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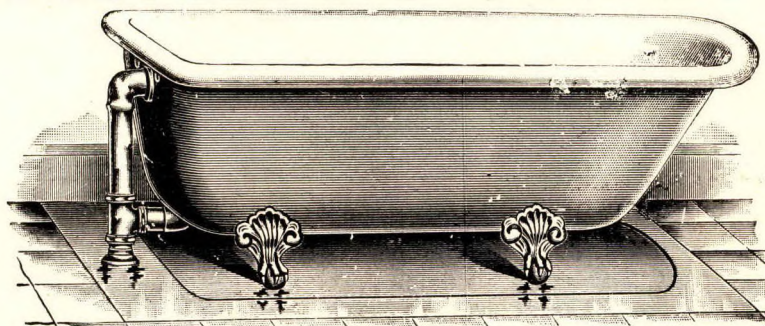
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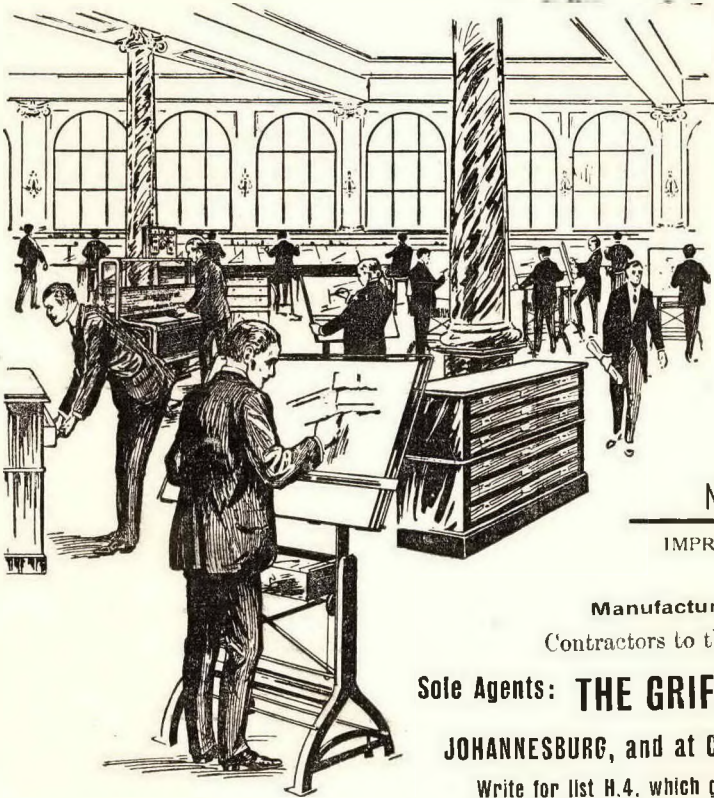
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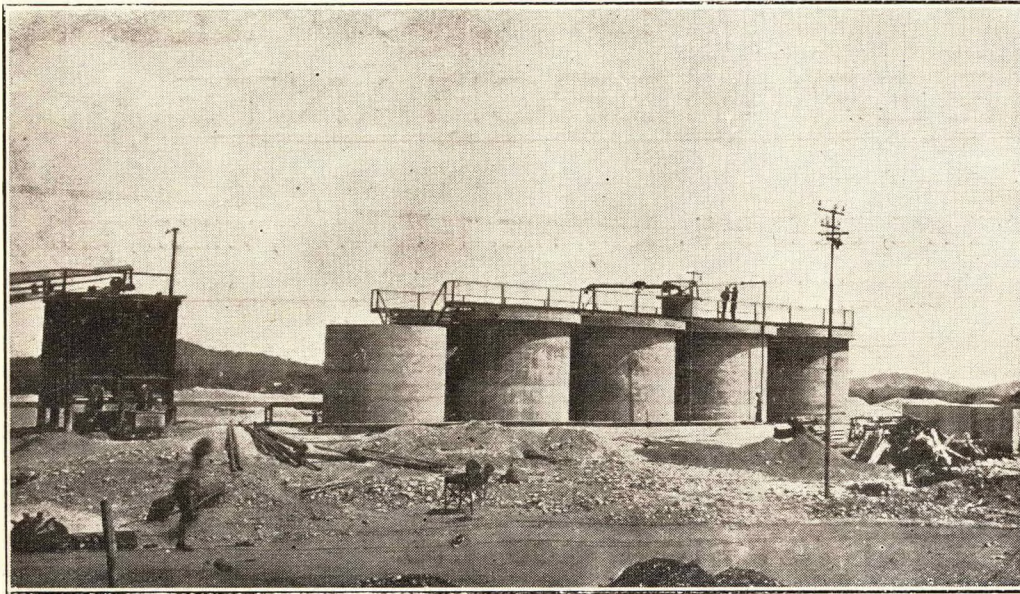
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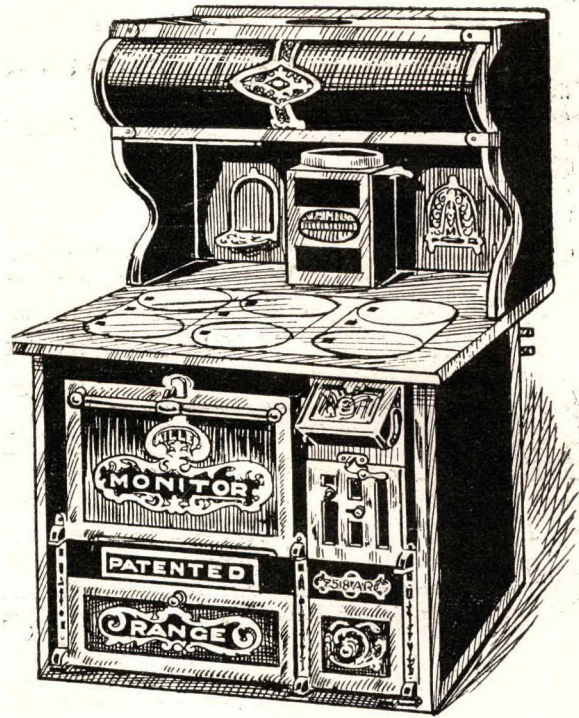
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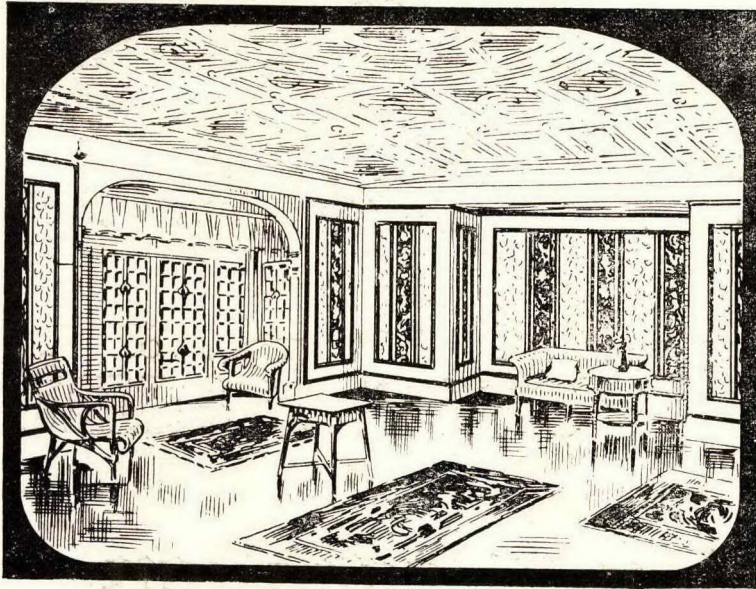
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BEGINNINGS.

By G. W. NICOLAY, M.S.A.

When first the thoughts are turned to architecture as a study there is a tendency to ignore the things proper to a successful beginning and to allow the attention to be absorbed by works, matured ability and study at the great risk of limiting the measure of success to be attained, or even inducing failure altogether. For the proper beginnings in every study have to do with the elements of the thing studied and to overlook them is fatal. The elements of architecture are to be found in the simplest buildings.

Now, having progressed so far without much danger of disagreement, it becomes necessary to decide what is intended by the word "building." Manners and customs use strange materials and methods in this direction, so that what is called building in one place may perhaps not be called so elsewhere. We are, however, becoming so accustomed to a very extended meaning for the word that it will be best to let it represent anything mechanically put together. For instance, if a block of concrete is made we may say it is built of stone and cement, although to preserve the desired form a box is provided to make it in. Or if we put some poles upright in the ground in pairs, and as we proceed tie them together with other poles

from head to head and then again transversely, we may be said to build a pergola. And if we take some rough stones and pile them on the other, keeping to some measure of thickness, height and length, to build a wall.

The wall of mud reinforced wood wands and kept in place with upright poles and the dry stone wall are probably the earliest forms of building: the latest the mighty steel structure holding in place of the screen walls of mud, concrete perhaps, or any convenient material; let us say—for momentarily cost is not considered—polished stone, marble, alabaster or porphyry. This is a most remarkable development—for it is a development—and in passing it is notable that some well qualified to judge think that it is only a passing phase and not likely to outlive its prototype, the humble wattle and daub—mud and wand—which is traceable to the high antiquity of 2,000 years and more, and still continues.

Having attained a good and sufficiently comprehensive view of what building is; now for a similarly elementary view of what is architecture.

Let the almost universal fashion of making a definition be for the moment put aside, because fortunately the matter can be approached in a different way, and, after all, definitions, when not absolutely necessary as in the case of great sciences, are apt to confuse and lead to dispute. So taking the circular hut, which was probably first in the field, see if any progress can be made with that, for although to the aboriginal man beauty is a thing of naught, he generally shows some signs that his mind is becoming fit for the intelligent enjoyment of it. He has a tendency to make experiments—to scratch figures, to cut notches in wood and such like: to put streaks and patches of colour on his walls, and, briefly, to begin moving towards the management of form and colour.

As time went on his hut, no longer the sombre grey of mud, got a coat of white. In beginnings a long time elapses before a step like that can be taken. Time for man to gain intelligence to appreciate it, and so the moment comes when he sees the lights and shades of it and the shadows thrown upon it from the projecting thatch or near objects, trees, himself, his people, and animals. More interesting, perhaps, than all, some creeper which has caught hold of and grown up against the walls, spreads an intricate and shadowy representation of its delicate lines of stem and tendril and firm masses of leafage over the white surface. At this point of development he begins to appreciate beauty: not its sensual only, but its abstract nature: and it should be remarked that this earliest development of beauty in buildings—though accidental—was attained by providing for protection,

warmth and shelter, and privacy, without which civilised progress would be impossible.

It is difficult to trace the transition from the circular to the rectangular arrangement. It has been traced to the flattening of the sides of a round hut by some accident of its position in a village, and it may easily have been suggested by a roof being placed between two huts to form an easy enlargement. But however it came about, in course of time it became a fact with both forms of roof: in one, sloping up from the walls on each side and continued from end to end, presenting two surfaces, and the other sloping up from all four walls and presenting four surfaces. The latter hanging over the walls at a level all round, and the former only at the sides, the walls at each end rising vertically to the angle formed by the roof at its apex.

And now another effect is noted. The soft melting lights of the round building have disappeared, and in their place a light side and a dark side in sharp contrast, graduated, indeed, but with one change only—light to dark. Upon the light side the same interesting shadows as before, though not so complex; on the other side a new thing—not grey shadows on the white wall, but pearly grey lights in the shadow of the dark of the side.

And now a further great advance has been made not only towards architecture, but to all the higher arts; and it is well to remember that though used in a very restricted sense, the word art was applied to minor operations long before architects, sculptors and painters used it, and certainly before they appropriated it as an almost exclusive possession.

Advanced a great way now, as has been said—such a great way that the basis of the three sister fine arts has been established firmly—the soft graduated shadows and lights with high lights and deep darks, the sharp contrasts of broad light and shadows, the dark patterns on the light, and the light form traced upon the dark shade: the rigid mechanical forms wrought by the hand of man; the extreme beauty, intricacy, and variety of the works of Nature! The rest is mere management: the arrangement, so to say, of all these to the work or the pleasure of the moment.

Now we may imagine these beginnings happening anywhere and at any time. Probably the beginnings were always such as have been described. But if we are curious about the first of these beginnings we must search the only historic records—the scattered remnants, among which the most beautiful are the bleached bones of man and beast.

There is, however, no fixed place for the beginnings of these things. Long after the Greeks became supreme—some think for all time—in sculpture, the people in Europe were building wattle and daub huts.

Long before that time the Egyptians had built some of their great monuments. And now that thousands of years have set the mark of time upon them, the native is building the wattle and daub huts, both round and square, freely in South Africa. In the arts time counts for very little.

It may seem that such an expression as that above "the rest is mere management"—is hardly to be taken seriously, but a little thought will convince the sceptic that it is indeed a true statement when he considers that the elements of architecture are these: cubes, cylinders, pyramids, prisms, right and curved cones and hemispheres. In these beginnings we have cubes, cylinders, pyramids and prisms and right cones. The hemisphere, though not previously referred to, is common among aborigines. The curved cone only remains, and that is unusual even in advanced architecture.

Much has been said and written about architecture, its origin and development, and it may seem that some apology is due for adding to such a mass of literature. If so, it should be sufficient to point out that it is seldom a useful thought cannot be added to an old theme, and that the old themes are not always to be had when wanted and in convenient form.

I hope in future to add to this by tracing further developments which were naturally brought about by the increased wants of men as civilisation advanced, how the desire of good appearance and convenient arrangement progressed together in procession through the ages of the arts which satisfy utility and beauty.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Special General Meeting of Members called for 5 p.m. on Thursday the 19th June, was duly held under the Chairmanship of the President, Mr. D. M. Burton, M.S.A., M.R.S.J.

The Meeting which was properly constituted unanimously agreed that this Association should become a participating body in the proposed Housing Scheme for Technical and Scientific Bodies on the Rand, further, the meeting unanimously decided that the Annual Subscriptions payable by Practising Members should be increased to £5 5s. 0d. and the Subscriptions payable by Salaried Members increased to £3 3s. 0d. both increases to come into effect on the 1st January, 1920.

LAY-OUT OF UNIVERSITY SITE, MILNER PARK, JOHANNESBURG.

At a public meeting, presided over by the Mayor of Johannesburg as Chairman of the Witwatersrand University Committee, held in the Assembly Hall at the School of Mines yesterday afternoon, the envelopes containing the names of the competitors who submitted designs for the lay-out of the University site at Milner Park were opened, and it was found that the following were the successful competitors:—

Design placed first by the Assessors, carrying a premium of £200: Messrs. Lyon & Fallon, Cape Town.

Design placed second by the Assessors, carrying a premium of £100: Mr. Harold Porter, Johannesburg.

Three other designs were specially commended, namely, a second design by Messrs. Lyon & Fallon, one by Mr. V. S. Rees-Poole and Mr. W. Barbour (Pretoria), and one by Messrs. Hawke & McKinlay (Cape Town).

Twenty designs in all were submitted.

Assessors' Report.

We have the honour to submit our report on the designs received for the lay-out of the ground in Milner Park.

There were twenty designs submitted.

The task of adjudication has been lengthy owing to the difficulty of the final selection from the last five designs left after the rejection of the remainder as being less suitable or satisfactory. The choice of the first premiated design was made after two final separate and selective tests, each of which showed this design to possess more practical merits than any of the others. While this design wins on the selective points as indicated, we may add that on the previous more general survey of the plans all the assessors felt that in the most important practical respects it offered the best solution, and though on first view in some features it may not appear so attractive as some others, your assessors, having given the matter the most exhaustive consideration, are unanimously of opinion that it should be awarded the first place.

As regards the second premiated design, your assessors consider that it exhibits very high artistic ability in garden architecture and in general grouping, but that it falls behind the first in certain practical features, which are of the first importance in dealing with a design which may have to be developed off the

original plan during a period which might easily occupy a very considerable time.

Your assessors are strongly of opinion that the unforeseen requirements of future generations should be rendered easy of accomplishment without marring or destroying that which may have then been erected. We refer to the extensibility of buildings to an extent only limited by the boundaries of the ground itself. In the first premiated design, No. 3, it will be seen that this is not difficult and will not interfere with the central grouping. Your assessors are not insensible to the architectural desirability of linking blocks, but feel that nothing of this nature which may hamper extensibility should be attempted, and that orderly progression and grouping should be preserved, remembering that finality is on such a distant and dim horizon that possibly it will never be completely reached.

Convenience of intercommunication or adjacency as between various blocks or departments has been kept well in mind. Far scattered blocks or groups are to be deprecated. The orientation of blocks has been carefully considered with a view to reducing the inconvenience of a hot western sun, while retaining the full advantage of the north aspect.

The question of leaving space for unforeseen developments in the far future even beyond the ample building programme foreshadowed in the conditions has been studied by your assessors, and designs giving ample spare ground have been given every consideration.

The sports grounds are of an ample character, and your assessors feel that probably the best result will be attained by not attaching the grounds for the two different football games.

The space on the extreme north has been left by some competitors in more or less of a state of nature. This is regarded as wise, as retaining scope for unforeseen future developments; others showed lakes and extensive garden treatment, more or less expensive to maintain. The water flow in the spruit is, however, so slight as to vitiate the value of this feature, and indeed a lake might even become a nuisance.

The grandeur of the site for a great building scheme can hardly be excelled, and the probable appearances of the realised conception both from the town and from Parktown, Auckland Park and the far country beyond is of importance as well as the effect on the beholder when standing in front of the great dominating administrative block which will form the key of the structural group.

Access to the various blocks by roads is a weak feature in many of the designs. Many of these blocks

will be used for the housing of heavy laboratory equipment, which must be brought by mule wagons close to the doors. Frequently as years pass, out-of-date apparatus will require removing and replacing. Your assessors have kept this necessity well in view in forming their judgment.

Those competitors who showed the hostels on fairly high ground in the middle area near the sports ground, and in such a way as to admit of the erection of future additional hostels, were considered to have more suitably met the requirements than those who placed them close to the University buildings.

The position of subsidiary buildings for janitors, mechanics and natives were considered from a practical standpoint as well as with a view to such privacy as might be required.

The general conception of the schemes for lay-outs has been given every weight. As will be seen, the artistic value of those vary considerably, and must be regarded, not only for the fine mental effects of good garden design, but with a view to the correlation of this with the grouping of the buildings.

The ideal artistic conception of the surface treatment must go hand in hand with that of the buildings, which must at any price be kept suitably disposed for the supreme purpose of the University. There is nothing antagonistic in the union of these ideals, nor indeed are they truly separate, and while no design offers a perfect solution, such should, however, be reached when the working plan is prepared.

Your assessors, in accordance with Clause 13 of the Conditions of Competition, award the first place to No. III., carrying a premium of £200, and the second place to No. XIX, carrying a premium of £100.

They further wish to notice and place in order of merit three other designs which were included in the last five from which final selection was made. They are Nos. II., IX., XI.

They recommend that the Committee should accept this report and the two awards, and should thereafter proceed to the public opening of the sealed envelopes, of which due notice should be given in the public press.

They further recommend that the designs be placed on public exhibition for one week, and also that this report be handed to the Press.

EDWARD H. WAUGH,

D. A. McCUBBIN,

JAN H. HOFMEYR,

Honorary Assessors.

PROGRESS IN FORESTRY.

By E. H. WAUGH, A.R.I.B.A.

The recent discussion in Parliament on the profitable production of a Government forest giving an annual return of £10 per acre has aroused widespread interest in this highly important question which has been focussed in a vote of £50,000 on this year's estimates for new afforestation.

The writer has received a recent remarkable work on "Australian Forestry," by D. G. Hutchins, formerly Chief Conservator of Forests in South Africa. The author is one of the foremost authorities in the world on extra-tropical forestry, having been first in France and also India, Cyprus and South Africa (the last since 1883), he speaks with such intimacy as could only be gathered during a long life devoted to what is evident on every line of his treatise as the subject of his treasured thought.

The treatise was written on the invitation of the West Australian Government, and the other enhances in it a most extensive review of the forestry of the whole of Australia and Tasmania. He writes with a most trenchant pen and with the utmost courage, and the summing of his work undoubtedly convinces the reader of its 416 close printed pages that the Australians have been destroying their forests for 100 years at such a rate of devastation that in the next thirty years, the direct and indirect loss will amount to the colossal sum of £588,000,000, or twice her debt.

This is no guess work, as Mr. Hutchins figures the whole matter out with the precision of a high expert, and one finishes the book with the conviction that Australia has "wasted her substance" and "has begun to be in want." When one is told that every day one ship arrives bringing to Australia £10,000 worth of imported timber the extent of her folly rises up appallingly.

There seems to be no escape from the crushing facts which this great forester has marshalled as an indictment of the grave national error of Australia, and one is agreeably surprised to find that poor bare South Africa has been in possession of trained forest officers since 1883, while Australia, blessed with the most magnificent endowment of the greatest natural hardwood forests of the world, thus, like Esau, "sold her birthright for a mess of pottage" in the shape of a few poor struggling settlers in the depths of the vast devastated and burnt forest giants.

"The lost corner of the Empire."

According to our author, Tasmania enjoys this extraordinary distinction. He devotes a long chapter

to this beautiful isle "set like a pearl in the silver seas." A little smaller than Ireland, Tasmania is only one-fourth ploughable, and the real land question is ignored. In the possession of the British for a hundred years, this gem of the South only possesses 200,000 people, and is probably the most English country outside of England. Yet in its most important aspect it is the most neglected, for out of its 16,000,000 acres, 11,000,000 is suitable only for forests and that of the richest growth either of the most valuable soft woods or of choice hard woods. Man is doing his best to degrade Tasmania to the level of the barren mountains of Southern Europe.

Mr. Hutchins claims that a good forest country will support ten times the people that the same land would if put under sheep, and yet this amazing isle has no Chief Conservator, and only spends £1,000 per annum to look after its vast forest interests. Instead of £500,000 per year of good exportable timber being sent out she only gets £30,000 to £40,000 for her extra Australian exports.

Instead of spending £1,000 on forestry our author says she should be spending £90,000; and advocates a loan of £2,000,000 to the island state to put their forests into order. Tasmania has evidently reached a tender spot in his heart, as he says, she produces the finest type of Australian manhood. For forestry she is proportionately far the most richly endowed of all the Australian states, and yet she can only show 100 years of lost opportunities—a period which will in history be compared to the barrenness of the Spanish occupation of Portugal or some of the backward features of China.

He quotes of it, Tennyson's lines:

"My father left a park to me, but it is wild and barren,

A garden too, without a tree, and waster than a warren,
Yet, say the neighbours when they call, this is not bad but good land.

And has in it the germ of all that grows within the wood land."

Mr. Hutchins thinks Tasmania could grow Oregon or Douglas pine over 5,000,000 acres. He concludes from an official report. "This state stands almost alone among the business communities of the world in its neglect and non-conservation of its timber forests."

THE MAINLAND.

If, our author is not equally scathing, he is very strong in his condemnation of the methods of ignorance which have ruled to the waste and destruction on the main land: As in most forest countries the dreaded "bush-fire" is in Australia the great destroyer. The hot dry summer of the island continent makes this

enemy of the forester one of real strength and menace. Great space is devoted to the proper methods of combatting this evil as is done in the planted forests of South Africa, that is by the "fire-path," *i.e.*, broad unplanted avenues thus cutting the forest into small areas and giving feed for the animals to work the forest. These check and confine the fire. They give ready access for the forester and his men. On an eminence overlooking the whole forest, the forester lives. From this eerie he can scan the whole vast solitude of trees under his care. In twenty minutes he should be able to run to any part of his preserve. But old as the "fire-path" is in most civilized lands, the "Empire of the South" has only begun to know what it means since about 1912, and only commenced to understand that forestry is often a better paying "game" than agriculture or sheep-farming.

"SOUTH AFRICA LEADS."

The treatise refers to the last 30 years work in South Africa, and certainly she far outstrips Australia in scientific forestry. It is pleasing to think that Australia has sent for South Africa's retired expert to report on her forests.

Mr. Legat, the present South African Chief Conservator of Forests, in his last annual report states that there are 1,005,121 morgen, or over 2,000,000 acres reserved for forest areas, of which about three-fourths is demarcated—not including sleeper plantations. Of this vast area only 51,103 acres, or say 25,000 morgen are afforested, and in addition 23,225 acres sleeper plantations—a very inadequate area.

The revenue from the forests of the Union is increasing. Plantation revenue in 1910 was £29,100, now it is £41,385, and when it is remembered that most of these plantations are still "young"—in a forester's sense—some idea can be formed of the part they are destined to play in the future.

As between 1895 and 1913 timber of the world rose 33 per cent. in price, it is probable that there will in the future be a normal rise, quite apart from present war conditions, and it is remarked the £50,000 referred to as being placed on the loan estimates recently before the Union Parliament is an earnest of an intention to proceed with the afforestation of the 300,000 acres necessary to meet this country's requirements. The area afforested last year was only 2,065 acres, though this was 743 acres more than in the previous year. As timber is one of the *prime* essentials of industry, the promotion of forestry is an exceedingly sound policy and it is one which the Association of Transvaal Architects has always persistently advocated. The increased awakening of the public to the great value of good

forests looked after by well-trained men is an omen of good. At the same time the recent sale at £182 per acre for a 45 year-old planting of Chester pine at the Cape is not likely to be often repeated in the future, as it is exceptional and it is easy to lose money in forests if not conducted by highly trained experts. Forestry is a profession and requires business as well as technical training, and the efforts of the Union's Forestry Department to train young men for this work is entirely praiseworthy.

Title.—It is a work of a far-reaching and national character, and will be a monument to the untiring patience of its author and a cause of gratitude that a man with a life-long experience has been lead to leave his knowledge to the world in such an interesting manner, unloaded by technicality and instructive in the highest degree. It has been impossible to have done more in this notice than merely briefly draw attention to his work, but a perusal of the book will well repay any student interested in this great subject.

("A discussion of Australian Forestry" with notices of organised forestry in other parts of the world with appendices on Forestry in New Zealand, South Africa, etc., by D. G. Hutchins. Issued under authority of Minister Controlling Forests in Western Australia. Price 5/- unposted.)

NOTICE.

Lists of Tenders.

Will Members of the Association of Transvaal Architects and Architects in the other Provinces, when publication is considered desirable, please forward to the Editor of the "S.A. Master Builders' Federation Journal" particulars of tenders dealt with from time to time, together with names of tenderers, denoting the successful one, including the respective amounts of tenders?

It is desired by Master Builders to have this information published in their own Journal.

Kindly address all lists to

THE EDITOR,

S.A. MASTER BUILDERS'

FEDERAL JOURNAL,

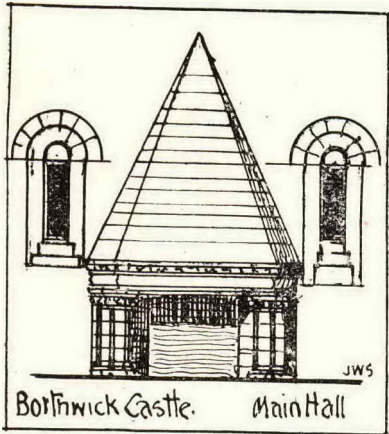
Box 3969,

JOHANNESBURG.

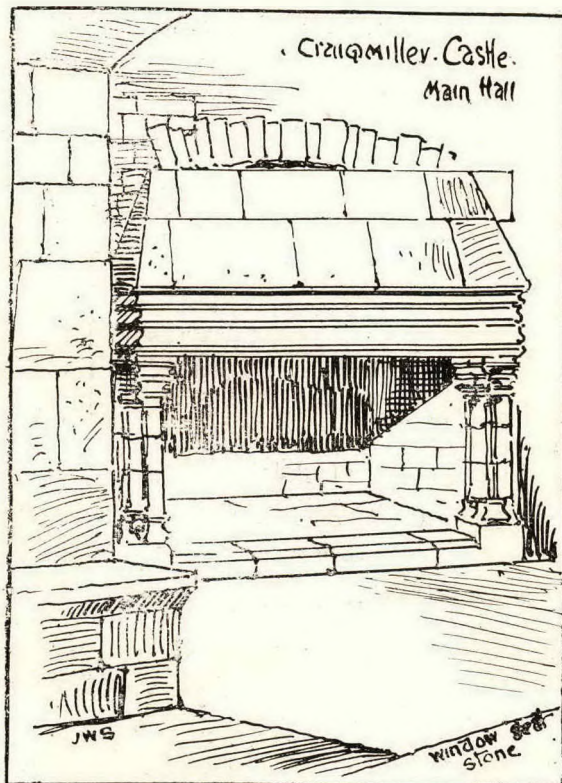
EXAMPLES OF OLD SCOTS FIREPLACES.

By JOHN W. SMALL, F.S.A. (Scot.)

In our old palaces, castles, keeps, and town houses in Scotland we have many examples of fireplaces, chiefly from the dining hall or principal room, they were all of stone with large openings, especially those erected before A.D. 1500, in consequence of the fuel being logs of wood. In England we have examples of Andiron for the support of the top of the fire, but I do not remember coming across any Scots examples.

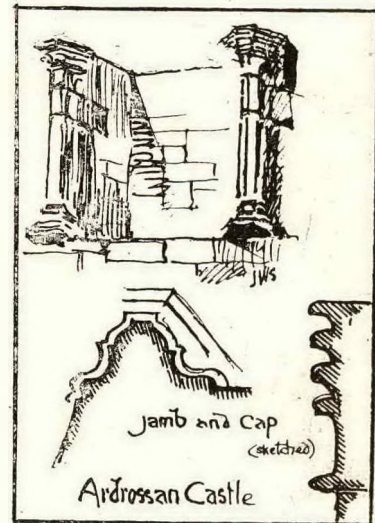
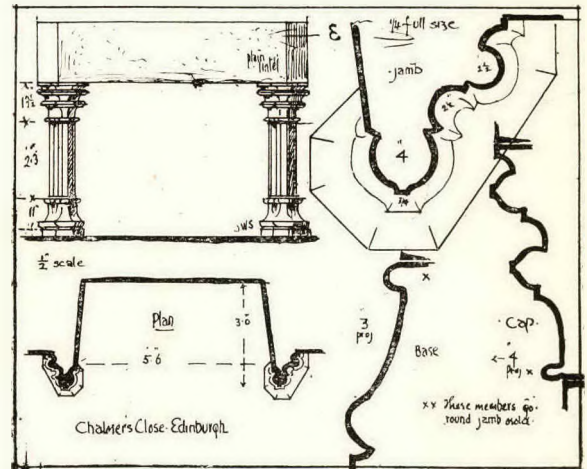


Here is one from Borthwick Castle, before 1500 A.D., which lies 12 miles south from Edinburgh, showing a sloped top, moulded shaft and carved caps. Another example I give from the hall of Cray Miller Castle, near Edinburgh, plain moulded shaft with bases



and cap, moulded lintol and sloping canopy above, with a splayed kerb to keep in the wood; note the saving arch in wall over canopy.

The one from Chalmers Close, Edinburgh, is from a town house, now in ruins, the quarter scale details



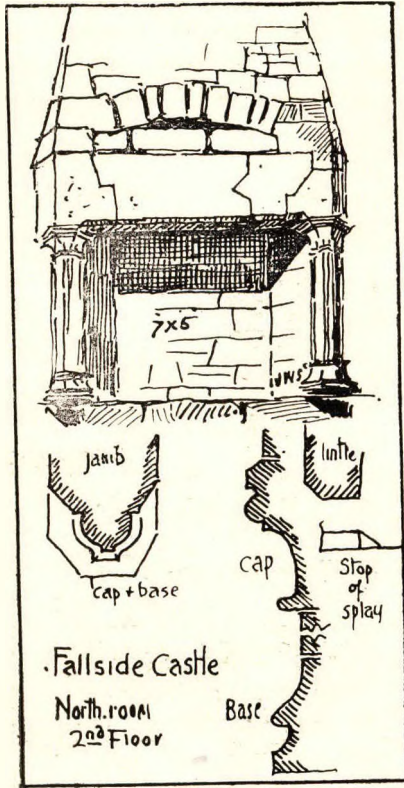
of jamb, cap and base show the characteristic moulding of this period, as will be also seen in the two following examples.

Ardrossan Castle is in ruins and well weather worn. This fireplace is inaccessible, but the contour of the jambs and cap were quite distinct.

The example from Fallside Castle, near Edinburgh, is also too far up from ground floor to be get-atable, but details are clear. Note the relieving arch in slope, and also the curious jointings of the lintol stones.

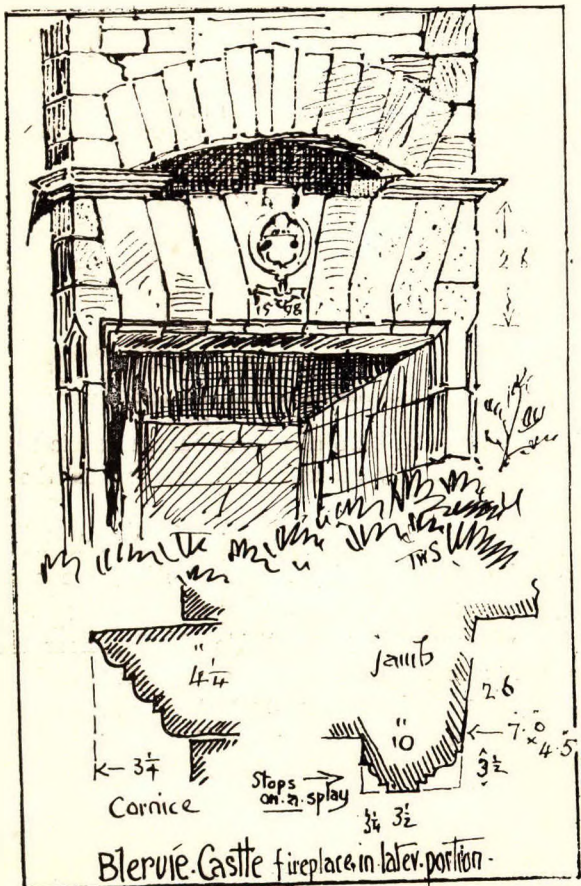
Craigmiller Castle form a large pile of buildings,

Ardrossan and Fallside being very much smaller.



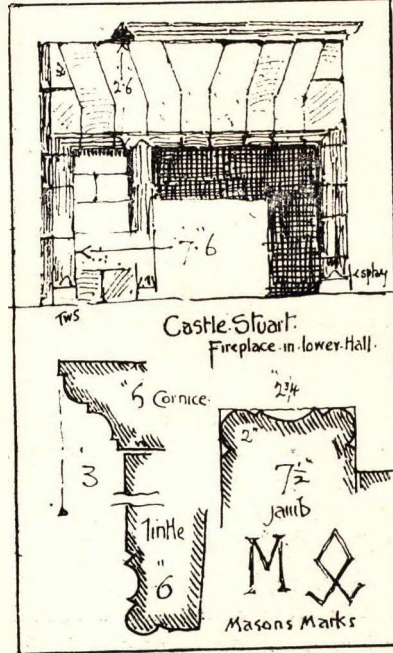
Before 1600 A.D.

Blerioie Castle, near Ferres, in the North of Scot-



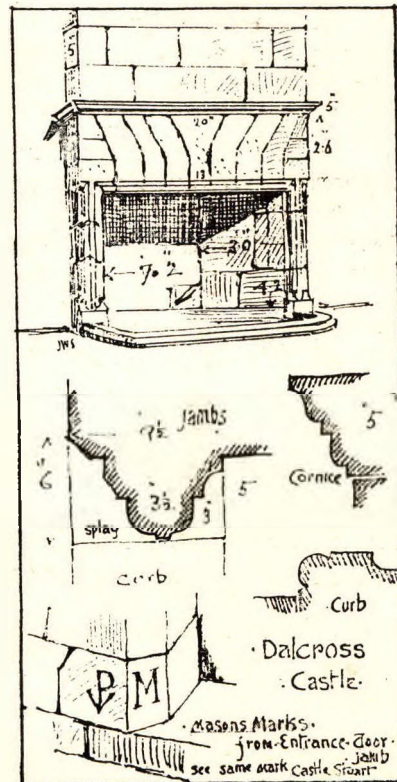
Blerioie Castle fireplace in later position.

land, now in ruins, gives us another example of hewn stone-work fireplace, with relieving arch over cornice, and the lintel in eight stones, level on soffit with radiating joints, the arms on the shield very much decayed.



Castle Stuart, six miles east of Inverness, has one or two stone fireplaces, the one from the lower hall will do for another of our examples.

Dalcross Castle, near Inverness, supplies us with

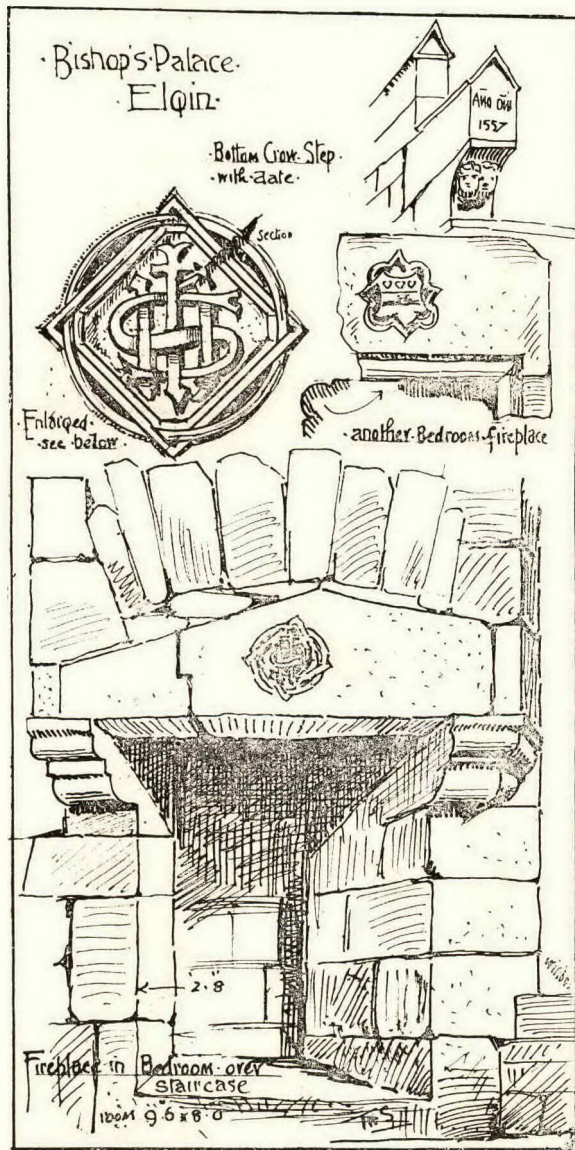


Dalcross Castle.

Masons Marks from Entrance door jamb see same mark Castle Stuart.

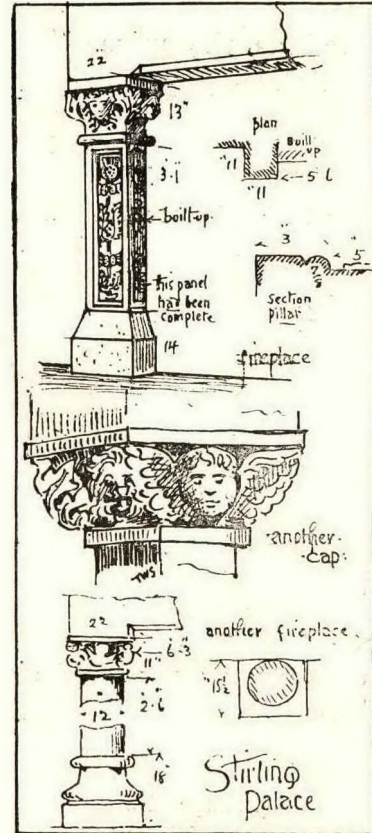
another of these fireplaces, showing all the characteristics of the period and district. Several more Castles in the neighbourhood have almost identical examples. This one is from the Hall of Dalcross, and has a moulded kerb, which is not so common. There are some fine examples of coloured decorations on the beams of the hall, but we will deal with these in another paper.

Bishop's Palace, Elgin, now in ruins, we find here gabled crow steps rather uncommon in old work. We show a fireplace from the small bedroom over stair-

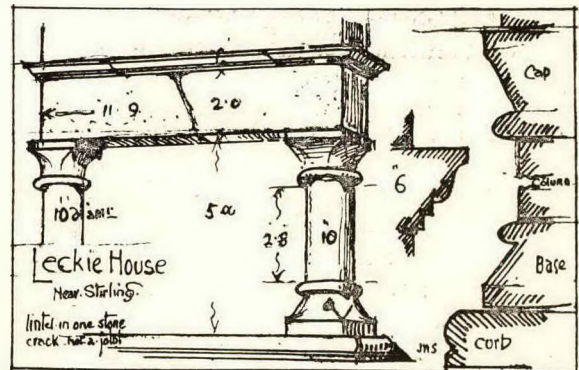


case, the lintel is enriched with the carving of the sacred monogram "I.H.S." enclosed in an interlaced square and circle.

Stirling Castle. One is rather disappointed with the fireplaces in the part built by James V. The outside elevations are elaborately carved and detailed. However, I give one example, this and the others somewhat similar were all built up at some subsequent period.



Leckie House, near Stirling, has a big fireplace in hall of large and bold design. There is one at Stir-



ling Castle after this, but with the caps carved instead of plain, as in this example.

Town Planning Essays.

In response to the offer made by the President in the last issue a number of Essays have been received and the Adjudicators have unanimously awarded the prize of Five Guineas to Mr. G. W. Nicolay.

As well as the prize winning Essay we have pleasure in giving the Essays placed second and third.

THE PLANNING OF A TOWN.

By G. W. NICOLAY, M.S.A.

My dear Browne,

Thank you for your congratulatory letter. Of course I shall be very pleased to tell you all about my work at "Jupiter." The vast province of Aroaroa had long been a most flourishing country served by the North Trunk Line, and new districts were continually developing, so as to need the attention of Government to assist the proper development and guide the business ventures into channels which would lead to success and encourage industry.

The little village of Bristow was quite a flourishing place, but had grown naturally at the crossing of the road from the important town of Capella to Tintara (a town among the hills about 250 miles from it) and the trunk line. It is situated on the flat, and except that there was a noble range of hills to the north, there was nothing to recommend it but its convenient position on the railway. So that when the proposal to build a new town to serve as the centre, politically and commercially, of the province had met with approval, it was decided to place it upon a gently rising ground ending in a picturesque bluff about 250 feet high, round the base of which the wide and brimming river Fluella turning westward pushed a loop close up to the railway. Then turning to the south-east, pursued its way through a thousand miles of country to the coast port of San Felicia.

It was a noble position. From the head of the bluff to the south, east and west the vast flat could be seen for 30 to 40 miles with its villages and hamlets and farmsteads; and to the south-east the great river and here and there a tributary stream now solemn and grey, now with its surface broken into lines of glittering silver where it traversed some rough ground, was a perpetual source of delight. Right across, the prospect from the north was closed by a range of high

hills, of which Thunder Mount was an outpost southward about 25 miles north of the proposed site.

I have no copy of the approved plan available at the moment to send you, and the plan of a town is difficult to explain without one. So taking a piece of squared paper I have sketched upon it for you the selected site of the town of Jupiter and its neighbourhood with a plan of the town in outline as far as it is settled at present, and a section showing the rise and fall of the ground at the north to south axis of the town.

There is no question as to the growth of the town, which must be rapid and extensive, so all that is now required to be planned is the central portion of a town of considerable magnitude, covering a space of about six square miles.

Many preparations have already been made for the proposed town. The engineers have long since been engaged upon the water supply and disposal of sewage, and a harbour is in course of formation at the south-east of the town by the loop of the river to accommodate the transport by water, which already is considerable, so that when building is commenced materials can be brought in at little cost. Stone in abundance which has been already proved in the quarries and sufficient for a vigorous start, is already at grass. Lime in excellent quality is ready in large quantities and cement being manufactured. Up in the hills everything necessary for building is to be had in plenty except the finer and harder timber which is not found in the district. Metals there are, but cannot be made available for some time to come, and will with the timber mentioned have to be brought up by rail, and generally in a manufactured state.

The greatest difficulty that has arisen has been the finding a name for the place. Something with a reason is wanted, and at present it is named "Jupiter," and I should not be surprised if it were adopted, because the place is going to be the greatest town in the province, and the burly planet was overhead, as fine as Venus and much more steady on the night

when the engineers having finished their general survey of the place and found things most promising for a favourable report, drank after dinner the health and prosperity of the proposed town and the glorious planet above them.

But whether the name is kept or not, the plan is approved and the main thoroughfares laid out. The work is more interesting than it might be, and enthusiasm runs high because there is no great overshadowing industry to heap mining dumps or smoke out the country with furnaces or poison them with chemicals.

I send you with this the rough plan already named showing the general idea. The principal points made fixtures at the start were few, I am glad to say, and they have been simply met. We shall have plenty of criticism, and no doubt shall profit by it, and for that reason the spaces between the principal thoroughfares are now under careful study.

Though nothing is precipitous about the site, except a ridge about a mile and a quarter long and forty feet high, nearly central with the north to south axis of the town, which will give an imposing appearance to the buildings along its brow. It is only here that the grades are too steep to prevent direct access from the centre of the town, but as the river is only half a mile away that is not important. Along the foot of this ridge are now being built accommodations for the most part those busy with the harbour.

What was directed at the start was as follows:—

1. A large central space easily accommodating a large concourse of people, where out-of-door celebrations and popular ceremonies can be held without crowding, and about which some principal official buildings will be placed to the entire exclusion of private concerns.

2. Direct access from this space, which has already acquired the somewhat foreign name of *The Campo*, to the outside areas when suburbs, and even towns at no great distance, have to be served.

3. Public gardens and parks placed together and intended to serve principally the central portion of the town in time to come, with good access from all parts.

4. Good direct access to the rail in the direction of Bristow and to the harbour.

5. To plan so that the prospects both north and south are taken advantage of to the fullest extent.

Accordingly rectangular space has been provided in a central position about half a mile from east to west and a third of a mile from north to south, and around this ample space is reserved for administration buildings placed on the south side. The Municipal buildings on the west side, the Industries and Labour Department on the east side, and the theatre with its

schools and Post Office with telegraphs and telephones on the north side.

From *The Campo* five great thoroughfares lead right out of the town in different directions. In the centre the great "North Avenue" leads to the public gardens. It is 250 feet wide, with two roadways and three footways, and trees along each footway. Its course northwards is being laid out for three miles, which will reach the northern boundary of the public gardens and parks. These are arranged with the gardens in the centre half a mile wide, and the parks on each side each three-quarters of a mile wide, and the whole a mile and a half deep from south to north. This great thoroughfare with a gentle down grade northwards will have a noble vista broadening as the gardens are approached, and closed by a display of the distant mountains with their snowcapped summits and in front of them like a sentinel the Thunder Mount with its belts of pine and cap of limestone glittering white in the sunlight. A meet satellite for the Jupiter City destined one day to glow with marble mosaic and gold.

From the south front of the space reserved for the administrative buildings a similar avenue leads southwards to "Bulwark Promenade," situated along the ridge with its little precipitous drop of 40 feet already referred to, which will be kept free from buildings other than the Museum and Art buildings, so that the great view over the flats below will also have a place from which it can be enjoyed by the townsfolk, a portion of the ground right and left of the Museum and below the promenade being laid out as gardens.

From the *Campo* four causeways, each a hundred and fifty feet wide, with broad footways and planted with trees on each side, connect the town with the country. The *Fluella* causeway, running north-east by east, reaches the river just where a broad reach some four or five miles long is enriched with islets will be an ideal spot for boating. Here it is proposed to divert the road; the road along the north bank of the river, eventually picking up the *Tintara* road and carrying a branch across the river *Amara*, about twenty-five miles due east.

The "Bridge Causeway," passing south-east by east across a bridge now being built just outside the town and passing through the country in a straight line to the growing hamlet of *Swinford* upon the banks of the river about forty miles distant.

The "Harbour Causeway," with a south-west by west direction, heading direct to the harbour, at present the most busy place about here, and already rather obstructed with logs forming the first of many thousands which will eventually lie here for a time when they are floated down the river from up-country.

At last, the "Bristow Causeway," passing through the town in a north-west by west direction, and going straight to the railway and diverted somewhat to the north about two miles before it reaches it to the Tintara road just before it reaches the pioneer hamlet of Bristow.

At this stage I have explained to you the main plot or scheme of the town plan, and at a later stage I shall have more to write to you about it—if it proves interesting to you. Just now I can only go a very little further, because though the plan stands approved much as my sketch shows it, I am doing all I can to induce the authorities, who are in a great hurry this time, to give the scheme a chance to find its own growth—of course under the hand of a devoted parent, and so I am now busy with the buildings surrounding the Campo.

There are many things that do not touch the scheme immediately, among which are the railway passenger and freight and provision for aircraft. They will influence us bye and bye, how far by I cannot say; neither very difficult at the first stage, especially the railway, which passes almost in contact with the harbour. And these are not pressed now because of course we must not disturb Bristow too much until we have something to give in return. There is no present intention, therefore, of disturbing the existing trade routes throughout the country.

But I should give you no idea of the care and interest which is being given to the scheme if I stopped here, and I should have to make apologies for the rather bald sketch, which is the best I can send you at present.

It will be noticed that the main streets divide the town into spaces (or to use a term borrowed from the past and which still is used in Paris) into quarters. If the notion catches on we shall have special quarters for at least a large number of those engaged in certain trades and business, apart from the central offices and halls which are now being discussed for almost every important trade or profession.

As these proposals lead to many necessary preliminaries of a practical nature, the planning of the town has halted at its present development, and when we know that this has been decided upon (and there is little doubt that it will be) suitable portions will be assigned on application and every encouragement to those interested so that they may build at once. At this stage it is proposed to work out each division separately arranging the streets with a strict view to convenience, but at the same time a careful eye to economy. It is felt that a good building is such a costly and such a permanent thing that none should be

wasted, and so our commission, which has full powers, and will run the place until it can run itself, and will retain its powers for fifty years unless it misbehaves, has decided that in arranging the streets and smaller public spaces, the public and semi-public buildings before referred to shall be made partly visible from as many points of view as may be—not just for display of architecture only, but to encourage a feeling of pride in these buildings by the townspeople in general and the various trades and professions in particular. This is an achievement frequently met in old towns. The manner in which "good stuff" is, as it were, allowed to surprise you from several standpoints always seeming to stand in direct view up a street or across an open space is entrancing. In like manner churches will not be put against large public thoroughfares where twenty motors and half a dozen tramcars are likely to pass almost simultaneously, but though carefully exhibited, for they will be fine buildings, will be placed in retired positions suited to their proper use.

The great business houses also instead of happening so far as their position is concerned, will be assigned sites by the Commission, and for those who come in at once, the surroundings will be made to heighten the effect of the buildings which they erect.

We are sanguine that with all this enthusiasm and support and the fact that the part we are building will be chiefly of stone, for which we pay only working expenses and carriage during the continuance of the Commission will be very fine.

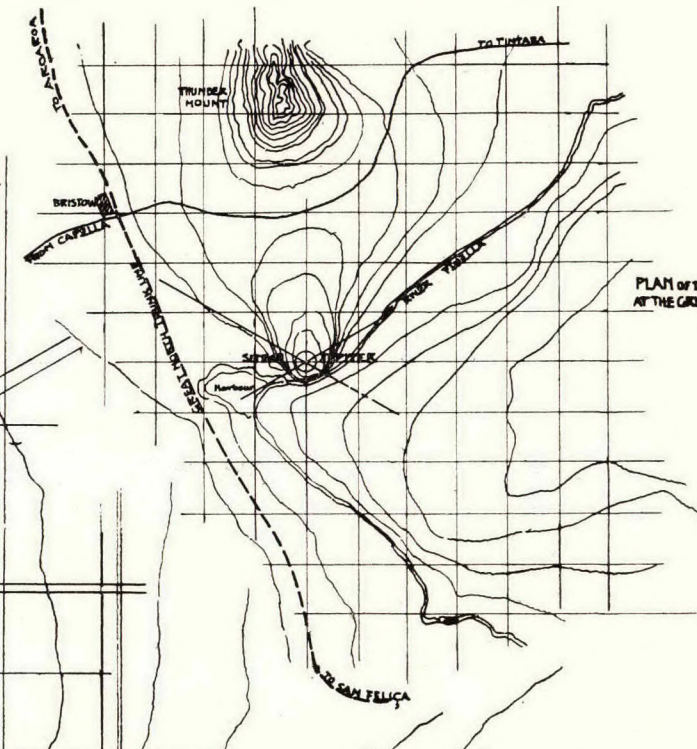
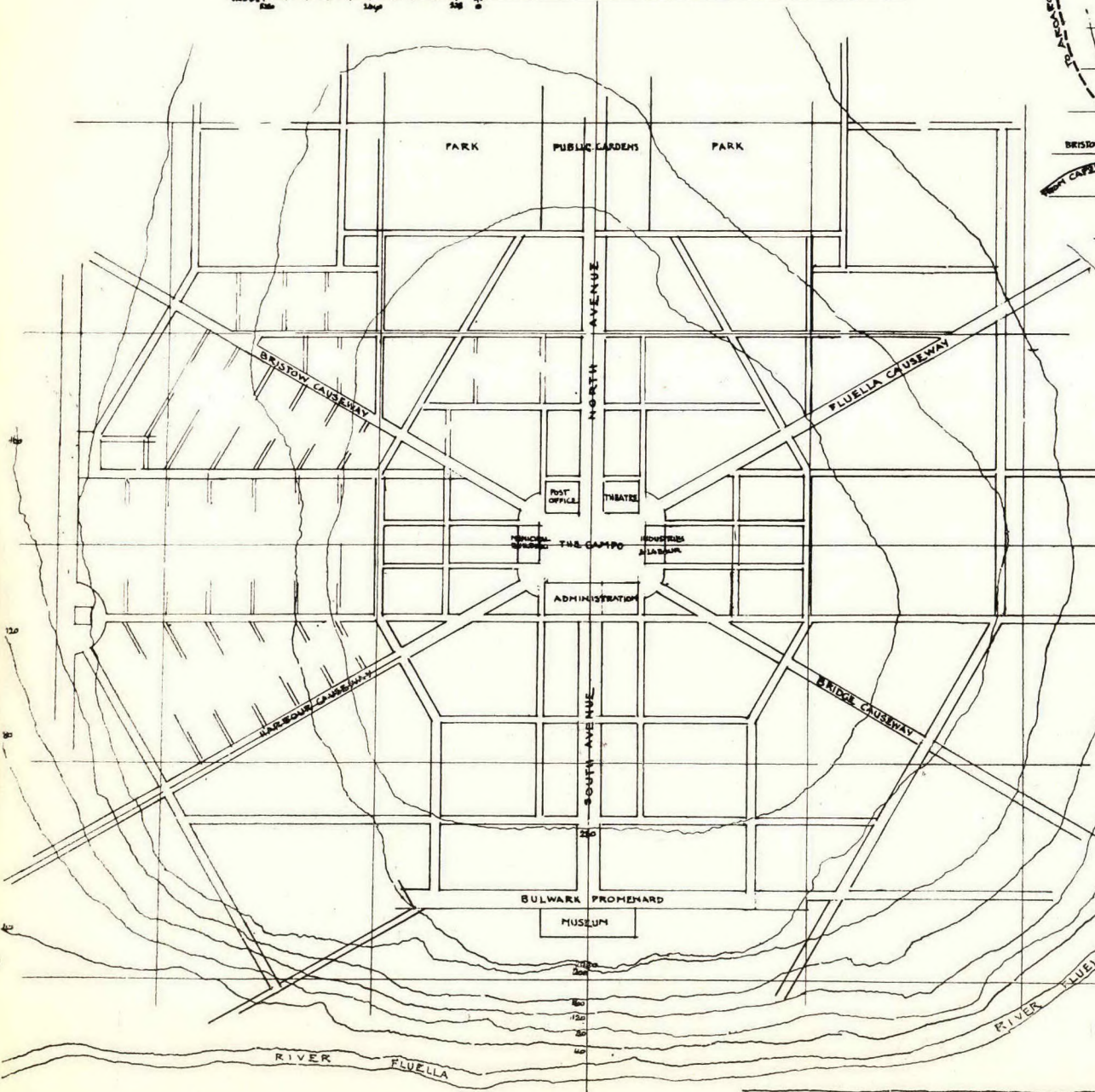
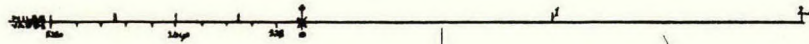
There are one or two things teasing us. There is a queer fancy some people have of fixing their affections on particular sites as best for their purpose and wanting no others. Then there is the seeming novelty of the scheme, though all its integral parts are old enough, and not to make the list too long, there is the usual dispute among those interested in architecture. We ought to have only one style and that style, of course, a named one. Then there has been a proposal to "import" a specialist to generally superintend our efforts—to show us how to do it. But in this up-country place we have a mind to trust ourselves, and such progress has been made in opposing these troubles that I am satisfied we shall have no limitations as to style and no specialist, and also that the general opinion is that we shall do very well.

So, my dear Brown, you see what a vast thing "the planning of a town" is, and realise that I must be so busy with it that I may be excused if I write somewhat briefly.

Yours always sincerely,

W. AMBERLEY.

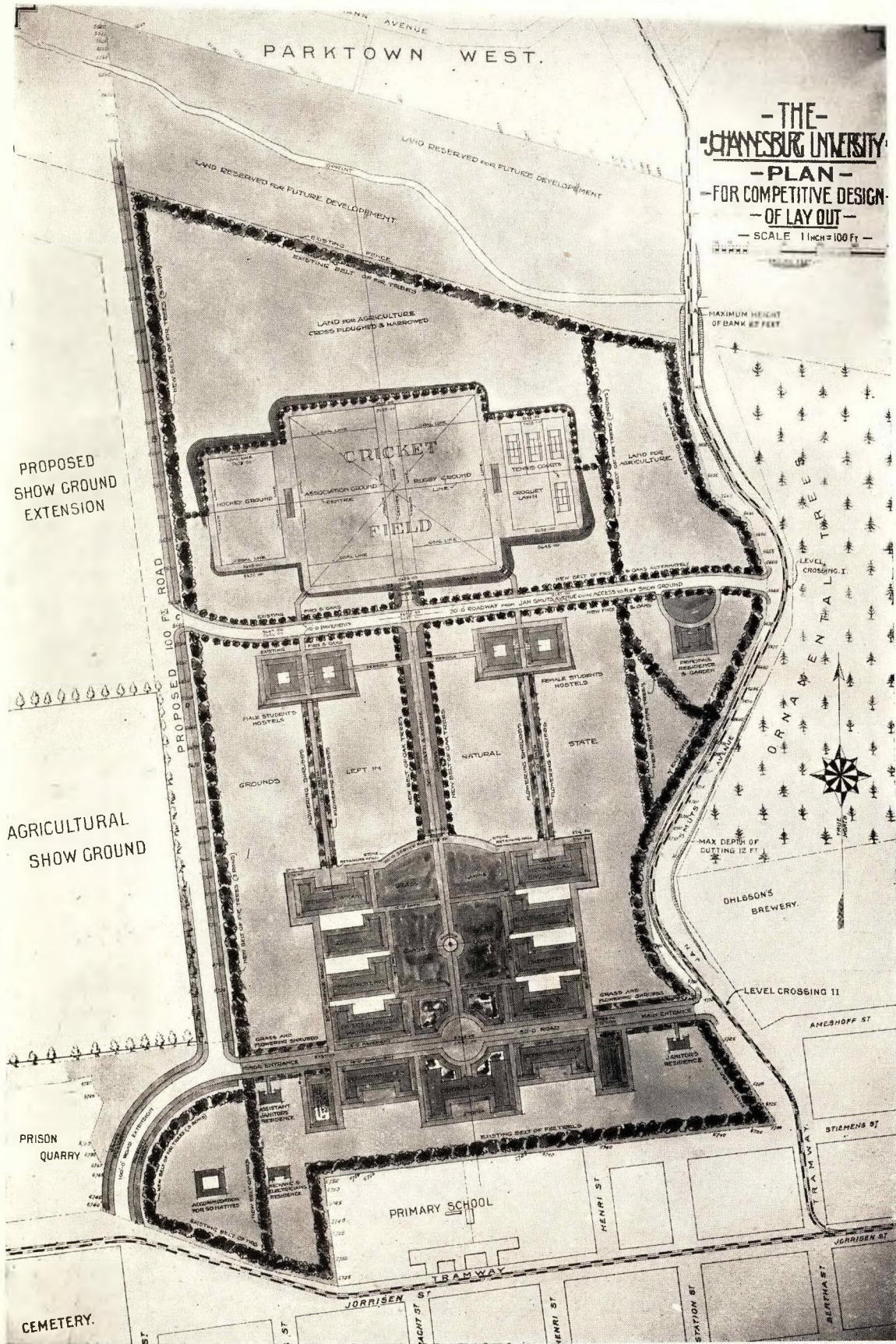
V. J. Brown, Esq.



PLAN OF THE RIVER FLUELLA AT THE GREAT NORTH TRUNK LOOP

PLAN OF PROPOSED TOWN JUPITER PROVINCE AROAROA

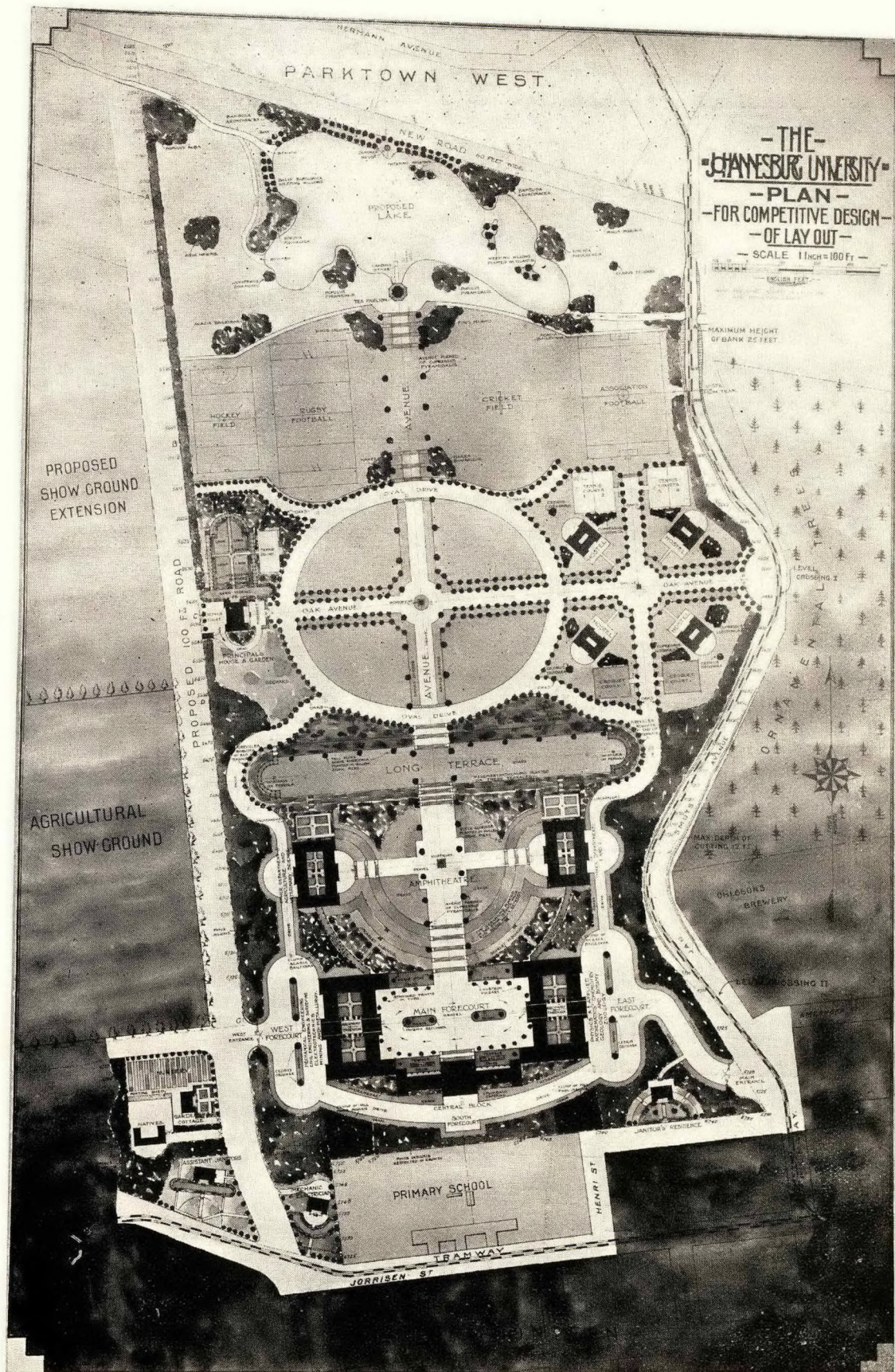
Witwatersrand University.



MILNER PARK SITE LAY-OUT COMPETITION.

1st Premiated Design £200.—Lyon & Fallop, A.R.I.B.A., Capetown

Witwatersrand University.

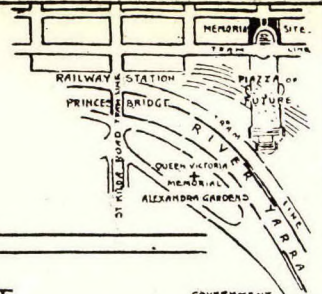


MILNER PARK SITE LAY-OUT COMPETITION.
2nd Premiated Design £100.—Harold Porter, Johannesburg.

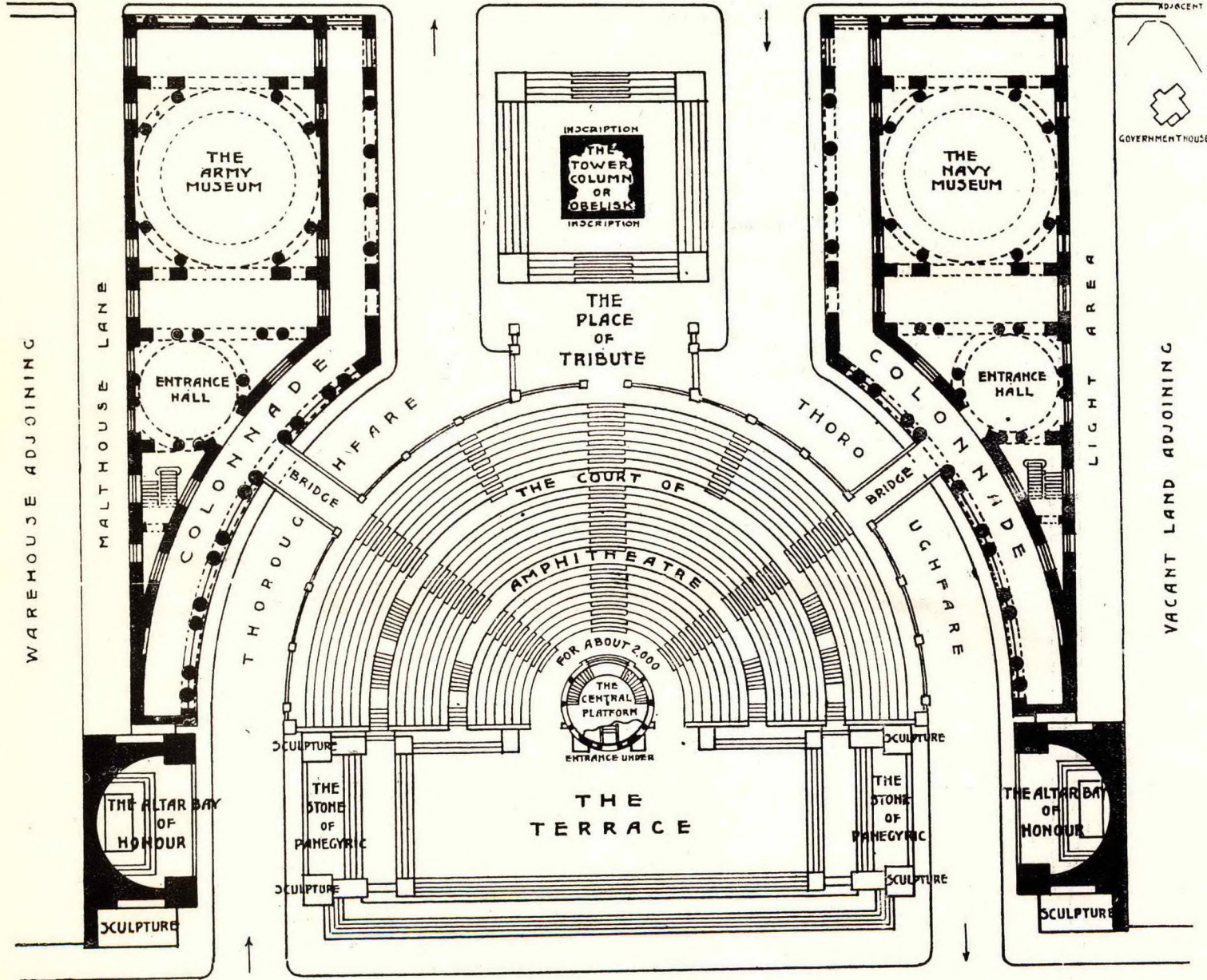
THE WAR MEMORIAL FOR VICTORIA AND CAPITAL - A SUGGESTION.

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EXHIBITION STREET



LITTLE FLINDERS STREET

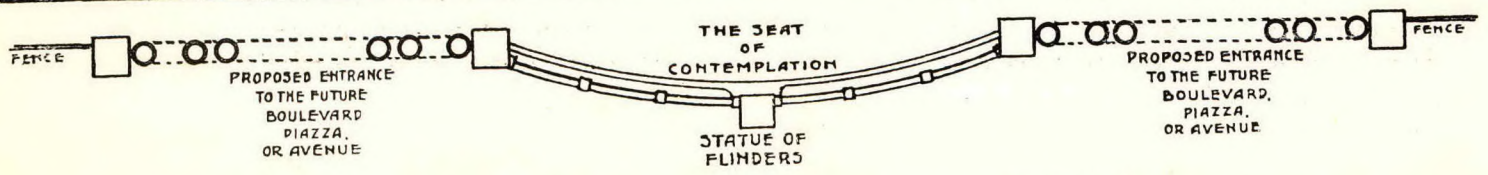


GOVERNMENT DOMAIN
BOTANIC GARDENS ADJACENT



TO RAILWAY STATIONS TRAM LINE TO RICHMOND AND HAWTHORN

FLINDERS STREET



RAILWAY YARDS ABOUT 300 BELOW STREET

MILLIAM LUCAS 1891

TOWN PLANNING.

By JULIUS LONSTEIN.

"Town planning determines the destiny of a town. It develops artistic tastes, civic pride and patriotism; it makes better citizens and artisans; it adds to health, comfort and happiness; it helps to increase the population and to produce industrial prosperity. Town planning attracts industries, commerce, and visitors; it produces better transport facilities, improved hygienic conditions, and more adequate and less expensive quarters and food supply. Town planning is a business proposition of the first importance."

That is how the Americans teach their public to understand the value of town planning. It is a worthy ideal, and one which should be well borne in mind when we contemplate the improvement of our towns.

Town planning aims at a combination of civic efficiency, convenience, and beauty under hygienic conditions for all. To-day it is mainly a question of levels, and a comprehensive planning of the main lines of communication. There are many other points, such as beautiful surroundings and health conditions; but these will fall naturally into their proper places, in conjunction with the main consideration.

No one can deny the importance of the aesthetic appeal of a beautiful city. Apart from being a question of architecture and engineering, town planning goes deeply into the lives of the citizens, and affects them in many ways. But the beauty of a town will lie in the best use we have made of the natural levels, and the fitness for its purpose.

It will be interesting just to glance briefly at the various efforts of town planning in the past. This Art is almost as ancient as architecture itself. From the earliest examples it can be seen that the towns were laid out on regular lines. The magnificent approaches to the Egyptian temples show that the value of the long axial lines, and the framing of vistas was understood and appreciated. Sir Arthur Evans, in his recent excavations in Crete, has shown that the cities of these ancient peoples were highly developed, with elaborate and practical stormwater and water-borne sewage, that would put many a modern town to shame.

Later, under more democratic conditions, the hill cities of ancient Greece, and also her colonies, developed a highly organised communistic efficiency. One of the most famous examples of civic planning is to be found in the Acropolis at Athens. The main object for which the Greeks strove was the ultimate effect of the whole conception from a distance, and in this they were highly successful. The various temples, though not

actually symmetrical in their positions, still balanced each other against the skyline, and the statue of Athene, patron Goddess of the city, in the centre of the hill, could be seen and saluted by the Grecian sailors five miles off. It was truly a magnificent conception, and must have endeared itself to the hearts of all its citizens.

Both at Agrigentum and Silenus, and also at Halicarnassus in Asia Minor, we find the same feeling expressed, viz., the balancing of masses, placed on the summit of lofty hills, against the skyline. But all this wonderful planning seems to have been excelled at Pergamos, in Asia Minor. It is a significant fact for us to remember that the colony surpassed the mother country in its architectural development.

The town of Pergamos was built on a hill facing the sea, with the various temples and palaces planned on the summit. The following manner in which Professor Lethaby concludes his description of this town is most striking: "The general result as seen from the plain was this: The Royal Palace and Garden, the Temple of Athene, and the immense Altar of Zeus formed one immense composition on the segment of a curve lining the ridge and encircling the theatre in the breast of the hollow of the hill below, and then to form a line of arrest, to check, as it were, the sense of slipping down the hill, the architects set a terrace along the face of the hollow. It was a great effort in civic architecture, memorable because it was something new to the world, and because it led up to the monumental planning of Cæsarian Rome."

The Romans are noted for the superb planning of their cities. We hear of colonnaded streets two miles long, and of the wonders of Palmyra and Baalbec. Rome itself vied in practical achievements in town planning with the best of our modern towns. The inter-relation of public and private buildings, open spaces for assembly and recreation, monuments, tombs, highways, baths, and aqueducts received full consideration.

The Roman civilisation was mainly expressed in their towns, particularly Rome, and we can understand the civic pride which must have prompted its inhabitants to say "Civis Romanus sum." Although we can never hope to emulate the planning of the Romans, yet we can learn this humble fact, that their cities were well swept and garnished.

During the Mediaeval period, civic pride—a very important factor in town planning—was mainly fostered by the ecclesiastical orders, guilds and many of the reigning monarchs. The scientific organisation of the Cinque ports is a fine result of this feeling; particularly in the well planned town of Winchelsea.

The French have always excelled themselves in

the art of town planning, and two of the most interesting examples in France are the village of Richelieu and the town of Nancy. The former relies for its effect on two large squares surrounded by stately buildings, and divided by an avenue of lime trees. Nancy is an excellent example of how a civic centre should be planned. From the Hotel de Ville to the Government Offices we have a vista of about 600 yards. First through a large square, then between two rows of narrowing symmetrical buildings, through a triumphal arch, down a long row of stately buildings, ranged on either side of a double row of clipped limes set as a background to rows of statuary, then again into a hemicycle, which was formed by two semi-circular archades, linking up with the Government Offices at the far end of the vista. It was a magnificent conception, and wherever the eye turns it encounters something beautiful.

The modern towns of France, with their well planned "Places" and the main roads diverging from these and linking up the city, are too well known to be described here. But Washington, planned by a French architect, L'Enfant, is worthy of note. More than a hundred years ago this city was planned at the request of the American Government, but the plan was only partly carried out. Quite recently a Commission was appointed to improve Washington. They discovered L'Enfant's original plan, and after much deliberation admitted that it could not be improved upon. The city is an ideal example of the combination of the grid-iron and radial systems of town planning.

Town planning to-day has become a highly complex subject, both on account of the number of details and principles which it involves. A mere enumeration of its scope will give an idea of its magnitude. The plan of the town as a whole should provide for the segregation in different districts of different classes of population, the development of the civic and minor centres, parks, public squares, athletic grounds, etc. The position in the civic centre of the buildings suitable to it, transportation, railways, bridges, schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, theatres and other public structures, and, finally, town sanitation and waste disposal.

When one reads in our press that commercial flying is almost an established fact, the day does not seem very far distant when we shall have to provide for this new factor in our already highly complex civilisation. The huge towers which will have to be erected for the guidance of our flying men, the large open spaces and aerial platforms make a picture of the future city that fires the imagination.

In many cases a town has its opportunity for extensive replanning after some catastrophe, as in the case of Athens after the razing of the Acropolis by the

Persians, and the Great Fire of London. To-day the whole world is talking of reconstruction, and the opportunities for replanning the districts devastated by the war and the capitals of the newly formed States are immense.

One cannot help making special reference to South Africa, which, after all, concerns us so vitally. We are in the unique position (as instanced in the eastern end of the Witwatersrand) of seeing the towns literally growing before our eyes, and instead of avoiding the mistakes made in other and older countries, the grid-iron system is kept on being repeated with all its defects (even omitting its only saving grace—open spaces) so that our cities, as has been said of New York, seem to have been laid out with the aid of a mason's hand-sieve. We are all painfully aware of this gridiron system, with its lack of well planned vistas and streets, the impossibility of having well placed public buildings, and its general wretchedness in appearance.

So far little has been done in this country in connection with town planning. We cannot point to one well planned street in any of our towns, and in this land of "aching spaces" we have not even followed the excellent Dutch dictum which says that a street should be wide enough to enable a span of oxen to be turned in it. The coastal towns have been erecting piers and generally playing the pierrot on the beach to attract the northern visitors, but that is not town planning. We must get rid of our slums first, we must aim at broader, cleaner streets, better dwellings, healthier surroundings and improved sanitary conditions for all, before we can say we have concerned ourselves with town planning.

Everyone must admit the deplorable planning of our two largest towns in South Africa. Capetown, standing on one of the finest natural sites in the world, is crowded with crooked narrow streets, and has its only really fine street spoiled by a tram line running through it. Johannesburg might have been a far different town had it been comprehensively planned. If we only had the courage of Washington to shift our station so that the city is not cut in two by the railway line, and if we would plan some main lines of communication to provide for the increasing traffic, we would have gone a long way towards improving the wealthiest town in the Union.

Fortunately the town planning movement is growing even in South Africa. It is half the battle won if that most powerful factor in modern life, public opinion, becomes interested in this subject. Nothing opened the eyes more of people to the wretched conditions in which a large number of the inhabitants dwelt than the recent epidemic. Everyone is interested in

the "Housing Question," and it is noteworthy that in a non-technical report by Professor Irvine on the question of "Housing of Workmen in England and America," presented to the Government of New South Wales, he states as follows:—"My enquiries early convinced me that the question of housing was inseparably connected with town planning."

Everyone is anxious for improvement, without knowing in what direction to move, and what is therefore wanted for South Africa is a Town Planning Act like that recently formed in some of the Australian States, which enables a Board of Town Planning experts, and others interested in the improvement of their towns, to act in a comprehensive, impartial and beneficial manner towards the general improvement of the country.

We may not be able to do very much with our present awkwardly planned towns, but South Africa is yet young, and we must think of the future towns. The question of expense should not deter us from a comprehensive scheme of improvement. No writer on economy has yet told us what are the limits to public expenditure, whether a beautiful city is an investment or an extravagance. We must plan largely with a view to the future, and with a farsightedness that will not only induce a proper civic pride in the citizens of the present, but also gain for us the praise of posterity.

THE CITY POSSIBLE.

A Talk on Town Planning.

By G. GRANGER FLEMING.

Three fundamental elements enter into the formation of towns and cities: Land, buildings and people. Any thoughtful scheme in regard to town planning must deal with these three factors.

(a) *Land*.—This is coming to be realised as the crux of the whole matter. What the people need is elbow room. What the buildings need is air to circulate round and through them. The solid land and the impalpable air stand in every direct ratio the one to the other.

Now there happens to be a super-abundance of land in South Africa, and as for atmosphere there is no country in the world better off than the Transvaal. So that we really start with a very good chance of both elbow room and lung development. And yet somehow we have not got either in many of our town dwellings. The people are huddled together. Backyards grow smaller by ugly accretions and the wretched inhabitants of the slums are on the alert to dodge the building or sanitary inspector. A few miles away are the vast stretches of veld, but these are not for the poor people who live cheek by jowl with each other

and are unable to have that privacy which is so necessary to decency and state well-being.

It is well to let this phase sink deep into the public consciousness. On the one hand, illimitable expanse of veld. On the other, the cramped backyard, the huddled building, the enforced familiarity with other families and individuals.

Some scheme can be arrived at, in fact must be, to let the country in its large expansiveness invade the town in its narrowness and meanness.

Now, when the work of building a town or city *de novo* is to be considered, the proposition is a comparatively simple one. When Mr. Ebenezer Howard proposed his Garden City, and when it became realised in the development of Letchworth, idealism found its chance of creating noble reality, and of demonstrating what should be. Here we may pertinently ask: why should there not be more of this kind of thing? Are we really so tied to the towns and cities which are already founded? Is there, after all, such great advantage in the large city? Would four towns each of 30,000 inhabitants not be better than one of 100,000?

The formation of a Garden City may not need to be such a faraway project as many think. Given good travelling facilities, enterprising and large-minded landowners, and public-souled men who care for the welfare of the mass of the people and are prepared to work for same, the matter is one which can be arranged, and an object lesson afforded of what can be done in true planning and building.

In a new country like ours there are always opportunities for the application of true town planning principles. Within recent years new towns like Benoni and Brakpan have sprung into being. Were there an awakened public conscience educated to know what was desirable and right, such townships would be designed under the beneficial influence of true principles with public utility and well being as the first consideration. This is the reason why town planners should keep continually at their educational crusade. The public may affect to treat their views as Utopian. Slowly, however, there sinks into the public consciousness the ideal of health and life and space for the people and a standard is arrived which unconsciously moulds opinion and decides on critical occasion.

The Garden Village is not such an independent matter as the Garden City. The latter can exist practically by itself, but the village is dependent on the large neighbouring town for its industries, and possibly for light, water and tram facilities. To-day is the day of ever-expanding travelling facility. We must not narrow our thoughts by the existing means of getting about. True, these are great and marvellous to what were in vogue in our fathers' time, but they are nothing

to what will probably be in a few years. The practical upshot of this is that great towns can easily have their extensions some 10 to 12 miles away in the open veld. Like grown up sons and daughters dwelling not far from the parental roof and connected with the family industry yet living their independent lives, so may these Garden Villages be linked up with the greater centres and yet be right in the midst of the green fields and the limpid air of the veld.

Yet more intimately connected with the large town is the Garden Suburb. Most suburbs are laid off to derive as large a return to the landowners as can reasonably (sometimes, unfortunately, unreasonably) be obtained. Therefore there is a tendency to make the plots rectangular and the streets square and regular. Nature's lay-out is mostly overlooked, and the surveyor's tee-square discounts the natural gradations of hill and valley. If the houses are not "back to back," the lots are, and no attempt to work in allotments or even pleasure grounds is made. True, in more modern lay-outs the regulations require certain ground to be kept for recreation purposes, and several landowners and companies are willing to grant land for such or similar reasons, yet, speaking generally, we have not arrived at the stage when both landowners, the public and the prospective purchaser look for special garden suburb facilities. To achieve this ideal is also worthy of the efforts of the "Town Planners."

And here it might be as well to say that "Town planning" is not antagonistic to the interests of landowners. True, it may prevent such large profits being made as have been in the past, but it will, on the other hand, create a greater desire for land. Cheaper land may come into vogue, but there will be more of it, and as it is in supplying the ordinary things of life that men make good livings, and even fortunes, so there will be room for the landowner and the land developer who can meet the public need under the new conditions. There are several suburbs to-day in our larger towns which we feel a pride in showing to visitors. They are the result of a wise policy of giving ample building space and of regulating the class of house to be erected. This is the kind of suburb to be extended and even improved upon. But it must not be looked on as only the right or the hope of the moderately prosperous man. There should be created a public conscience which should demand that every citizen who is doing his work faithfully should have it as his right so to live. If that were so there would be abundant opportunity not only for municipal enterprise, but for land developers, builders and building societies. It is a fine ideal, and, what to many minds is more to the point, there is good business in it.

(b) *Buildings*.—Men cannot live on air nor can

they squat on bare veld. They need buildings. Ever and anon there is a dearth of houses, and the time of harvest for the house broker arrives. Prices become inflated, rents go up, and the family is squeezed into a house two-thirds of the size it ought to be. The idea of Town planning is incomplete unless it embodies that of proper housing. *Every Citizen has a right to be properly housed.* That is surely a truism but it is one which we have not yet accepted. And another truism is, that *Every Citizen can be properly housed.*

Now the question is how is this to be done? There are a variety of ways. Some of the land companies give very excellent facilities for men to possess their own homes, and many a man to-day is happy through such facilities. Building societies again have assisted many and are excellent institutions provided their rates are kept within reasonable bounds.

The Co-operative 'Tenants' movement as in vogue in Britain has not yet been attempted here, but will yet prove the solution for many men.

Then there should be no great difficulty in great corporations such as Banks, the Mining Houses, the Municipality, the Railway, the Post Office, etc., organizing special schemes for the housing of their officials. True, the experience of the past hardly favours efforts in this direction, but the thing can be done if proper care and forethought be exercised. It is certainly worthy of the attempt.

What so homely and "comfy" as the suburban little cottage surrounded by its garden. The children can run about, the husband can dig and the good wife can tend her flowers and poultry. It is something worth striving for and something worth possessing.

(c). Lastly there are the People. After all your lands and your buildings are not your town. The people who live there are the soul essence of it.

To-day there is a spirit of distraction and of antagonism present in our towns. Would it not be possible to create in the mind of the people a love of their city and a desire that its good name should be unsullied?

Here is an objective for our land companies, our building societies and our builders, for our Town Councils and our Parliament. The creation of a happy and contented people; well housed; in touch with God's blue above and green beneath; of a town enriched with a ring of fields which ever curiously invade its environs; of factories skilfully grouped, and not too far from the operatives' dwellings; of broad main arteries of traffic and green hedged bye-streets following nature's contours; of houses not more than ten to the acre; of parks and open spaces:—in short of towns worthy of being lived in and contributing as far they can to the rearing of a noble race.

**MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE
of Practising and Salaried Architects of the Natal
Province, held under the auspices of the Natal Institute
of Architects, at the Town Hall, Durban, on Monday,
May 5th, 1919, at 2.30 p.m.**

Present.—Messrs. W. S. Payne (President of the Natal Institute of Architects) in the chair, W. G. Moffat, W. A. Kell, A. S. Frost, M. Holmes, C. L. M. Taylor, Wallace Paton, E. O. Payne, A. G. Cross, Loell Mason, S. H. Sercombe, W. F. Buckle, F. J. Ing, T. Read, A. A. Ritchie McKinlay, and T. H. Chaplin (Secretary, N.I.A.).

The chairman welcomed those present to the Conference, saying that he was pleased to see a representation of salaried architects as well as those practising the profession. The object of the meeting was set forth in the notice convening it in the word conference. They were there to endorse the principles and resolutions adopted by the Conference held at Cape Town in January last, and he trusted this meeting would do all in its power to assist in carrying the Registration Act into effect.

Notices.—The Secretary read the advertisement convening the Conference, and the list of newspapers in which the notice appeared, giving dates of same, and the circular further sent summoning the Conference, and the roll-call of those present at the Conference.

Letters.—Apologies were received from Messrs. H. K. S. Simpson, R. Hosking, and Lt.-Col. Hurst, regretting their inability to attend; but expressing their whole-hearted support of the object of the Conference.

Motions.—The following resolution was introduced by Mr. B. V. Bartholomew, seconded by Mr. F. J. Ing, and was without opposition unanimously carried:

“That in the opinion of this Conference of Salaried and Practising Architects of the Natal Province, it is desirable that the Legislature shall enact a measure to provide for the statutory qualification and education of Architects within this Union, and the creation of a South African Institute of Architects, which shall be empowered to deal with same by defining such qualifications and education by establishing and conducting examinations, the encouragement of educational facilities, the granting of diplomas and the publication of an annual register of persons qualified, than which qualified and registered persons no other shall be permitted to perform for remuneration any of the work appertaining to the practice of architecture within the Union of South Africa, and to promote and uphold the professional status of South African Architects.”

Mr. A. S. Frost (S.A.) spoke in support of the motion, and expressed his pleasure at being able to attend the Conference, and wished to thank those responsible for inviting salaried architects to the meeting.

The following motion was introduced, item by item, by Mr. W. Paton:—

(1) “That in the opinion of this Conference the Architects’ Act last resolved upon as desirable shall further include the following provisions:—

(2) “The absorption of all interested legislation in the Provinces in the Union that relates to the registration or licensing of Architects. Such Provinces to be defined in the Act as:—

- (a) Transvaal and Orange Free State conjoined.
- (b) Cape Province.
- (c) Natal Province.
- (d) Provision for machinery to divide the foregoing into further separate Provinces when desired, or for the addition at some future time of any Province not now in the Union.

Items 1, 2, (a), (b), (c), (d) seconded by Mr. W. A. Kell, and carried without opposition.

Statutory incorporation of an Institute of Institutes of Architects each with legally defined powers to govern and represent the profession in its own Province.

“Statutory incorporation of an Institute of South African Architects, consisting of a Federation of aforementioned Provincial Institutes, and vested with legally defined powers to administer the Act where collective action is required for the whole Union, as defined in the said Act.

(4) “Two classes of membership, viz.: Associates and Fellows, with provision for Students and Hon. Members.”

Items 3 and 4 were seconded by Mr. B. V. Bartholomew, and carried unanimously, with a rider proposed by Mr. W. G. Moffat, and seconded by Mr. M. Holmes, as follows: “That this Conference point out to the Executive Committee the difficulties as to the nomination, whether Associates or Fellows, at the inauguration of the South African Institute.”

Mr. E. O. Payne and Mr. Wallace Paton spoke in support, and the motion was unanimously carried.

(5) “A scale of Architects’ charges.”

Mr. W. G. Moffat spoke in support, and pointed out that the R.I.B.A. (London) had recently revised their scale of charges, and proposed that Item (5) read: “A scale of Architects’ Charges be in conformity with the revised R.I.B.A. scale, and that the Cape Town Executive be advised to that effect.

Seconded by Mr. B. V. Bartholomew, and carried unanimously.

(6) "A code of professional ethics."

Seconded by Mr. Cross, and agreed to.

(7) "Provision for a nominated first Council to carry out the inaugural work of the Provincial Institutes and of the Federated Institute."

The following amendment was proposed by Mr. Wallace Paton, and seconded by Mr. M. Holmes, that Item (7) should read as follows:—

"Provision for a nominated First Council to carry out the inaugural work of the Federated Institute, and to define the work of the Provincial Institutes," instead of as it now stands.

After some discussion the motion was put and carried unanimously.

(8) "Such further powers to the Federated Institute, or its subsidiary Provincial Institutes, as may tend to debar unqualified persons from practice, and to promote and to uphold the profession status of South African Architects, including:—

- (a) "The entry into alliance of reciprocity, correspondence co-operation with any Institute, Society or Association of Architects of the British Empire, or other similar organisation or movement for the advancement of architecture and the furtherance of professional aims.
- (b) "The initiation or encouragement and promotion of, or opposition to, any legislation affecting or tending to affect the advancement of South African Architecture.
- (c) "The representation of the views held by the South African architectural profession as a whole.
- (d) The establishment of examinations and the granting of certificates to all persons who have passed such examinations, and an institution of a public register of all persons qualified to practice as architects.
- (e) "The encouragement of architectural education, the founding of scholarships and bursaries, the support and direction of South African Students in Architecture by means of grants or prizes, etc., not less than one-tenth of the gross ordinary income of the Federated Institute Council to be reserved in each year as a fund for these purposes.

Items (8), (a), (b), (c), (d) adopted without opposition.

Item (e).—Some discussion ensued here, and it was finally agreed that the word "nett" be substituted for the word "gross."

Item (f).—The same to apply here, the word "nett" be substituted for the word "gross."

(f) "The establishment and administration of an Architects' Benevolent Fund; not less than one-tenth of the nett ordinary income of the Federated Institute Council to be reserved in each year as a fund for this purpose.

(g) "The establishment of a Professional Defence Fund for assistance in any proceedings in litigation, or the initiation of litigation wherein questions affecting the rights, practice or status of Members generally may be involved.

(h) "The publication of a Journal, or a Calendar, the framing and publication of Rules of professional conduct, scales of charges, Conditions of building contracts, Rules and advice for the conduct of Architectural Competitions, and other similar publications for the guidance of the Members and of the public.

(i) "The promotion and encouragement of architectural and scientific study and research, with a view to maintaining a high standard of efficiency and responsibility among those who have been admitted as members: by means of establishing and maintaining, supporting or improving Libraries and Museums; by means of organising visits to factories, workshops, buildings and other structures or constructional works; and by means of holding lectures, discussions and meetings to consider modern methods and knowledge and discoveries or developments in architectural or constructional practice and science.

(j) "The preservation and maintenance of the integrity and status of the profession by means of advancing and enforcing correct discipline and practice, the settlement or adjustment of professional disputes, and the promotion of social intercourse among the Members.

(k) "The power to receive donations and bequests, to sue or be sued in its corporate capacity and otherwise to act and have the protection accorded (both to Council and Members of the Institute) as is accorded to a limited liability corporation.

Items (g), (h), (i), (j), (k) were carried without opposition.

The following motion was introduced by Mr. F. J. Ing, seconded by Mr. W. G. Moffat, and carried unanimously:—

In speaking in support, Mr. Moffat suggested that

a deputation be appointed to approach the Members of Parliament with a view to carrying out the above resolutions, and pilot the Act through the Parliament.

The chairman thanked the Conference for the attendance, and expressed the hope that the resolutions adopted that day would soon become law.

The Conference then broke up with a vote of thanks to the chairman and those who had contributed towards its success.

THE PROFESSION AT HOME UNDER WAR CONDITIONS.

To the Editor, Building.

Sir,—After an absence of twenty-six years the impressions of one visiting the Old Country may be of interest to your readers.

As I believed every man was wanted to render some kind of war service, it seemed my duty to offer myself, and so closed up my office. Although I left Johannesburg on 19th June, I did not reach London until September 4th, waiting for a boat at Capetown for six weeks and another week at Sierra Leone for a convoy and dodging submarines—two and a half months soon slipped away. We were taken great care of by the Navy in the danger zone, by battleships, destroyers, chasers, and airships. Two of the ships have since disappeared, H.M.S. *Britannia* and the one I travelled on, "*Hirano Maru*." The *Inanda*, of the Natal Line, nearly ran foul of us when zig-zagging at night and a submarine was sighted two days before we reached Liverpool, but made off when her commander saw how well we were protected, otherwise I might have been prevented from writing this letter.

At the opening of the War a Committee was formed of members of the professional bodies with the object of organising for war service. Having been in correspondence with its secretary, I called upon him and he gave me introductions. The first I saw a Fellow, smiled when I spoke about the Committee. Apparently it did not exist, for it received no encouragement from the Government.

I soon found out that it was not a day of architects, but of engineers, and they were having the time of their lives. Through the kind influence of Sir Percy Girouard I had a good post offered me, but not being an engineer, had to decline. I eventually got to H.M. Office of Works, which seems to have become pretty much what the P.W.D. did of South Africa in the lean years of 1907-10—a home for "Indigent Architects." The chief of that Department in Pretoria being in the next room to mine. There is also another Johannesburg man, very capable, from the Municipality. The work of the Department I have been engaged in is the

direct outcome of the war. That work has practically come to an end with the war, and as those permanent hands who left the Department to go to the front are now returning there must be changes, and it is difficult to see what architects are going to do, for the public will not be able to absorb them yet awhile as architects. Perhaps in a year or 18 months there may be plenty of work. In the meantime what are they going to do? With an income, England is a fine place to live in; without, a country to live away from. The outlook for the profession is therefore not a bright one. Labour troubles seem to increase, most men appear to think their present wages (exceeding in many cases that of professional assistants) will still go on or increase. The scarcity of material—or rather shipping to bring it—will take time to overcome. The Government with their schemes of house building, their public buildings, and the rebuilding on the Continent will naturally have first claim, and then the buildings that were stopped owing to the war will come second. A number of town planning competitions are already advertised. There is, however, another kind of competition been in vogue for some time, and shows what an unhealthy state the profession is in. I refer to "fees." Whilst the untrained man is allowed to practice it will still go on. Naturally there is a good deal of grumbling, but little seems to be done to remedy such a sad state of things; until there is unity in the profession there is scarcely likely to be a change. This can only be brought about by each individual member working for the common weal of the profession, dropping all selfish and petty interests.

I paid a visit to the R.I.B.A. to interview a leading official in regard to war service. As a student I used to go there for books on tip-toe, as it were, and bated breath, expecting, I suppose, that I might be confronted with the ghosts of Scott, Barry, Street, or some others demanding why I had not first built a cathedral before daring to enter the precincts of the R.I.B.A. This time it seemed to me to breathe the state of the profession. They say comparisons are odious, but they have their lessons. When one thinks of the beautiful building of Mr. Millar's in Great George Street, erected for the Civil Engineers, it makes one feel depressed when looking at No. 9 Conduit Street. It has its beauties, of course, as an old Adam building, but not as the headquarters of the architectural profession. When it is decided to rebuild, will those in power have the courage to make it an open competition? The spirit of architecture would say "Yes." Personality, "No."

Many firms are absorbing architects—builders, decorators, shop front and fitting manufacturers, furniture makers, etc., so that the private practitioner

seems to be gradually disappearing. Such firms do not charge "fees," they are included in the bill, and so the public are encouraged to dispense with the architect. It is a day of specialising, and the professional man is simply becoming "an administrator of trades."

Some imagine there is going to be plenty of work for British architects on the Continent. Is it reasonable to think that the Belgians, French, etc., are going to import "foreigners" to do their architecture for them? I think not. No doubt there will be some individual cases where an architect has absorbed the spirit of the country, but generally no.

To one who has not seen London for so many years, and used to broad roads and open country, the streets seem to have grown narrower, the buildings smaller. The cities and towns are hastening to meet one another. What used to be quiet roads between town and country, now possess rows and rows of shops with new estates opened up, crowds of people, busses and trams. All houses being full up; there is quite a famine, and premiums are being offered for a vacant house. The mansions seem the only ones available, which are sinking into decay, for people are either unable to keep them up owing to the servant problem or have moved further out.

One misses the blue skies and sun of South Africa very much, for I have seen little of either since I landed, and it is most depressing away from the fire. I have scarcely felt warm since I left the tropics. The gloom of the atmosphere seems as gloomy as the immediate prospect of architecture, but the warm welcome I received in H.M.O.W., the courtesy and kind consideration of its officials make up for a lot that is lacking in the weather, and I shall take away some very pleasant memories. It seems to me that aeroplanes might be useful in the future in helping in some way to clear away the clouds and smoke that hang over the great cities. Such fearful gloom is as unnatural as it is unhealthy.

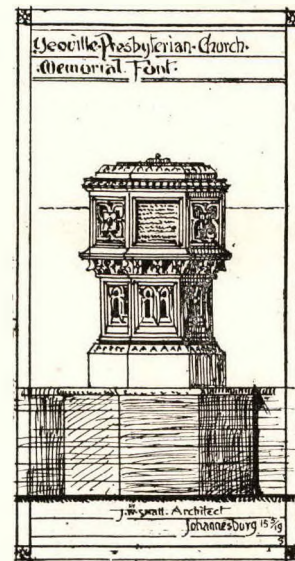
To touch on South African politics, judging from the cables the Nationalists seem heading for civil war. Until they learn there is something far higher than "Nationalism"—the welfare of "harmony," there can be no peace. Nationalism is selfishness—it cares naught for the common weal. I asked Dr. Malan to reconcile his attitude with his Sunday profession, but he has not done so; one can appreciate his difficulty. The British Empire is a family of nations, each working out its own destiny in the common weal.

Yours faithfully,

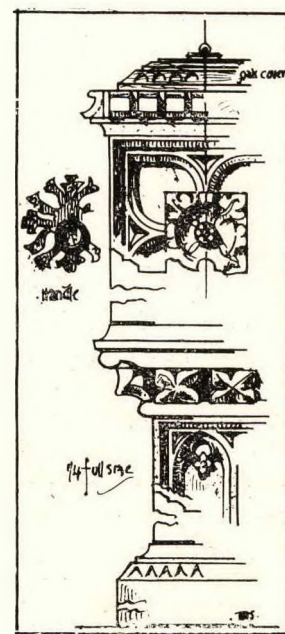
ERNEST J. WELLMAN.

BAPTISMAL FONT WAR MEMORIAL.

A war memorial will shortly be placed in the Yeoville Presbyterian Church, which will take the form of a Baptismal Font. The idea originated with the Women's Association of the Church, who collected subscriptions in their own circles, and raised sufficient funds to defray its entire cost. Mr. J. W. Small,



F.S.A. (Scotland), has been entrusted with the carrying out of the work, and the following design and detail will furnish an idea of the form the memorial will take. The work is to be executed in close grained Vereeniging Freestone with an oak cover, and wrought iron handle, enclosing the silver basin for the baptismal water. A



copper panel will be inserted on the front with the names of those connected with their Church who have made the great sacrifice. The total cost of the work will be about £70, and is being executed by the Grant Slate Quarries Co., Johannesburg.

FRONTISPIECE.

This exceptionally fine piece of sculpture is the work of that rising British sculptor, Charles Sargeant Jagger, and was exhibited at Burlington House, just prior to the war.

Apart from the variety of types included in the panel, its real beauty lies in the perfect modelling of the smallest detail.

WAR MEMORIAL FOR VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

Members of the Association will recollect Mr. William Lucas, F.R.V.I.A., who was in practise in this country in the early nineties, and was also a member of the first Council of the Association. Mr. Lucas left for Australia a few years ago, and we have received from him a suggestion for a War Memorial for Victoria and Capital, which design we reproduce in this issue.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S FUND.

Architects' Section.

Amount previously acknowledged	...	£86	3	6
March—Allen Wilson, Dec./March	...	4	4	0
B. R. Avery, Jan./Feb.	...	2	2	0
D. M. Burton	...	1	0	0
H. Baker & Fleming	...	1	1	0
April—D. A. McCubbin, Dec./Feb.	...	3	0	0
D. M. Burton	...	1	0	0
H. Baker & Fleming	...	1	1	0
May—Howden & Stewart, March/May	...	3	3	0
D. M. Burton	...	1	0	0
H. Baker & Fleming	...	1	1	0
		£104	15	6

M. K. CARPENTER,

Hon. Secretary.

WHAT THE ASSOCIATION IS DOING.

Active measures to bring about an end to the strike, were taken by your Council, these included the presentation of a memorandum to Ministers by the whole Council as a deputation.

Members are requested to immediately notify the Registrar of any change of postal or residential address.

Council has under consideration the revision of the Conditions of Contract, and would welcome any suggestion from members, any knotty point encountered in the past, if brought to notice will be of value.

Copies of early numbers of this Journal are needed for record and reference purposes, any member possessing old copies, prior to June, 1913, and wishing to dispose of them should communicate with the Registrar.

Messrs. P. Eagle and F. D. Strong having returned off Active Service have resumed duty at the P.W.D., Pretoria.

Mr. W. H. Mason, well known in Johannesburg and Germiston, returned from Europe last month.

A qualifying examination was conducted by the Association during May—the result will be announced in next issue, in the meantime, it is published for general information that if candidates present themselves a further examination will be held in November next. Full particulars may be obtained on written application to the Registrar.

After an interval of nearly four years your Council has resumed the Architectural Classes for Students at the School of Mines, Johannesburg. These classes recommenced in April last, and the Council has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. T. G. Ellis, A.R.I.B.A., as Lecturer in Architectural History, and Mr. H. W. Spicer to take the subject of Design. Any students desirous of joining these classes may obtain all information from the Registrar.

A project is on hand to institute an "Atelier," where advanced students in all branches may meet for mutual benefit and study, on the lines of those conducted by the Architectural Societies in Paris and London. Suitable accommodation can be immediately obtained, if sufficient number of persons signify their intention to become members. All communications on this matter should be made to the Registrar. It is intended that the subscription shall be purely nominal.

Mr. N. T. Cowin, the well known architect of Pretoria, has had conferred upon him the order of M.B.E. for exceptional services rendered in War Recruiting, and we congratulate him upon this recognition of his services to the Empire.

PRIZE ESSAY FOR STUDENTS.

The Presidents has donated a prize of £5 5s. 0d. to *bona-fide* Architectural Students for the best paper not exceeding 1,000 words on the subject of Open Timber Roofs, accompanied by not more than three sketches illustrating examples.

All essays must be delivered to the Registrar of the Association on or before 25th August next, accompanied by a declaration to the effect that the essay is the unaided work of the entrant.

Journal of the SA Architectural Institute

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