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A. I. A.

Received
JAN 02 1914

Answered... 1/9/14

Willis Polk & Co.
Architects
San Francisco

INDEXED

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE COMPANY.

MERCHANTS EXCHANGE BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO

December 27, 1913.

Mr. D. Knickerbocker Boyd,
Secretary-Treasurer,
American Institute of Architects,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Polk instructs me to send you the enclosed
copy of letter, together with extract from minutes therein
referred to, which he sent to Mr. R. Clipston Sturgis,
President of the American Institute of Architects, under
date of December 23rd, relative to the San Francisco
Chapter controversy, which are self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Fred Bloom
Secretary to Mr. Polk.

*Copy sent to Mr. S. explained the
situation which
was fully discussed by
the Board*

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Willis Polk & Co.
Architects
San Francisco

INDEXED

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE COMPANY

MERCHANTS EXCHANGE BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO

Dec. 23, 1913.

Mr. R. Clipton Sturgis,
President, American Institute of Architects,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Referring to the condition that has arisen in connection with the recent proceedings of the San Francisco Chapter, I address you personally to state that, in my judgment, the failure of the Institute to take definite action at the last annual convention has resulted in increased dissatisfaction on both sides of the present San Francisco controversy. Prompt action at the inception of this matter would have resulted in a simple settlement.

The delay on the part of the Institute, due to either over-deliberation, lack of intimate knowledge of facts and conditions, or want of appreciation of the importance of the principles involved, or due to an indifference that is difficult for me to understand, is most unfortunate. Personally, I have not allied myself with either faction, nor do I now plead the cause of either; but, I do insist that the profession as a whole is concerned.

To the best of my knowledge, the origin of this entire matter was founded on the endeavor of the Chapter to uphold, as they interpreted, the law of the Institute. There must be something fundamentally wrong with the Code of Ethics if it can be so misinterpreted. There must be also something fundamentally wrong with the Constitution and By-laws of the Institute if they are so loosely drawn as to permit such a factional fight in our local Chapter. The result is its division.

The retirement of practically all of its most desirable members, the formation of a new local society and its endeavor to secure the recognition of the Institute and the automatic relinquishment of membership in the Institute by Institute members who resign from a local Chapter forms, in my opinion, a situation that is the most serious that the Institute has perhaps ever faced.

My intercourse with men prominent in commercial life does not prompt me to believe that they, as a class, have a high opinion of the sincerity of the Institute, or at least a majority of its members, in the pretensions embodied in its Code of Ethics, or of their maintenance thereof. This opinion I further believe is strengthened by their knowledge of a controversy, the details of which they are unable to understand but which leads them to regard this whole matter as an undignified professional situation.

Mr. R. Clipton Sturgis, 12/23/13, #2:

Naturally, the acrimony of the situation has been intensified in a sense by personal business rivalries and jealousies, which might in a large measure have been avoided had the Institute promptly exercised those functions of paternalism that all of its chapters have a right to expect. This would, I believe, have avoided the insistence on the part of so many who have gradually, and perhaps unwittingly, exaggerated the situation to the dignity of one of a question of professional practice.

The enclosed extract from the minutes of the Proceedings of the San Francisco Chapter at the trial of John Galen Howard, Frederick H. Meyer and John Reid, Jr., April 25, 1913, will explain my attitude in this matter.

I think that the Chapter as a matter of discipline should be sustained; but its action in this case, should, as a matter of justice, be reviewed.

Very truly yours,

Extract from the minutes of the Proceedings of the
San Francisco Chapter at the trial of John Galen Howard,
Frederick H. Meyer and John Reid, Jr., April 25, 1913.

Mr. Polk: I regret very much that the proceedings should be started turbulently by Mr. Vogel, as he has tried to do, because the occasion is a very serious one. But if the Chair pleases, I would like to make a very few general statements. As I understand the rule of the day's meeting there will be no participation in these proceedings except by counsel, and, if you may call them so, the defendants. Before the trial proceeds, I would like to call the attention of the members of the Chapter to the fact that there has been a request made that the matter be referred to the Institute itself and not taken up by the Chapter, and I hope, if the trial itself proceeds and does come to a conclusion, that every member of the Chapter who votes, if his patience permits him to remain long enough to hear the evidence— I hope that he will then vote with a full realization, first of all, that this matter concerns not only the Chapter itself and the gentleman under these charges, but the Institute itself as well; and it concerns the profession as a whole, whether they are members of the Institute or not. It is the practice of architecture that is going to be reviewed and passed on by you, and personally I regret very much that the matter has gone so far that you feel that you must proceed with the trial now. Now, I think it is a very great mistake. It is something that it is impossible— almost impossible to eliminate personal feeling from. It is something that ought to be tried by an unprejudiced body. If you will permit me to make the observation, I do not think that this Chapter itself now is without prejudice. You are either for or against and you will be regardless of any evidence that might be offered, and it is something so directly concerned with the good name and esteem in which our profession is held by the public in general that any action you may take, either favorable or unfavorable, either in approval or disapproval of the charges, the effect cannot be limited to the members of the Chapter. It will be something that will have to be borne by all the profession at large and shared in by the public at large, through indirect channels and direct channels, and I sincerely hope that this trial can be postponed. A motion for an adjournment is always in order, and I trust that the proceedings will not be carried through. It is not a matter that this Chapter ought to decide. I understand that the Chapter has applied to the Secretary of State for a change of name, from the San Francisco Chapter, to the Northern California Chapter. I feel that this Chapter, through any action today, or any later proceedings, proceeds in any way at all in a matter of this kind without a proper recognition from the Institute itself, that the Institute would be justified in withdrawing its charter.

Mr. Mooser: Is he pleading for the Consulting Architects?

The Chairman: I think that the point is well taken, Mr. Polk.

Mr. Polk: I am not offering a motion now. I want to make a statement.

Mr. Matthews: Mr. Polk cannot plead for the Consulting Board in this matter. He must confine himself to what our duties are, and he cannot touch on the question at issue in this proceeding.

Mr. Polk: If you will allow me a moment longer. I want to tell you that if you do proceed, that if you will go on, that in voting on this matter you are not voting on a local matter; it is a national matter and ought to be referred to the National Institute.

Mr. Matthews: I object and rise to suggest that this matter concerns this Chapter at present and not the Institute.

The Chairman: Now, Mr. Polk, we will have to ask you to desist and—

Mr. Polk: (Intg.) You can, and also please accept my resignation as a member of this Chapter. (Mr. Polk leaves the room.)

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Jan. 9, 1914.

Willis Polk & Co.,
Merchants' Exchange Building,
San Francisco, Cal.

Mr. Willis Polk,
My dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated Dec. 27th, 1913, together with its enclosures of a copy of a letter to Mr. R. Clipston Sturgis, President, dated Dec. 23rd, and extracts from the minutes of the proceedings of San Francisco Chapter of April 25, 1913.

I have carefully read these and will present the same to the Board at its next meeting, which occurs the latter part of this month.

Yours very truly,



Secretary.

FMP.

DAY LETTER 1058

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THEO. N. VAIL, PRESIDENT

BELVIDERE BROOKS, GENERAL MANAGER

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SAN FRANCISCO CAL MAR 29

GLENN BROWN SECY AMN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHN DC.

CHARGES REFERRED BY COMMITTEE OF SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER AGAINST THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTS DIRECTING THE CITY WORKS ARE OF SUCH NATURE THAT I BELIEVE THE INSTITUTE SHOULD WIRE A REQUEST TO THE OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTER ADVISING AGAINST HASTY ACTION AND THAT THE CONTROVERSY SHOULD BE REFERRED TO A COMMITTEE OF THE INSTITUTE

WILLIS POLK

559AM

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June 27, 1914.

My dear Mr. Rice:

The President handed the enclosed correspondence to me (letter from Mr. Willcox to him dated June 12 with newspaper clipping) and suggested an article for the Journal, which would reach such a case. However, at the meeting of the Committee on Publications, it was agreed that before adding anything in the Journal, the matter should go to the Committee on Practice for the benefit of its opinion as to how far the Canon of Ethics applies in this case of Mr. Polk. Under instructions of the Secretary, I am therefore forwarding the material for the consideration of your committee.

(Handwritten initials)

Very truly yours,

✓ Case Referred
2-6

Mr. A. W. Rice,
110 State St.,
Boston, Mass.

Acting Executive Secretary.

Copy to Mr. Sturgis
Copy to Mr. Willcox

K:C

American
Institute of Architects

Reference Slip

To be answered by

Answered

Original to

Copy of original to

Copy of reply to

MAIN 289

INDEXED

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WILLCOX & SAYWARD
ARCHITECTS
400 BOSTON BLOCK
SEATTLE

12--June--1914

Sturgis, President,
Institute of Architects,
100 State Street, BOSTON,

Sturgis:-

While back I sent you some clippings Alden had sent me
San Francisco with respect to Polk's advertising agency. Inclosed
of the sort which reached my office during my absence east.

Polk is a bright, aggressive, able fellow and a most engaging com-
panion, but it does strike me that his methods are a distinct injury to
the profession. As Alden comments: "All of which means practically
nothing, but advertising for Architect Polk".

Whether such a case can be reached under our By-laws, I don't know,
but it is generally understood that Polk employs a regular publicity
agent who constantly exploits Polk architecturally or otherwise.

If you think this material would be of interest to the Committee on
Practice please forward. I am sure his conduct can only arouse animosity
within the profession and disparages the Institute. Already comments have
been made by some of our non-Institute men which are disquieting--for
instance, "Does the Institute stand for Polk's advertising dodge?"

Could'nt the JOURNAL carry an article condemning such subterfuges?

Yours truly,

Willcox

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF WORKS

CHAPTER I

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA,

POLK HURLS WORD ARMY, 420 OF 'EM, AT MAYOR

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Adjectives, Questions, Answers Lined Up in Battle Array on Sign 20 by 18 Feet in Size BURNS HOBART BUILDING

Architect Recites History of His Grievances, Defies Rolph and the Board of Public Works

RIGADIER GENERAL WILLIS POLK last night mobilized his advance brigade of sign painter and at daybreak this morning direct a sharp attack on the City Administration army. He will advance with a huge sign, 20 feet, on the side of the Hobart building in Market, near Montgomery street. The letters will be several inches high in the broad-

This attack, 420 words long, will be the first of active hostilities in the dispute between Polk and the administration as to how the Hobart building is to be fire-proofed as to its walls.

Polk says "Plaster." The administration says "Cement." No compromise is possible, and both sides say it will be war to the bitter end.

HAS NEW AMMUNITION.

Polk has a new and very explosive ammunition which will be fired from the sign board. Here is an instance of the shrapnel he will use:

"Mayor Rolph has announced that he will investigate the construction of this building. I would like to ask the people of this city to investigate Mayor Rolph.

"Is it not true that the present Civic Center, which ought to be called the Rolph Center, has its back door on the main street of this city?"

And the guns of the invaders will be loaded with many more such shots, all of which are calculated by the plaster general to carry fear to the hearts of the administration champions of cement.

Polk took care yesterday afternoon that Rolph, as commander of the opposing forces, should be notified of the coming attack. He haunted the business section of the city until he had met five Supervisors and eight City Hall employees, to each of whom he gave a message for the Mayor, telling of the sign he was preparing to flaunt.

PAINTERS WORK ALL NIGHT.

To get this sign prepared and ready to be hung on the board at daylight, Polk called on an army of sign painters, who worked all night. It will be the successor of a much milder sign, which, when Polk heard that the building was going to investigate his squabble with the Board of Public Works, was immediately pulled down to make room for the new one.

The war really starte da few days ago, when building inspectors found Polk was preparing to wall the building with metal lath and plaster. He was warned to use cement. Polk refused, and then the Board of Public Works ordered work stopped.

Polk said that metal lath and plaster is cheaper and just as good as cement.

NAY, SAYS WORKS BOARD.

But the Board of Public Works says:

"The building ordinance calls for all Class A buildings to be fireproofed with cement.

"All other architects and contractors have obeyed this clause of the law.

"Willis Polk's own specifications, which he submitted with application for the building permit, call for the legal form of construction.

"Mr. Polk has but to live up to his own specifications and all difficulty will end.

"Until Mr. Polk does live up to his specifications there will be no more construction work on the Hobart building."

SENTIMENTS ON SIGN.

After being notified to cease work on the building, Polk hoisted a sign telling a little of what he thought about the Board of Public Works and its rules. Mayor Rolph saw the sign and said he would investigate.

Hence to-day's sign which in full will read as follows:

Let Us Investigate.

Mayor Rolph has announced that he will investigate the construction of this (the Hobart)

building. I personally welcome such an investigation.

I disclaim that the building laws of this city require that the soffits of the beams of this building shall be fireproofed with concrete. I state that the extra cost of such concrete fireproofing of these soffits would have defeated, from an investment point of view, the erection of this building.

In the meantime, I would like to ask the people of the city and county of San Francisco to investigate Mr. Rolph.

What about Mayor Rolph's pre-election promise to build the City Hall on the old City Hall site?

What about Mr. Rolph's decision in the Civic Center matter?

What about Mr. Rolph turning down the advice of D. H. Burnham, Edward H. Bennett, and myself, and accepting the advice of less qualified counselors, in the Civic Center matter, thereby costing the city an unnecessary additional expenditure and no satisfactory artistic result?

Is the City Hall on the old site? No.

Is the Civic Center equal to the Civic Center of the Burnham plan? No.

Is it not true that the present Civic Center, which ought to be called the Rolph Center, has its back door on the main street of this city, Market street? Yes.

If Mayor Rolph wishes to utilize the energy and efficiency of the officers of this city in investigations, I reiterate that I welcome an investigation of the Hobart building; but, why should Mayor Rolph have wasted the time, the energy, and the efficiency of our city officials in investigating the charges brought against the correctness of the structural steel work of the new City Hall? Any strong, courageous man would have dismissed Supervisor Nelson's charges against the structural steel work on the City Hall, with the contempt that such charges deserve.

REFERS TO OPERA HOUSE.

Why did Mayor Rolph veto the opera house and deprive the city of a home for opera, and deny honest workmen the opportunity of building a million-dollar building?

Why does Mayor Rolph promote the building of municipal railways on Van Ness avenue and other streets, when every business man in the world knows that electrically propelled trolley cars are practically obsolete, and that

modern, economical, business street railway traffic should now be handled by motor buses, without overhead or underground trolley or tracks, or other disfigurement of streets?

Why is Mayor Rolph now less

acceptable as a Mayor of this city, judging him by his performances up to date, than was P. H. McCarthy? The answer is this. Everybody knew where P. H. McCarthy stood; nobody knows where James Rolph Jr. stands.

WILLIS POLK.

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DRES
IND

SING DAY
EMBER 4TH

POLK'S VERBAL ARMY FALLS IN FIRST FIRE

Hobart Estate Forces Removal of Sign Directing Wordy Warfare Against City Officials

BATTLE GOES MERRILY ON

Architect Declares He Will Resist Finance and Even the Police if They Try to Interfere

The red flag of wordy warfare that Willis Polk, architect, has been waving at the city administration continued wig-wagging vigorously yesterday and when dusk fell last evening the rival camps were pitched for a battle that is expected to be fought out today.

Attracted by the huge sign that Polk had erected on the front of the Hobart building overnight, crowds collected in lower Market street yesterday morning to await developments.

The sign, 18 by 20 feet, had been blazoned by a corps of workmen in the Polk camp with verbal flings at the administration, and it almost had blocked street car traffic along Market street when the telephone bell in the Hobart building jangled violently.

Polk directing operations from the building, stopped long enough to answer the telephone. The person talking on the wire was a representative of the law firm of McCutchen, Olney & Willard, attorneys for the Hobart estate, and he said he had a message for Polk.

HAUL DOWN THE SIGN.

The sign would have to come down, he said, and it would have to come down right away.

As Polk does not own the building, he had to obey this dictum, and the work of dismantling the sign began at once. It took about an hour to remove it from the front of the building.

Polk gave directions that the lettering on the boards be not disturbed, explaining that he intended to advertise for bids and give the sign to the property-owner who would pay the most to put the sign on display.

Later in the afternoon McCutchen, Olney & Willard communicated with Mayor Rolph over the telephone, saying that the sign had been put on the building without their knowledge and that they regretted the incident.

Mayor Rolph refused to comment at length on the references that had been made to him by Polk on the sign.

"EDUCATED HOODLUMISM."

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CRUEL WAR GOES ON



WHEE JAN

...that is expected to be out to-day.

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HAUL DOWN THE SIGN.

The sign would have to come down, he said, and it would have to come down right away.

Polk does not own the building, he had to obey this dictum, and the work of dismantling the sign began at once. It took about an hour to remove it from the front of the building. Polk gave directions that the letting on the boards be not disturbed, warning that he intended to advise for bids and give the sign to the property-owner who would pay later to put the sign on display.

Later in the afternoon McCutchen, Olney & Willard communicated with Polk or Rolph over the telephone, saying that the sign had been put on the building without their knowledge and that they regretted the incident.

Mayor Rolph refused to comment at length on the references that had been made to him by Polk on the sign.

"EDUCATED HOODLUMISM."

Polk's refusal to be led into a contest with Mr. Polk in educated hoodlumism, said the Mayor. "I have no controversy with Mr. Polk. His duty is to obey the law, not with the Mayor. I am sworn to observe and enforce the law. It is the same law for everybody. Nobody is above or beneath it. The building laws are the same for Mr. Polk as for others. If he is violating these laws, his offense is against the community—not against me personally.

The people's rights and wishes, as expressed in their mutual statutes, must and shall be obeyed so long as I am Mayor."

Chief Building Inspector John Horgan went to the Hobart building and saw the fireproofing work that the Board of Public Works had taken exception to. Inspector Horgan said it was not being done according to the plans and specifications filed with the board, and Polk said he would have thirty-eight men stop work until he could thresh the matter out with the board in the afternoon. At the conference he had with the board later he could not agree with either Timothy Reardon, the president, or Commissioner Adolph Judell. Finally, Reardon told Polk that unless he fireproofed the building according to the plans and specifications on file with the board, the work would be ordered stopped.

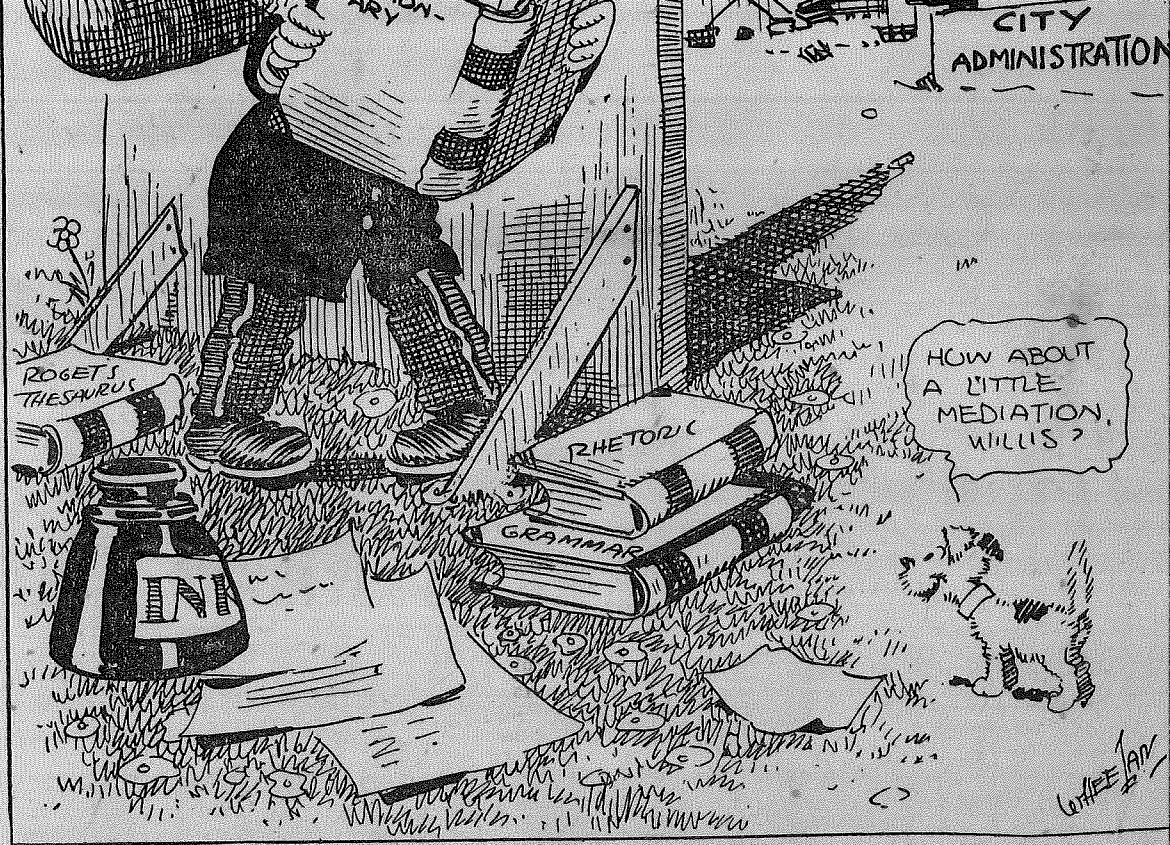
POLK DEFIES BOARD.

Polk said the board could not legally stop the work, and President Reardon replied by telling him to go ahead and see if it couldn't.

Reardon later said he would ask Chief White for policemen to prevent work on the building if Polk persisted in going ahead with the fireproofing in his own way.

Polk announced last night that he proposed to continue the work this morning.

"The Board of Works cannot legally stop me," he said. "If it tries it by putting policemen in the building, I will meet that situation when the time comes. It's about time that some of these alleged public servants are shown that they have not more rights over private property than the investors and owners."



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WILLIS POLK AND COMMISSION AT WAR

Mayor's Secretary Seeks to Defend Rolph's Honor With His Fists.

McLERAN AVERTS BLOWS

Fireproofing of the Hobart Building Beams Agitates City Government.

Whistler himself could not have made enemies with more deliberate intent if not with finer art than did Willis Polk yesterday afternoon at his rather remarkable encounter with the Board of Public Works and two secretaries of the Mayor.

Earlier in the day the latest of the signs on the Hobart building, that in which Polk gave his reasons at length for preferring Mayor McCarthy to Mayor Rolph, had come down at the order of the attorneys for the Hobart estate, who telephoned an apology to the Mayor.

Polk appeared at the chambers of the Commissioners of Public Works clad in shepherd plaid raiment and airily waving a stout walking stick.

"Now, I have been a builder here for thirty years," he remarked, pointing the walking stick at President T. A. Reardon, "and you have been on the Board of Works only a few months. Get wise."

But that was only the beginning. Plans of the Hobart building were produced and something in the line of argument was attempted, but Polk surveyed the field against him and parried:

"You are all appointees of Mayor Rolph. You seem more anxious to defend his honor than to understand the question before you." Following this with other comments on the honor of the Mayor, Polk drew fire from Edward Rainey, one of the Mayor's secretaries, who jumped from his chair, demanding:

"Are you attacking the Mayor's honor?"

NO BLOOD SPILLED.

Supervisor McLeran and Chief Building Inspector Horgan grabbed Rainey and prevented whatever bloodshed was threatened, and Polk walked over to where the belligerent secretary was being restrained and said:

"Excuse me, sir. I don't know your name; but if you think I was commenting on the personal honor of the Mayor you were mistaken. I was merely referring to his lack of intellect."

"This is not a class in psychology," said Commissioner Judell, who then sought to know if Polk would change the plans for fireproofing the lower side of the floor beams in the Hobart building. This led to more repartee and the threat from the Commissioners that they would ask Chief White to stop the work on the building.

"If you send the police," replied Polk, "I will hire a gang of 'roughnecks' and pay double wages to every one who hits a policeman."

More attempts at a more scholastic treatment of the engineering problem ensued, during the course of which the plans on the floor got walked on several times by the contestants.

"The time has come," Polk sallied,

sought to know if Polk would change the plans for fireproofing the lower side of the floor beams in the Hobart building. This led to more repartee and the threat from the Commissioners that they would ask Chief White to stop the work on the building.

"If you send the police," replied Polk, "I will hire a gang of 'roughnecks' and pay double wages to every one who hits a policeman."

More attempts at a more scholastic treatment of the engineering problem ensued, during the course of which the plans on the floor got walked on several times by the contestants.

"The time has come," Polk sallied, "when the people will no longer suffer so-called public servants to interfere with the work of public improvements."

"We'll stop the work on the building," the commissioner threatened.

"Do it then," retorted Polk.

NOT THE ONLY CHANGER.

"But you have changed the plan from that which was submitted to the Board of Works," argued Horgan.

"That's nothing," replied Polk. "I drew a plan of an opera-house and the Mayor changed it to a vacant lot."

President Reardon decided that if any attempt was made to go on with the work of fireproofing the floor beams without first submitting plans of the changes to the Works Board and securing his consent all the work on the Hobart building would be stopped with the assistance of three policemen.

Later in the afternoon Polk paid a visit to the Mayor at his office, and a somewhat more amicable conversation is reported to have taken place. Polk repeated his belief that he could not be stopped from doing the work as he had designed, but said he was willing to confer further with the officials, with the idea of convincing them that he was right, and that he would suspend the fireproofing work, in the meantime continuing with the erection of the steel frame. The Mayor and Reardon said that this would be satisfactory to them.

While the battle was still raging the Mayor issued the following proclamation:

"I have no controversy with Mr. Polk.

"Mr. Polk's dispute is with the law, not with me.

"I am sworn to observe and enforce the law. It is the same law for everybody; nobody is above or beneath it.

"The building laws are the same for Mr. Polk as for others. If he is violating those laws, his offense is against the community, not against me, personally.

"The people's rights and wishes, as expressed in their municipal statutes, must, and shall be, obeyed, as long as I am Mayor."

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CHAPTER III

SUNDAY MAY 3, 1914

CHAPTER IV

TUESDAY MAY 5, 1914

1,000 ROUNDS OF POLK 'HOT SHOT'

Aroused Architect of the Hobart Building to Use Newspaper "Ads" in Attacking Mayor.

Willis Polk, architect, who differs with the Board of Public Works on the fireproofing of the Hobart building, massed his verbal batteries again yesterday and primed them for another long volley to be fired tomorrow on Mayor Rolph and the administration.

More than a thousand rounds of words will be used by Polk in an advertisement he will publish in the newspapers to set forth his position in the controversy in detail.

Polk says in this advertisement that he has never defied the law in the structural work on the Hobart building, and that he has simply disregarded unlawful orders issued by officers of the law.

The law, he maintains, no more requires him to put a certain concrete protection in the building than it would require him to put a gold staircase in the vestibule, if the plans for the building permit called for one.

"Now as for changing the plans filed with the Board of Public Works to the plans filed for record along with the contract," Polk concludes his statement, "we contend that it makes no difference whether we changed the plans or not."

"We have never changed the plans of an \$850,000 opera house into a vacant lot. We protest that Mayor Rolph nor the Board of Public Works cannot stop anything we have started."

Polk also opines that he "has started something that Mayor Rolph cannot stop."

Timothy Reardon, president of the Board of Public Works, said yesterday that Polk would either be obliged to do the fireproofing according to the plans and specifications on file, or have the work on the building stopped.

"The Board of Works has ruled already on this matter," said Reardon, "and the fireproofing of the Hobart building will have to be done according to law. We have no controversy with Polk, who is doing all the quarreling himself."

Architect Polk Bows To City's Ordinance

Revises Plans for Hobart Building; Fight Is "Closed Incident."

The Willis Polk Company filed revised plans and specifications yesterday for the Hobart building, to conform to the building laws, and the imbroglio between Willis Polk and the Board of Public Works is a closed incident.

The Willis Polk Company also has written to President Reardon stating that it never was the intention of the company to evade the building laws. The letter explains, however, that there was a section of the law of which the company was not aware until it was called to its attention in the recent clash.

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All of which means, practically nothing, but advertising for Architect Polk.

Respected submission to Director Williams E. J. D.

The Committees of
The American Institute of Architects

A full list of the Committees
will be found on the reverse
side of this sheet.



To be
filed by
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Any reply to this communi-
cation should be addressed to
Arthur Wallace Rice
110 State St., Boston
In response July 24, 1914.

Mr. C. H. Whitaker,
The Octagon,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I am returning the papers forwarded me by you
on June 27th in regard to certain articles inserted in the San
Francisco papers by Wallace Polk.

I have forwarded these documents to my Com-
mittee and the majority of the Committee seem to be of the opin-
ion that it is most unfortunate that Mr. Polk has acted in this
manner but that we would not be justified in reporting him to
the Judiciary Committee as having violated the Canon of Ethics
as to advertising.

We do, however, feel that a strong well worded
article in the Journal would do a great deal of good.

Yours very truly,

Arthur Wallace Rice
Chairman Committee on Practice.

AWR/D

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7-27-14
Copy
in files
for
Wallace

PARISH & SCHROEDER,
ARCHITECTS,
12 WEST 31ST STREET,
NEW YORK.

INDEXED

July 2, 1914.

Mr. Arthur Wallace Rice,
Chairman, Committee on Practice,
110 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 30, 1914 with enclosed papers. I have read them all over and am forwarding them to Mr. Butler as requested. I have not yet made up my mind as to my action in regards to this case and would like very much to get some opinions to help form my own. I certainly feel that it is most unfortunate that Mr. Polk acted in the manner indicated, but feel that any action taken by our Committee would only be in line of further advertisement to him if he is the impulsive, erratic kind of a man as I picture he must be. I feel that a good sound, quiet talking administered to him might prevent him in the future from similar actions. He seems to me to have been very foolish, but whether his foolishness can be considered breaking any of the Laws of the A. I. A. appears to be a question in my mind. I should like very much to know how you feel before making a definite decision.

WP/JWC

Very truly yours,

Drainright Parish

NEW YORK CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

ROBERT D. KOHN, PRESIDENT,
86 WEST 45TH STREET
D. EVERETT WAID, VICE-PRESIDENT,
1 MADISON AVENUE
EGERTON SWARTWOUT, SECRETARY,
244 FIFTH AVENUE
GEORGE B. FORD, TREASURER,
101 PARK AVENUE
CHARLES BUTLER, RECORDER,
16 EAST 23RD STREET

LANSING C. HOLDEN
OWEN BRAINARD
J. H. FREEDLANDER
WILLIAM EMERSON
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

July 7, 1914.

Arthur Wallace Rice, Esq.,
110 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Rice:

I have gone over the documents relating to the war between Polk and the Mayor of San Francisco. This may be advertising, but if it is, it seems to me that it is the kind of advertising which can only do a man harm. I do not see how any one can read all of these clippings, including the final "back down" by Polk, without realizing that he is an unbalanced individual. Personally, I do not think this is worth paying any attention to.

I have sent the papers on to Stewardson.

Very truly yours,

Charles Butler

CB/EA.

STEWARDSON & PAGE

ARCHITECTS

316 WALNUT STREET

PHILADELPHIA

EMLYN L. STEWARDSON
GEORGE BISPHAM PAGE

INDEXED

July 8, 1914.

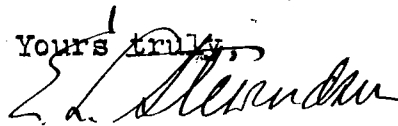
Arthur Wallace Rice, Esq.,

Dear Sir:-

I received today from Mr. Butler papers with regard to the controversy between Mr. Willis Polk and the Mayor of San Francisco, referred to in your letter of June 30th.

I feel that Mr. Polk has grossly violated the principles of professional practice and the canons of ethics.

Yours truly,



ELS

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Carr 1898
2-3 - Polk

July 27, 1914.

My dear Sir:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 24 returning the papers relative to the case of Mr. Willis Polk of the San Francisco Chapter. It is noted that your Committee does not feel justified in reporting him to the Judiciary Committee as having violated the Canon of Ethics as to advertising. I am therefore placing the correspondence in the files of the Institute without further action, except that President Sturgis, who has seen the correspondence, and Mr. Willcox, who is also interested, will be advised of the action of your Committee.

Very truly yours,

Mr. A. W. Rice
110 State St.,
Boston, Mass.

For Executive Secretary,

K:C

P.S. The suggestion for an article in the Journal will be brought to Mr. Whelan's personal attention.
Copy to Mr. Sturgis and Mr. Willcox.
E.C.K.

American Institute of Architects

INDEXED

Inter-Office Communication

Date **July 29, 14** Subject **Com. on Practice
Polk matter** From **RCS** To **ECK**

I have received copy of your letter of the 27th to Mr. Rice,
Chairman of the Committee on Practice. This report must be
presented to the Executive Committee, August 15th.

R.C.S.

per m. a. Randy

INDEXED

R. CLIPSTON STURGIS, PRESIDENT
THOMAS R. KIMBALL, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANK C. BALDWIN, 2D VICE-PRESIDENT

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON WASHINGTON D.C.

2-2
D. KNICKERBACKER BOYD, SECRETARY
LAWRENCE MAURAN, TREASURER
CABLE ADDRESS: OCTAGON WASHINGTON

Sept. 21, 1914.

My dear Sir:

With reference to your request of September 14, to Mr. Kimball, and our letters of Aug. 31, I return herewith the papers in connection with the cases of Mr. Willis Polk, and Messrs Hannaford and Sheblessy. Both of these have to do with the matter of advertising and are referred for the action of the Committee on Practice in accordance with the directions of the Executive Committee, of which you have been advised.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Arthur W. Rice,
110 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

E. C. Kemper

In Acting Executive Secretary.

K:B

2
P.M.

The Committees of The American Institute of Architects

INDEXED

Officers of the Institute:

R. Clipston Sturgis, *President*
 Thomas R. Kimball, *1st Vice-President*
 Frank C. Baldwin, *2d Vice-President*
 D. Knickerbacker Boyd, *Secretary*
 J. Lawrence Mauran, *Treasurer*



Office of the Chairman,
 110 State St., Boston, Mas.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS	
Committee on Practice:	
SEP 25 1914	
To be	Arthur W. Rice, <i>Chairman</i> , Boston
Ans. by	Wainwright Parish, New York City
Copy	Charles H. Prindleville, Chicago
Orig. to	Emlyn L. Stewardson, Philadelphia
	Chas. Butler, New York
Copy	September 23, 1914.
Reply to	
In suspense.....	

Mr. D. Knickerbacker Boyd,
 The Octagon,
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your request of August 31st stating that the Executive Committee wish a more detailed report of the case of Wallis Polk of San Francisco, I submit the following:

Under date of June 27th, 1914, the Committee on Practice received a letter from the Acting Secretary of the Institute enclosing correspondence from Mr. Wilcox with newspaper clippings suggesting an article for the Journal in regard to the matter, and stating that at a meeting of the Committee on Publications it was agreed before adding anything in the Journal, the matter should go to the Committee on Practice for the benefit of the opinion as to how far the Canon of Ethics applied to the case of Mr. Polk.

The newspaper clippings in question were from San Francisco papers on Friday, May 1st, Saturday, May 2nd, Sunday, May 3rd and Tuesday May 5th, 1914. They were a series of articles written in a very breezy style with illustrations describing a controversy between Mr. Polk and the Mayor of San Francisco. From the articles, it seems that the Building De-

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The Committees of The American Institute of Architects

Officers of the Institute:

- R. Clipston Sturgis, *President*
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- Frank C. Baldwin, *2d Vice-President*
- D. Knickerbacker Boyd, *Secretary*
- J. Lawrence Mauran, *Treasurer*



Committee on Practice:

- Arthur Wallace Rice, *Chairman*, Boston
- Wainwright Parish, New York City
- Charles H. Prindle, Chicago
- Emlyn L. Stewardson, Philadelphia

Mr. D. K. Boyd-----2

Office of the Chairman,
110 State St., Boston, Mass.

Sept. 23, 1914.

partment requested that Polk as architect of the Hobart Building, should fireproof the steel beams with cement instead of plaster and Mr. Polk had erected upon the building a large sign about 18 x 20 feet with about 420 words on it stating his side of the case, a large part of it being a personal attack upon the Mayor rather than the technical side of the question.

On the second day the newspaper clippings went further into the controversy giving an elaborate account of Mr. Polk's visit to the Building Department and to the Mayor and in a very breezy style stated what took place in these interviews.

On the third day the article in the paper was much shorter but still told of the progress of the dispute between Mr. Polk and the Mayor.

On the fourth day a small article in the paper announced that the Wallis Polk Company had filed revised plans and specifications with the Building Department and that the controversy was a closed incident.

The whole thing seems to have been nothing more than a tempest in a teapot and simply consisted of a very cleverly

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The Committees of The American Institute of Architects

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Committee on Practice:

- Arthur Wallace Rice, *Chairman*, Boston
- Wainwright Parish, New York City
- Charles H. Prindeville, Chicago
- Emlyn L. Stewardson, Philadelphia

Mr. D. K. Boyd-----3

Office of the Chairman,
110 State St., Boston, Mass.

Sept. 23, 1914.

gotten up series of newspaper clippings.

The Committee on Practice carefully reviewed the case and by majority vote are of the opinion under the Canon of Ethics, that this could not be called advertising, and ^{to} a serious minded person, it must tend to do more harm than good to Mr. Polk.

Mention was made in a letter from Mr. Wilcox to President Sturgis that Polk employs a regular publicity agent who constantly exploits Polk architecturally or otherwise, but as there was no evidence submitted in proof of this statement, it was not considered in connection with the articles in question by the Committee, and as stated in my letter of July 24th my Committee seems to be of the opinion that it is unfortunate that Mr. Polk has acted in this manner but that we would not be justified in reporting him to the Judiciary Committee as ~~to~~ having violated the Canon of Ethics as to advertising.

I return all the papers in the case.

Yours very truly

Chairman Committee on Practice.

AWR/D

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~~1-7-1~~
2-3
Polk

Sept. 28, 1914.

My dear Sir:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 23, addressed to Mr. Boyd and transmitting a detailed report in the case of Mr. Willis Polk of San Francisco.

Receipt is also acknowledged of the return of the correspondence in the case, which will be brought before the Board of Directors at its next meeting.

Very truly yours,


For Acting Executive Secretary.

Mr. Arthur W. Rice,
110 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

K:B

2-3

21

October 23, 1914.

My dear Sir:-

At the meeting of the Executive Committee in Washington on October 17th., the report of the Committee on Practices in the case of Mr. Willis Polk of San Francisco was received and considered.

The Executive Committee approved this report and directed that a copy be sent to you for your information. This is accordingly transmitted herewith.

Very truly yours,

Acting Executive Secretary.

Mr. H. R. B. Wilcox,
400 Boston Block,
Seattle, Wash.

K/W

ENC.

American Institute of Architects

Inter-Office Communication

272

Date	Subject	From	To
Oct. 29/14	Case of Willis Polk	BOCK	BLF.

Mr. Rice has been advised of the action of the Executive Committee and a copy of the report of the Committee on Practice was sent to Mr. Willcox with a suitable letter.

As the Committee did not find a prima facie case of unprofessional conduct, the proper procedure seems completed by the letters indicated above.

I do not find in the Rules or the Constitution and By-Laws, any requirement that a member should be notified when a prima facie case is not found against him by the Committee on Practice; The second paragraph of the Standing Order of the 39th Convention provides that alleged unprofessional conduct may be called to the attention of the Judiciary without the same being deemed a form of complaint.

It appears therefore that no notice is necessary to Mr. Polk or to the members of the Institute.

Please advise me if I am not correct in this.

c/

Willis Polk
American Institute of Architects

Inter-Office Communication

Date	Subject	From	To
November 2, 1914.	Case of Willis Polk.	B.L.F.	E.C.K.

Replying to your memorandum of October 29, with reference to reports from the Committee on Practice, ^Wwhere no prima facie case is found, you are correct in your understanding that in these cases no further action is necessary than the communication to the chairman of the Committee on Practice of the action of the Executive Committee in accepting its report. Therefore, no notice need be sent to Mr. Polk.

B.L.F.

Willis Polk & Co.
Architects
Managers of Construction
San Francisco

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE COMPANY

Nov. 19th, 1914.

Burt L. Fenner, Secretary Pro tem,
American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your valued favor of the 12th inst., is at hand,

Among the list of names that may come before your Board of Directors for admission to the Institute, Mr. Polk desires me to inform you that he heartily endorses the candidacy of Mr. Thomas E. Tallmadge, of Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Polk further directs me to inform you that he considers that his membership in the San Francisco Chapter terminated April 25th, 1913, and that as under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Institute, the termination of membership in a chapter automatically terminates such members membership in the institute, he would like a ruling on the question in point.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Secretary to Mr. Polk

AMERICAN INSTITUTE of ARCHITECTS
NOV 24 1914
To be }
Ans. by }
Copy }
Orig. to }
HOBART BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO
Copy }
Reply to }
In suspense.....

American Institute of Architects

Inter-Office Communication

Personal

Date Dec. 15/14 Subject As below From ECK To RCS

2-3

At the meeting of the Board on December 4, the case of Mr. Willis Polk was left for the personal attention of the President.

The facts seem to be that Mr. Polk claims to have verbally resigned from the San Francisco chapter at the time of the difficulties there. However, it is understood from the Secretary of the San Francisco chapter that he refuses to submit his resignation in writing. He also attends the chapter meetings, but as a guest of someone else. His dues have been paid to the chapter through his office and his dues to the Institute for 1914 have also been paid. On the other hand, a letter has been received recently from the office of Mr. Polk requesting that he be advised as to his status, as he has resigned from the San Francisco chapter, and that implies resignation from the Institute.

I notice in some recent minutes from San Francisco that he took an active part in a recent function of the chapter.

I was advised by one of the San Francisco delegates that Mr. Polk is quite a bright chap, but that he loves notoriety at any price. It makes little difference whether the notoriety is good or bad, so long as it is notoriety.

It occurs to me that in communicating with Mr. Polk, it might be well to bear this in mind, for such a letter might serve for some other purpose than that intended.

Polk, Willis

2-3

December 17, 1914.

Dear Polk-

With the plans that are now under way for the reorganization of chapter membership I believe that the chapter in San Francisco will be one of the strongest and most influential chapters of the Institute. I am told that you have resigned from the San Francisco chapter, which resignation, if actually taking effect, would necessarily carry with it resignation from the Institute. I am sure you are not intending to resign your Institute membership, and as the letter that spoke of your resignation from the San Francisco chapter contained also an answer to a privileged communication of the Institute it seemed evident to me that you did wish to exercise your rights as a member of the Institute. I trust therefore that you will not resign from the chapter, but that instead you will lend your influence to strengthen and improve the work of the Institute on the coast.

I am looking forward to the possibility of getting out next spring, when it will be a pleasure to meet you again. I am,
with kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Willis Polk, Esq-
1325 Merchants Exchange bldg,
San Francisco-

President.

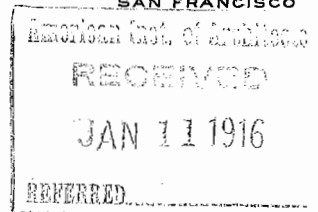
Willis Polk & Co.
Architects
Managers of Construction
San Francisco

Bel

2-11-16

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE COMPANY

HOBART BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO



January 6, 1916.

American Institute of Architects,
Attention Mr. D. Everett Waid, Treasurer,
The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Referring to your enclosed bill of annual dues,
\$20.00 for current year, due in January 1916, which is returned
you herewith.

Mr. Polk is not a member of the local chapter
and understands therefore, much to his regret, that he is not
a member of the institute.

Very truly yours,

Willis Polk

2-0
February 13, 1916.

Dear Sir:-

A letter received from the Secretary of the San Francisco Chapter states that you are now a member of that Chapter.

Therefore, we have retained your name on the records here as an Institute member in good standing, and it will so appear in the 1916 Annual.

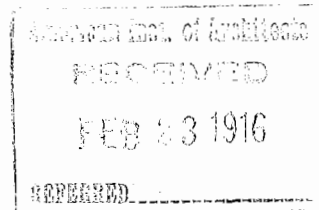
Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Willis Polk,
Hobert Building,
San Francisco, California.

K:M.

Willis Polk & Co.
Architects
Managers of Construction
San Francisco



ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE COMPANY

HOBART BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO

February 17, 1916.

The American Institute of Architects,
Attention Mr. E. C. Kempe, Executive Secretary,
The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the 12th inst. to
Mr. Polk, we have no information that coincides with the
advice you have received from the San Francisco Chapter
that Mr. Polk is a member of the chapter.

Very truly yours,



2-3

May 5, 1916.

My dear Sir:

At the recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute, consideration was given to the status of Willis Polk of the San Francisco Chapter.

On behalf of the Secretary, I am writing to ask if you will not advise me if he is or is not at the present time, a member of the San Francisco Chapter.

If you advise that he is not a member his name will be removed from the Institute rolls here.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Sylvain Schnaittacher, Secretary
San Francisco Chapter, A.I.A.
San Francisco, Calif.

K:C

SYLVAIN SCHNAITACHER
ARCHITECT
233 POST STREET
SAN FRANCISCO
ASSOCIATE
AM. INST. OF ARCHITECTS TEL. KEARNY 744

2
/ 2

May 23d

1916.

Mr. Burt L. Fenner
The Octagon
Washington, D. C.



Dear Mr. Fenner:

I have your inquiry, also that of Mr. Kemper as to the status of Mr. Willis Polk as a member of the San Francisco Chapter.

At the time of the trial of Messrs. Howard, Meyer and Reid, Mr. Polk started in to interrupt the proceedings and was asked by the Chair to take his seat. He thereupon said "I resign from this Chapter" and left the room. Subsequently he paid his dues for the then current year. At this time he made a statement that he had resigned from the Chapter to several of the officers, myself included, and that the payment of his dues was a mistake of his Secretary. He had been told that his resignation to be considered must be in writing in accordance with the By-laws of the Chapter. This has never been done. He frequently appeared at Chapter meetings, but always said that he was not a member of the Chapter but wished to be considered as a guest. This continued until at a joint meeting of the San Francisco Architectural Club and the San Francisco Chapter, held on December 18th, 1915, which was in the nature of a "Jinks" and entertainment, when Mr. Polk appeared at this meeting and toward the conclusion, stated that he withdrew his resignation from the Chapter and henceforth wished to be considered as a Chapter member.

He is carried on our books as a Chapter member, but is in arrears for his dues for 1915 and 1916.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours very truly,

Willis Polk & Co.
Architects
Managers of Construction
San Francisco



ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE COMPANY

HOBART BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO

June 26, 1916.

American Institute of Architects,
Treasurer's Office,
The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We have received in to-day's mail your bill of
Mr. Polk's annual dues for 1916, second notice.

As we advised you some time ago, it is with
regret that Mr. Polk is aware of the fact that he is not
a member of the Institute, not being a member of the
local chapter.

Very truly yours,

Willis Polk

2-3

Polk

J. Polk, Willis
man, I have this
stencil

15

2-3

August 4, 1916.

My dear Sir:

At the July meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects, a letter of June 26th from your office was read in which it was stated "it is with regret that Mr. Polk is aware of the fact that he is not a member of the Institute, not being a member of the local Chapter".

It was thereupon resolved that in view of this statement your name be stricken from the rolls of the Institute and the San Francisco Chapter notified accordingly.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Willis Polk,
Hobart Building,
San Francisco, Calif.
Copy to Mr. Schnaittacher
K:C

Polk,
Willis

G

SYLVAIN SCHNAITTACHER
ARCHITECT
233 POST STREET
SAN FRANCISCO
MEMBER
AM. INST. OF ARCHITECTS TEL. KEARNY 744

September 26th
1924.

Journal of the American Institute of Architects
Washington D.C.

Attention Mr. Rogers Whitaker.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 15th requesting material concerning the death of Willis Polk was duly received and I have delayed in answering in order to procure suitable material; however, I am sending this by air mail so that there shall be no delay in its reaching your office.

It is rather a difficult task to write an obituary or appraisal of the work of Willis Polk. He was not at the time of his death, a member of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, but at a meeting held on Tuesday, September 23d, Messrs. Arthur Brown, Jr. and Ernest Coxhead were appointed a committee to draft suitable resolutions on the loss the architectural profession has sustained by his death. These resolutions have not as yet been drawn up. I am enclosing a copy of a resolution passed by the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Art Association. I am also enclosing an obituary prepared by Mr. Arthur Brown, Jr. and clippings from the San Francisco "Examiner", one of which gives a sketch of his career. The latter part of the article in the "Examiner" giving a list of Polk's activities is to quite some degree, inaccurate. If I were to revise the same from my knowledge of Mr. A. Page Brown's office, in which I was employed for a long period and from familiarity with the work of Mr. Polk, I would say that he was employed in Mr. Brown's office at the time the Crocker Building, The Towne House, the Crocker Old People's Home and several other notable buildings were being designed (1889-1891) and that after leaving Mr. Brown's office he had varied association with a number of San Francisco architects in the design of important buildings, all of which bore the stamp and impress of his skill. Among these may be mentioned the Kohl Building, the Merchants Exchange and the First National Bank Building. His association with D.H. Burnham & Company resulted in the production of a number of buildings in many of the large cities of the United States. The work of his firm - Willis Polk and Company - included the Hobart Building, Pacific Union Club, Water Temple at Sunol and the Insurance Exchange. Residences for Charles Templeton Crocker, Mrs. Francis Carolan, Mrs. Andrew

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SYLVAIN SCHNAITTACHER
ARCHITECT
233 POST STREET
SAN FRANCISCO
MEMBER
AM. INST. OF ARCHITECTS TEL. KEARNY 744

Welch and many others, all of which were of unusual distinction. I believe the impress of his genius one of the contributing factors in establishing the excellence of California domestic architecture.

Not knowing how much space you wish to devote, I am leaving it to your judgment to use such of the data as has been sent you.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sylvain Schnaittacher", followed by a horizontal line.

Enclosure:

Impelled to give expression to the sentiments aroused by the death of their late associate

Mr. Willis Polk

the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Art Association have by unanimous vote adopted the following memorial:

In the passing of Mr. Willis Polk the San Francisco Art Association has sustained a loss which must in simple truth be deemed irreparable. His services and inspiration in his association with the artistic fraternity of San Francisco extended over a long period of years. He was always ready at all times to encourage budding talent and quick to recognize the inherent qualities of art in everyone who was sincerely striving for the best, and his help and encouragement will be lovingly remembered by many a practising artist and architect in our country. Standing as he did in the forefront of his profession, his life and ideals were the inspiration of both architects and artists, and his intimate knowledge of the foundations that lie at the root of all aesthetic expression in art made him one to whom everyone looked as an authority. He cared little for his own advancement and sought no undue recognition for himself, but preferred that the ideals for which he stood should speak in his work. He leaves behind a memory which will be revered by all who knew him.

BE IT RESOLVED, therefore, that the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Art Association deeply deplore the loss of one for whom they felt the greatest admiration and respect, and that they, in common with the community of San Francisco will ever cherish his memory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this memorial be entered in full in the minutes of the Board, and the Secretary be instructed to have it typed and sent to Mrs. Polk.

Examiner Sept 12th

Arch Biog.
Polk, Willis

Page 2

WILLIS POLK, ARCHITECT, DEAD IN S. F.

Noted Art Authority and Bon Vivant, Who Rose to Greatness From Newsboy Post, Dies

San Francisco's master builder is dead. Willis Polk, architect, wit, light hearted lover of the beautiful and creator of many architectural masterpieces in San Francisco and throughout the country, died yesterday at the Park Sanitarium, after an illness of little more than a month.

About five weeks ago he suffered an attack of influenza. A general breakdown followed, confining him to the hospital, but during the last several days he appeared to be improving and looked forward to returning to his firm, Willis Polk & Co., in the Hobart Building. But a sudden attack of heart failure, as he was walking about the room, brought on the end early yesterday morning.

His passing was not alone a shock to his immediate family, but to friends and admirers of his art throughout this country and Europe. **CONDOLENCES.**

Messages of condolence from many cities, among them early tribute from Mayor Rolph, were received at the Polk home in San Mateo by the widow, the former Christine Barada, member of an old family of Seville, Spain. In Paris the news of Polk's death brought grief to his sister, the Countess Gladys de Buyer, widow of the French cavalry general. Here in San Francisco he leaves a cousin, Charles Polk, broker, and a stepson, Auston Moore. Two other half brothers reside in St. Louis.

Without preliminary schooling or art training, he rose from a St. Louis newsboy to a national authority in architecture and art. No traditions held him, he launched into radical architectural departures and went his way untrammelled, but always true to proportion and beauty, always holding that the language of art was one language understood by all ages and peoples. **BON VIVANT.**

He was a figure in San Francisco life, a bon vivant, Bohemian, art critic, an indefatigable worker plunging into every crusade for beautification, and insisting that California, which he termed a Garden of Eden, was the one place on earth where a silk purse could be made from a sow's ear.

With Charles Page Brown, Polk designed the Crocker Building and the Ferry building. After the fire of 1906 he rebuilt and reconstructed many of the most important buildings in San Francisco, approximately \$22,000,000 in construction being placed to his credit. The Hobart building, Merchants' Exchange, First National Bank, Pacific Union Club and the unique glass front building in Sutter street are among his creations. The water temple at Sunol is one of his masterpieces that most appealed to him. Often he was called to other cities, as in the design of the Union Station, Washington, D. C., and in judging plans for Statehouse of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Leaves Monuments



Willis Polk, noted San Francisco architect, aesthete and art authority, who died at Park Sanitarium yesterday after a relapse from influenza and a heart attack.

EXAMINER 9/12 S. F. ARCHITECT LAID AT REST

Willis Polk, San Francisco architect, and well known figure among art lovers throughout the country, was buried yesterday morning in the family plot in the old Santa Clara Mission Cemetery. At the conclusion of the services the grave was heaped with a great mound of floral tributes sent by family friends and professional and artistic associates.

At his personal request only members of the family and a few of his oldest friends attended the funeral, which was held in the chapel of Santa Clara University at 10:30 o'clock. Father William Grant, pastor of St. Catherine's Church, Burlingame, officiated at a low mass.

Polk died of a heart attack early Thursday morning.

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Arch. Biog.
Polk, Willis

Sept. 12

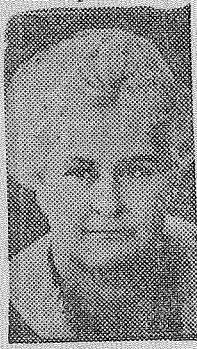
THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER:

So You're Gone, Are You, Willis? Remember the Old Days Here?

By ANNIE LAURIE

So you're gone, are you, Willis Polk—I wonder where.

You, with the bright eyes of mischievous genius—like the eyes of a rather wicked very clever, wild squirrel and he climbing the highest tree in the forest and laughing down at the ones beneath — at the foot of the tree.



You with the straight high nose and the clear cut face, you with the light step and the neat foot and the quick puzzling laugh of you.

You with the gaiety of a child and the wit of the man of the world and the deep love of beauty burning in your heart like a flame.

You with your stories and your old songs and ballads and your fling at everybody and everything—you with your light won cynicism and your hard won faith, you with the fighting spirit of some old Irish gentleman squaring the shoulders of you, wherever did you get it, Abick—you the American from down south in Dixie.

You with the ancient old American name that's writ in the books of history way back and way back.

James K. Polk, was it he that was your grandfather's cousin back there in the days of the early republic—faith but you had the look of him to be sure, but you never said aught about it, you laughed at family and lineage and told funny stories about "befo' the wah" and all the traditions of the Old South and you loved 'em all the time for all that—the old customs and the old ways and the old stories and the old friends.

What a speech you could make, you rogue of the world, you with

your tongue in the cheek of you, you with a tear in one eye and a grin in the other.

You with your fists doubled under the table and light laugh on your lips, you that fought your way up from bitter poverty to light hearted plenty, you that would contradict any man living to his face and the bigger the man the better, and fight for him behind his back.

You that loved the newspaper game and knew it, too, though you never got paid for a line you wrote for a paper in your life as far as I know.

You that could hum any one of the old operas through and never come too near the pitch—from the tenor to the prima donna.

You with your veneration for Burnham, the master craftsman, you with the grey old town, graven deep in your heart of hearts, San Francisco.

You scolded the town, you wrote screeds attacking it, you called the city and everybody in it names and such names at that.

Faith, 'tis well you spoke them and didn't write them, 'tis scandalized the misunderstanding world would be if those words spoken in the heat of sudden conviction should be read over in cold blood. Fools we were and blind, so you said, Willis Polk, you who were so wise and so clear of sight.

Money mad we were and Philistines, every one of us, but who would take up the cudgels for the time if anyone else attacked them like you—you contrary wight you, and oh, who remembered an old friend so well?

Do you mind how you called one you knew away from a gay group and asked for news from a friend we had none of us seen for weary years?

"And is she well?" said you, "and happy, or is it true that she is poor and forgotten?"

"If she's well, the Lord bless her and keep her, I'll forget her and welcome, but if she's ill and poor, get me the address of her

and though she be around the world from here, let's send her a message and something with it that will make her realize we of the old town don't forget those who made us laugh when all the world was young and full of laughter."

And for the sake of the old days when five or six of us used to eat dinner at Sanguinetti's on a Saturday night and the blind fiddler came in from the street and played us a tune on his old fiddle and we danced, Sanguinetti and all—we got the address of the old friend and it was a gay day and heartsome when she heard from us through you and yours, Willis Polk, and she alone and friendless in a cold-hearted foreign city.

Famous, successful, courted, popular, you never forgot did you, Willis Polk, you rascal you, with a soft speech at the end of your tongue and a sharp tang to it, too, when you liked.

Well, well, how is it there where you've gone, anyhow?

Do they be selling violets in the streets and do they smell as violets smelled twenty years ago and more down the gay side of Kearny street and all of us young and light-hearted, yes, and light-footed too.

Pass on, brave heart and gallant soul, there'll be many to welcome you, be sure of that, wherever you've gone, and whisper, do you be telling 'em fair tales of us over there and none of your nonsense—see to that, now.

"In my Father's house are many mansions—" so they say—have you found one of them, Willis Polk, and how do you like the building of it, you that dreamed dreams and made them come true in brick and mortar and stone—many mansions for many sorts of people. I wonder now, will you find some way to call us up and give us the "low down" without fear or favor?

'Twould be like you to do it, Willis Polk—make an effort, do—for old times' sake.

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THE WILLIS POLK MEMORIAL TRUSTEES

FOR THE MEMORIAL VOLUME ENTITLED
WILLIS POLK: HIS WORK AS AN ARCHITECT & ARTIST

AUSTIN MOORE, *Trustee*
46 KEARNY STREET, ROOM 314,
SAN FRANCISCO

December 19, 1930.

Mr. E. C. Kemper,
The Octagon,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kemper:-

It seems to me that the enclosed information ought to be on file at the Octagon. Willis Polk was our greatest Western architect, and for a long time was a member of the Institute. In one of his temperamental spells, he resigned; and the Chapter was never the same afterward. There was no dullness when he was around!

With the compliments of the season, I am

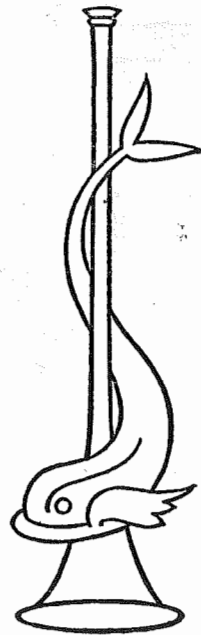
Cordially yours,

Harris C. Allen



WILLIS POLK

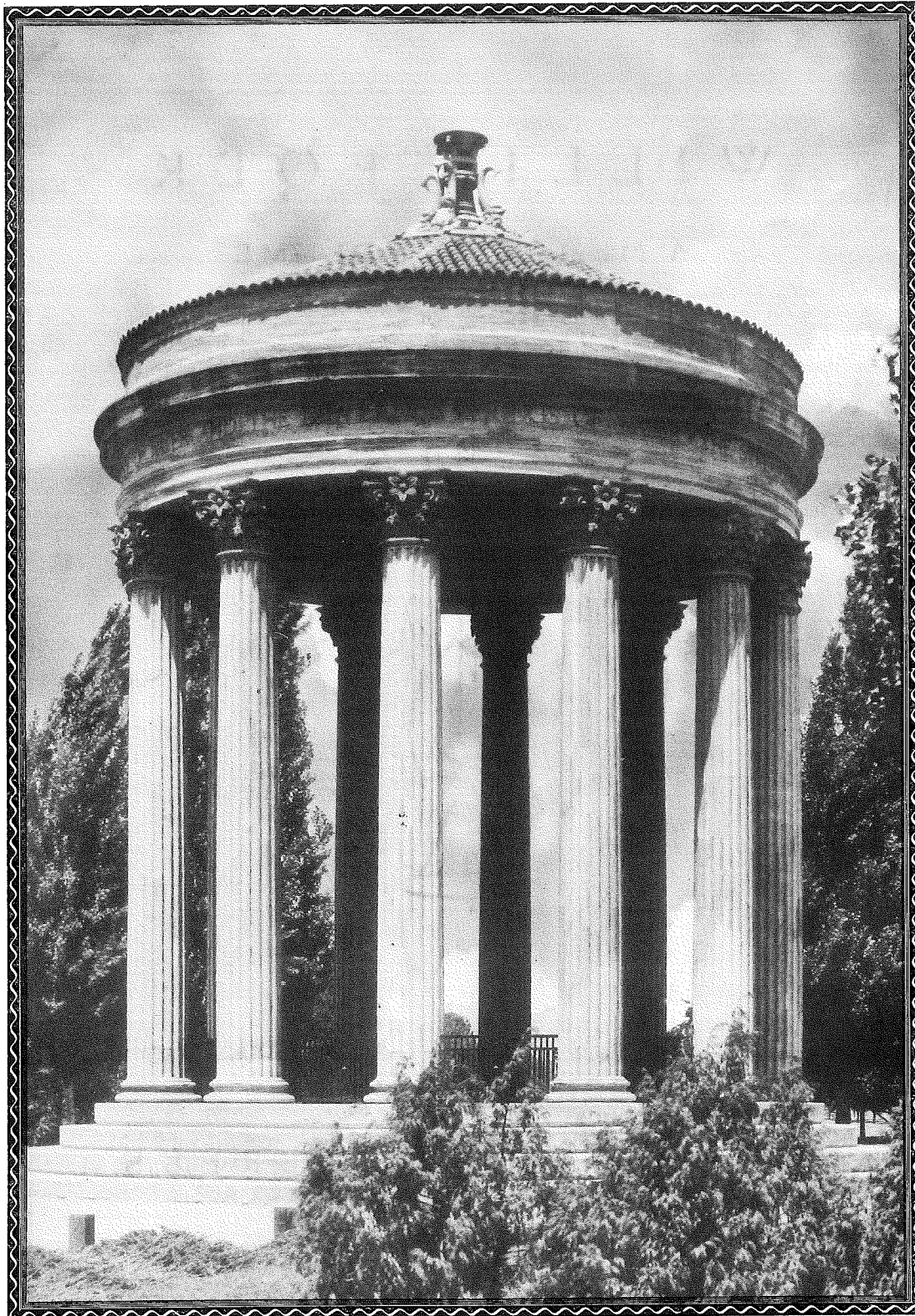
A MEMORIAL VOLUME



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WATER TEMPLE-SUNOL, CALIFORNIA.

FOR THE SPRING VALLEY WATER COMPANY

THE PURPOSE OF THIS VOLUME IS TO
PROVIDE A PERMANENT RECORD OF THE
LIFE AND THE WORK OF WILLIS POLK
AND SO CREATE A MEMORIAL WHICH WILL
WORTHILY HONOR THE MEMORY OF A
GREAT ARCHITECT & ARTIST



THE CONTENTS OF THIS VOLUME WILL BE
SELECTED WITH A VIEW TO PRESENTING
A COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION OF ALL
PHASES OF WILLIS POLK'S WORK, REVEALING
TO THE LAYMAN THE SCOPE AND DEPTH OF
HIS TALENT, AND PRESERVING FOR THE ART
STUDENT AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER VARIED
EXAMPLES OF A PERIOD IN AMERICAN ARCHITECT-
URE OF WHICH WILLIS POLK WAS A BRILLIANT
AND VERSATILE EXPONENT.

WILLIS POLK
HIS WORK AS AN ARCHITECT & ARTIST

◆
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SAN FRANCISCO

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3
COPY

January 13th, 1931.

Dear Mr. Allen:

Thank you for your letter of December 19, which came to hand yesterday and the announcement of the Willis Polk Memorial Volumes.

Ultimately I hope that the Institute can purchase one of these volumes for the library which it plans to have in the new building.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Harris C. Allen,
Room 314,
45 Kearny Street,
San Francisco, Calif.

ECK:MM

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