

CONSTRUCTION

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Architects and Architectural Issues

Architects are going to advance their affair only to the extent to which they consider the issues before them and the degree to which these issues are discussed and some unanimity of opinion arrived at concerning them. Very little will be accomplished otherwise. No association can be more than an association in name unless it receives the collective and active support of the members who comprise it. What is needed in the architectural circles of Canada is more of the enthusiasm and earnest debate which was evident at the Toronto meeting of the R.A.I.C. and O.A.A.; more addresses of the character which were delivered and more of the splendid feeling and tendency among members which was displayed at the meeting to fully discuss all questions.

The convention at least afforded an exchange of viewpoints which should lead to a much bet-

ter understanding and some definite course of action in shaping an effective policy. The spirit of the discussions and the enthusiasm manifest should not be permitted to extinguish itself in the months which follow. The publicity committee gives promise of doing effective work and should at the earliest possible moment set its machinery in motion. "Registration," "Adequate Protection for the Profession," and the "Conserving of Technical Opportunities" are questions which should be thrashed out with a view to determining which best represents the profession's welfare. Steps should be taken to get in touch and unite in some plan with all other bodies having mutual interests and objects. Of course all this implies well attended meetings, but that is as it should be. Members who attend meetings are certainly of more assistance to the association than those who simply pay their fees and stay away. The necessary thing is co-operative work, a full discussion of issues, unanimity of opinion and action. If this is realized the objects of the association will come closer to being achieved and the association will become a real factor in the accomplishment of tangible results.

First Pan-American Congress of Architects

Mr. A. Frank Wickson, the president of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, has been appointed by the Executive Committee of the First Pan-American Congress of Architects, which will be held at Montevideo, Uruguay, South America, on the 1st to 7th March, 1920, to form a Congress Committee for Canada.

The matters to be discussed at the First Pan-American Congress of Architects are the following:

1. Transformation, expansion and embellishment of the city of a type predominant in North and South America.
2. Construction materials proper to each country of North and South America. Adequate means of diffusing the knowledge of its nature and employment throughout the continent.
3. Would it be considered advisable that the exercise of the profession of architect should be reglemented?
4. Cheap houses, urban and rural, in North and South America.
5. Means of obtaining a higher artistic culture from the public for a clearer understanding of architecture as an art.
6. Professional responsibility of the architect.
7. Is it necessary that the teaching of architecture be carried out in special schools?
8. Founding of a Pan-American Perfection Institute for the architects.