

the nature of the amendments desired and that when these were received the Committee would go into the matter. In the meantime suggestions were being received from branches and individual members as to amendments desired by them, and these would all be considered together when a reply was received from the Builders. No definite action will be taken regarding the proposed conference until a full report has been made and approved by Council.

As regards the "Scale of Charges" and "Competitions," both Committees submitted full reports and recommended that they be set up in type and circulated to all branches, and that one month be allowed for consideration and amendments (if any), after which the reports be settled by postal vote and gazetted. While expedition is not absolutely necessary (though desirable) in the case of the "Competitions" report, it is an essential factor with regard to "Charges." Members all over the Dominion are asking for definite rulings as to their charges in view of the alterations made at the last Annual Meeting, and it is very desirable that a properly authorised Scale should be issued immediately.

Of the other matters dealt with the principal one concerned the attitude of the Institute as a corporate body towards members excluded for just cause or members resigning for various reasons. It was made clear that upon a member resigning or being excluded, his registration under the Act became cancelled, and that unless he passed the examinations of the Institute no provision exists for his re-admission. Further, he could not use any of the forms of the Institute, the letters or titles denoting membership, or participate in any of its privileges. It was decided that in certain cases, where the Council considered the circumstances justified such a course, an advertisement would be published in the principal papers of the district where the ex-member resides, informing the public of the cancellation of his registration and the reasons therefor. It was felt that this course was necessary in the interests of the public and of the Institute.

A letter was received from the Department of Internal Affairs announcing the approval by the Governor-in-Council and the gazetting of all the amendments made at the last Annual Meeting.

A full record of the meeting will, in due course, be prepared and sent to all Councillors.

## British Housing Problem.

NEARLY 10,000 SCHEMES FOR SOLVING SHORTAGE  
IN ENGLAND SUGGESTED.

Attempts to solve Great Britain's housing problem have already brought forward upwards of 10,000 schemes involving an annual capital

expenditure of £125,000, according to a report by a representative of the foreign trade bureau of the Guaranty Trust Co. of New York. After giving details as to various plans and the number of houses to be built in each of more than 30 cities visited, the report continues:—

The programme of the Ministry of Health—complete rehousing in three years—is about one year behind, and is costing more than double the original estimates. The Ministry of Health works in conjunction with the Office of Works. Where a local authority defaults, the business is then entrusted to the Office of Works.

### SKILLED MEN LACKING.

What is keeping back housing at the present time is the fact that there are not enough skilled men to do even a quarter of the work wanted. The trades union will not allow the number to be increased from the outside. The Government is using a sort of indirect compulsion by prohibiting "luxury and unessential building," so that if a man will not build cottages he is not allowed to build anything else. There are various suggestions for speeding up the work, including a guarantee to trades unions of employment for a term of years to men employed on housing work, to insure them against loss of time in bad weather by a minimum wage "wet or dry."

In return the trades unions will be asked to consent to dilution and the employment of unskilled and semi-skilled labour, to give up their apprenticeship rules, and abandon all opposition to the employment of ex-service men, trained or untrained. There are "luxury building" tribunals to hear appeals against decisions prohibiting buildings regarded as non-essential.

### BOND ISSUE FOR HOUSES.

There are housing bond campaigns all over the country. In London subscriptions to the 6 per cent. bonds are coming in at the rate of about £100,000 a day. While the local governments are issuing 6 per cent. bonds, the British Government charges 7 per cent. Borrowing in the ordinary way for housing schemes not financed by bonds is usually 7 per cent.

On July 21st the total number of housing schemes in England and Wales was 10,673, covering in all land for 800,000 houses. Of these 7,120 have been approved with an area for 550,000 houses. In Scotland 103,000 houses have been authorised, the bids averaging about £1,000 a house. This is roughly about £100 to £150 more than it costs for a house in England.

The Wanganui Borough Council has completed the erection of several municipal dwellings. The cost of a four-roomed dwelling built of hollow concrete blocks is £745, and that of a four-roomed dwelling of concrete £698. The costs in both instances include plumbing and fittings.