturers of the United States, requesting definite information concerning present trade conditions and the percentage of increase or decrease in business during the last ten months. The association has 3,000 members, so that the correspondence and compilation of the reports have been onerous tasks. The information is summarized by Mr. Henry Harrison Lewis in "American Industries" of October 15, and shows clearly that the leading industries are slowly but surely recovering from the effect of the panic of a year ago and that immediate prospects of new business are gratifying as a rule.

The steel trade and the movement of pig iron are usually believed to form our most accurate barometer of trade conditions. It is distinctly encouraging, therefore, to read that 70 per cent. of the iron and steel plants in the Association's membership report conditions good, 78 per cent. have had an increase of business during the past ten months, and 85 per cent. have reason to believe that prospects for the immediate future are reassuring.

Machinery, by which is meant all classes of machinery in all parts of the country, shows present conditions 68 per cent. good, and that 76 per cent. of members dealing in machinery have had an increase in their trade since January 1, and 86 per cent. believing in future improvement.

The agricultural implement trade has the proud distinction of first place in prosperity. Every member of the Association interested in the manufacture of agricultural implements who replied to the circular letter reported present conditions good, and an increase of trade during the past ten months, and only one sounded a pessimistic note in connection with future possibilities.

The remaining sub-division in the metal trades, tools and hardware, shows 77 per cent. trade conditions good, 87 per cent. increase during the past ten months and 92 per cent. believing that possibilities for continued increase are good.—ENGINEERING RECORD.