

CONSTRUCTION

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ENGINEERING AND CONTRACTING
INTERESTS OF CANADA



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Next Convention at Ottawa

The Executive Council of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada met at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, on Saturday, April 28, those present being:

J. P. Quellet, President, Quebec; A. Frank Wickson, Vice-President; C. H. Acton Bond and J. P. Hynes, all of Toronto; Alcide Chausse, Hon. Secretary, and A. Beaugrande-Champagne, Montreal; J. W. H. Watts, Treasurer, and C. P. Meredith, Ottawa, and W. D. Cromarty, Edmonton.

After considerable discussion, in which Hamilton and other places were considered, it was decided to hold the tenth annual convention of the Institute at Ottawa, on Monday and Tuesday, October 1 and 2.

A vote of \$100 was made to cover expenses for a die for the medals to be given by the Royal Architectural Institute for meritorious work, three being already earned in connection with the Halifax Memorial Tower competition.

A request having been made by the editor of CONSTRUCTION for a list of institute members on active service, the secretary was authorized to compile a "roll of honor" for publication in CONSTRUCTION at an early date.

Optimistic Outlook For Canadian Building.

Some idea of the increasing war-time activity in the Toronto building trade is gained by the

building permit figures for the first three months of 1915, 1916 and 1917. During the first three months of 1915 permits with a total value of \$779,281 were issued. During the corresponding period in 1916 the total value of permits issued was reduced to \$663,789. During the first three months of 1917 these figures have been increased to \$1,383,105. That all the money earned in the munition factories by the workers is not being wasted is demonstrated by the fact that a large number of houses have been erected near these factories.

In other cities throughout Canada similar increases are noted, and while there has been some hesitancy about going ahead with some buildings on account of high cost of materials, the scarcity of houses is compelling a change in this viewpoint. Although Toronto has lost tens of thousands of population owing to enlistments for overseas and removal of families to Great Britain, it is almost impossible to obtain either houses or apartments to-day, this being due to incoming population employed in munition manufacturing, etc.

A Montreal builder, interviewed by CONSTRUCTION, expressed his optimism by pointing out that "for a considerable time people have been wanting to build, but they have hesitated because they felt that prices were high and that they would have to come down. Now they have begun to realize that prices will not be lower for years, if ever, and the necessity for houses is going to result in a burst of building. People will become used to the prices which are now called high. The prices of building materials have been ridiculously low in the past, and there had to be a readjustment. I can see nothing but the biggest sort of a building boom. Montreal and Canada have a wonderful future, and I do not know any city or any country where I would rather be situated for the next few years than here."

Great Increase in Immigration.

During the first three months of 1917 the movement of settlers into Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta has exceeded the combined number for the corresponding periods of 1915 and 1916. A statement for the three months ending March 31 follows:

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
January	1,157	402	392	1,177
February	1,175	391	462	1,148
March	5,253	1,025	1,551	5,148

The incoming population is of the very best farming class from the United States, and the record shows that the settlers who have come into the West from the United States since the beginning of the year brought with them \$1,306,960 in cash, and \$444,156 in effects.

In addition to this influx from the south, there