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The London Convention

All architects, whether they belong to an architects' association or not, have much in common and are meeting with the same general conditions and problems which are encountered in every day professional practice. It is therefore gratifying to note in the announcement of the executive that the convention of the Ontario Association of Architects, to be held at London on August 30-31, is to be an open meeting, at which all architects in the province, whether they are members of the O.A.A. or not, are invited to attend. Indeed, such a move on the part of the Council is to be commended. The injection of a little outside thought should do much to supply a fresh impulse and give that impetus to architectural deliberations which is so needed to-day.

To be perfectly candid, so far as association work is concerned, it has been chasing itself around in a circle on a few subjects of perennial debate. It has absolutely arrived nowhere as regards practical results and has failed signally in reaching anything in the way of real worthwhile achievement. The whole difficulty has

been that the profession as a whole has not taken sufficient interest in its own affairs or the affairs of other related bodies. Apart from the executive council, such a thing as a general monthly meeting is practically unknown. True, the Toronto convention last October staged one of the finest public exhibitions of architectural drawings ever held in Canada, and set in motion a campaign of newspaper propaganda which should bear results, but aside from this, the most conspicuous feature of the event was the number of architects who attended the daily luncheons and stayed away from the business meetings.

This is a condition which should not exist. Unless architects take an interest in their own affairs, and voice in meeting the views and opinions which they privately express, nothing of a definite character can be accomplished. Association work cannot function entirely through executive council alone, but must represent the collective effort of the members who comprise it. What is required is more co-operation and a frank discussion of issues, such as will lead to some unanimity of opinion and a definite course of action.

Indeed the London convention which is scheduled to be a get-together-meeting will give an opportunity for initiating a progressive policy, and the fact that it is to be held at a place which is central to many points should warrant a large attendance and a full discussion of the subjects to be considered. Besides extending a welcome to architects in general throughout the province, the executive is also inviting the presidents of the Builders' Exchanges at London, Hamilton, Sarnia, Windsor and Ottawa to take part, and this should assure a most representative gathering. Among subjects on the program is a discussion to be led by Mr. Watt, of London, on "The Services and Value of the Association to its Members and the Public," and an address to be delivered by President Jackson of the Toronto Builders' Exchange on "The General Relations of the Contractor and the Architect." The latter, especially at the present time, represents an important subject, and might help clear up certain existing differences and promote a more mutual feeling between architects and those who do their work. There are likewise other vital issues to discuss, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the architects from all parts of the province will be on hand to lend their support and to help further the interests of the profession.

The Question of Publicity

A matter which will undoubtedly be given attention at the O. A. A. London Convention is the campaign of publicity which the association has been conducting in the daily press. Certain con-