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the dungeon of Vincennes remains the most tremendous example of this type of construction, and it is, in many of its parts, in a marvellous state of preservation.

It was only in 1914 that the Society of Vincennes had finally decided that the dungeon should be carried to the War Department for restoring to the Beaux Arts. But it still served as a munition warehouse pending the great war, and, in 1923, finally was again reopened to visitors. In recent years, thanks to the perseverance of Lieutenant Colonel de Fossa, who is President of the Friends of Vincennes, and an artist of high esteem, one trusts that the dungeon will become one of the most interesting museums to visit in the Parisian region.

The Chateau, in the spirit of its founder, Charles V, ought "to be a kind of royal city." It is there that that king received Emperor Charles IV of Germany in 1378. And since memories are fastened to these places. Henry V of England and Charles IX died there. Henry III was the last king who lived there. Then, having become a prison, the dungeon received the most illustrious prisoners, such as the Grand Condé and Cardinal de Retz.

The roof of the Saint Chapelle has just been completely repaired, and it is with relief that one finally sees under shelter, the vaults of this jewel of our national architecture.

What is to be hoped is that the unbecoming military barracks which encumber the interior of the place may gradually be demolished. But, it would also be necessary to tear down this memorial to the military power, piece by piece, because administrations always find good reasons for occupying structures until they find a means of obtaining, through their relinquishment, another building that they may desire.

Buildings of the past so much more easily attract attention, as new structures are rare, and even rarer monumental buildings. It is necessary to wait several months yet before definitely judging the result of the new Bridge of Tournelles. The centers of the arch have been removed; while the statue of St. Genevieve is not yet in place; the piers of the old bridge have not been demolished; and the parapet has not been constructed. For the present it is nevertheless to be hoped that the disappearance of the picturesque old bridge will not be too deeply regretted.

Another monument has just appeared which is the Museum of Archæology by the architect, Bigot. Venerable pensioner, that he is, of the Villa Medici, he is accustomed to observing through his intensive studies of ancient Rome, of which he has realized a plan in relief, by some very original designs which are now in the Salons. He has at last found, in this new work, an opportunity of endowing Paris with a building truly original and characteristic. The structure is entirely of reinforced cement. The façades are uniquely in brick of a beautiful red orange, sufficiently deep. The creator has realized, always uniquely in bricks, distinctive columns and capitals which have great character in the same way as a pavement jutting up bare parts, it yields them, vibrating, to the sun's rays.

The appearance is very severe. The walls are surmounted by a kind of ridge forming various narrow and elevated battlements in brick, like the rest of the building, and are detached with elegance against the sky. The horizontal roof is not apparent, a characteristic of modern architecture.

The interior work has not yet been begun, and it is to be hoped that it will not be delayed, as so often happens, on

account of waiting for the credits that the architect has struggled in vain to obtain.

G. F. SEBILLE

### Labor Deserts National Board

The Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor has officially withdrawn from the National Board of Jurisdictional Awards in the Building Industry. This action, taken at the recent convention of the Federation in Los Angeles, means, in effect, that the Board, created as a partnership, is dissolved no matter what formal procedure may be adopted by the partners, consisting of the American Institute of Architects, the American Engineering Council, the Employers' Association, and the Associated General Contractors. The representative on the Board of the A. I. A. is Edward B. Lee of the Pittsburgh Chapter. Only recently Mr. Lee had been reappointed for a term of two years.

The Chairman of the Board, Rudolph P. Miller of New York, who represents the American Engineering Council, regards the destruction of this agency as an untoward event.

"Unless the building trade unions can immediately start the operation of some new plan for the settlement of jurisdictional disputes the situation which has been fairly well controlled for the past few years, will revert quickly to the chaotic conditions of former times," in the opinion of Mr. Miller.

"This action by the Building Trades Department almost automatically dissolves the National Board, and it is highly improbable that more meetings will be held. This is a real misfortune, for there is no doubt in my mind that in the eight years of its existence the Board has saved millions of dollars that would otherwise have been wasted in settling strikes caused by jurisdictional disputes."

## Obituary

### Franz Joseph Untersee

*Member of A. I. A., Boston Chapter, since 1901*

*Died at his home, Brookline, Massachusetts, on September 5, 1927*

Mr. Untersee's style of architecture was partial to the Romanesque, which he used extensively in his ecclesiastical work, to which he devoted a considerable part of his career. Among the constructions of this type designed by him is the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Brooklyn; also the Missionary House of Studies for the Society of Redemptorist Fathers at Esopus on the Hudson; and the twin towers on the Mission church in Roxbury Street, Boston.

The Public Bath House in Brookline was designed by him in 1896, and five years later the Brookline Manual Training High School, and the municipal gymnasium in an equal lapse of time. Two buildings for the Brookline Savings Bank were also his projects. Besides, he planned other commercial, municipal and residential structures.

He was born in Switzerland in 1858, and he received degrees in architecture in the Polytechnic School, and from the University of Stuttgart, Germany.

In 1882 he came to America, where he eventually established his own office in Boston, and, in 1922, another office in New York City.