

Royal Australian Institute of Architects Queensland Chapter

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Annual Reports Presented

At the ordinary general meeting of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, held in Sydney on May 23, 1950, the president (Mr. J. D. Cheesman) was in the chair, and presented the annual report of the council for 1949, which was received and adopted.

Student Membership in Victoria:

Mr. Laurie inquired regarding the question of student membership in Victoria. Mr. Demaine reported that in Victoria there was a student society to which students pay a subscription. The question of added subscription for membership of the Australian Institute was under consideration. Mr. Weller explained that there were students' associations in other States (Queensland, for example), and students paid subscriptions to both organisations.

Appreciation of Work:

Mr. Farrington expressed appreciation for the work done by the president and council during the year, and his remarks were supported by Mr. Andrew.

Publication Management:

At the request of the president, Mr. Cozens explained to members the reasons for the changeover in publications management and for the appointment of the Publications Manager.

The president expressed his appreciation of the work done by the Publications Board, and explained that the move of appointing Miss Tottenham to the board as editor-manager was the first step undertaken by council to place the control of publications in the Institute's hands. Miss Tottenham was now a full-time member of the staff of the Institute.

Financial Statements:

The report for 1949 of the honorary treasurer, together with financial statements, copies of which had been distributed to members, were presented, received and adopted.

Mr. Cheesman explained that Mr. O. A. Yunken, honorary treasurer, was not present owing to illness, his place having been taken by Mr. Demaine.

Auditor's Report:

The auditor's report for 1949, which had been distributed to members, was received and adopted.

General:

Professor Leslie Wilkinson pointed out that in the Year Book and Conditions of Contract there was a statement that there was no difference between a P.C. (Prime Cost) Item and a Provisional Sum, but that they were not the same

thing. He felt that it should be put right.

Mr. Weller explained that the document was not reviewed from year to year. It was agreed with the Master Builders' Federation. Mr. Weller said that discussion did take place between the Master Builders' Federation and the Institute, and that it would be put down for discussion.

Engagement of Architects:

Mr. Farrington: "I would like to make it clear that I am not criticising past activities of the Institute on this particular matter. I know that it is very easy for those on the sidelines to criticise what the workers are doing, but this question of hack work for Government departments, which started as a very nice arrangement, is now working against our main object, 'the advancement of architecture'. I understand that, although it started in New South Wales, at the present time Victoria, for a 12 months' period, is trying the same arrangement with the State Works Department, and that in South Australia some special arrangement has been made.

"I feel that it is very likely to grow into something which is going against the advancement of architecture. I know that at the present time negotiations are proceeding with the Commonwealth

Architects' Notes:

department to persuade the Government to give private architects work on a full service basis; but I feel that this arrangement which we have come to, to do the hack drafting work, is likely to militate against our chances of success in that field.

"We should make it clear to the Prime Minister that our only interest is that of the advancement of architecture. We should give our reason that we feel the advancement of architecture will not be brought about by doing hack work for Government departments. We should take the stand that we are not going to do this partial service work, and have a contribution to make on full service basis."

The President said: "First and foremost, perhaps, we should keep in mind that as a professional body we have a service to render to the public and the nation.

"I would remind you all here that the position that obtains at the moment is due entirely to architects being unwilling in the past to offer their services and to serve the economy of the country. In the early part of the war architects were loath to organise themselves, as did the engineers. In the services you find engineers in command and an architect somewhere down the line as a hack draftsman.

"I think this assistance to the Government departments is doing a great deal. It is showing the departments, both State and Commonwealth, our willingness to help in their offices. We are rendering a service. I believe it will be a step to bigger things. In addition to what you read in the report regarding our public relations with the Prime Minister and other Commonwealth departmental heads and State departments, I have, in the last few days, been in Melbourne and Canberra on the same business.

"With regard to the matter of full services brought forward by Mr. Farrington, it was, as you know, the policy laid down by this Council in Adelaide last year. That policy was transmitted to Dr. Loder, Director-General of Works and Housing.

"I feel that interview may result in architects being used in their full capacity."

Mr. Parkes said: "Primarily, I agree with what Mr. Farrington has said. I can only speak for what operates in New South Wales. I should remind members how the system we are dealing with, whereby architects in private practice give help to the department on partial fee, came about.

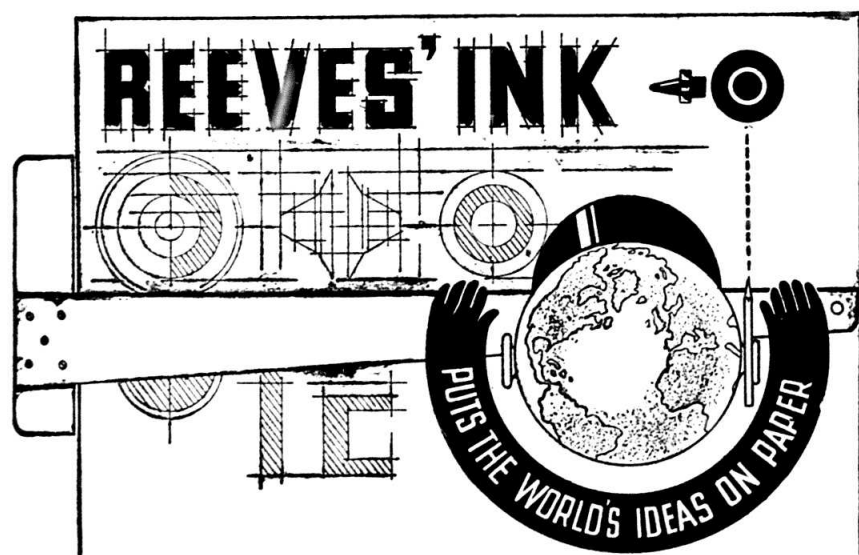
"It goes back five or six years ago. I approached the Institute, the N.S.W. Chapter, and mentioned that, through an increase in work, it would be necessary to increase the size of the office or arrange for private architects to help the department; but it wanted only partial service. It was intended only that those architects would supply the assistance we wanted. It has certainly grown.

"We must remember that the arrangement is between the Chapter and the department, and the Chapter has the right to terminate it to-morrow."

After further general discussion, during which many interesting points were raised by members, it was moved by Professor Leslie Wilkinson, and seconded by Mr. Farrington:

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the functions of an official architect and his staff are two: Firstly, to act as agent for the Government as client. Secondly, to maintain Government buildings after they have been handed over by the private architect.

The President undertook to bring this expression before the notice of Council.



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