

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Vol. IV

APRIL, 1916

No. 4

Shadows and Straws

AS SENATOR NEWLANDS points out, in his article on the treatment of water-fronts in this number of the Journal, many things have conspired to block the reconsideration by Congress of the project for building a central heat, light and power plant at the head of the Washington water-front, and in close proximity to the whole park system. The resolution of Senator Newlands, which was referred to the Library Committee of the Senate, and which called for a cessation of work pending an investigation, has still to be acted upon, and it is expected that hearings before the Library Committee will be resumed at an early date.

In the meantime the opposition to the project has continued to grow, and to manifest a strength which Congress will do well to heed, although, as we have previously pointed out, there seems to be no good reason for believing that Congress will not exercise a wise discretion in this matter once the subject can be laid before it free from the complications which have hitherto surrounded it. Under the discussion of Senator Newlands' resolution, the whole evidence can be carefully sifted and weighed. With so grave a doubt laid upon even the engineering features of the plan, it ought to be apparent that there is every reason why a serious investigation should be made.

It is not believed that any hampering difficulties will be raised when the adjustment of the existing contract comes up for consideration, since we refuse to believe that any contractor would decline to do his best toward aiding in the correction of a mistake which would so seriously injure the physical aspect of the capital. The nation will bear the comparatively slight loss involved without even a pang.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has adopted the principle of a Committee of Visitors in connection with the School of Architecture. The New York Chapter is to be represented by Messrs. Goodhue, Platt and Swartwout; the Society of Beaux-Arts Architects by Messrs. Hastings, Hornbostel, and Warren; the Alumni Association of the School by Messrs. Livingston, Pope and Stokes. The committee's work will be purely advisory but its recommendations will afford the basis for an intelligent development of the teaching of architecture.

The School of Architecture, at Harvard University, has long enjoyed the advantage of a similar committee, so that the departure of Columbia is not entirely new. In earlier years, at Harvard, it was the Committee to visit the Department of Fine Arts. Now it is the Committee to visit the School of Architecture and is composed of Messrs. J. Harleston Parker, Charles K.

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The Artists of France Thank the Architects Diplomés in this Country

The following letter recently received, is thought to be of interest to the members of the profession:

MR. JOSEPH H. FREEDLANDER,
President of the Société des Architectes
Diplomés par le Gouvernement Français.

Dear Sir:—The Committee of the Fraternité des Artistes is profoundly grateful to the members of the society of which you are president for the devotion and comradeship which prompted them to come to the aid of their French confrères, so cruelly tried by the war.

It has therefore decided to offer to your society a plaque, which should reach you at the same time as this letter, and which will call to your mind the gratitude of French artists toward their American confrères for the many marks of affection and interest which have come to them from your country.

Very cordially yours, (Signed) LEON BONNAT
President of the Fraternité des Artistes
Membre de l'Institut

Obituary

W. W. Abell

Admitted to the Institute in 1901.
Died at Elgin, Illinois, January 23, 1916.

Walter Cook*

Admitted to the Institute as a Fellow in 1891.
President of the Institute, 1912-1913.
Died at New York City, March 25, 1916.

*Further notice in the May Journal

The Forum

Means and Ends in Photography

To the Journal:

Being guilty of the authorship of some photographs which appeared "in recent numbers of the Journal," I was very much interested in H. F. C.'s comments in "The Forum" of the February number.

Every print of mine which appeared in the Journal owed what pictorial quality it had to *both* intention and accident. The selection of the point of view, and consequently the composition; the time of day, and therefore the lighting; the final simplification and improvement of the composition by selection of the vital part of the negative, and the trimming of the print—all these were certainly intentional. As for the accidents,—to wholly ignore such mechanical accidents as a sticky shutter, or a general vibration caused by a passing vehicle, both of which have often given unexpected results of softness and charm,—any photograph which gives truly the effect of the visual impression of the subject is an accident! The camera sees more than the eye, and not in the same way as the eye; and a photograph which is scientifically correct will very rarely, if ever, be pictorially correct.

It is true that most of my photographs are made

quite small, and then enlarged—for several reasons. As H. F. C. suspects, much softness and atmosphere is gained by this process, which I consider entirely honest. Again, there are the practical reasons—convenience and less expense. But the most important reason is none of these. When the photographer sees a picture which he wishes to record *as he sees it*, it is practically impossible to decide just what exposure and later chemical treatment will produce the negative and print which will give the correct pictorial record of the original scene. Therefore, it is well to take several negatives between the limits of extreme underexposure and extreme overexposure, and select the pictorially truest one. In enlarging this photographically, another chance is had to underexpose or overexpose, in order to get the true, honest record of what was seen as it was seen.

The camera may be used for two purposes: to make technical records; to make pictorial records. For making technical records, it is a precise scientific instrument. For making pictorial records, it is the artist's tool, and may be used with the flexibility and freedom of such with entire honesty.

BEN J. LUBSCHEZ

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Vol. IV

MAY, 1916

No. 5

Shadows and Straws

IN THIS NUMBER of the Journal there will be found a very able presentation of the arguments in favor of the fee-plus-cost system of charging for professional services, written by Mr. W. Stanley Parker, of Boston. It will no doubt be remembered by members of the Institute that the Board was instructed to prepare and issue a Circular of Advice for the information of members on this subject, and reference to the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee, which also appear in this number, will indicate that the requisite documents are approaching their final form and will soon be ready for issuance.

THE MEETING of the Executive Committee held at Cincinnati, and of which an account will be found elsewhere in the Journal, only served to emphasize the wisdom of holding such meetings at as many different Chapter towns as possible. When the dinner tendered by the Chapter came to a close, the fifty men who were present would have unanimously voted it not only one of the most interesting but one of the happiest of gatherings, while the officers of the Institute felt themselves to be compensated manifold for the four days' time so generously and so willingly given in the service of the Institute. Let us hope for as many of these

meetings as possible, and that the new plan of assigning certain groups of chapters to the nearest resident Directors of the Institute may be the means of greatly increasing the opportunities for discussions which contribute so much to an understanding and an appreciation of the Institute and its work.

LATE last year the Institute received a letter from a prominent association of manufacturers in which inquiry was made as to the attitude of the Institute toward a certain practice which may be described as follows: An architect whose work is to be published in a certain publication writes a letter to the manufacturers of the materials which were used on that particular piece of work, suggesting, or urging, or even requesting, that the said manufacturers take advertising space in the number of the publication in which the architect's work is published. In this instance, the association had received such a request from an architect. In other cases, we are informed that some architects have actually quoted rates on the advertising space they urged upon the manufacturer!

The above letter was referred to the Board of Directors of the Institute,—not that the wisdom of fourteen men was required to deal with such a wretched

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The Forum

To the Editor of "The Journal:"

The communication of Mr. W. R. B. Willcox in the Forum of March, calling attention to the disproportionate representation of the chapters on the Board of Directors, touches a weak spot in the organization of the Institute.

While there has been no complaint of the government of the Institute, or criticism of the personnel of the Board of Directors, it must be evident to all who have attended recent conventions that its leadership is not unqualifiedly accepted. The present Board of Directors happens to be as well distributed as could be desired, but a larger board, representing, as a matter of fixed policy, every section of the country, would serve to bring the whole membership into closer touch with the Institute and, as Mr. Willcox says, would "incline the convention delegates to accept the recommendations of the Board with full confidence," even if not "without question."

The American Society of Civil Engineers divides the country into thirteen districts and allots six directors to District No. 1, where the headquarters are located, and where there is a preponderance of the membership, and one director to each of the other twelve districts, thus securing a thoroughly representative board and bringing the government of the Society into close touch with practice in every section of the country.

A similar distribution of directors, by amendment of the by-laws, doubtless would be wise for the Institute. In any event, the subject is worthy of consideration and discussion, and it is to be hoped that others will present their views in the Forum.

CHAS. C. WILSON.

News Notes

The San Francisco Chapter to Hold a Series of City-Planning Meetings.

On March 16 last, the San Francisco Chapter held the first of a series of three meetings which are to be devoted to a discussion of the city-planning problems of San Francisco. At the first meeting the Hon. Percy V. Long, City Attorney, spoke on the legislative aspect of the question and referred specifically to the need for San Francisco to profit from the experience of New York City in its failure to prevent congestion and the destruction of realty values through proper districting or zoning legislation.

Mr. A. J. Cleary, City Engineer, Dr. A.

D'Ancona, President of the Board of Education, Mr. John McLaren, Superintendent of Golden Gate Park, all discussed the various problems as related to their particular spheres, while Mr. Joseph Leonard related some of his experiences in laying out a restricted residence park and the lack of proper lines of communication between the various sections of the city.

This program which the Chapter has instituted is one which other Chapters of the Institute might well consider as of worth in their respective communities.

A Poster Competition by the Society for Electrical Development

Announcement is made of a competition for a poster "which will symbolize or portray electricity as the greatest factor in modern civilization." In addition to a first prize of \$1,000, there are other prizes aggregating \$1,200. The competition is open until June 1, and full details may be obtained from the Society for Electrical Development, 29 West 39th Street, New York City.

Obituary

Walter Cook

In connection with the death of Mr. Cook, recorded in the April Journal, the following resolution was presented at a meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter on April 14, and was adopted and ordered spread upon the minutes:

"Whereas, The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects having learned with profound regret of the death of Mr. Walter Cook, a director and past president of the Institute, a man universally beloved for his nobility of character and recognized as an architect of the highest attainments and most distinguished ability,

"Now, therefore, be it resolved, That the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects hereby records its feelings of irreparable loss to the public and to the architectural profession in the death of Mr. Cook, its appreciation of his distinguished career, and of his long and faithful service to the Institute, to his profession, and to his country.

"And be it further resolved, That the Philadelphia Chapter express to Mr. Cook's family its deepest sympathy in their bereavement."

NOTE.—The memoir of Mr. Cook announced for publication in this issue of the Journal will appear in the June number. EDITOR.

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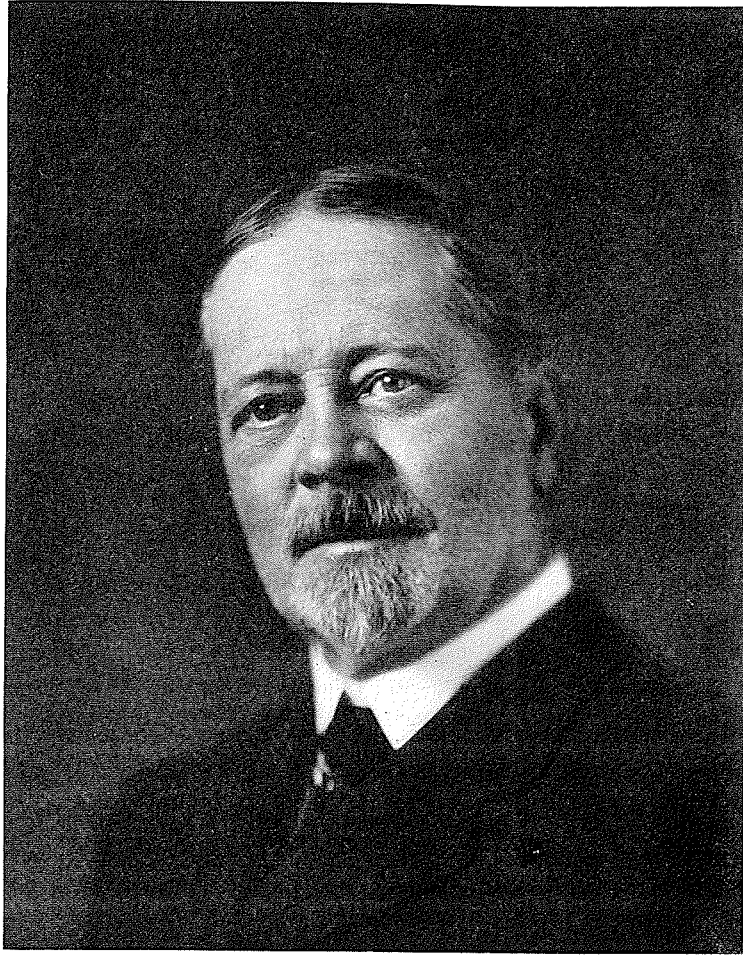
Shadows and Straws

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.