

tion for the architects to go along without meeting from time to time to discuss those things which affect the profession in a general way. These meetings should not always be informal, but should be recorded, having in mind the future history of the country.

The press of the country could do much at a time like this to further those high aims which must come to a people whose finest young men have shown and are showing such splendid patriotism and courageous loyalty in defence of their country. Possibly it is not going too far to ask, have our journalists risen to the occasion? and to appeal to the daily papers of the country for a higher standard. The people are longing for it, and would rather pay a higher price for their daily paper, if that is necessary to ensure sound journalism in the highest sense of the term.

Architects, individually and collectively, should redouble their efforts not only to ensure good building and good architecture, but to see that students are trained and encouraged to provide for the future of Canada, the great advancement of which everything now points to.

Yours, F. S. BAKER.

A Forward Movement

The recent action on the part of some of our foremost banking institutions in resuming building operations suspended entirely after war broke out, promises much in the way of building activity for the coming year. Last year and most of this year until a month or two ago, it was extremely difficult, if not impossible, for contractors generally to secure loans for new buildings. The whole situation has been changed so that, within the limits of existing conditions, next year will see a substantial amount of building construction in Canada.

Canadians Not Barred

The interpretation placed upon the enforcement of the Alien Labor Act of the United States by J. H. Clark, United States Labor Commissioner at Montreal, as shown by a letter published on this page in August, gave unmistakable evidence that he considered Canadian architects, engineers and contractors in the same class as mechanics, and consequently they were barred from undertaking work across the border. Inasmuch as Mr. Clark has exercised control of emigration from Canada to the United States, and was in a position of authority, it became evident that we were being discriminated against.

We are glad to state that Mr. Clark's interpretation of the United States Act was not in accordance with its intent, and it is to be hoped that the authorities at Washington have so notified him.

Letters received from the United States Department of Labor and the Treasury Department, Washington, prove clearly that whatever may have been Mr. Clark's contention in respect to the Act, he was acting under an erroneous conviction. Considerable comment and not a little feeling was aroused in the minds of Canadian architects and engineers over the situation, but the atmosphere has been cleared by the letters to Mr. H. Macdonald, Acting Secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, in response to an enquiry from him.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION

Washington, November 3rd, 1916.

H. Macdonald, Esq., Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Toronto, Ont.:

Dear Sir,—Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of the 26th ult., enquiring whether Canadian civil engineers and architects are permitted to practice their respective professions in the United States, and whether they are eligible to contract for the erection of Government works or civic buildings.

In reply, you are advised that professional engineers and professional architects who come to the United States to practice their respective professions, are regarded by the Bureau as members of a "recognized learned profession," and eligible to enter this country under the exception to the contract labor provisions of the Immigration Statute (Act of February 20th, 1907), in favor of that class. This information is furnished you because it is assumed you have reference to the admissibility of members of these two professions under the United States immigration law, given in the enclosed pamphlet. (See Sections 2, 4, 5 and 6.)

So far as your letter relates to the privilege of Canadian civil engineers and architects to practice their respective professions in the United States, this office can only say it knows of no instance in which engineers and architects have been denied said right or privilege, or have been discriminated against by private manufacturers and construction firms because of the Canadian citizenship or alienage of such engineers and architects.

Your enquiry as to whether Canadian civil engineers and architects are permitted to contract for the erection of Government works or civic buildings is being referred to the Treasury Department, which can more properly give consideration to this question, and that Department requested to advise you in the premises.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) C. T. HAMPTON.

Acting Commissioner-General.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Washington, November 13th, 1916.

Mr. H. Macdonald, Acting Secretary, Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Toronto, Canada:

Sir,—Your inquiry of the 26th ult., addressed to the Immigration Bureau, Department of Labor, has been answered in part by the letter of the 3rd inst., from the Acting Commissioner-General of Immigration, stating that professional engineers and architects are regarded as members of a recognized learned profession, and, therefore, eligible to enter this country.

Your inquiry if Canadian civil engineers and architects are permitted to practice their respective professions in the United States, and whether they are eligible to contract for Government work and civic buildings, has been referred by the Department of Labor to this Department for reply.

The practice of their profession in this country by alien architects and engineers, as far as privately-owned buildings or civic buildings belonging to the states or their municipalities are concerned, is dependent upon the laws and regulations on the subject of the individual states, in which connection it should be borne in mind that certain states require architects to be licensed, which in most cases involves appearance before a licensing board for examination. These states are California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Utah and Florida.

So far as this Department is aware, there is no general law of the United States which prohibits the employment of alien architects and engineers for Government work, either in the capacity of professional men or in the capacity of contractors, except the restriction placed upon the Secretary of War by the Act of Congress approved March 3rd, 1875, which provides "That in all contracts for materials for any public improvement, the Secretary of War shall give preference to American materials, and labor thereon shall be performed within the jurisdiction of the United States."

While the law does not bar alien contractors, the Government is not bound to accept the lowest proposal, and might give consideration to the trouble and inconvenience to which the Government would be subjected in enforcing its rights against a defaulting alien contractor in the courts of his own country.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.)

H. A. NEWTON,

Assistant Secretary.

The authoritative sources of the above communications give ample assurance that Canadian architects and engineers are not prohibited from undertaking work with private concerns across the border, and in that respect, at least, we enjoy the same privileges as our American confreres do in Canada, except, of course, that in actual practice the benefit is all in favor of our friends to the south.