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Shadows and Straws

THE PUBLIC BUILDING SITUATION at Washington has developed to a considerable degree during the last month. The Treasury Annex Building, authorized by the Senate, and the discussion of which by that body was published as a Supplement to the August Journal, has been passed by the House. That body, however, struck from the Senate bill the clause requiring the approval of the plans by the Commission of Fine Arts. This sent the bill into conference, from which it emerged in the form adopted by the House, the Senate conferees receding from the position taken by that body.

MR. COOPER, OF WISCONSIN, defended the valuable work of the Commission, as did Mr. Campbell, of Kansas, and Mr. Green, of Iowa, but the resentment of Mr. Burnett, of Alabama, and of Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, although expressed in terms which clouded the issue by a recital of offenses not at all chargeable to the Commission, prevailed upon the small number of members present, and the Senate amendment was lost by a vote of 162 to 86.

It must be remembered in considering this question that the action of the Senate gave a mandatory power to the Commission of Fine Arts. Under the Executive Order from which it now derives its powers, the plans will still be submitted to it for criticism, but it will have no power to insist upon any changes. As we have before stated, it is understood, we believe, that the design of the building will be such as to make the Lafayette Place façade adaptable to a continuance of the design when future buildings are erected on the site now occupied by the Belasco Theater, the old Cameron House and

the Cosmos Club. The building, in all probability, will be begun without delay. It is to cost \$1,250,000, and to be finished in about a year's time.

THE JOURNAL ANNOUNCES the departure for England of Mr. Frederick L. Ackerman, of the firm of Trowbridge and Ackerman, of New York City. Mr. Ackerman has served with great ability on the Institute Committee on Public Information and the Committee on Town Planning. He goes to Europe as the special correspondent of the Journal, and particularly for making a study of the vast housing undertakings which have already been carried through by the British Government, as well as those on an even larger scale which are now projected for the re-housing of her working classes after the war.

Mr. Ackerman's investigations will be narrated in the Journal as fast as they are received from him, and will form, perhaps, the most important contribution to the literature of housing which has yet appeared, since it will be based upon the larger governmental interest which the war has forced in this subject. That the policy of Great Britain will be reflected in the reconstruction of France and Belgium may not be doubted, but of even greater moment is the certainty that the United States will also react in like manner. The coöperative idea which is now leading to the rapid formation of National Farm Loan Associations, under the supervision of the Farm Loan Board, has given a great impulse to the possible application of similar principles, with governmental aid, in home building.

The more important countries of the world

Obituary

Robert Swain Peabody

Elected to Membership 1874; to Fellowship 1889.

President of the Institute 1900-1901.

Died, Peach's Point, Marblehead, Mass., October 3, 1917.

Robert Swain Peabody, past President of the American Institute, and the most distinguished of the older generation of architects, died at Peach's Point, Marblehead, on October 3. Mr. Peabody, apart from his skill as an architect, was a facile draughtsman, a great lover of the sea, and particularly happy in his ability to draw all that moved on the waters. It was peculiarly fitting that he should have died in the home he loved, on the shore of the picturesque harbor of Marblehead.

Mr. Peabody's career as an architect was so long and so varied that it is useless to attempt either to catalogue his works or to mention those most prominent in a list which covered every class of buildings from cottages to works of monumental size; nor would it help to explain the man and the artist. Much of the work which one fancies he loved best was unimportant from a worldly standpoint. As with all true artists, his love for his work meant often that his true personality and charm appeared most in work of small money value.

He was born in New Bedford, February 22, 1845, a son of the Rev. Ephraim Peabody who from 1846 to 1856 was minister at King's Chapel. His mother was Mary Lane Derby; so there was the best New England stock on both sides. He graduated from Harvard in 1866 and later served his alma mater fifteen years on the Board of Overseers and did most valuable service for the Department of Fine Arts and the School of Architecture. After graduation he studied in France and England and was among the early group of Americans who discovered for us the Ecole des Beaux-Arts—that school which has done so much to form and develop our power to design.

On his return in 1870 he associated himself with John G. Stearns, and that partnership was practically terminated only by the death of the two partners, for Mr. Stearns died the Sunday before Mr. Peabody. This firm then was active for nearly fifty years, and during this time, which was a most vital period in the growth of the profession, Mr. Peabody had been in many ways a leader, and always in the forefront of every movement toward better standards of design. He was a lifelong friend of McKim, and both were in that small group of architects who put the stamp of high achievement on the World's Fair at Chicago. The monumental group about the grand court marked a very clear step in the forward progress of the arts in the United States, and Mr. Peabody was a force in this great initial step.

It is sufficient evidence of Mr. Peabody's disinterested work for the profession he loved and for the arts he practised, to say that he had been not only President of the Institute and President of the Boston Chapter, but also for years the head of the Park Department of Boston, an unpaid position, and largely responsible for the report of the Committee on Public Improvements with its far-seeing

suggestions and plans for transportation, the development of the suburbs, and the development of the port of Boston. Many of the projects then initiated he lived to see take form. Despite his seventy-two years he was before this last fatal illness a young man in every way, full of the joy of living, and a constant inspiration to all with whom he came in contact. When his serious trouble began, and he was for months recovering from an operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital, his vivid imagination carried him away to all the places he had known and sketched abroad, and he spent his convalescing days in drawing memory records, a set of sketches full of his characteristic vigor and executed with his sure touch. One mentions this because it is so characteristic of him and shows the true courage.

It was equally characteristic of him that, as soon as partial restoration to health made it possible, he resumed his duties in the Park and Recreation Department and this very spring put through important changes in the Common to recognize the great changes made in the State House by the addition of the wings.

He leaves a host of friends behind him, not only those who have passed through his office, but all artists who know him, who will always remember him for his buoyant enthusiasm, his joy in his profession, and his quick sympathy with all. It is not only his works which will live after him; his influence on others is even more valuable and more enduring.

R. CLIPSTON STURGIS.

John Goddard Stearns

Elected as a Fellow, 1894

John Goddard Stearns died at Duxbury, Mass., September 16, 1917. He was born in New York City, May 18, 1843, but lived most of his life in Brookline, Mass. He was graduated with the Class of 1863 from the Lawrence Scientific School in Cambridge.

December 5, 1866, he married Ellen Elizabeth Abbott, whom he survived by less than a year. A son, Frank A. Stearns, associated recently with his father in his profession, and a daughter, Mrs. William H. Young, of Brookline, survive him.

Mr. Stearns had several years' experience in the office of Ware and Van Brunt. In 1870, in Boston, began his partnership with Robert S. Peabody, which, under the name of Peabody and Stearns, lasted for forty-five years.

Mr. Stearns' contribution to the firm and to his profession was of signal importance. His counsel in matters not strictly within his own chosen province, his sound business judgment, and his genius for quick decision and direct statement were always to be depended upon. He had not only the training of an engineer but also the true engineer's instinct that could "sense and overrule," and combined with these an appreciation of order and proportion in planning and design that made him the true architect as well. He was untiring in his attention to the superintendence of the many important works that his firm designed and constructed. He saw not only that the work

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was going right, but also that it *did not go wrong*. He often said that the secret of successful superintendence was to know that something must be wrong, to find it, and to make it right.

His great service to the firm and to his profession lay in this insistence on the quality and thoroughness of the work done under his direction. The specifications, drawings, and contracts must be so complete as to enable him to carry the work through as designed without recourse to any other authority than the "documents." Such an attitude, simple and commonplace as it seems at present, required, fifty years ago, a marked change from the loose relations that had often, and perhaps as a rule, existed between architect and builder. Plans and specifications had generally been so incomplete that no one could say when they were complied with, much less insist on a high standard of performance. To make a firm stand and to insist that drawings and specifications should say what the architects meant and the owner was entitled to (and that only), and that what was thus set forth should be done, required thorough and expert knowledge of construction and of building materials and methods, a considerable degree of tact, and, above all, the power to insist on the right, which only an honest man can exert.

Mr. Stearns brought these qualities to his task. He was never willing to secure good work by asking it as a favor. He was a just man. He would always forgive an honest mistake and give freely of his time and advice to correct or overcome it. Builders and their assistants, as well as draughtsmen (many of them now successful architects), gratefully testify to the value of their experience with him as director and instructor.

Mr. Stearns was not so well known personally to members of his profession, especially in his later years, as many architects of lesser accomplishment. His home, his strong family affections, and his warm lifelong friendships made up his chief and absorbing interests.—F. A. K.

Joseph A. F. Cardiff

Elected to Membership, 1914

Died October 9, 1917, in New York City

In the death of Joseph A. F. Cardiff, the profession of architecture loses a man of singular capacity in his chosen field. Mr. Cardiff was born February 19, 1882, in Jersey City, N. J., and was educated in the public schools. He entered the profession through the office of Hugh Roberts, and, after years of increasing usefulness and power in the offices of Ernest Flagg and Carrère & Hastings, he became the business manager and associate of H. Van Buren Magonigle. During these periods he found time to write for the architectural magazines, to found and publish the architectural index on file at the Avery Library, Columbia University, and to render valuable service in committees of the Institute, the New York Chapter, and the City Club of New York.

He brought to bear upon his work an encyclopedic knowledge of building materials, appliances, and methods, a keen and analytical mind, courtesy, probity, and justice in all his relations to professional and private life.

H. V. B. M.

Henry Vaughan

Because for a long time it was my privilege to be employed and instructed by a very remarkable personage in American architecture, the late Henry Vaughan; and because, besides Mr. Robert Casson and Mr. John Evans (who always had his profound respect and friendship), I was one of the very few who came into intimate personal relations with him, I desire to utter a word of tribute to a man who succeeded in America notwithstanding his direct and intentional violation of American methods.

Henry Vaughan came to the United States as a stranger without friends, influence, money, or "pull," having given up a prominent, important, and remunerative position in England. He apparently buried himself in the two little rooms over the Criminal Investigation Department in Pemberton Square. He made no effort to get work; yet there was seldom a time when he did not have all that he could do. His attitude may be best explained by the following anecdote.

Filled with the American desire to "make things hum," I went to him once with advance information concerning a new church building, a "good job,"—and told him with pride and joy that some influential friends of mine had promised the office the first "show in," if he would make a preliminary sketch for the proposed building. I can remember now my disappointment and surprise when he merely replied, "Why, certainly not. If my work is good, and they want it, it will come to me."

His life was apparently lonesome in the extreme. From his rooms to his office, from his office to Marston's restaurant and back again, was practically his entire life. According to American standards it was dull, uninteresting, dreary. It was, however, full of a sweetness and richness which, while un-American, was still very good for America.

Although he himself spent practically every evening in his office, he never asked his draughtsmen to work overtime, no matter how great the pressure of work. Once, when I knew a set of drawings to be overdue, I expressed to him my willingness to come and work at night. He thanked me but declined my offer. However, determined to finish my own elevation at least, I returned to the office. I had hardly seated myself at my board before he appeared in the doorway saying with almost anger, "I told you not to come back." My explanation that I wanted to finish my own drawing caused a wonderful softening in his cold, steel-blue eyes; but, though thanking me, he said, "You scared him away." Some hours afterwards I heard him whisper from his private room, "Barton, come here." And going in, I found him at his board indeed, but not drawing. He was pushing crumbs from a roll (which he always brought from his dinner) out to a little mouse which, sitting upon his T square, seemed perfectly contented. I think my first intimate acquaintance with Henry Vaughan began upon that night when I also approached the drawing board without scaring his mouse away. And later, months afterwards, after he had accepted me as a nightly co-worker, when I called to him to come to me, and he found one of his mice eating on my drawing board, the last barrier between us was swept away.

I realize that I learned a large proportion of what little

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I know of architecture from Henry Vaughan, and I am grateful to him for that. But I learned from him certain essentials of life, so far removed from American thought and custom as to be difficult of attainment by American youth.

From him, and later when in London I became acquainted with the traditions of the office of Mr. George Bodley, his old master, a new understanding of work and

of life came to me. The memory of these men, unobtrusively working in silence for the good, the true, and the beautiful, has been a constant help throughout many difficulties. And the efforts of such can never fail to stretch out over the world for the maintenance of the highest standards of the profession.

GEORGE EDWARD BARTON.

(From the Bulletin of the Boston Society of Architects)

Institute Business

Meeting of the Board of Directors

A meeting of the Board was held at Cleveland on September 6 and 7. There were present President Mauran, First Vice-President La Farge, Second Vice-President Willcox, Secretary Parker, Treasurer Waid, Directors Coolidge, Faville, Favrot, Fenner, Jensen, Lubschez, Kimball and Sellers, the Executive Secretary and the Editor of the Journal. The following is a brief digest of the minutes of the meeting:

Disciplinary Procedure in Chapter By-Laws

Formal approval was given to the principle proposed that Chapter executive committees be empowered to dispose of cases not involving expulsion or suspension; when either of these penalties is involved, the Committee must report the case and its investigation thereof to the Chairman of the Institute Committee on Practice. But in all cases, regardless of or in lieu of such action, there may be a final appeal to the Committee on Practice of the Institute as provided in its By-laws. Chapter committees must report the record of all investigations and the decisions made to the Secretary of the Institute for record. The Secretary was instructed to prepare and submit for definite approval a clause covering the above principles.

Contracts and Specifications

The General Conditions of the Contract (Standard Documents) have been revised by the Committee and the revisions have received the approval of the Board and that of the various national associations is now being sought.

The Form of Agreement between Contractor and Owner and the Cover of the Standard Documents have also received minor revisions and will be issued with the General Conditions as the Third Edition, all of which the Board has approved.

The Agreement between Owner and Architect, Fee Plus Cost Basis, with an accompanying circular of explanation, has been approved by the Board and will soon be ready for general use.

The proposed Form of Agreement between Contractor and Owner, Fee Plus Cost Basis, has been circulated as a first draft, and a second draft is now in preparation.

The proposed "Standard Indications of Materials for Architectural Drawings" is now in its third draft form. It appeared in the September Journal, with explanatory text, and a final form will later be submitted to the Board for approval.

The Handbook on Architectural Practice has been distributed, as a first draft, to members of the Board, members of the various Institute Committees, professors in architecture, and the presidents of Institute Chapters.

The Secretary stated that Messrs. Day, Medary, and

he, were of the opinion that all of the Standard Documents should be issued under the title of the Third Edition, though no changes have been made in the Sub-contract or Letter of Acceptance, and it was so resolved.

House Committee

There has been no meeting of the Committee this year, but the ordinary upkeep, including minor repairs at the Octagon, have received the attention of the Chairman. Major matters, such as the installation of the sprinkler system and the storage vault, have been handled under the direction of the Treasurer. There have been no new steps in the furnishing of the drawing-room because the Committee has not felt justified in advocating expense in this direction while the building itself is so sorely in need of attention.

Replicas of the McKim Medal have been made at a most reasonable cost, through the interest of Mr. Max Voigt, of Philadelphia. Three sets of casts, at a total cost of \$10 are now ready, and it is suggested that one set be placed at the Octagon, one presented to Miss McKim, and another to the New York Chapter.

It is proposed to remove the portraits at the Octagon from the entrance hall and rearrange them, including the one of Mr. Pond which is soon to arrive, either in the drawing-room or on the second floor of the building.

Education

The work of the Committee has consisted chiefly of correspondence bearing upon the schools of architecture and their work, entrance examinations and degrees, and upon the subject of general education in the arts in preparatory schools and colleges. With the advice of President Mauran two additional subcommittees have been arranged to cover the South and Southwest, thus making in all thirteen subcommittees on education. As long as the war continues, educational work will be much hampered by lack of instructors and scholars, and it is doubtful if the Committee can make any definite advance in this work until conditions are more nearly normal.

Competitions

The report commented upon the inquiry from the Boston Society of Architects as to whether the responsibility of applying discipline to Institute members who have taken part in unauthorized competitions rests primarily with the local Chapter or with the Institute, and upon the reply which has been made to the effect that the general custom has been to bring violations of such a nature before the Committee on Practice of the Institute where the offenders were Institute members. Other inquiries of the like nature from other Chapters have been answered in the