

# JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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## NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION—OBITUARY

All this is a matter of common notoriety; and we assume that such was always the case. It is really a modern phenomenon. Since the rise of the regime of money and price economy a shortage of goods—even a world shortage—has come to be viewed as evidence of business prosperity and national welfare. What we refer to as “over production” has come to be the central concern of business. The community may be in need; its inability to buy at the going price is taken as evidence of over production, so completely have we fallen under the rule of price.

But what is true of business is equally true of labor under the existing regime of money and price economy. Just as the business man goes into business traffic to make money so the purpose of work is to get wages. “By the test of money and prices, scarcity of product and shortage of labor are blessings without disguise, since the one is good for business and the other good for the workers. So that as this works itself out under the price system the gains of one become the losses of the other.”<sup>1</sup> This of course is recognized and as a consequence we find that the trade unionist, in his effort to create a situation advantageous to himself, has become, not as so many would have it a revolutionist or what not, but a man who proceeds to his work under the flag of business principles. He attempts to better his condition by resort to various ways and means of manipulating the price of what he has to dispose of—his labor. What this amounts to in the end is the conscious restriction of output. Giving less service for a stipulated wage, is getting a higher price for one’s labor—it is keeping the price up—it is controlling output.

That all who engage in business traffic and all who work for wages are guided by a single philosophy—the philosophy of the restriction of output—is not ordinarily granted. Reference to this is ordinarily a matter of partisan exposition—an attempt to blame it all on the other fellow. Take, for example, two editorials in the *Boston Herald*. These contained a detailed account of the numerous regulations of the trades unions, the net effect of which is to restrict output. The point of the articles, as suggested by the titles, was to show how labor was at the root of the housing problem. Labor was restricting output and the implication was that labor was wholly to blame. These editorials, setting forth the truth as regards the action of the trades unions, were no doubt convincing to the *Herald* readers. But failure to recognize that the trades unions were acting in accordance with the practice of those engaged in business traffic rendered the editorials of very dubious value.

For attention was focused upon an attitude, a type of action within a sector of the industrial front; it carried the implication that the general condition of mal-adjustment in the whole industrial field was due to these particular acts on the part of labor. It was completely ignored that this attitude toward production was nothing but the characteristic attitude—the typical action which controls the entire modern industrial world. *Restriction of output is not only characteristic but necessary, and therefore blameless under a system of production for a profit and of competition in terms of price.*

<sup>1</sup>See “The Philosophy of the Restriction of Output,” by Leon Ardroni, in *Annals of American Academy of Political and Social Science* for September 1920.

So that we are confronted with a larger problem than that of making a few adjustments in the practices of material men, contractors and workers. For under the regime of money and price economy the philosophy of the restriction of output gathers force while the common welfare falls by degrees into a more precarious state.

Individually we may choose to cooperate and to render a service; and we may act together in small groups. But under the rule of money and price economy, hardship falls thick and fast upon those who produce so efficiently as to cause prices to fall. So also with labor when it works so efficiently as to work itself out of a job and into the category of surplus labor. Under the conditions imposed by the competitive system one is unwise, indeed, to adopt for his own guidance another philosophy than that of the restriction of output. True, it is a selfish philosophy; it leaves the interest of the common welfare completely on one side—leaves it constantly in a slightly more precarious position as the two opposing forces in the struggle for position perfect their technique and attempt to gain their ends.

It is not merely what to do with the building industry; it is what to do with industry. It is more: It is what to do with the philosophy of the restriction of output under guidance of which we all go to our work.

FREDERICK L. ACKERMAN.

### N. Y. State Association

AT THE annual meeting held in Albany on February 28, the chief topic of discussion was the proposed amendments to the Registration Law, which the Association approved. These relate chiefly to an annual renewal of the registration certificate as a means of keeping a more accurate record of the profession. The following officers were elected: President, Leon Stern, Rochester; First Vice President, Robert D. Kohn; Second Vice President, Riley Gordon, N. Y. City; Third Vice President, Edward W. Loth, Troy; Secretary, Walter G. Frank, Utica; Treasurer, H. W. Greene, Watertown. Directors, F. L. Ackerman, William Bannister, New York City; Thomas W. Gleason, Albany; Harry Tiffany, Binghamton; Ornan H. Waltz, Ithaca.

### Obituary

#### <sup>2</sup>Frederick A. Russell.

Elected to the Institute in 1901; to Fellowship in 1915.  
Died at Pittsburgh, Pa., February 25, 1921.

#### <sup>2</sup>Charles Bickel.

Elected to the Institute in 1899.  
Died at Pittsburgh, Pa., February 1, 1921.

#### <sup>2</sup>Clarence E. Richards.

Elected to the Institute in 1899.  
Died at Columbus, Ohio, February 25, 1921.

<sup>2</sup>Further notices later.

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## OBITUARY

### Obituary

#### Wilfred E. Mansur.

Elected to the Institute in 1901.  
Died at Bangor, Maine, February 27, 1921.

#### Frederick Bauman.

Elected to the Institute in 1884; to Fellowship in 1889.  
Died at Chicago, Illinois, March 18, 1921.

#### Charles Bickel

Mr. Bickel, whose death was recorded in the April JOURNAL, was born in Columbus, Ohio, in 1854. After receiving his early education, he went to Germany where he pursued his architectural studies, returning to this country where for a brief time he was in practice in Philadelphia. He opened offices in Pittsburgh about 44 years ago and was in continuous practice there until his death.

#### Frederick A. Russell

Fortunate was Pittsburgh when Frederick Russell, who had been sent here from the office of H. H. Richardson, in Boston, in connection with the building of the Court House, decided to cast his lot in this community. To the readers of "The Charette" it is not necessary to review the professional career of this self-sacrificing, public-spirited architect whose unexpected death has taken from us a respected and honored member of our profession.

Mr. Russell's active interest in the Pittsburgh Architectural Club and the American Institute of Architects brought him into personal contact with most of the architects and draftsmen of the community. To know him was to respect him for his unfeigned interest in all matters pertaining to the advancement of the cause of Architecture and for his sympathetic understanding when his counsel was sought on questions of professional practice.

His interest in civic affairs was well known. At the sacrifice of his personal interests he has devoted many hours of gratuitous public service, finding his reward in the satisfaction of having contributed to the advancement of the public welfare.

To those who were so fortunate as to know him intimately was revealed a personal nature which was both a delight and an inspiration. In the presence of sympathetic companions he would relate in his charming manner incidents of his summer vacations at Nantucket; would display with pride his license to operate a motor yacht in the surrounding waters, or would describe with rare enthusiasm some charming New England house or garden that he had visited.

These are only casual incidents of a long acquaintance with Mr. Russell, but they serve to illustrate the qualities that endeared him to his associates who will remember him not only as a capable and public-spirited architect, but as a charming companion, a true friend, and always a gentleman.—From *The Charette*, Pittsburgh.

#### Clarence E. Richards.

Mr. Richards, whose death was mentioned in our last issue, was born in Jackson, Michigan, February 22, 1865. On the paternal side Mr. Richards comes of a family of

pioneers. His great, great grandfather was a pioneer of Massachusetts, his great grandfather a pioneer of western New York, and his grandfather a pioneer of the State of Michigan, moving there in 1831. His father was a pioneer settler of Kansas, moving there in 1870.

In El Dorado, Kansas, he attended the village schools and later the teachers' normal school, and during the years of 1883 and 1886 taught in the country schools of Butler County, Kansas. In 1886 and 1888 he was employed as an assistant engineer in charge of buildings and bridges for one of the branches of the Missouri Pacific Railroad which was then being built through that section of the country.

Mr. Richards went to Ohio in the fall of 1888, and in 1889 he entered the office of Edward Anderson, one of the older architects of Cincinnati, working as a draftsman and superintendent. In 1891 he went to Newark, Ohio, going into business with his brother, who was an engineer, under the firm name of Richards Brothers, Architects. He remained there two years after which he went to Columbus as Superintendent of Construction for the firm of Yost & Packard, Architects. He served in this capacity six years, and in 1898 organized the firm of Richards, McCarty & Bulford, Architects, at the head of which he remained until his death. This partnership has been longer in the practice of the profession, without a change of name or personnel in its organization, than any other firm in the State.

During the period of over 20 years that Mr. Richards was engaged in the practice of architecture in Columbus, his firm became well known throughout the central west, having been connected with many of the largest building projects throughout the States in which it practiced. Among other buildings are the Ohio National Bank, the Citizens Trust & Savings Bank, the Athletic Club of Columbus, the new Ohio Penitentiary at London, Ohio, the largest institution of this kind in the country, and many office buildings, hotels and public institutions throughout the States of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Kansas, Texas and Iowa.

Mr. Richards was active in the interests of the Ohio State Association of Architects and was a member of the Committee on Prison Architecture of the American Prison Congress. He served as President and Secretary of the Columbus Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Some of the more important works of Mr. Richards' firm in addition to those mentioned above were the Knoxville Banking & Trust Co., Knoxville, Tenn.; The Phoenix Hotel at Lexington, Ky.; the Kemp Hotel at Wichita Falls, Texas; the Hardin County Court House at Kenton, Ohio; and the Beacon Building, Lassen Hotel, Wesley Hospital and First National Bank at Wichita, Kansas.—*Communicated.*

*THE JOURNAL desires to make its columns valuable as a medium for an exchange of thought on all matters relating to the profession of architecture. All such expressions, whether in editorials, or otherwise, must obviously be accepted as expressions of individual opinion. Contributions are invited, all articles to be signed by the name or initials of the writer in acknowledgement of their source and the writer's responsibility.*