

**T**HE Canadian Institute of Architects proposes to ask the Dominion Government for a charter making the architectural profession in Canada a closed one.

The organizers request the right to debar all architects from practising, who refuse to make application for membership, or who fail to pay their dues into the proposed organization, or who fail to pass the examination to be conducted by the judges appointed by the Institute.

It is asked that it be made a punishable offence for any individual to call him or herself an architect unless a member in good standing of the C. I. of A.

The Government is requested to refuse the individual the right of action in the courts for the recovery of fees for the preparation of plans or specifications for a building, unless he or she be a member of this organization.

The avowed object in asking for such legislation is the raising of the standard and dignity of the profession, and to protect the public against the danger of having their buildings planned by incompetent and dishonest designers.

Every Canadian who gives the matter conscientious and intelligent thought must agree that any measure to accomplish this end without bringing with it other evils, should be gladly welcomed.

We have every reason to believe that the men at the back of this movement stand high in the profession in Canada, and are well-meaning and conscientious in the prosecution of their views.

Nevertheless we are of the opinion that such powers should never be invested in a private corporation. It is perfectly right and proper that no one should be allowed to practice architecture before having qualified before a competent board of examiners, but the conducting of such examinations should be directly in the hands of the Government and should have no more legal connection with an institute of architects than with an association of builders.

There is no reason to believe that such powers as asked for in the proposed by-laws would be abused in any way by the Canadian Institute of Architects, nor have we any reason to believe that the organizers have any desire to ask for powers that would tend to make a monopoly of the profession.

We believe that their object is no other than to protect the profession in Canada, as well as the public, but this serves as no justification for the granting of such powers to a closed corporation. It veritably places the control of the entire building industry in Canada in the hands of this proposed corporation.

No man, it matters not whether he be an artisan or an architect, should be obliged by law to become a member of any union or association before he is permitted to follow his occupation.

It is perfectly right and proper, as we have said, that the Government should require every member of an important profession, such as architecture, to properly qualify before he is allowed to practice, but after he has so qualified, it should be left to his own discretion as to whether he chooses to associate himself with the Canadian Institute of Architects.

What is known as the "Architects' License Law" exists in three States in the American Union, namely: Illinois, New Jersey, and California. This law has been in force in the first named State for the past ten years, and has worked out most successfully. It provides for a State Board of Examiners to be composed of five competent architects who have practised in the State for at least ten years. These examiners are appointed by the Governor of the State for a period of two years. A

secretary is also appointed, and is paid a salary of \$1,800 a year to devote his entire time to the work of the Board. The Board meets at frequent intervals to consider applications, and the members are paid by the State ten dollars per diem while in session. This Board is directly responsible to the State, and is given all the necessary powers for the successful prosecution of their duties.

When the law went into force every architect practising at that time in the State was granted a license at a nominal fee, and all applicants thereafter were obliged to qualify before the Examiners' Board and pay a fee of twenty-five dollars. Each license must be renewed annually, and a fee of five dollars paid.

At the time the law went into force seven hundred licenses were granted to architects then practising, and the last annual report of the Board shows that, out of seven hundred and fourteen architects now practising, only five hundred and one of the original seven hundred are still holding licenses. This means that one hundred and ninety-nine of the original seven hundred have died or dropped the profession since the law came into force. The report states that most of this number have discontinued their practice because of the rigid enforcement of the law.

All fees reverted to the State and are used for the purpose of meeting the expenses incurred by the establishment and maintenance of this Board of Examiners.

These figures prove, without a doubt, the efficiency of a measure based upon these principles and are worthy of the consideration of the profession in Canada.

The laws of the State of New Jersey and California are along very much the same lines, and have worked out most successfully.

It is a wise and praiseworthy move on the part of the principal members of the profession in Canada in bringing about the formation of a federal association of architects, but we believe that instead of asking the Government for a charter, giving them such sweeping powers, they would work persistently, as a body, for legislation providing for a Dominion Board of Examiners of architects, they would accomplish the desired results in a more practical form, in a shorter period of time and with much less difficulty.

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**A**N effort is being made by the Ontario Association of Architects to hold an exhibit of the complete list of designs submitted in the recent architects' competition for the proposed Departmental and Justice Buildings to be erected on the east side of Major's Hill Park in the city of Ottawa. To this purpose President Burke has written to the Minister of Public Works and has received the reply that should the Association obtain the individual consent of the competing architects, the Government will forward the collection; but only on the understanding that from the time the consignment leaves Ottawa, the Ontario Association must assume full responsibility and restore each set to its rightful owners when finished with them. It is expected the exhibit will be held either in the rooms of the Guild of Civic Arts or the unfinished room on the top floor of the City Hall.

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**I**T is understood that the Guild of Civic Arts, Toronto, will move at the next session of Legislature for the appointment of a permanent commission, which will have charge of all civic improvements, such as the projecting of broadened streets, boulevards, public playgrounds and parks, thus divesting irresponsible aldermanic boards, that are likely to change in personnel each year, of the responsibility.