

INTRODUCTION

A project such as this book is fraught with the danger of omission. Old records are often faded and incomplete, and old memories are sometimes the same. If we offend anyone we will be genuinely sorry, because we have sincerely tried to be as representative as possible toward each of the myriad groups which go into the makeup of the building industry. To be more complete would take the dedication of still more years of research, and would result in a book many times this size.

Wherever possible we have tried to check figures and to corroborate statistics which have been offered as reference material, but there will undoubtedly be some error. In that regard we might add that this book has been written by the hand of an onlooker, not a historian.

Construction has been called a "mirror" industry, reflecting the countenance of the surrounding economy. On close inspection, the "mirror" of Hawaii's construction industry is reflective of many more things as well. It is reflective of man's ability to govern himself; it is reflective of man's attitude toward his fellow man;

it is reflective of the skills and the particular integrity which is a part of each of our many national origins; it is reflective of the technological advancements of literally thousands of industries circling the globe; and it is certainly reflective of the ability to innovate, and to change as each passing decade has demanded.

We have learned a great deal about Hawaii during this venture, and it is our hope that you will enjoy some of the things we have seen.