

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
AMALFI— <i>Louis C. Rosenberg</i>	<i>Frontispiece</i>
SHADOWS AND STRAWS	<i>C. H. W.</i> 29
THE ARCHITECT AND SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION	<i>Thomas Adams</i> 30
COMPETITIVE BIDDING ON COST PLUS CONTRACTS	<i>F. W. Lord</i> 32
THE STANDARD DOCUMENTS	<i>William Stanley Parker</i> 34
RECENT ZONE AND EXCESS CONDEMNATION LAWS IN FRANCE	<i>Frank B. Williams</i> 35
THE NEXT CONVENTION	36
SIX DRAWINGS	<i>Louis C. Rosenberg</i> 37
PRETTINESS AND DISCOMFORT	<i>Georgiana Goddard King</i> 43
THE GUILDS—OLD AND NEW	<i>Stewart F. Campbell</i> 45
AROUND THE SECRETARY'S TABLE	47
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	50
OBITUARY	51
COMMUNITY PLANNING	52
FROM OUR BOOK-SHELF	53
NEWS NOTES	54
STRUCTURAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT	55

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CHARLES HARRIS WHITAKER, *Editor*

The Octagon House, Washington, D. C.

313 East 23d Street, New York, N. Y.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vernon was depicted as being built of rough field stone. I wrote the publishers a very courteous letter pointing out this mistake, stating that our profession considered Mt. Vernon one of the most perfect of our wooden houses and that if their book was to be of any real value these historical buildings should be shown as they are.

From them I received the following letter which explains itself:

"DEAR SIR:

Your letter of January 4th addressed to the David McKay Company, in reference to the illustration of Mt. Vernon in their publication 'Colonial Homes,' has been handed to me for reply, as I was responsible for the artist who made the pictures for this book.

"The illustrations were not made with any thought to faithfulness to the originals, in so far as the color or material used in their construction is concerned. If you purchased the book having this in mind, it is unfortunate. Mr. Preston has made illustrations for a number of books along this same line, and he has taken liberties with all of them without any thought as to the material used in the construction of the buildings.

"Very truly yours,
THE BECK ENGRAVING COMPANY,
CHARLES W. BECK, JR.,
Secretary and Treasurer."

If such practices are common, as this letter indicates, I think the Institute should step in and notify these people that such practices are immoral if not illegal. Please let me know how you feel about it.

ALFRED GRANGER.

TO THINK—OR TO "REVIEW"

SIR:

In a "Review of Recent Architectural Magazines" in the *American Architect* and the *Architectural Review*, Mr. Swartwout wonders, in characteristic fashion, "what the little group of earnest thinkers will do next." What will they spread on "the background of pessimistic socialism?" Which is Mr. Swartwout's way of suggesting the character of the A. I. A. JOURNAL and the outlook of the "earnest thinkers."

Precisely what "pessimistic socialism" is I do not know. Changes are not ordinarily launched under the auspices of a dubious outlook. But I take it that the expression refers to a questioning attitude; that apparently is sufficient to characterize it as pessimistic. And no doubt "socialism" is sufficiently accurate as descriptive of a questioning attitude, since to question implies an open mind; and an open mind on matters social and economic (which I believe have some relation to architecture) is socialism. That, I think, is what is meant by the term.

Which suggests that it might not be entirely out of place as contributing to that background to spread thereon the remarks of President Harding as reported in his address before the National Agricultural Conference of 23 January. It is true, he was not speaking in direct reference to architecture; he was speaking in reference to the production and distribution of farm products. But his observations may be recalled, since, after all, he was dealing with production and distribution—a matter quite as much involved in the production and the use of buildings as in the production and use of wheat and cotton:

"The disastrous effects which arise from overproduction are notorious. The Congressional Joint Committee on Agricultural Conditions, in the valuable report which it has recently issued,

declares that a deficiency of one-tenth in the production of a particular staple means an increase of three-tenths in the price, while a deficit of two-tenths in production will mean an increase of eight-tenths in the price.

"The converse of this is just as emphatically true. In a recent address to the Congress, I stated this situation thus:

"It is rather shocking to be told, and to have the statement strongly supported, that 9,000,000 bales of cotton, raised on American plantations in a given year, will actually be worth more to the producers than 13,000,000 would have been. Equally shocking is the statement that 700,000,000 bushels of wheat, raised by American farmers, would bring them more money than a billion bushels. Yet these are not exaggerated statements. In a world where there are tens of millions who need food and clothing which they can not get, such a condition is sure to indict the social system which makes it possible."

Had he added shelter to his last sentence, he would have voiced the point of view of the "little group of earnest thinkers." Not that they would have used the term "over production" to describe a normal crop or a normal volume of goods which could not be made use of by tens of millions. They would have been more precise in the choice of words. But there is nothing to be gained by finding fault in the case of such a little matter; for President Harding has summed up the case as viewed by the "little group of earnest thinkers" very neatly indeed. And if he has given voice to thoughts of "pessimistic socialism," it is a pity!

F. L. ACKERMAN.

Obituary

Will A. Stevens

Elected to the Institute in 1918
Died at Chicago, Illinois, 18 December, 1921.

Will A. Stevens was born in 1863, and was graduated from the Cornell University Department of Architecture in 1890. For eleven years he was draughtsman with E. O. Fallis, Architect, of Toledo, and in 1901 entered the firm of D. H. Burnham and Company, remaining with Graham, Anderson, Probst and White until his death. Much of the last five years was spent in Toronto as manager of their Canadian office. Most of his work was consummated in his home town in Huntington, Indiana. Here he was the architect of the Presbyterian Church, the Reformed Church, and the Huntington Light and Fuel Company's office building. He was engaged at the time of his death on plans for the Hotel La Fontaine, to be erected in Huntington.

Austin W. Lord

Elected to the Institute in 1901; to Fellowship in 1903
Died at New York City, 26 January, 1922

(Further notice later.)

Evarts Tracy

Elected to the Institute in 1909
Died at Paris, France, 1 February, 1922

(Further notice later.)

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
ST. JOSEPH'S CHAPEL— <i>Glastonbury</i>	<i>Frontispiece</i>
SHADOWS AND STRAWS	<i>C. H. W.</i> 59
THE BOOMERANG	<i>R. W. T.</i> 61
REGISTRATION IN WEST VIRGINIA	<i>W. P. B.</i> 62
THE ARCHITECT AND THE ENGINEER	<i>William L. Steele</i> 62
GLASTONBURY	<i>S. F. and F. S. Campbell</i> 67
THE PHELPS-STOKES FUND TENEMENT HOUSE COMPETITION	<i>Frederick L. Ackerman</i> 76
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND HOUSING	82
LONDON LETTER	<i>Thomas Adams</i> 85
AROUND THE SECRETARY'S TABLE	<i>The Secretary</i> 87
COMPETITIVE BIDDING ON COST PLUS CONTRACTS	<i>Morton C. Tuttle</i> 89
COMMITTEE ON SMALL HOUSES	90
FROM OUR BOOK SHELF	90
NEWS NOTES	93
NEW MEMBERS ELECTED	94
OBITUARY	94
STRUCTURAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT	95

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Third Prize, \$1,000, John Tompkins. A supplementary prize of \$100 was awarded to Raymond M. Hood.

WHY more young men do not enter the draughting vocation and what can be done to secure more draughtsmen is to be the subject of study for a committee of the Wisconsin Chapter.

IN OREGON, the Commission handling the State Bonus Bill has received 7,000 applications for funds for building homes for returned soldiers, under the provisions of the Act creating the Commission. Loans of this kind are limited, it is reported, to \$3,000; they must be amortized in 20 years and will bear 4% interest. The Commission is interested in the work of the Architects' Small House Service Bureau, Northwestern Division, the members of which are preparing actively to co-operate in seeing that the soldiers get the best possible homes for the money.

SAN DIEGO is likely soon to be headquarters of a new Chapter of the Institute, according to the report made by Mr. Bergstrom to the Southern California Chapter. This will give the Institute an even fifty Chapters, including the new Westchester Chapter of New York.

MOUNTAIN Division, Architects' Small House Service Bureau, is distributing advance sheets from the catalogue soon to be issued by the Bureau. The designs cover a wide range of types, carefully studied in their adaptability to conditions such as are found within the territory of the Bureau. Those desiring further information as to the activities of the Bureau are referred to the Secretary, 415 Chamber of Commerce Building, Denver, Colorado.

MOLIERE'S three hundredth anniversary (he died in 1622) was observed by the Department of Drama, College of Fine Arts, Carnegie Institute of Technology, by the presentation of two plays, "Les Femmes Savantes," and "Don Juan." During the same period, when seven performances were given, the Faculty of the College gave an exhibition of their work in the Galleries of the Institute. The Department of Music gave a symphony concert, including Goldmark's "Sakuntala," Symphonic Variations by Franck, and a Cello Concerto by Lalo. The exhibition remained open through the greater part of February, and afforded another indication of the great value of the collaborative work organized by Professor Bossange, who is Dean of the College, which includes the Department of Architecture, of which Professor Harry Sternfeld is the head.

THE last meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter was much taken up with a discussion, inaugurated by Mr. Rotier, on the subject of a Bureau of the Architects' Small House Service. Mr. Rotier offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

"Resolved, That the Wisconsin Chapter, A. I. A., approves of the formation of the proposed North Central Regional Bureau of the Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States, Inc., and encourages it to carry on its program with all dispatch and energy."

New Members Elected

ALABAMA: Jacob E. Salie, *Birmingham*. CENTRAL ILLINOIS: Harry J. Reiger, *Springfield*. CENTRAL NEW YORK: L. J. Kaley, *Binghamton*. CLEVELAND:

Harry A. Fulton. ERIE: William F. Frank. FLORIDA: M. Leo Elliott, *Tampa*. ILLINOIS: James R. M. Morrison, Walcott S. Russell, *Chicago*. INDIANA: A. Frank Wickes, *Gary*. NEW YORK: Bevan Jones, Eugene Henry Klaber, *New York City*. PITTSBURGH: William R. Lewis, *Bluefield, W. Va.* TENNESSEE: Richard L. Seig, *Memphis*. TEXAS: Guy Lewis Frazer, H. C. Trost, *El Paso*; George Willis, *San Antonio*. WASHINGTON, D. C.: Alexander H. Sonnemann.

Obituary

Evarts Tracy

Lieutenant Colonel Evarts Tracy, D. S. C., died on Tuesday, 31 January, after a short illness in Paris, while engaged in reconstruction work in the devastated regions around Rheims. A graduate of Yale in the Class of 1890, he studied for three years at the École des Beaux Arts and after a short time in the office of McKim, Mead & White commenced independent practice of his profession in 1896, and formed the firm of Tracy & Swartwout four years later. The work done was extremely varied in character,—some domestic and commercial, but the bulk of it monumental. The Hotel Webster and the Home Club in New York were early examples and of the later work won in competition, the Denver Post Office, the Missouri State Capitol and the Milford Town Hall were the most prominent. The Victory Memorial Building for the George Washington Memorial Association, the cornerstone of which has just been laid, was won in competition in 1914.

Tracy had always a great interest in military affairs, was at Plattsburg for two years and on the outbreak of the war was commissioned Major of Engineers. He served with distinction here and abroad and was in charge of the Camouflage Section and an instructor in camouflage, and has written many articles on that subject. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was recently awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Personally, Tracy was a very lovable character. At college he was the most popular man in his class and in his profession and in the Army he was the friend of everyone who knew him, and he knew everybody. He was at home everywhere and was vitally interested in everything that went on. His specialty, as he often said, was miscellaneous information. There was not a subject on which he could not converse intelligently: with the medical profession he talked like a doctor and among lawyers he would pass as a lawyer, and when he entered the Army it seemed as if he had been a soldier all his life. He liked it and he looked it, and he gave his life to it, for the fatal attack of heart disease which carried him off in the midst of his reconstruction work was directly attributable to an accident in a trench at the Front. He lived his life to the full and he enjoyed every minute of it. He died as he would have wished to die, in the vigor of life and in the midst of the work he had loved. He was a man and a lovable man, and the fact of having known him is a pleasant memory. E. S.

Lowell A. Lamoreaux

Elected to the Institute in 1907
Died at Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1 February, 1922.