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## Presidential Address.

### VISION.

By EDWARD H. WAUGH, A.R.I.B.A., M.S.A.

(Retiring address delivered at Annual Meeting, 28th  
February, 1917.)

"Where there is no vision, the people perish," says Solomon in his incomparable proverbs, and a people that are to maintain their existence must have vision. An architecture without vision, the vision of imagination and prophetic insight will be tame, weak and unconvincing. It is because of such vision that the buildings of the past which still live and speak to us to-day, are called great. The vision of the Greek epoch speaks of infinite culture and refinement, the vision of the great Hellenic architects projected itself into an eternal vista of commanding influence. The vision of the Romans tells of imperial and orderly thought, that of the mediaeval days signs of glorious and aspiring reverence and worship.

"Where through the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault  
The pealing anthem swells the note of praise."

The vision of recent times too often speaks of sheer and unadulterated commercialism, shot here and there by gleams of pure refinement. A nation will come to its greatest vision in a time of terrible soul conflict, when life itself is stripped of its tinsel and sham, and the spiritual which lies at the bottom of every heart expresses itself, and the true architect feels the pulsation of the spirit of sacrifice, illuminating his design, and giving the people a stern, noble and grand architecture but without repellency. To such a place are we come in our art, even as our fathers did at the time of the Napoleonic struggle. The spec-

tacle of 3,000 young architects going forth to war from one Society alone in the old country is unparalleled in the history of the world. Each of these men is going to come back to his work, a new man, who has seen other lands and had a kind of travelling studentship even while he is fighting. They will bring visions of the art of many lands, from the Middle East, from the Near East, from the land of the Pharaohs, and from artistic France, and this country will feel the impulse of their work, and it will express itself on the landscape.

A vision of the Africa that is to be may well excite your noblest imagination. The vision of Cecil Rhodes has left us a never-failing spring of thought and inspiration. A great continent is emerging from an ocean of barbarism, slavery and ignorance, and a great light is striking through what we, in the days of our youth, called "Darkest Africa." In this continent Johannesburg and Pretoria, from their size, wealth and commercial importance already hold a position of eminence, one might fairly say pre-eminence. They contain the largest and most virile community, which is extending its influence more and more into a country stretching far away into the interior, as large as Europe. The vision of its people is proving in many ways a large one. During the year a remarkable movement for higher University education has been borne, and with such a staunch spirit has the birth been surrounded that already the infant scheme shows every sign of virility and persistence. To this movement architecture must be permanently engaged, eventually to evolve into a marriage by the foundation of a Chair of Architecture by the Government as has just been done in Sydney.



No one can contemplate the beginnings of that great seat of learning at Edinburgh without feeling the similarity to those here. Founded in 1582, in a country of probably less white people than this, with three older universities within 100 miles, without any Government assistance for centuries, without even the personal and active support of the King—James VI.—except to use his name, it constitutes a remarkable record of grit and determination which may well emulate us here. As here, the Town Council of Edinburgh rose magnificently to the occasion, granting funds right from the inception, nursing the infant with tender care, and making it to occupy one of the "high places of the earth." With such an example from a city—at the time of only 35,000 people—there should be no room for pessimism or doubt. This Association extends its active sympathy as it realises that only in this large centre is there a hope of founding a School of Architecture.

Vision is the essential mother of architecture. Without sight in the beholder, architecture is useless, and without vision in the designer it is meaningless. This country calls for a wide vision, for the very intenseness of its light makes mean buildings meaner and great buildings greater. There is no kind leafage or softening weather to round off obtuseness, and every point is thrown into vivid contrasts.

"No man liveth to himself," and certainly no man buildeth to himself. The architect is the creator of his own monuments and the good he does lives after him, unlike most other callings. The wood and iron and mud and slop-brick age is passing, and an evermore discriminating public calls for something above the mean and the paltry. The architects of the immediate past have been more than equal to their age in domestic work, but it may be questioned if they have attained to the same level of achievement in the large and the monumental. There is too often too much prettiness and reversion to worn-out methods of handling ancient types, while overlooking the spirit which animates them. Our large buildings are frequently too much broken, and the value of the running line is overlooked.

In nothing has this been so marked as in our town-planning. A city is essentially streets and buildings. If the former are wrong, the latter do not get a chance. This country travels on a grid-iron plan for its cities and towns, and ignores the movement in other lands for proper planning, which is so pregnant with possibilities. Here a township escapes with a demand for storm-water drainage and a minimum width of street, when the scheme should come under the trained eye of an expert board, which, without punishing the owner, could make his scheme part of a co-ordinated whole, and not permit the trampling down of hill and valley and omission of noble approaches.

Johannesburg's plan is in the main murdered for want of a little vision and foresight. Naturally, this town and Pretoria, too, possess such environment as to place them scenically amongst the first of cities. For instance, what a chance the Hospital Hill ridge presents for imposing treatment, but it has been mutilated with a gaol and a fever hospital, neither of which makes anything of the individuality of the site. The Institute of Medical Research certainly redeems this reproach somewhat, and it is to be hoped that the new University will still further do so.

Take another instance, the Cape-like promontories at Observatory and Kensington overlooking the valley should be preserved from the builder and made into buttresses of beauty, like portals to the town. These speculations are endless. The late Sir Hugh Lane said, when out here, that Johannesburg possessed great natural beauties and she awaited the advent of great artist to do them justice. Our difficulty here is that as a people, we do not think largely enough. We think in bits.

Some vision is wanted, like that which caused Princes Street, Edinburgh, or the great St. Kilda Road approach to the City of Melbourne, or the boulevards of Ballarat.

In nothing has architecture shone more than in the creation of monuments to noble dead and national sacrifice. This sad duty will presently come to us, and it is to be hoped that we shall not have perpetrations in our churches such as one too often sees around in Westminster Abbey. It is not always that the style is different to the noble structure above. I submit that that is permissible. But the vision is sometimes defective and the artist appears never to have seen the place where his monument is to be placed. While design may be different, the happy harmony should be there, and the erection of masons' catalogued designs will never bring this out. This work may well be considered by the coming Council, who might issue a brochure touching the outlines of the subject for public guidance.

Another subject of a more practical character deals with the great desirability of encouraging Empire goods. Architects have yearly the spending of very large amounts in the purchase of goods, and the encouragement of the products of our own people should be the first aim. An appeal to your patriotism in this matter is, I know, not wanted, but the mention of it may be the means of Imperialism of a practical kind.

In conclusion, I must thank the Council and Registrar for their loyal support in a very strenuous year.

### **The Public Works Department and Private Practitioners.**

For several years now the Government has adopted the unusual and unfair policy of designing and carrying out Government buildings. A system not in vogue in other parts of the Empire, except perhaps as regards prisons and post offices. The result is that the private practitioner's practice is considerably reduced.

The plea put forward for this unusual state of things is that the designs are better, better executed and more economical.

Mr. Walter Reid, in his address to the Annual Meeting of the Association, stated that such work costs close on 50 per cent. more than that done by the private practitioner, to which the Secretary of the P.W.D. takes exception.

Whether the excess is that percentage is immaterial. If it is only half that amount, it is quite enough to encourage the private practitioners to band themselves together and determine that such a state of things shall no longer continue, and now is the time to move.

The present writer was informed by the Chief Architect in an interview at the opening of the War, that he had lost seventy assistants, that they had either been drafted to other departments, left for Home or had enlisted. That body must not be allowed to reassemble, for several reasons.

Whilst there were numbers of assistants in this country, and architects in practice doing little or nothing, the Government imported men from overseas. The very existence of a department under such conditions is a grave reproach upon the architectural profession, reflecting not only upon their ability, but on their integrity, for the position of an architect is essentially one of trust. Mr. Secretary Murray's plea of economy is not sufficient, and this matter can only be settled by a Public Commission of Enquiry.

It is detrimental to the true interests of the country that the Department should exist for any other purpose but the usual one of maintenance. The Government that has those interests at heart should give no encouragement to such a system, and no self-respecting architect should rest until the Department is permanently reduced.

Naturally enough this reduction is not looked upon with favour by head officials, and various methods are adopted to keep it alive. "Confidential utterances" to Ministers would make interesting reading.



Some of this unhappy feeling between the Government and the private practitioners of the Transvaal can be traced to its source. When Lord Milner came up here from the Cape after the war, he is stated to have informed the Legislative Council that there were no other architects in the Transvaal preparatory to introducing the only one. At a committee meeting held on the 23rd May last at Capetown in reference to appointing an architect for the new Cape University, similar views were voiced by the gentlemen composing the committee, that there is only one, or perhaps two architects, capable of designing and carrying out such a building. Now, whatever Lord Milner may be as a diplomat, or the committeemen in the world of letters, none of them are architects, and their source of information is one and the same. At this meeting, Mr. Secretary Murray proffered his valuable opinion on the subject of competitions, stating that he was opposed to the calling of competition design, and informed the meeting of the experience he had had in connection with the appointment of consulting architect on Government buildings. Those who formed a deputation of architects to the Minister of Public Works two or three years ago will remember the attitude adopted towards them by Mr. Murray. This gentleman cannot, therefore, be looked upon as a friend of the private practitioner, at any rate in the Transvaal, for this Colony seems to have been singled out for special treatment, and demands the enquiry before referred to.

The financial aspect of the question is by no means the only factor in the matter, but it is a question if architecture covering so large a field for the exercise of talent and ingenuity (apart from the mere possession of academic knowledge) can be limited to one section of the community—and that a Government Department, which is apt to become stereotyped, of which there is overwhelming evidence. No person would hesitate in giving a negative answer.

Complaints are frequently heard regarding the quality of the building and the designing, to mention only one, the Law Courts on Von Brandis Square. The Courts are most undignified, the one principally used is only fit for a Judges' sitting-room, and the Judges themselves have complained of the shocking lack of ventilation even in the larger Courts. All due to lack of experience, for the work was entrusted to those who had never been in practice.

Competitions are the means of developing talent and individual skill which would otherwise remain unrecognised. Most of the finest buildings at Home have been produced by competition. People who not believe in them are of mediocre attainments and fear being beaten, preferring to gain their work by influence rather than by merit.

The plea of incompetence put forward by the Secretary is absurd in face of the work executed by private practitioners, and as gauged by the reports of Presidents of the Royal Institute of British Architects who have come out here to assess or have done so at Home. Drawings of these works have been good enough for the walls of the Royal Academy and leading professional publications.

It is not fair that the Government should have singled out one man for special favour, ignoring the claims of others.

Mr. Murray needs to explain why so many of the said competitions have proved a success whilst those the P.W. Department has been connected with, according to his own statement, have been a failure.

As mentioned at the opening of this article, this state of things has been going on for some years, though there is an Association, which might have done more, and our energetic President has now a splendid opportunity to make up for the apathy of past Councils. Mr. Murray has thrown down the gauntlet.

It would be out of place here to make suggestions as to what means should be adopted to deal with the Government, but it is up to the private practitioners to give every support to the Councils of the Associations and Institutes of South Africa to end what is little better than a scandal.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the Members of Parliament and Provincial Councils will take serious notice of this matter, for it cannot be allowed to stand where it is.

SCRUTATOR.

## TRUTH.

There is nothing more precious than truth; and yet nothing more foreign to the natural man. Nothing he is more reluctant and has greater difficulty to learn, and nothing again once learned and firmly held which he is more reluctant to part with.

It has been stated on good authority that a child before he has been taught the moral beauty of truth tells a lie as readily as he holds up his arm to defend himself.

Much has been said and written about truth with reference to architecture, both regarding aesthetic and structural design and actual building. And it seems often held that all the devices which appear on the face of them as untrue or at all events not what they seem to be are deliberate falsehoods. Briefly to discuss this as important to all concerned in building seems to have some interest. It is not supposed that the unpleasant charges brought by cities against architects, craftsmen, builders and all concerned are taken "au grand sérieux." Sometimes, and when convincing, and pushed into contact with those criticised, they have excellent effect. At others they pass the rounds of the dilettante and so into oblivion. Generally, those who have learned their business thoroughly are more likely to counter the critics successfully, and of course would do so if their business were with the critics instead of with their work.

There are some very obviously false treatments which may be dismissed in a few words and which seem indefensible. They are the intentional imitation of things intrinsically valuable or in their nature beautiful. Such for example as painted imitations of marble or choice timber, and other such. A common instance is the imitation of timber structures because they are so picturesque. Architects of eminence have put oak framing an inch and a half thick but showing on the face dimensions such as would have been used in the fifteenth century, a structurally quite useless piece of framing against the face of a brick wall. The practice has had its defenders, but none appears to have been successful.

But criticism has been carried to such high flights respecting truth, or honesty if you will, in matters architectural that interest will attach to the example or two in each of the three following instances: Designs as relating to appearance, as relating to construction, and to the actual putting together of materials.

Now, as to the first of these it may be frankly stated that the truth or falsehood of a design depends very much upon the object with which a building is erected, and (to avoid anything like hyper-criticism) upon the consideration whether or no the device employed is generally understood. Perhaps in large structures the feature most eagerly attacked is what, for want of a recognised name, may be called the screen wall. Such is the upper order at St. Paul's Cathedral. Who has defended that? And yet it might be defended. Another is the treatment of the western termination of many mediaeval churches; and again they surely may be defended. Another is the timber roof over a stone vault, and also the plaster ceiling under a timber roof.

The usual attitude assumed by critics seems to be that of standing aloof and judging by independent or empirical standards, esthetic or analytical. They will judge human face, for instance, by its agreement with their own standards of beauty rather than by the conviction of their own senses. So they will judge a building by the "canons" of art and truth and falsehood in the same way.



Returning to the screen walls, those at St. Paul's. What may be said of them? It is well known that the architect was a good deal hampered by restrictions upon his work due to prejudices in favour of the old type of cross church. He wanted to get away definitely from it and to put up a building altogether in the manner of the classic Renaissance; but he was hindered. Opinions differ widely as to whether the great church would have gained by the omission of the screens. In the near view the western towers and the dome would no doubt have gained immensely in majesty, but the rest of the building would perhaps have suffered from want of repose and continuity of lines. Possibly the dome would in general appearance have smothered the church, vast as it is, and overbalanced the design. Genius in the person of Sir Christopher Wren decided on the screen walls, and his great name appears to have reduced the usual high tone of the critics to a mild protest.

Not so fortunate were mediaeval works, because no doubt in the greater number of cases no person of any such influence was responsible for them. In Italy, particularly, and indeed through Europe generally, the west fronts of the great churches were treated as independent features of the buildings. Some more and some less quite ignored the church behind them, and wherever this is done it is done quite frankly, but the device is put down ruthlessly as a falsehood! And one writer follows another in monograph or guide takes the greatest pains to insist upon the defect. Who would regret the realisation of a hope that some one would build more churches with fronts of the screen type as at Peterborough, sympathetically varied as those of another type seen at Rheims and Amiens? False or not, we should be immensely the gainers. The great churches of the middle ages were generally so vastly greater than the surrounding buildings were, or were conceivably to be, that the view of any part was not restricted to its front or back. The drawing by Turner of Peterborough Cathedral from the N.E. shows this very well, and also that the screen at the end of a nave of great length is in the reverse a great gain to the general prospect and a signal improvement on the natural treatment as at Winchester, which is "true" to bluntness and has the appearance of having been stopped rather than finished—the western aspect showing the sloping parapet to the aisle roofs and the great gable of the nave roof above as if the west end of the church had not been thought worthy of any better treatment and had just been filled in with windows and doors. These great churches were usually monasteries or colleges, and the public approach—often the only approach—was from the west. The open spaces, whether enclosed or public, were frequently thronged by people attending services of one kind or another. How unnatural that the builders should attempt, by an architectural "tour de force" to impress the assembly: "This is none other than the House of God and this is the gate of heaven."

It will appear from this that the screen wall in the mediaeval work, far from being false, was very purposeful, frankly done for a definite aim and honestly visible, at all events to a distance from all points. Many of these screens are true western transepts. What a false note must be struck on the minds of these critics on viewing the centre of the same church from the westward, where the great transept conceals the whole of the eastern part of the church!

Surely the fact is that such criticism is valueless and based upon the notion that the object of the builders was to achieve a perfect architectural design, when efforts were directed to build in their best way the desired completion or addition to the structure they were engaged upon.

Something might be urged in favour of omitting the timber roof where a stone vault is intended. It could be done. Had

it been well done some of our churches would have been less costly to repair after the revolution. Some might have been in the main as originally designed, as, for instance, Canterbury, where successive fires destroyed one quire after another, not quite so securely built as Chartres, where the roof was burned out leaving the church uninjured.

Expediency, and cost of the work, has much to do with the design now and had then, and these old builders were moving from development to development; not taking patterns from books and seldom able to complete their work. The great timber roof was a steadying load, helping the buttresses, and in very many cases was there when the vault was constructed, and the vault was originally devised for its protection. Esthetically, the change of material was good, and the long unbroken line and vast plain face good also. To construct the vault so as to form weather cover and ceiling at once would have the effect of showing a projecting gable at each bay—difficult to keep even in moderate repose. There are examples where the transverse vaults are each shown by a gable moulding on the face of the wall above and carried somewhat above the parapet, but still with timber roof behind, so that the disturbance of the horizontal line of the parapet is not so much felt as it would be in the case supposed, but they are not numerous. In fact, the difficulty raised is similar to Wren's difficulties at St. Paul's—an esthetic difficulty—though never presented in the same direct manner, because, as already mentioned, the wooden roof was not interfered with. It is probable the change was never thought of by the old builders, but supposing it to have been suggested, it should have been rejected for esthetic reasons. It would have been hard to forego and unwise to surrender what was often in the general view the most impressive feature of the building. The dome of St. Paul's still dominates London, but holds it only lightly. The great churches of the middle ages were much more dominant, and the vast solemn slopes of their roofs appeared above the walls of the cities with such prominence as must have scarcely been challenged by any other building. In modern times where the cities about them have lost instead of gaining population (such as Wells, in Somersetshire), the great churches about which the streets are woven appear in the distant view quite solitary in the landscape. It is in this aspect that the plain face of the roof is so effective.

With regard to the plaster ceiling little need be said. It was presumably not known in northern Europe, though possibly used in Italy and the south earlier than the fifteenth century. The practice of putting flat ceilings under the roof was unusual until the sixteenth, when the pitch of roofs generally had been much reduced and the constructive timbering became uninteresting. The roof above it is not less false from the modern critic's point of view than it is above the stone vault, or vice versa. But this is a feature of comparative unimportance, seldom occurring on a large scale, generally repeated in the same building under the joists of the various floors, and having in its esthetic treatment, when well devised, no suggestion of any material but plaster. There are cases, however, in which the plaster ceiling is treated in a manner difficult to defend.

The Romans used plaster very freely, often as a decorative finish to brick vaults of great extent. In modern times architects have not hesitated to copy these in plaster on timber or metal framing, and a false note is struck which critics, perhaps from a feeling that the device has become so well established as to be uncontrollable, have little to say about it. It is, however, false, and generally treated in all respects as if it were either actually solid or upon solid construction. Perhaps it is felt that after all, though the matter is deemed of little im-



portance, that the Roman was the falsifier, because he could have shown his brickwork with an effect as noble though not so refined as that produced by his plaster finish. The truth or falsehood of the treatment, however, is not so much discovered in the use of the material as in the application of it, and may perhaps be arrived at by observing whether the constructive features are shown in the covering or not. To discuss this fully would lead to points of intricacy and even subtlety, but generally it must be admitted that mixed treatments frequently are open to the suspicion, at all events, of falsehood. For instance, it would be best that building constructed of stone should show a stone face, and similarly that buildings constructed of brick should show a brick face, and it generally was the case in the most remarkable periods of art. And, further, that composite construction, such as mixed stone and brick, should show a face of stone and brick. In short, that the nature of the constructive material in wall or elsewhere should be acknowledged—exhibited.

It is quite customary still, though not with the insistence formerly almost universal, to go to the ancients for authority in matters relating to architecture. Such a reference would probably establish some such discovery as the following. The ancients were unanimous in regarding architecture as an esthetic ideal. If they built well they did so for permanence or for a religious motive. The mediaeval men did the same; built to endure for ever or as fitting for buildings erected for divine worship. But the high ideal was the esthetic not the material phase of the work, and just as the Greek faced his marble with fine plaster and finished with bright colour, so the Christian builders not only finished his stone and brick with plaster and colour, but faced even his woodwork with gesso and coloured and gilded that, if we imitated them no doubt we should be supposed by many critics to be open to a charge of universal fraud and deceit, but those whose chief delight is in the intrinsic beauty of anything, will find many excuses, many extenuations. Probably there can be no doubt that this esthetic attitude was favoured by the greatest artists from the beginning to the decline of the arts in the early modern period. At the same time, it must not be forgotten that all the most important work was as skilfully put together as the knowledge of the time and place permitted.

In the great days esthetics even governed what is sometimes called "the lay out"; the various parts were all carefully arranged for the work to be done by them in the building; always with a view to the ultimate effect. The moral beauty of truth was well exemplified. Wall, pier, column, arch and buttress had each its apportioned constructive office, and all were counted upon as art and part of the esthetic whole.

In these days of cement and metal we should have great, perhaps insuperable, difficulty in attempting anything so orderly, or even of making apparent any measure of success which might be attained. It is common practice to put columns and even arches between floor and floor where they have no better foundation than the upper plates of a girder, for purely esthetic purposes: just as it is to put stone or brick walls as external weather screens in the same way.

This is straining the line rather severely, and the only way that perhaps it may be defended, is to assume that it comes of necessity and is understood. Perhaps it is not too much to hope that Municipal regulations will some day permit a thin screen wall of what, for convenience, be called ferro-concrete, entirely dependent for its stability upon the surrounding girders and stanchions, instead of the ponderous prevailing brick or stone weather screens, and so enable the exterior, at all events, to be sincere.

In a great warehouse, constructed in this manner, plain surfaces would present themselves that the great artists of the Renaissance would gladly have seized as opportunities for exhibiting their greatest work, and in this way would have exercised an influence more beneficial to people at large, more likely to expand the esthetic faculty, than by burying their work in the house of a wealthy man or in a museum. Treated in this way permanently in water glass fresco the appearance of a modern city would be indeed in the well worn phrase "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever"—that is, for the ever of its existence. Provided always, as the lawyers say, their clients could see their way to permit the artists to avoid all and sundry the things now put on posters.

This is perhaps an optimistic suggestion, but it is clear that such a treatment would change our rather dingy "white city" into a city rich with colour, with thousands of pictures, which are perhaps the quickest and surest elementary teaching and education, incentive to thought, at all events, to be gathered by young and old, by the easy comprehensiveness of sight with a truly modern bounty in it, appealing to all and at all times and not without very notable possibilities for advertisements.

Beauty in design and truth in building have been put forward as, so to speak, the lodestars of the architect. Are they? Let us look about us, and, if indeed we think they are, make better endeavours to reach them by every means available.

G. W. NICOLAY.

### Review of Architectural Journals

The Journals to hand complete another year's work, and naturally they contain reviews of the architectural efforts of the past 12 months, but owing to the restrictions on building there is really little of more than usual interest to write about. Most of the large buildings remain incomplete, and only to those of an urgent nature has permission been granted for their completion; the most outstanding of these being the new Cunard Building at Liverpool, the reinforced concrete construction of which has been referred to in these columns before, when mention was made of the new steel "tyle" system of floor construction.

Memorials for the fallen seem to be the most prominent features of architectural interest, and foremost, amongst them, must be mentioned the scheme put forward by our friend Mr. Herbert Baker in an article in the London "Times" for the acquisition of the southern bank of the Thames between Westminster and St. Paul's, where a noble site for the future Imperial Buildings might be found. As Mr. Baker says, they would typify that political and Imperial unity which, if we can preserve, it will create out of the terrible sacrifices of the war an enduring foundation for a world-wide commonwealth.

A most interesting article appears in the "Architectural Review" on German war memorials, the writer, however, though justified in comparing these monuments unfavourably with those of France and Italy, loses sight of the fact that they are a true interpretation of the nation for whom they were erected. Some of us have been worshippers of the modern philosophy of the Germans, more particularly that of Nietzsche, whose philosophy was for the production of a race of "super-men," who were to be evolved by adopting the principles of survival of the fittest, the weak going to the wall, but, unfortunately, this philosophy was carried to such extremes, that to attain this object all questions of right and wrong were put in the background, and the climax of the philosophy was, if such ambitions cannot be attained by fair means, then foul means



must be employed. This spirit not only permeated the individuals of the nation, but became the philosophy of the nation itself, and *inter alia*, was the result of the present war.

In the article referred to, the writer admits that such ideas are expressed in all these gigantic war memorials erected in Germany, but gives them no credit for any artistic expression. One is inclined, at first sight, to fall into this line of argument. On comparing the colossal cyclopean monuments of Leipzig, and the Bismarck monument of Hamburg with the more refined monuments of France and Italy, a certain amount of truth in these contentions must be acknowledged; but, nevertheless, these works were, in reality, a distinct forward movement in monumental architecture; and as the "representation of an idea in matter," which is the sum and substance of Art, they must be looked upon as successful. No one can look on the Bismarck monument at Hamburg without feeling the sensation of being overawed and "blood and iron" run through one's veins, and the sense of the bully is amply applied; so with the Leipzig monument, a better representation of "frightfulness" could not have been imagined; it inspires awe, not from its refinement, but from its cyclopean proportions, size, and mass. It stands as a testimony of the brutal strength of a military despotism, and, as the writer says, explains why treaties have been torn up, why communities have been outraged, why churches have been violated and so on. Is not this conclusive that these monuments are representations of the idea of the nation for whom they were erected?

In these days of Summer-time Bills and Daylight Saving schemes it is interesting to note a controversy as to the cost of daylight versus electric light, and though one's first impressions are those of splitting hairs, on pursuing the matter one is led to conceive of a building free from daylight. It is contended that the cost of windows and skylights, together with the sacrifice and loss of space in open courts for the purpose of obtaining light must be a considerable item when the interest on capital outlay of these and the loss of rent from unoccupied areas, such as light areas is considered, the amount cannot be negligible. The matter of lighting artificially does not seem to be a difficulty, and when one considers the successful methods employed to artificially ventilate the greater number of inside rooms, etc., on the new transatlantic liners, it does not seem unfeasible that developments in this direction may ultimately result in congested areas being so valuable as to necessitate the absorption of all light areas into the floor spaces of the building.

In contrast to the suggestion of eliminating all light areas, it is interesting to note a scheme in the design for shops embraced in a town-planning scheme for the city of Oporto, where the designer considers it not only necessary to sacrifice a portion of his ground for a colonnade in front of his shops, but also provides an area on either side of the shop frontage, so giving the shops three times the facade frontage. This system, he claims, not only makes each shop a corner shop, but enables the passers-by undisturbed to study the goods from these court-yards.

While the Institutes at Home are considering a new building contract, and we have already contemplated obtaining one here, it is interesting to note some of the clauses adopted by the American Institute of Architects in their new Contract. The personal element of the architect is practically eliminated, and, instead of work being done to his satisfaction, it is to be done according to the Contract. Instead of the architect having power to dismiss a workman, he has only power to condemn his work. These and other eliminations of the power of the

architect seem perfectly justified, when viewed from a standpoint of the architect's duty in carrying out the contract.

Further, the elimination of exaggerated items, such as "very best," etc., are substituted by "good quality," bringing a contract more into line with general practice than such "ideal" circumstances, which are unobtainable.

The clauses affecting sub-contractors are very similar to those usually adopted, with certain protection added to assist the sub-contractor in receiving payment on certificates issued containing sums due to the sub-contractor.

The most astounding clause in the Contract, however, is one in which the contractor is liable for keeping the building in repair for from three to six years.

◆ ◆ ◆

In the address of the President of the Concrete Institute, many interesting developments of a research nature are mentioned, due chiefly to the energies created by the war. It is contended that this is an engineers' war, and Science and the Arts are playing a most conspicuous part in it.

The most astounding discovery made in this research work is that, in cement concrete, owing apparently to the imperfect chemical combinations between the water and cement, only 25 per cent. of the clinker is properly hydrated, that is, that 75 per cent. of uncombined cement is useless except as a pore filler. The cause of this impediment to proper hydration is the tending of the cement particles, when mixed with water, to cohere into groups. To avoid this, the addition of alcohol or ether is suggested, to better disperse the cement particles. An experiment in this direction proved that the strength of concrete was increased about 70 per cent. at two months.

Continuing this research work, it is stated that modern research has discovered a means and method of ascertaining the stress in any part of a structure by an ingenious optical apparatus, of a spectrum nature, applied to a transparent model, the colours varying with the intensity of the stress.

◆ ◆ ◆

The profession, as is to be expected, is making its sacrifices in the war, and mention should be made of the first architect to secure the distinction of being awarded the V.C., Capt. Bell, of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, who was killed in France in July last. Amongst others who should be mentioned is Lieut. Webb, son of Sir Aston Webb, C.B., R.A.

R. H.

### Our Illustrations.

We are indebted to the kindness of Mr. Gerald Moerdijk, A.R.I.B.A., for the fine examples of his draughtsmanship appearing in this issue. They represent personal and independent studies by the artist. The water-colour is of St. Paul's dome in the misty dusk of the evening, and is taken from a small side street, and shows the outlines of this grand mass. Another drawing in pencil exhibits one of the beautiful western towers of the same building, whose architect, Sir Christopher Wren, is being more and more appreciated as time passes.

Two other drawings—in pencil—of St. Peter's, Rome, are extremely interesting. The one of the surmounting lantern of the vast dome is a study of a somewhat rare character, showing detail in an unbroken field. The imposing mass of the great cathedral is shown in the fourth drawing, and we are sorry that the necessities laid on us by expense have not permitted larger reproductions of the works. Mr. Moerdijk has made fine use of his opportunities for study.

Pressure on space alone has prevented on this occasion the use of photos kindly offered by Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Hughes.

EDITOR.



## The President.

The newly-elected President is Mr. David Aitken McCubbin, the architect of the South African Railways. He was born at Bootle Liverpool in 1870, and educated at private schools and Liverpool College. He served articles to Mr. J. Havelock-Sutton, architect and surveyor of Liverpool, and was afterwards on the architectural staff of the War Department in Ireland. Subsequently he worked with Messrs. Park & Son, Architects, Preston, and also Messrs. Maxwell & Tuke, Manchester.

In 1896 he became architectural assistant and surveyor on staff of Commanding R.E. at the Cape. In 1902 he resigned and joined Messrs. A. & W. Reid as managing assistant at Capetown and Oudtshoorn. In 1903 he came to Johannesburg for the same firm. In 1906 he joined the staff of C.S.A.R. and on the Union of South Africa being consummated, he was advanced to his present position and his activities now cover the railway architecture of the whole Union.

He is well known for sound common-sense, tact and dependability, and his sound judgment will make him most successful in the chair.

The portrait, taken a few years ago, is the only one available, but our members will feel pleasure that it is so, as it also shows his eldest son, George, the now world-famed aviator, then 16 years old who will shortly arrive on a visit to his parents.

THE EDITOR.



Our President with his Son George.

Our Registrar, Mr. Adler, left on Sunday to join the forces in Europe in connection with the Army Service Corps (Coloured Transport Section). He has proceeded to Kimberley, and expects to be back for a few days before final departure. He carries our very best wishes.

## News and Notes.

The Australian Commonwealth Government has definitely postponed, till after the war, the competition for the Houses of Parliament at Canberra, the new capital of the country.

The Imperial Trade Commissioner at Capetown is asking for advice from architects and others as to the "very difficult question as to how the standard of quality of builders' ironmongery, brassware, etc., now in use may be improved and a demand for better quality created; and also how fraud can best be prevented in the substitution of plate and sheet glass, insulated electric wire, cast iron baths, and similar, if lower (foreign) grades."

S. S. Hellyer, the eminent pioneer of modern sanitary plumbing, has just passed away at a ripe age. His writings were most interesting, and he made a technical subject very attractive. He came on the scene about the time of the dangerous attack of typhoid suffered by the late King Edward VII, then a young man, who, when he rose from his sick bed, said, "If I had not been born a Prince, I would have been a plumber." His illness was traced to defective plumbing.

It appears that the bulk of the locks, etc., used in this country are of a cheap foreign grade, and are bought on price and not on value. The British locks are, generally, of superior make to these, and give much longer wear and are, in the end, the cheapest and most satisfactory. It is stated by those handling such goods that often architects order the lowest priced, and that they could do much for British made goods by calling for a better grade article. As regards plate and sheet glass, attention to the thickness or weight would eliminate fraud in quantity, and good quality, if sought, could be obtained by comparing the clearness of the glass with known good grades. Good English sheet glass used for pictures is white and clear like pure rain-water, and poorer foreign makes are of a slightly greenish tint, easily noticeable on the edge.

The Imperial Trade Commissioner is in this country to forward the interests of British goods, and will, free of charge, answer enquiries and put anyone in touch with manufacturers of special articles.

The marriage of Capt. H. B. Emley, Royal Flying Corps, son of Mr. Frank Emley, F.R.I.B.A., has lately been announced in the Home exchanges, and all friends will extend their warmest good wishes.

New industries are always welcome, and Messrs. John Wilson & Sons have entered on a new enterprise in the successful manufacture of plaster-of-paris from South African gypsum. As this issue was in the press when our inspection was made, a further description will appear on the next occasion.

E. W.

The fund for the erection of this structure is now close on £21 000, and it is hoped to complete the amount aimed at by April 11th, when the Rev. Dr. Haigh, of England, will lay the stone at 4 p.m.

Competitive designs are being invited, of which a notice appears in our advertisement columns.

Mr. E. H. Waugh has been appointed Assessor.



## Government Work.

To the Editor,

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

Dear Sir,

Permit me to refer to a letter signed by Mr. Murray and to your remarks thereon, which appeared in your last issue.

In previously suggesting an enquiry into the relative merits and costs of work done and principles involved under the departmental system as compared with that in use among private practitioners, I had in view an enquiry of a Parliamentary nature; it certainly was not my intention to discuss the matter with any individual official. If your correspondent can in any way assist the idea of a Parliamentary enquiry I shall be most happy to aid him. To go into detail at this moment might suit your correspondent's views, but would serve no useful purpose that I can see; it would only lead to an academic discussion in the columns of your journal, which, I feel sure, you will agree with me would be inadvisable.

Your correspondent indulges in quite a number of assumptions regarding my attitude and bona fides in the matter, apparently seeking in the eyes of your readers to belittle my sincerity and the value to be attached to my statements; to counteract this and in justification of the statements originally made, I make him an offer. If he will produce all plans, specifications, priced bills of quantities, and tenders recently prepared by his department (presumably) for a new school building to be erected by private enterprise in the north-western suburbs of Johannesburg, I will produce similar documents for a similar building recently erected in the north-eastern suburbs of Johannesburg by a private practitioner. This will enable a fair comparison to be made, as a preliminary to a properly constituted enquiry.

Yours truly,

WALTER REID, F.R.I.B.A.

P.S.—A copy of this has been sent to Mr. Murray.  
Johannesburg,  
29th January, 1917.

To the Editor,

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

Sir,

With reference to my letter on this subject, which appeared in your last issue, I have been favoured by Mr. Reid with an advance copy of a reply which he is sending to you for insertion in your next issue, and should be glad if you would be good enough to include this as well.

Mr. Reid, in his Presidential Address, made certain definite statements, substantiation of which I have been endeavouring to obtain since the 19th August last, without success. Mr. Reid even now makes no effort to justify these, but brings forward a fresh issue, and asks that this Department should assist him in proving his case.

I am afraid I must decline to be drawn into such side tracks. When Mr. Reid substantiates his original statements he will have established his case, and any further evidence will be superfluous. At this I must leave it.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES MURRAY.

Secretary for Public Works.

## The Relationship of Architect and Quantity Surveyor:

To the Editor,

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

Sir,

It was with some surprise that I read the two letters from Mr. Hargrave-Graham and Mr. Cowling, the respected Secretary of the Quantity Surveyors' Institute. I was particular to refer to two classes of quantity surveyors, those who come nearer the professional man and recognise their position and those who indulge in irregularities.

My article was founded on fact and not opinions, as your third correspondent seems to think, which is excusable in his case, as he is not a private practitioner.

Of course, it is very nice to be reminded by Mr. Cowling that his Council will investigate any charge brought against a member. That the Quantity Surveyors' Institute was formed for the good of humanity and to injure no man, that its minute book is a model of propriety, and its Councillors have never abused their powers from mere personal animosity, should all go without saying.

No doubt, as Mr. Hargrave-Graham points out, the quantity surveyor has a grievance against some architects in regard to the latter retaining a large part of the 2½ per cent. without doing any portion of the work. But when an architect takes a portion of the fees he also takes the responsibility. I know a case in support of Mr. Graham's contention about one-fifth or two-fifths of the total fee. Here is a well-to-do person practising as an architect and flourishing as "a green bay tree" beats down the trained man to less than half per cent., including specification. The said person would doubtless scorn to accept a commission from a tradesman, but where is the difference in this particular instance? The Quantity Surveyors should work for making such instances as much a misdemeanour as accepting secret commissions—both are equally dishonourable.

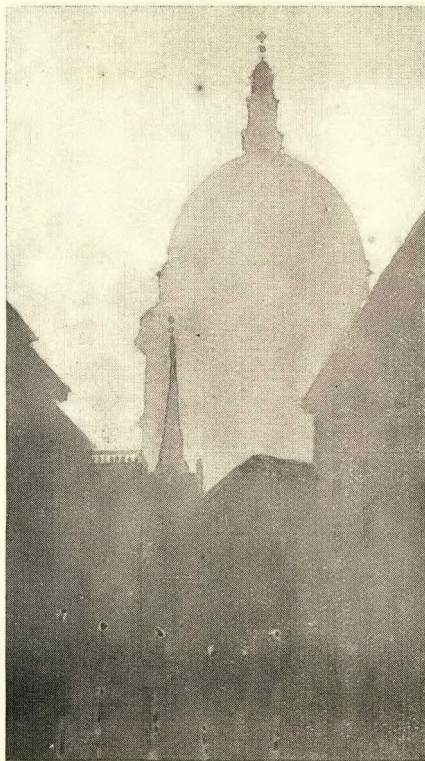
There is an effort on the part of some surveyors to introduce the Home system of taking out quantities and producing a bill, especially those who have been out but a few years. Those of us who have come from the Old Country know how keen competition has become there, rendering life a curse to so many. The thinking section of the profession knowing the evils that arise from such a system, are determined to fight against such introduction, and that is one reason why the standard system of measuring prepared by the Quantity Surveyors' Institute has only been accepted temporarily by the Association of Transvaal Architects, until a better can be prepared, for it needs the pruning knife. That it should have been endorsed by the P.W.D. is not surprising when we learn that so many of the Council are in that particular Government Department.

I do not think there is anything further to say in reference to your correspondents' letters, to argue about the facts in my article would be a waste of your valuable space.

I am, etc.,

PROFESSIONAL.





The Imposing Dome of St. Paul's  
from a side street



Clock Tower, St. Paul's  
Sir Christopher Wren, Architect





Pencil Study of St. Peter's. Rome, shewing Cupola and Rear.



Lantern on Cupola, St. Peter's—Michael Angelo, Architect.



# The Association of Transvaal Architects.

## Annual Meeting.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Association of Transvaal Architects was held at Winchester House, Johannesburg, 28th February, 1917. About 25 members were present.

After the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting had been confirmed, the Annual Account and Balance Sheet was confirmed and unanimously adopted.

### ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report was adopted. It reads as follows:—

Your Council has pleasure in submitted the Seventh Annual Report of the Association's proceedings, and to submit the usual Statement of Accounts, which latter has been duly audited.

### COUNCIL MEETINGS.

During the period under review eighteen meetings of the Council have been held, and numerous meetings of special Committees, as later detailed. The record of attendances of the Council meetings is given in the appendices to this report.

### MEMBERSHIP

There are at present 169 members on the register of the Association, 117 of whom are practising architects and 52 are in salaried employment.

The Council regrets to report that during the year the deaths have occurred of the following members:—A. E. Duguid, R. N. Hodder, A. M. de Witt. Obituary notices have appeared in reference to each in the Association's Journal.

During the year there were six applicants for registration, five of which were successful, the successful applicants having been:—J. W. Small, Cyril Reid, and G. Moerdijk, of Johannesburg; Arthur H. Reid and W. J. Delbridge, of Capetown.

### DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES.

During the year the Association was officially represented on various bodies as follows:—

- (1) Johannesburg University Committee: E. H. Waugh.
- (2) Afforestation Committee, Pretoria: Walter Reid.
- (3) Master Builders' Congress, Capetown: J. M. Solomon.
- (4) Architectural Classes Visiting Committee (S.A. School of Mines): Messrs. R. Howden, J. M. Solomon, D. I. Lewis.
- (5) Proposed Architects' Act for S.A. ("Registration" Committee): H. G. Veale, E. M. Powers, R. Howden, M. J. Harris.

### COMPETITIONS.

Your Council has exercised its vigilance in regard to the matter of Architectural Competitions. Several competitions have been promoted by various public bodies during the year and the Conditions have been considered by your Council in every case. Among them were those for the Ladysmith Town Hall Additions, Muizenberg Bathing Pavilion, and the Bloemfontein Market Square Lay-out. On all occasions when the erection of a public building has been contemplated your Council has continued the policy of its predecessors by recommending the holding of a public architectural competition. It is felt that there would be greater inducement to put to the design of public buildings to competition if the expenses therewith could in some cases be reduced, and after consideration your President and Council agreed that for work the estimated cost of which

does not exceed £2,000, the President or his nominee will consent to act as Assessor, without fee, provided the designs are forwarded to the Association's Headquarters, or, alternatively, the travelling expenses of the Assessor be paid.

Through the instrumentality of your President, the Council has been successful in advising the holding of an open competition for the proposed Wesleyan Hall at Johannesburg, and was asked to suggest members from whom choice could be made for the position of Assessor. Four names were submitted by your Council and the choice of the Wesleyan Hall authorities is expected shortly.

Careful consideration was given to the question of asking for open competition for the following semi-public buildings (i.e., appertaining to only a section of the public):—The Y.W.C.A. Building, St. Mary's Church, both to be erected at Johannesburg. Information was received in each case that the work had been entrusted to registered architects, and in the circumstances it was not deemed advisable to further press for competition.

Letters have passed from your Council to the Cape University Authorities in regard to the advisability of holding an Architectural Competition for the New University Buildings. The University Authorities have not replied. Reports have appeared in the Press that the work has been entrusted to a registered member of this Association, but your Council considers that inasmuch as the University is a State institution, the architects of the Union were entitled to more favourable consideration. Both in the interests of the public and in the interests of architectural development in South Africa, the Council has felt justified in continuing to press the University Authorities for their reply, and considers that the Association should carry on this endeavour so as to minimise the possibility of the University's action being regarded as a just and proper precedent.

The President sent a letter to the Australian Commonwealth Government, urging that the competition for their Federal Government Buildings at Canberra should be postponed. This has now been done till after the war.

In November, 1916, your Council addressed a letter to the Municipal Council of Johannesburg, conveying a representation of its views as to the lay-out of the square westward of the Town Hall. Your Council urged the advisability of dealing with the lay-out in a comprehensive treatment which should be of monumental character, and recommended the holding of a competition for the purpose of eliciting thought upon the matter by those most competent to mould so important a scheme. It is, however, not probable that any step will be taken in this matter by the Municipal authorities during the continuance of the present War.

### JOURNAL.

A journal of the Association has been successfully launched, and it is felt that, as a result, members have been placed in closer touch with one another and with all movements affecting the progress of architecture in South Africa. Four issues have been published, and owing to the success of the advertising portion all four issues have resulted in a small profit. Your Council had voted a subsidy to the Journal, but, fortunately this has so far not been required. The Journal Committee, whose responsibilities include the obtaining of necessary literary matter, would be grateful to members and others for articles or correspondence of interest. It is desired that the Journal shall always represent contemporary architectural ability in South Africa as well as the highest interest of the profession. The



first four issues have been printed in Capetown, but owing to inconveniences experienced in consequence of the distance from Headquarters, it has been decided that further editions be published in Johannesburg, although by so doing the cost of publication will be slightly increased.

For the first three issues the editorship was in the able hands of Mr. J. M. Solomon, who thereafter resigned. It had been proposed that the Journal follow the precedent set by the R.I.B.A. Journal, wherein every article is signed by the contributor, either by name or under a *nom de plume*. Mr. Solomon did not see his way, as Editor, to accept the probable effects of this policy. The Journal Committee then elected as Editor Mr. E. H. Waugh, who had been acting as Assistant Editor, and Mr. M. J. Harris as Assistant in place of Mr. Waugh.

#### BRAAMFONTEIN CO. AND ITS LISTED ARCHITECTS

During the year your Council was called upon to consider the inconvenience occasioned to members of the profession by the regulations of the Braamfontein Company, which owns large townships in the Northern suburbs of Johannesburg. These regulations have provided that, where buildings are to be erected under loans obtained from the Company, only certain listed architects can undertake the design, specification and supervision of such buildings. The Company has declined to increase that list to include all registered architects unless this Association is prepared to financially guarantee the integrity and professional capability of every registered member. Three members of your Council, viz., Messrs. E. H. Waugh, D. Ivor Lewis and McCubbin, were deputed to wait upon the Chairman and Secretary of the Company. The first interview resulted in a misunderstanding, each side leaving with a different impression as to the arrangement arrived at. Your President then obtained a further interview with the Company's officers, the result of which can be most satisfactorily detailed by quoting the following extract from the Company's letter under date of February 9th, 1917:—

“Where a purchaser of land approaches the Company for a building loan and suggests that he would like to employ an architect who is not on the Company's list, we will be willing to inform him that, although we cannot recognise such architect, we would offer no objection to the latter collaborating with an architect who is on our list, such listed architect to be selected by the borrower or his architect, and the name submitted by the borrower to the Company.

“Such listed architect would be required to sign the plans and specifications as providing a satisfactory job, to be present at opening of tenders and to carry on a continuous supervision of the work and sign certificates for payment by the Company. He would have to accept full responsibility to the Company as architect for the plans and specifications and the proper execution and completion of the work. The Company would not be prepared to accept any statement or certificate from, or deal with, an unlisted architect in any way.

“Of course, neither the borrower nor the Company can be expected to bear any extra expense in such a case, it would simply mean that the unlisted architect would have to make his own arrangement with regard to the sharing of fees, etc., with the listed architect.”

Your Council believes that this understanding due mainly

to the perseverance of the President, is the most satisfactory that can under the circumstances be arrived at, and further believes that members of the profession will appreciate the advance which this understanding constitutes upon the previous position.

#### PRACTICE COMMITTEE.

Your Council has constituted a Practice Committee for the purpose of dealing with all matters affecting practice in architecture. Though quite recently inaugurated this Committee has done useful work in connection with the reporting of current law cases, reporting upon competitions, etc. It is hoped that the incoming Council will continue the existence of the Practice Committee and encourage members and others to forward, through the Registrar, information of interest bearing upon questions of practice. Your President, with Mr. Sinclair, recently visited Pretoria, with a view to extending the province of the Practice Committee, where they met several members and a committee comprising Messrs. McIntosh, Cowin and De Zwaan, was formed with power to add to their members. This Committee will be able to attend to matters affecting the Pretoria District.

It is satisfactory to note that at the request of the Practice Committee, the acting Chief Magistrate of the Witwatersrand has promised to advise the Council of any cases set down for hearing that deal with the architectural profession. In the past some important cases dealing with professional interests have been heard without the knowledge of your Council, and it was with a view to obviating this recurring in the future that the Magistrate was approached. On hearing that such a case is about to be tried, the Practice Committee will appoint a member to attend the hearing and, if necessary, will obtain a copy of the record.

The Practice Committee is represented by members of the profession in the following towns:—Johannesburg, Pretoria, Germiston, Boksburg, Middelburg, Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp, Benoni, Pietersburg, Volksrust, Krugersdorp, Zastron.

#### JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPAL BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

Your Council has constituted a Committee for the purpose of considering suggested amendments to the Johannesburg Municipal Buildings Bye-laws. This Committee has decided, with the confirmation of your Council, upon fifteen suggested amendments, which will be submitted in due course to the Municipal Council.

#### BENEVOLENT FUND.

At your last Annual Meeting the members voted a sum of £100 as a donation to the Benevolent Fund, to be paid as soon as funds became available. The Trustees of this Fund are Messrs. E. H. Waugh, Walter Reid and H. G. Veale.

During the year the Trustees paid an amount of £20 for the benefit of two sons of an architect who died in straitened circumstances. A generous donation has been made to the fund by Mr. W. H. Stucke, who has given the sum of £100. The financial position of the Fund is as follows:—

To Cheque ... ..	£20 0 0	By Balance at Bank	
„ Balance at Bank		1/1/16 ... ..	£115 5 0
31/12/16 ... ..	195 5 0	„ Donation from	
		Mr. Stucke ... ..	100 0 0
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£215 5 0		£215 5 0



## DRAFT UNION ACT, ETC.

## SHOP FRONT FITTERS

A conference of Transvaal Architects was held under theegis of this Association in June last. Your President occupied the chair, and Mr. Delbridge, President of the Cape Institute of Architects, delivered an address on "Professional Organisation in South Africa." Discussion ensued thereafter, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the conference:—

- (a) "This meeting expresses its confidence in the Registration Committee recently appointed by the Association of Transvaal Architects, and considers that the Registration Committees appointed by the various centres constitute the proper body to act on behalf of the united profession in South Africa.
- (b) "That this meeting affirms its sympathy with the proposal to preserve the identity of the existing South African Architectural Societies for local purposes, but to affiliate the said Societies with a new organisation, namely, the South African Institute of Architects, to deal with broader questions."

These resolutions having been assented to by the representatives of the Association at the Conference, are now reported, and at this Annual General Meeting you will be asked to confirm them.

Your Council has made every effort to carry the proposed Architects' Act for South Africa to final issue, and for this purpose has been in constant communication with the Cape Institute of Architects. Eventually, in December last, the following letter was received from the Cape Institute:—

The Secretary,

Association of Transvaal Architects,  
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

re Private Bill for Registration of Architects throughout  
the S.A. Union.

"I am directed by my Council to forward herewith a copy of letter received from Messrs. Trollip & Co., Parliamentary Agents, advising that the approximate cost of the proposed Bill without opposition will be £800. With opposition it would possibly be much more.

"My Council deem it wise to budget for an expenditure of one thousand pounds.

"Of this sum the Cape Institute of Architects is willing to find their due proportion according to membership, but before taking any further action would be glad to have undertakings from the other Societies concerned that they are prepared to do likewise.

"The consideration of this matter by your Society at the earliest possible date is suggested, and it is requested that my Council be advised as early as possible of your decision."

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd. T. A. DALGLEISH, Secretary.

In reply your Council expressed the opinion that the several bodies of architects concerned should agree upon a common basis for the proposed Act before they could be asked to commit themselves to the expenses suggested, and a copy of the Bill—as now proposed to be promoted by the Cape Institute—was therefore desired. A reply to this letter has not yet been received.

From various cases reported to the Council it appeared that certain firms of shop front fitters were encroaching on the province of architects' practice, and after some correspondence a conference was held between your Council and a deputation from the Master Builders' Association. A lengthy discussion took place, in which further issues of far reaching import were unexpectedly brought to light, and the meeting adjourned with the understanding that these issues are to be further discussed with a view to arriving at an understanding which shall be satisfactory to all the interests concerned. Among points raised were further encroachment by speculative builders, estate agents, etc., upon the legitimate province of the architect, the standard rate of wages, and the question of coloured artisans for skilled work on buildings.

## THE WAR.

Your Council has resolved that all members on Active Service, or engaged on war work, shall be exempted from subscription to this Association during the period of such work or service.

So far as your Council is aware, the following members of this Association are or have been on Active Service:—

Adams, J., Parker Buildings, Market Street, Johannesburg.  
Bevan, G. A., P.O. Box 2270, Johannesburg.  
Clayton, H., P.O. Box 4282, Johannesburg.  
Darling, W. H., P.O. Box 153, Benoni.  
Dixon, G. A. H., P.O. Box 1603, Johannesburg.  
Dowsett, S. C., P.O. Box 1049, Johannesburg.  
Eagle, P., Public Works Department, Pretoria.  
Filtness, J., P.O. Box 120, Capetown.  
Fitzgerald, G. E., P.O. Box 2206, Johannesburg.  
Hamilton, A. T. R., Public Works Department, Pretoria.  
Hossack, I. A., Public Works Department, Pretoria.  
Howden, R., P.O. Box 2366, Johannesburg.  
Leith, G. E. G., 81, National Bank Buildings, Johannesburg.  
Lewis, D. I., P.O. Box 667, Johannesburg.  
Parker, F., c/o A. W. Parker, Ferreira Deep G.M.  
Pearse, G., P.O. Box 2527, Johannesburg.  
Ritchie, A. Macgregor, P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg.  
Small, C., P.W.D., New Law Courts, Johannesburg.  
Stewart, W. R., P.O. Box 162, Krugersdorp.

The foregoing list may be incomplete owing to the neglect of members to forward the necessary information to the Registrar. The Council proposes to frame a Roll of Honour when all steps have been taken to ensure its completeness, and for this purpose members are strongly urged to send the necessary information as soon as possible.

Mr. D. A. McCubbin, your Vice-President and President-elect, is to be congratulated on the great achievement by his son, who is a member of the Imperial Aviation Corps. Mr. McCubbin, junr., brought down the famous German airman, Immelman. His daring exploit resulted in his being badly wounded in the arm, but happily he is now reported to be out of danger.

## SEYMOUR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

At your last Annual Meeting a donation of twenty guineas was voted to the Seymour Memorial Library. This amount appears as a liability in the Annual Statement of Accounts, the amount not having been paid owing to the Library authorities not having arrived at an understanding with your Council as to the allocation of the money.



## ARCHITECTURAL CLASSES AT S.A. SCHOOL OF MINES.

Prizes to the value of ten guineas were offered by your Association in connection with the Architectural Classes conducted at the S.A. School of Mines, Johannesburg.

The Council, mindful of its duty constantly to endeavour to advance architecture as an art, is hopeful that more may be done in the future. The Journal is indeed regarded as a good foundation, but the efficiency of this and every effort towards architectural progress depends primarily upon the initiative, lively interest of members. The time and energies of the Council alone are limited and inadequate for the proper handling and constant consideration of this most important side of the Association's work. The retiring Council earnestly commend this view to their successors and to the members generally.

## DIPLOMAS

Diplomas were presented to the following members registered during the year:—Messrs. John W. Small, Arthur H. Reid, W. J. Delbridge, G. Moerdijk, and Cyril W. Reid.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The retiring President, Mr. E. H. Waugh, read an address (appearing elsewhere) to the members, which was warmly appreciated.

## NEW COUNCIL.

The following were then elected to form the Council for the year 1917:—President: D. A. McCubbin; Vice-Presidents, D. Ivor Lewis and M. J. Harris; Council: D. M. Burton, F. L. H. Fleming, E. M. Powers, E. H. Waugh, P. J. Hill, R. Howden, D. M. Sinclair, J. E. Harrison, W. J. de Zwaan.

The resolutions in favour of a S.A. Institute of Architects, taken at a Special General Meeting of members, held 28th June, 1916, and set out in the Annual Report under "Draft Union Act," marked "a" and "b," were then placed before the meeting and carried unanimously.

The matter of enemy subject members of the Association was then discussed, and it was unanimously resolved that, in the event of there being any such on the register, steps be taken to have their names removed therefrom.

The advisability of retaining the Board Room for meetings of the Association was discussed, and in view of the large sum which had to be paid annually as office rent, it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the incoming Council for consideration.

The question of arrear subscriptions was reviewed, and after several of the members had expressed their views on the subject, it was decided to give instructions to the incoming Council to sue in all cases of non-payment of subscriptions.

The photos of old Cape buildings in the Board Room were the subject of some animated remarks, and it was decided to eliminate any that were of insufficient architectural merit.

The Trustees of the Architects' Benevolent Fund reported that during the year assistance had been given to the two sons of an architect who had died in poor circumstances. The Fund, which was originally started by a donation of £100 from Mr. Herbert Baker, had benefitted during the year to the extent of a further £100, owing to the generosity of Mr. W. H. Stucke. Heartly thanks were accorded to him by the meeting.

In concluding the meeting, the Editor of the Association's Journal asked for contributions in writing or drawings, as at times it was difficult to obtain suitable matter for publication.

## Garden Suburbs in Australia.

Some time ago the State Parliament of New South Wales provided for £500,000 for laying a model garden village, known as "Daceyville." Subsequently the amount was temporarily reduced to £75,000.

The proposed suburb took its name from the Hon. J. R. Dacey, the late Colonial Treasurer, and is situated in the Municipalities of Mascot and Botany.

The scheme sets out to lease the model villas at 4 per cent. per annum on the capital for a term not exceeding seven years plus usual running expenses and a small amount for sinking fund.

No person might—as an alternative—buy more than one house with  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre, and he must buy it for his own home, and he must be 21 years of age.

The site is 336 acres in extent, probably somewhere about the size of Berea and half of Yeoville.

From the junction of Bunnerong and Gardiner's Roads as a main entrance or portal and a "radial" centre, four main avenues radiate. At this portal is a park space, with trees, garden plots and a space for an arch or statue.

The main avenue—Banks Avenue—is over a mile long and 100 feet in width—the size of Collins, Flinders and Bourke Streets, the main streets of Melbourne, and 30 feet wider than our own Commissioner Street.

This main avenue follows the ground contours, and is relieved by flanking gardens  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the portal. It debouches into a large oval space which will contain public buildings and concentrate the business around itself.

These four main avenues are (1) primary roads, 100 feet wide, and there are (2) secondary roads, 66 feet wide or 16 feet wider than Johannesburg's secondary roads.

There are no lanes in the residential streets, but there are access lanes in the business quarters.

Each cottage will be in brick with 45 feet frontage of land, costing £482 each, including land with bricks at £2 15s. per thousand.

Provision is made for public buildings, including a picture show, a school of arts and two hospitals—one for spinsters and one for bachelors, and public dispensaries, band-stands, and sports ground, drill grounds, children's own playgrounds in various parts, swimming baths and public gymnasias.

Each house will have parlour, living room and kitchen in one, 2 bedrooms, bathroom and wash-house, pantry, linen-presses, etc., and will have a fair piece of land.

When complete the suburb will have cost £877,300, i.e., 1,437 cottages and 40 shops and roads, etc., as follows:—Land, £21,840; roads, etc., £105,000; buildings, £750,500.

The cottages and shops will bring in 15s. and 30s. per week respectively, giving a revenue of £59,163 per annum, or 6·7 per cent. on outlay. 200 cottages will be put up each year.

Such a scheme is only one of several proposed of late in Australia, where garden suburb planning is much in advance of anything thought of here. The suburb will be an attractive place when completed, and may give an illustration for a sympathetic movement in this country.

E. W.



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