

Royal Australian Institute of Architects Queensland Chapter

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Concentration on Housing Upsets Building Balance

At the outset of building control, the Chapter directed attention to industrial unbalance which would follow undue concentration upon the building of individual houses.

It was shown that certain types of labour, material and equipment could not be employed in the erection of houses, and that unbalance would occur unless some scope remained for the employment of heavier types of construction.

Apartment buildings were an indicated outlet. The argument still holds good; experience supports it.

One World?

Remarkable in world approach to housing shortage is the uniformity of Government action designed to obtain results. It seems more than mere accident that the approach to the problem should be so uniform. In the United States, as here, wild estimates of housing need clouds the issue and provides excuse for elaboration of controls.

Suspicion overseas, as here, points to a determined effort by war-swollen departments to justify their inflated continuance.

Let the People Build

Some time ago it was contended by the Chapter that a stable building market would have a more beneficial effect upon housing production and cost than control or Government participation in the construction field. Stabilisation would involve Government guarantee of housing finance, but would not, of itself, involve expenditure. Notwithstanding experience after the last war and some later failures, Governments have persisted in expending money provided by all taxpayers for a very limited sectional benefit.

President's Illness

Good news is that the Chapter President (Mr. T. B. F. Gargett) is

back on the road to health. A serious operation which was expected has been avoided.

University Appointment

One-time President of the R.A.I.A., F. Bruce Lucas, is to be more closely associated with the University School of Architecture as lecturer in Architecture.

Preserving Old Buildings

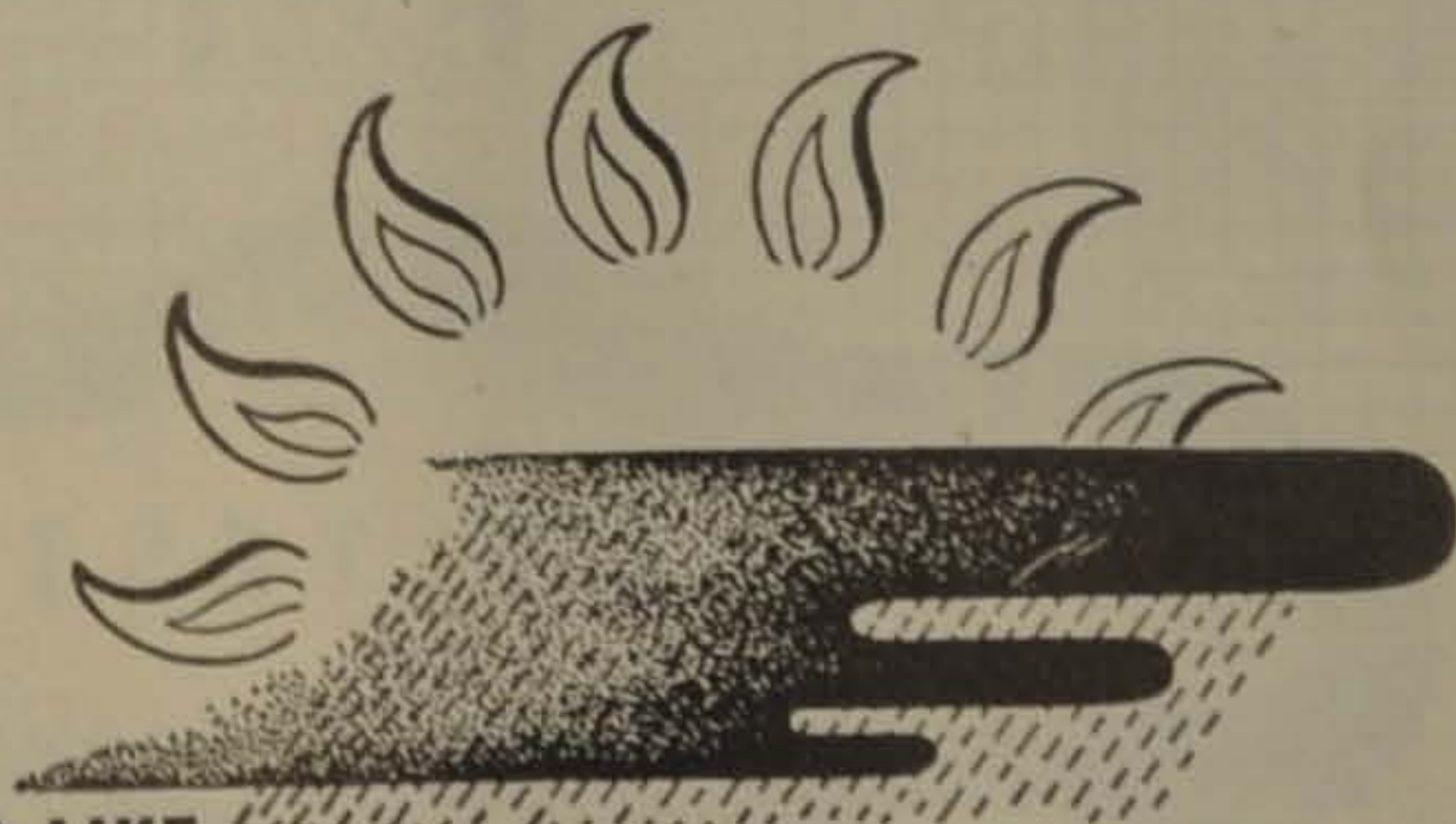
Main interest of R.A.I.A. bid for the preservation of old buildings was

directed towards Tasmania. The following comes from the "Launceston Examiner":—

"The voice of the Council of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects has been added to the cry for a greater realisation of the importance of preserving early buildings of historical and architectural interest. The Council has decided to try to persuade the Governments to create trusts

Continued Overleaf

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R.A.I.A. Notes

charged with the duty of saving our national heritage of old buildings."

Results followed next day, when the Premier (Mr. Cosgrove) announced that early consideration would be given to the matter.

An approach will soon be made to the Queensland Government on similar lines; prominent N.S.W. newspapers are already opposing the "Babbitts" who would raze all that means so much in historical significance to make way for something which is assumed to be better merely because it is new.



CIRCUS FOR KING'S CROSS

Sydney City Council proposes to construct a circus at King's Cross similar to that in London where five thoroughfares, including Ludgate Hill, Fleet Street, and New Bridge Street meet.

At present the motor traffic congestion at King's Cross is most acute. Up to 15 to 20 minutes wait is quite common during peak hours.

The proposed route will eliminate many old buildings in this area and includes the demolition of the King's Cross Hotel on one corner, but misses the new portion of the Oriental Hotel, which is separated by a lane-way from King's Cross Hotel. Incidentally, plans have been prepared for a new Oriental Hotel, some 12 stories high, on most modern lines.

The corner fruit shop, opposite this hotel, will also be demolished, but the cinema theatre will remain. On the opposite side of the Cross there are many old two story buildings, including the Pekin Cafe, which will have to go.

The Cross includes the intersection of five streets, including the main artery from the city, William Street.

The projects will be done gradually and provision will be made to house the disturbed population during construction. When completed, the Cross will accommodate ten times as many as at present, as the new buildings, in many cases, will go up to the limit allowed.

From a recent survey it is the opinion of our Architectural Editor that this project is the most pressing of the many traffic problems of metropolitan Sydney.

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