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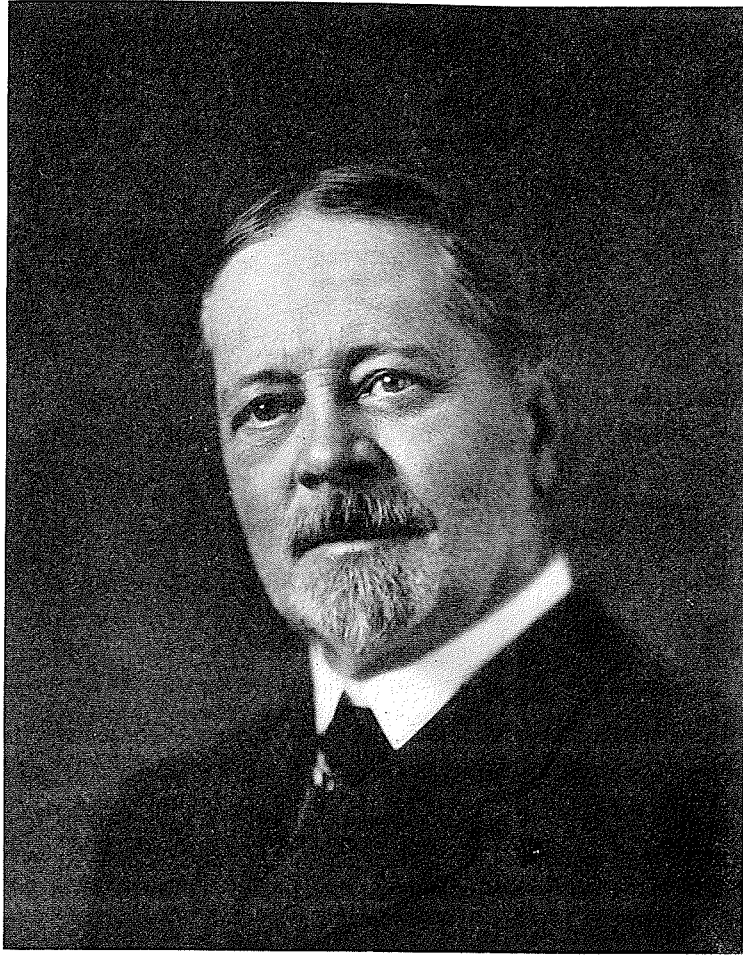
Shadows and Straws

IN THE LAST number of the Journal there were described the two rented-building projects authorized by Congress. They called for the erection of two office buildings to be leased to the Departments of Justice and of Labor. Almost immediately upon the enactment of the legislation authorizing the signing of the leases, Senator Swanson of Virginia, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, introduced a bill calling for an appropriation for the erection by the Government of the new building for the Department of Justice. The bill is identical in language with that introduced in the House by Chairman Clark of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds; which bill has been stoutly opposed by the Institute and with a result which is now known to all readers of the Journal. Thus Senator Swanson's bill occasioned some surprise and many speculations as to why it was introduced at such a moment, although the criticism suffered by the committee when the rented-building projects were passed as a part of the conference report upon the executive, legislative, and judiciary appropriations bill may have some bearing on the matter.

The two amendments by which Congress authorized the signing of the leases to which we refer were lost in the House on a point of order, offered in the Senate, and agreed to by the Conference

Committee representing both houses. So far, we have been unable to obtain any information as to the data upon which the amendments were based or who proposed them. In a bi-cameral legislative body the Conference Committee is undoubtedly a necessity, but in its present form it is undemocratic in principle and vested with appropriated powers which make it a dangerous menace to our form of government. It must be remembered that a conference report is not debatable, except in its entirety, and that the whole must be accepted or rejected, not only by both houses but by the President as well.

IN THE DEBATE upon Senator Swanson's bill, the appropriation was attacked as too large, and further evidence was offered of the impossibility of any intelligent discussion by Congress of matters affecting public buildings so long as the present appropriation policy prevails. Senator Lodge offered an amendment to the bill providing that in the event of the abandonment of the original project a new competition should be instituted, while Senator Newlands offered a second amendment making provision for consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts before the final signing of the contract. Both amendments were adopted, but it seems idle to speculate further upon the fate of this unfortunate enterprise. The letter to



Walter Cook—An Appreciation*

ENCYCLOPÆDIC enumeration of concrete facts seems to have less significance in the case of Walter Cook than is even usually the case; for he was what he was, and what he will always be remembered for by those who knew him, by virtue of personality and character. Salient facts often cover a multitude of deficiencies, but here was a case where the facts became relatively unimportant in the serene light of those qualities that made his friendship a priv-

*Notice of Mr. Cook's death appeared in the April Journal.

ilege, his memory a stimulus. Being, even more than doing, was his métier, and so he stands out in a generation of futile activity as a last link with a finer and a more honorable age.

The facts may be rehearsed for record. Born on July 23, 1846, he graduated from Harvard in 1869, studying later under Vaudremer at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, and also in the Royal Polytechnical School at Munich. He began the practice of architecture, in 1877, in the firm of Babb, Cook and Willard, and later associated with himself Mr. Welsh; the Carnegie house, many



THE HOME OF WALTER COOK AT BELLPORT, LONG ISLAND

public libraries and life insurance buildings, together with some structures for the Pan-American Exposition, coming from the earlier era, the Choir School of New York Cathedral from the latter. President of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and of the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects, a member of the Municipal Art Commission, Consulting Architect to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and of the Court House Board of New York, Member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, Academician, and Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur, he was finally elected President of the American Institute of Architects and served for two terms, from 1912 to 1914, so receiving the highest honor that could be accorded him by the architectural pro-

fession in America. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute at his death.

How far beyond this goes his influence and his achievement! In all things, even the smallest, the gentleman of culture, of learning, of the conduct of life; modest even to the limit of self-effacement, he could not escape that universal recognition of high character and gentle courtesy that is given even in times when these qualities are least common, and even, it sometimes seems, less esteemed. In his own city, in the circles of his profession, in the conventions and councils of the Institute, he was always the serene, philosophical, high-minded counsellor, grave in impulse, sober in conviction, quaint and humorous in his attitude toward men and things; human

WALTER COOK—AN APPRECIATION



IN THE LOCUST GROVE AT MR. COOK'S HOME

always, with a fine, high humanity that was infinite in its charity, as it was inflexible in its rectitude.

A type that has passed, and for the lack of which society is poorer than ever before; a link now broken with old days and older ways we would give much to have again.

We who knew him, and inordinately prided ourselves on his friendship, know how wide and deep was his culture, how simple and serene his sympathy and affections, how stimulating toward the best his conversation, how all-embracing his frank generosity. For him the Classics were still living things, philosophy a standard

of right living, life itself a very different thing from what it had become for the majority during his later years. An hour with him in his well-remembered house on Murray Hill, or in the Century Club, or in some walk through Washington after a session of the Institute, was a corrective for the manifold ills of a crass contemporaneousness, and no man ever had that hour without gaining new courage and a bettering of his own ideals.

It is an old phrase, and a very hackneyed phrase, but it fits here when it has fitted ill in many other instances, and so we can say "the world is the poorer for his passing."

RALPH ADAMS CRAM.

Obituary

Charles I. Havens

Admitted to the Institute in 1901.
Died at Kenwood, California, April 28, 1916.

Jeremiah O'Rourke

Admitted to the Institute as a Fellow in 1886.
Died at Newark, N. J., April 22, 1915.

Mr. O'Rourke was born in Dublin, Ireland, February 6, 1833, and died at Newark, N. J., April 22, 1915. He received his architectural education in the Government Schools of Design, Dublin, taking the full course in painting, sculpture, and architecture. He was graduated in 1849 and came to New York in 1850. He commenced the practice of his profession in Newark in 1856, and was in active professional practice until shortly before his death.

For a period of about fifteen years preceding his death, his sons were associated with him under the firm name of Jeremiah O'Rourke & Sons, Architects.

In April, 1893, he was appointed United States Supervising Architect at Washington, occupying this position for about two years, when he resigned and returned to his private practice in Newark.

His long professional practice of over fifty years, including the two years as United States Supervising Architect, covered the design and erection of almost every description of public, private, educational, and ecclesiastical buildings in the United States.

Mr. O'Rourke specialized in churches and ecclesiastical institutions, one of his most important buildings being the new Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, now in course of erection on an elevated and spacious site in the city of Newark.

During a long residence of over fifty years in the city of Newark, Mr. O'Rourke naturally became identified with its interests and connected with many of the institutions and business enterprises of the city and state.

He served for many years as a commissioner of the Newark Aqueduct Board, as one of the Board of Managers of the State Hospital for the Insane, and the State Industrial School for Girls. At the time of his death, he was a trustee of the Howard Savings Institution, also of St. Patrick's Cathedral, and of St. Michael's Hospital. He was a director of several corporations of Newark, a member of the Young Men's Catholic Association, of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and of the American-Irish

Historical Society of the United States. He was also a member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Walter Cook

At its last meeting, the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects adopted the following resolution on the death of Mr. Cook:

Whereas, Walter Cook was Past President of the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects, Past President of the American Institute of Architects, and Past President of its New York Chapter, National Academician, Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur, Member of the Fine Arts Commission of the City of New York, Consulting Architect to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the City of New York, Consulting Architect to the Court House Board of New York County, and by his death we are bereft of a distinguished practitioner of the art of architecture, a useful citizen, a wise counsellor, a scholarly and cultivated man, brave in great suffering, a gentle, helpful friend, Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects make record of the sense of a loss that time cannot diminish and of an affection that follows him into the Silence, that we extend to his family the assurance of our deep sympathy, and direct that this Preamble and Resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Society, and that a copy hereof be transmitted to Mrs. Walter Cook.

At the meeting of the New York Chapter immediately following the death of Mr. Cook, Mr. Henry Rutgers Marshall recounted, in terms of eloquent appreciation, the history of Mr. Cook's professional attainments to which Mr. Cram has referred elsewhere in this number, and presented the following preamble and resolutions which were adopted by the Chapter:

Whereas, The New York Chapter of the Institute of Architects, and the architectural profession at large, have suffered a grievous loss in the death of their fellow member, Walter Cook, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Chapter desires to present to his family this record of its affection and esteem, and its sincere sympathy in the grief that must press upon them.

Resolved, That this minute, and this preamble and resolution be spread upon the records of the Chapter, and that a copy of the same be sent to Mrs. Cook.