

another interpretation of the article in question, namely: the words "mathematically correct in every detail" were intended to apply to the detail and not to the proportion of the plan.

AN editorial which appeared in our October number, commenting upon the articles of incorporation proposed by the Canadian Institute of Architects, seems to have been misunderstood by some members of the profession who evidently assumed that we were not in favor of legislation for the protection of the profession in Canada. This is a mistake. We stated quite clearly that we were in favor of such legislation but did not believe it practical for the C. I. of A. to ask the Government to

PROTECTION FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION.

empower it, as a private corporation, to be in complete control of the examination the Canadian architect must pass before he is permitted to practice his profession in Canada, and that every

member of the profession in Canada should be forced to join the Canadian Institute of Architects or be deprived of his right to the title of architect.

We suggested a law designed after the one that has been in successful operation in the states of Illinois, California, and New Jersey. This law, known as the "Architects License Law," places the examination of architects directly in the hands of a commission appointed by and directly responsible to the Government. A proposal of this nature we believe would be more readily favored by the Dominion Government and would meet the desired ends of the profession in a much more satisfactory manner, while it would in no way encroach upon the rights of the layman.

We reproduce in another portion of this number the Illinois Architects' License Law, in full, for the benefit of our readers who may be interested in this subject. We advocate the establishment by law of a Government Commission of competent judges, before whom architects should qualify before being granted a license to practice the profession, but maintain that such should be directly responsible to the Government, and not appointed and controlled by a closed corporation.

THE large number of reinforced concrete structures lately erected in Canada proves beyond all question the permanent popularity and efficiency of this modern method of construction. It is, however, surprising how many reputable architects there are who know little or nothing of the many intricate details and peculiarities of the various systems and methods employed in this type of fireproof construction.

Our attention was called not long ago to the action of a builder in dismissing his architect who had undertaken to plan and superintend a large concrete structure. The owner maintained that the lack of

THE ARCHITECT AND REINFORCED CONCRETE

knowledge displayed by his architect in preparing detailed plans and specifications for concrete work would have been fatal to the successful construction of his building.

This lack of knowledge on this subject by many architects has been the cause of nearly all the failures in reinforced concrete structures. Their specifications or detailed plans have not been sufficiently clear or intelligently drawn up, and they have had to depend almost entirely upon the honesty and integrity of the contractor.

"What is the position of the architect to-day?" The question has been asked by nearly everyone in the profession. Is the architect to be the agent of the contractor; is he to be crowded out of the business by those who "design and build," or is he going to maintain his old time prestige, and stand firmly for his rights as to the char-

acter of construction which is to go into the building under his management?

These questions must be settled once and for all, if the architect is to maintain his self-respect and the confidence of his clients.

At the present time there are comparatively few architects who undertake to show upon their own plans the methods which must be followed in the construction of the reinforced concrete portions of the building under consideration. It is explained that the good methods are all patented, and it would be wrong to favor any one system. This is true only to the extent that no contractor should be given a preference by the specifying of his system. The architect should assert his independence by showing upon his plans what he knows to be a good form of construction.

This may mean considerable study to some, but to those who prove themselves capable it will mean a restoration of prestige not now enjoyed by many.

Competition where cost is to be the deciding point, and design the battleground, is, to say the least, "penny wise and pound foolish," if not actually amounting to criminal negligence.

Where designers are to be awarded a contract for producing a design costing less money than any other, it is needless to say that one will probably be adopted in which the insufficiency of material is the principal source of economy.

Numerous examples of failures, often resulting in death, have proven the "penny wise pound foolish" principle of procedure. Architects should keep before their minds the fact that they are held professionally and criminally responsible for designs under their supervision, and that no amount of bonding will excuse a contractor from not knowing that the design is incorrect.

The only safe, professional and self-respecting method to follow is for the architect to educate himself to a position where he can design as he would in structural steel, and permit of no tampering with his design in the interests of economy in any way which would decrease the stability of the structure or jeopardize his professional standing.

THE contract for the Point Du Bois power development scheme for the city of Winnipeg was recently let to the Anglo-Canadian Engineering Co., of London, England, with offices in Winnipeg. This company, it appears, was formed expressly for the purpose of building this development plant. If they

A CASE OF WIREPULLING?

could make good they intended entering the field of Canadian competition. Some one in the company is a shrewd politician, for some inexplicable reason the power contract was secured from the council of the City of Winnipeg in the Mayor's absence. Upon his return, the Mayor took umbrage at what he considered an unwarranted and high-handed action and vetoed the whole proposition. It is now up to the ratepayers of the city to say the final yea or nay at the next municipal elections in January.

A Correction

Owing to a printer's error the Linde British Refrigeration Company, Limited, of Canada, were made to appear through their advertisement in the October number of CONSTRUCTION as manufacturers of "die making" machinery. We desire to state that this well-known concern is not manufacturing any die making machinery, but is prepared to take orders for ice making machinery of all kinds. We would refer interested readers to their advertisement on page 10 of this issue of CONSTRUCTION.