

on a straight contract. This matter is still treated very unfairly under a great many contracts, tying up the contractor's capital quite unnecessarily and adding an item of expense to the construction of the building which could very well be avoided.

ACTIVITIES OF CANADIAN ASSOCIATION.

You will doubtless remember when the Minister of Reconstruction started in on his big programme immediately after the armistice, he summoned to Ottawa a conference of manufacturers and builders in the hope that a permanent body would be organized, principally to advise the Government on labor questions and to present the other side of the argument in the same competent way that labor was presenting its side. The outcome of this conference was the birth of the Association of Canadian Construction Industries, and since that date branches of the parent body in Ottawa have been formed all over the Dominion, from St. John, N.B., right out to Calgary. A very successful conference was held in Ottawa last year, and another conference will be held this winter in Winnipeg. A great deal of good work is being done by this Association without much advertising; the executives are in constant session with the Labor Department at Ottawa. Only about ten weeks ago they appeared before the Railway Board on the question of fuel shortage in the cement mills, which has tied up millions of dollars worth of work throughout Western Canada. A few days later they were in conference with the Railway Board again on the question of freight rates, which has a very serious financial relationship to the construction industry. The association and its branches have time and again settled labor disputes, and if you will look back on previous years, and consider the number of strikes that have taken place this year, you will get an idea of the good work that is being done. This association in the past few months straightened out the sales tax tangle for the building industry; they were successful in keeping down the price and at the same time releasing B.C. lumber for the Ontario market. It was also at their suggestion that joint industrial boards have been formed in the larger centres, and which culminated in a National Joint Industrial Board being formed only last month, the chairman of which board to be appointed by the Dominion Government, and toward which an appropriation has been set aside for the work to be carried on.

A standing committee on labor has also been working steadily in an effort to place some real responsibility on labor unions, to further the apprenticeship system, technical education, classification of workmen and standardization of wages. They are also conferring with the

Government on the question of immigration of labor.

All of this work helps the building industry, and thereby helps the architect, and we would ask the moral and active support of the Ontario Association of Architects.

TORONTO BUILDERS' EXCHANGE.

The Builders' Exchange of Toronto is deserving of a word in passing, just to give some idea of what our organization is aiming at. At the present time we are going through a state of re-organization. It is our intention to go so far as to change the name of our organization, so as to increase its scope and prestige. About two months ago a business manager was engaged and a new constitution and by-laws are now being drafted with a view to consolidating the entire building industry of the city of Toronto. In this connection, I would just like to read a few paragraphs from the proposed constitution and code of practice so as to give you some idea of what this organization means to the building industry of the city.

CODE OF PRACTICE.

1. In order to avoid misunderstandings all agreements should be in writing.
 2. Proposals should be made subject to the conditions and terms as outlined in a standard contract form, no modifications of changes should be made in the contract which would interfere with the rights of contracting parties.
 3. Members should be given the preference in competing for, and in the award of business.
 4. Members should regard and respect the interests of the architectural and engineering professions.
 5. Any attempt to discredit the integrity or injure the business reputation of fellow members, either directly or indirectly should be discouraged; divulging information in such a manner as to result in endangering the prospects or supplanting a member is considered an unfair practice.
 6. When the proposal of a solicited bidder is used in compiling the cost, or to serve as a basis for general figures, or revision, said bidder should be awarded the work.
 7. A bidder being offered a contract in accordance with his proposal and the provisions of the code of practice should accept it and do the work. Members should execute their work in strict accordance with the agreement and the plans and specifications. Any attempt to evade responsibility, or substitute material for that called for in the agreement without the consent of the other party to the agreement, is considered bad practice and should be discouraged.
 8. Naming of unit prices in original bids to serve the purpose of computing cost of additions or allowances for deduction should be discontinued. Where additions or deductions are contemplated they should constitute separate transactions.
 9. In no instance should payment be made for the use of plans in erecting work, or any changes be made under the contract, either specific or pro-rated, unless they are particularly mentioned in the specifications or in the tender form.
 10. Members should recognize the necessity of short credit terms and the elimination of credit risks. Pay-
- (Concluded on page 300.)*