

Conference on Concrete House Construction

An event of special importance, particularly in view of existing conditions, is the National Conference on Concrete House Construction to be held at the Auditorium Hotel in Chicago, from February 17 to 19, inclusive. While designated "national," the scope of the conference, according to the announcement, is intended to include both Canada and the United States. Its object is to consider the housing problem in both countries, and to present, crystalize and make available information regarding the most modern practice in the construction of concrete houses and concrete housing projects.

It is hardly necessary to emphasize the vital need which exists at the present time for home building, or to point to the apparently unsettled condition which is to be found in many industrial centres due to a lack of adequate housing facilities. Although some efforts have been made here in Canada during the past year to relieve the situation, we have not as yet made hardly more than a start toward providing the actual dwelling accommodations required. For some time, in fact, the shortage of houses has attracted public attention not only to the immediate necessity for more houses, but also to the fundamental need for housing of the sort that makes for good homes and happy and contented people.

In other words, it is generally recognized that a house must be more than just a shelter and the community more than just a group of houses. Individual ownership of the home creates pride in the community and makes for good citizenship. More and more, home builders are realizing the necessity of building economically and permanently. Demand for information has been so great and practices so varied as to make the need felt for the standardization of the practice of constructing concrete houses.

The coming Chicago conference will therefore not only make an effort to devise some means for meeting this demand, but will pay especial attention to the methods of financing home building, community planning, fire protection and methods of construction of the various types of concrete houses.

The following committees have been organized:

- Architecture and Design.
- Community Planning.
- Financing Permanent Homes.
- Fire Prevention and Insurance Rates.
- Building Codes.
- Monolithic Concrete Houses.
- Special Unit Houses.
- Concrete Block Houses.
- Concrete and Cement Roofing.

Many well known organizations are co-operating in this movement, among them being the American Concrete Institute, the Associated General Contractors of America, the Concrete Products Association, the Portland Cement Association, the Illinois Society of Architects, the Illinois Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the U.S. League of Building and Loan Associations, and many other organizations of local and national influence.

Other organizations which will meet in Chicago at the Auditorium Hotel during the week the conference is in session, are the American Concrete Institute, the Concrete Products Association, the Concrete Block Association, and the American Concrete Pipe Association.

The conference will be attended by architects, contractors, community planners, cement product manufacturers, industrial and real estate development concerns, building and loan associations, and others interested in various phases of the housing problem.

CONSTRUCTION desires to acknowledge the receipt of a 1920 Vest Pocket Diary, which is being mailed to friends and customers by the Canadian Westinghouse Company, Hamilton, Ont. In addition to space available for daily notations, it contains considerable general information for everyday use, as well as a number of tables and data in regards to belting, wiring, turbines and condensers, mechanical stokers, generators, railway motor ratings, tractive efforts, thermometer ratios, etc.

Sixteen Storey Hotel for Montreal

The Montreal City Council has adopted a resolution endorsing the erection of a sixteen-storey hotel. The proposal is now before the Administrative Commission with which any amendment to the present regulations restricting the height of buildings to ten stories must originate. Several prominent citizens including Lord Shaughnessy and President Beatty of the C.P.R. are interested.

Convention Date Changed

In order to avoid conflicting with the annual meeting of the Engineering Institute of Canada, to be held in Montreal, the Association of Canadian Building and Construction Industries have changed the date of the Ottawa Conference to February 2nd, 3rd and 4th, instead of January 27th to 30th, as previously announced. Sessions will be held in the Chateau Laurier, commencing at 10 a.m. on Monday, February 2nd, and continue throughout the period mentioned.