

CONSTRUCTION

A JOURNAL FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL
ENGINEERING AND CONTRACTING
INTERESTS OF CANADA



H. GAGNIER, LIMITED, PUBLISHERS

Corner Richmond and Shppard Streets.

TORONTO CANADA

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SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Canada and Great Britain, \$3.00 per annum. United States, the Continent and all Postal Union countries, \$4.00 per annum, in advance. Single copies, 50c.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—Changes of, or new advertisements must reach the Head Office not later than the twentieth of the month preceding publication to ensure insertion. Mailing date is on the tenth of each month. Advertising rates on application.

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the Post Office at Toronto, Canada.

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Vol. XI Toronto, Sept., 1918 No. 9

Proposed National Builders' Association

Local co-operative effort can always accomplish something, but national organization is what really counts in the attainment of fully effective results. Hence a great deal in the way of influence, general usefulness and accruing benefits can be predicted for the proposed Canadian Association of Building Industries now in process of formation. Permanent organization of this body will be effected at a general conference to be held in Ottawa on October 22, 23 and 24, and which gives promise of being fully attended by representative contractors from all sections of the country. The object will be to unite the various contracting and building interests, including supply and material firms, into a Dominion-wide organization, aiming to bring about a better understand-

ing among those directly concerned, and to solidify action in all matter relating to their interests and general welfare.

Two circumstances attending the inaugural of this movement at the meeting held at the Toronto Builders' Exchange on September 4, and which included representative contractors and builders from Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, London, Galt and other cities, seem to indicate the assured success of the association. One is the prominent men behind the project, and the other is the draft programme to be considered at the Ottawa conference, which indicates that the proposed association is to adopt no half measure policy. Besides this personal representation and the enthusiasm displayed at the preliminary meeting, there was also a sufficient assurance by proxy of the endorsement of a large number of firms in the eastern and western sections in support of the movement.

To a certain extent the association will be analogous to the National Federation of Building Industries, recently formed in the United States. It will consider, among other things, various contracting problems, ethical and business questions, the interdependence and relations of its allied branches, business relation with the architect, engineer, owner and public works departments; cost plus percentage basis, labor trade parliaments, the matter of resources, economy, readjustment and standardization of materials, and various other important subjects having a direct or indirect bearing on the building trades.

Not the least of the association's responsible duties will be to take up with the Dominion Government the matter of securing protective legislation in regard to the present unfair condition to which the Canadian contractors are subjected through the competition of alien firms, and which has been the means of taking large sums of money directly out of the country. In fact, in many cases competition is not the proper word, as very often alien firms are awarded contracts without Canadian firms even being given a chance to figure on the work. However, a hopeful sign, and one which indicates the usefulness of the proposed association, is the announcement made at the preliminary meeting by Mr. J. Penrose Anglin, president of the Montreal Builders' Exchange, to the effect that the Minister of Public Works has signified his willingness to meet the contractors, or a delegation of their association, to talk over various matters that relate to Dominion Government work or to Federal legislation.

In view of this and the many other worthy objects it seeks to attain, it is certainly to the interest of all contractors, builders and supply dealers, to rally to the support of the new association, and to make its organization effective