



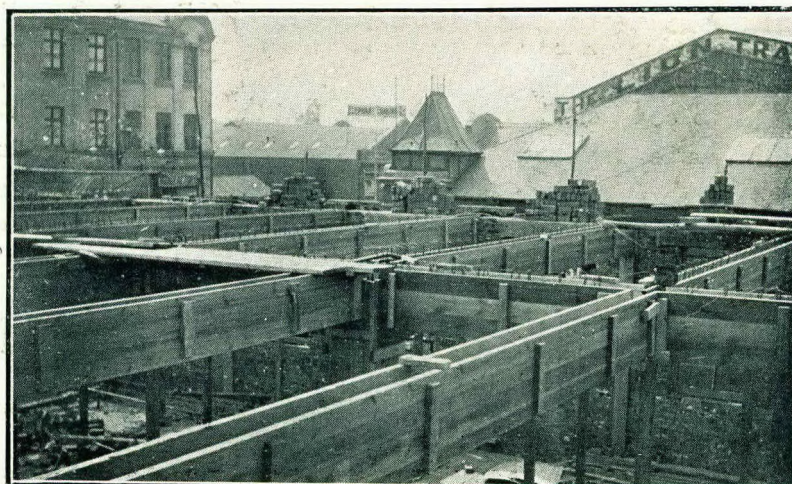
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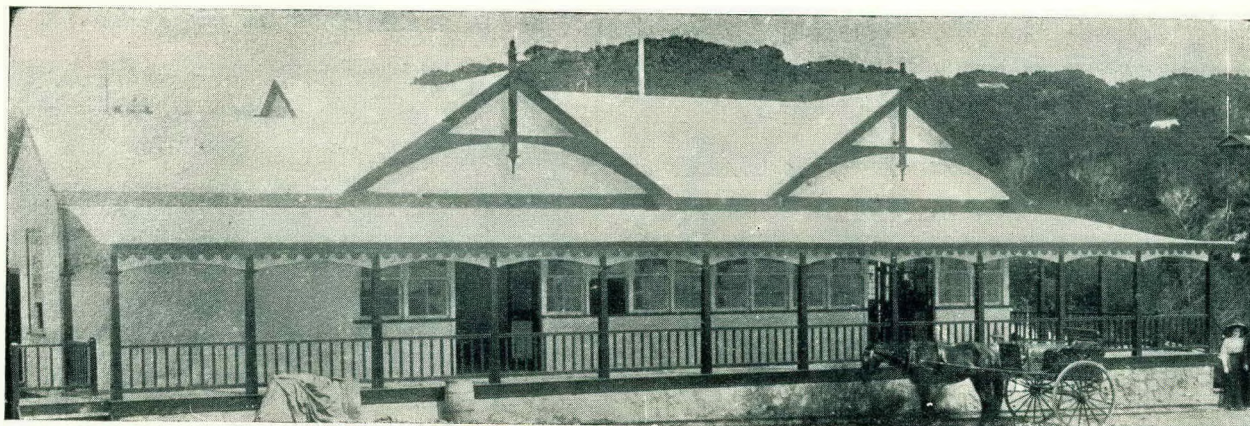
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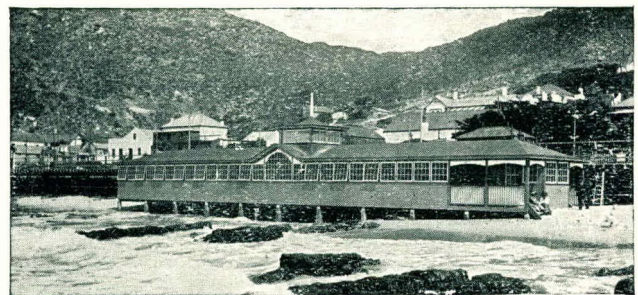
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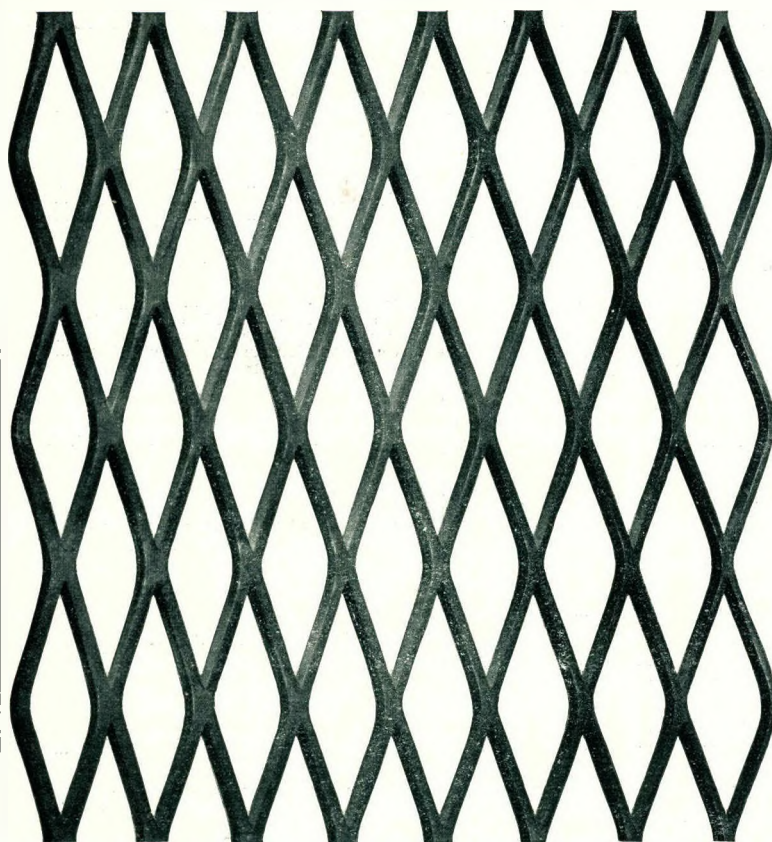
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The Maison du Roi

faces, from the opposite side of the Market Square, the Hotel de Ville, and is a comparatively new building, having been erected in 1873-96. The French name recalls the period when the Court officials had their seat here. The ground floor and first floor are now occupied by the Municipal authorities, and the second floor contains a collection of municipal antiquities. Counts Egmont and Hoorn passed the night here previous to their execution, and are said to have been conveyed directly from the balcony to the fatal block by means of scaffolding, in order to prevent the possibility of a rescue by the populace.

The Brandenburger Gate, Berlin,

stands at the one end of the famous Berlin thoroughfare Unter den Linden, which is to Berlin what Piccadilly is to London, and forms the entrance to the town from the Tiergarten. The Brandenburger Gate was erected in 1789-93 in imitation of the Propylæ at Athens, and has five different passages separated by massive doric columns and flanked by handsome

open colonnades for foot passengers. Surmounting the Brandenburger Gate is a bronze figure of Victory standing in a chariot driving four horses, which since its recovery from Napoleon is placed driving into the city. It is to be presumed that the French Army will also make a strenuous effort to restore this to France. Our photograph shows one of the Kaiser's crack regiments passing through the Gate. Brandenburger Gate is 201 feet broad and 65 feet in height. The twelve columns are each 44 feet high. The Quadriga of Victory was taken by Napoleon to Paris in 1807, and it was brought back by the Prussian Army in 1814.

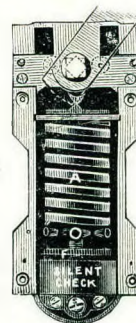
The Emperor Frederick's Mausoleum, at Charlottenburg.

The figures represent and are in memory of Queen Louisa and her husband, Frederick William Third, together with their second son, Emperor William First, who died in 1888, and the Empress Augusta, who died in 1890. The recumbent figures executed in marble are strikingly handsome. The beautiful figure of the Queen Louisa was executed at Carrara and Rome in 1812-13, were placed in the Mausoleum in 1815, and at once established the fame of the sculptor Rauch. The wonderful lighting effect through the pale blue tinted glass from the roof of the Dome lends to the interior of the Mausoleum a singularly impressive and sombre aspect. The Duke of Hamilton's in Scotland and this mausoleum are the two finest in the world.

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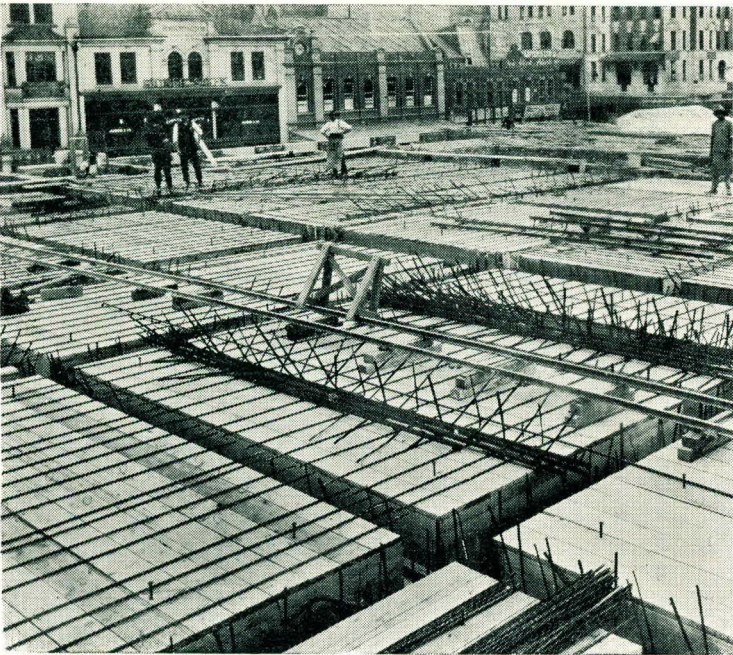
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A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS
OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION
IN SOUTH AFRICA

PROPRIETOR AND RESPONSIBLE EDITOR

JAS. T. BROWN

VOL. 4. No. 3.

AUGUST 1914.

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WAR AND ARCHITECTURE.

Since last issue of this Journal events of world-wide importance have largely displaced our interest in every-day trade and professional concerns; as indeed they have entirely displaced all other sectional concerns in every part of Britain's Empire. War has broken out on a scale unprecedented in history, and Great Britain—last and most reluctant to relinquish the blessings of peace—has been compelled, by the most solemn of obligations, to draw the sword. The dear motherland of liberty to-day calls upon her sons to defend a small sister nation from the grasp of the mightiest militarism of our time.

In this hour of national crisis, when the foundations of moral right upon which civilisation has been built are menaced by the forces of cynical might, every man of our calling who is within the military age will, we venture to say, be found ready and willing to serve wherever and whenever opportunity may offer. Architects, necessarily students of history, know how much of the world's progress in liberty and intellectual enlightenment is due to British tradition and influence. Seven hundred years of steadily expanding popular freedom, of sanctuary for the high-minded oppressed of other countries, and of chivalrous self-sacrifice for great ideals, constitute an inheritance which should nerve the weakest arm. With such inspiration to the race which, even to-day, can produce heroes such as Capt. Scott and his comrades of the recent ill-fated Antarctic Expedition, there is no room for doubt as to its ultimate achievement—however difficult—of victory in the cause of civilisation and humanity.

We are accustomed to regard Architecture as essentially one of the arts of peace. In its origin it was not so. Some of the earliest architectural remains are from the sculptured gateways and walls of ancient fortified cities, and down to almost modern times the greatest architects have designed castles and fortifications. Military architecture may be said to have ceased upon the invention and improvement of firearms and artillery, when it was found that heaped earth or sand constituted the most effective protection from bullet and shell, while masonry or similarly dense material merely added to the danger when attacked. Tradition dies hard, and most of the castles of Europe were battered into ruins before the efficiency of the new weapons was fully understood. Those castles, such as that at Windsor, which are to-day occupied as residences, were mostly "restored" as lately as the latter half of the last century; the architects generally—with wisdom—restoring the expressive outer shape and skyline of the structures, but fenestrating the walls, and remodelling the interior, in the style of the period immediately following the downfall of the castles—in England the period of the Tudors.

Going further back than the Tudor period in architecture, it is comforting, in these times of war and stress, to find that the period of the Crusades was marked by the rise of Gothic architecture in Europe; nay, further, that every great war has been marked by a re-invigoration of national thought and intellect. Perhaps the theorists are wrong in an over-emphasis of the destructive character of war. The effete philosophies of decadent civilisations, such as those of Greece and Rome at their overthrow, must disappear under its touch; they, too, had their apostles of the false and immoral, as we (fortunately in almost negligible proportion) have to-day, in the extremes of slavish uninspiring copyism and freak originalities in architecture, in "post futurism" absurdities in art, and in neurotic tendencies in literature. War, for all its regrettable aspects, will sweep away these follies and banalities as with cleansing fires.

Practitioners of an art which owes so much to classic tradition will remember that Janus, the ancient Latin god of beginnings, the gates of whose temple were closed during peace and always open during war, was depicted in Roman times as a two-headed deity with bearded faces looking opposite ways. The dual aspect of war might thus have been symbolised. For those of us who can take no direct part in furthering our country's success in the present struggle, there is the indirect service of maintaining those dependents who have been left behind. In that task we shall be required to maintain the useful and vital occupations of our country. In that task we shall be heartened by—Janus-like—looking backward as well as forward, in finding our encouragement as to the future by a confidence derived from the lessons of the historic past.

WORKMEN'S HOUSES AND MODEL DWELLINGS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

BY J. M. SOLOMON.

**Being a Paper read at the Imperial Health Conference and Exhibition held
under the auspices of the Victoria League at the Imperial Institute,
London, May, 1914.**

Mr. J. M. Solomon's paper was as follows:—

South Africa cannot claim to have given any considerable attention to the problem of housing her working classes.

The conditions which have prevailed for many years have been by no means satisfactory, but the fact that the industrial population is confined to one or two important areas makes the problem, on the whole, a comparatively simple one. That it has never become accentuated is due in a large measure to the wonderful climatic conditions of the country, which alters the entire aspect of the problem as understood in England.

For three parts of the year it is possible continuously to be out of doors in equable weather without the extremes of heat and cold which are encountered in the Mother Country; furthermore, the small white population which the country carries has, up to the present, prevented the evils of overcrowding.

The problem therefore resolves itself into one which depends for its successful solution upon the orderly planning around open spaces of the houses which are built in the industrial centres.

Until recent years little or no attention has been given to this. The country up to the present has depended almost entirely for its industries upon its mines. The rapidity of growth of the mining centres, which required a large working population housed without any delay, resulted in the erection of a great number of square soulless rooms set side by side in a row backing on to a similar row with a narrow unpaved stoep running in front of each.

Though economical in space and material, there is nothing wholesome or agreeable in such a plan, and there can be little doubt that a great deal of the disease with which the vast mining population of the Witwatersrand was at one time affected was indirectly aggravated by the conditions under which the workers lived. Pure air, so essential to mining men during their sleeping hours, was impossible owing to the lack of cross ventilation in these rooms. This arrangement was born of the idea that the mines would soon be worked out, and under that impression the older mining companies built what were intended to be only temporary shelters.

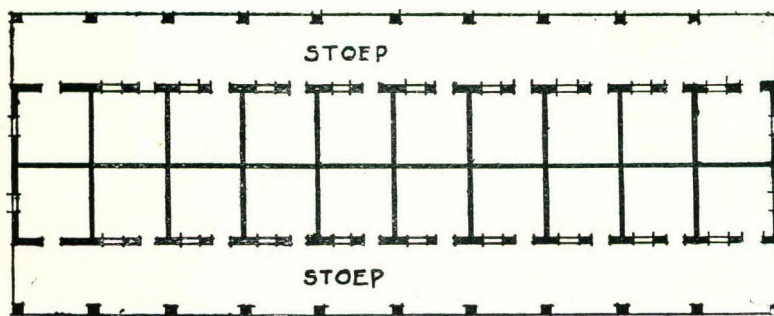
As time went on and the industry flourished the entire population was so engrossed in its material progress that little or no attention was given to the conditions under which the workman was living, and the workman himself, gambling with his life, desired to spend as little as possible on his actual living, whilst he squandered his high wages on the riotous existence, which seems invariably to be the adjunct of the development of mining areas.

Little care was devoted to these barrack-like structures, the aspect of which was monotonous and dreary in the extreme. As dwellings for the single men on the mines they were equally disagreeable from within and without.

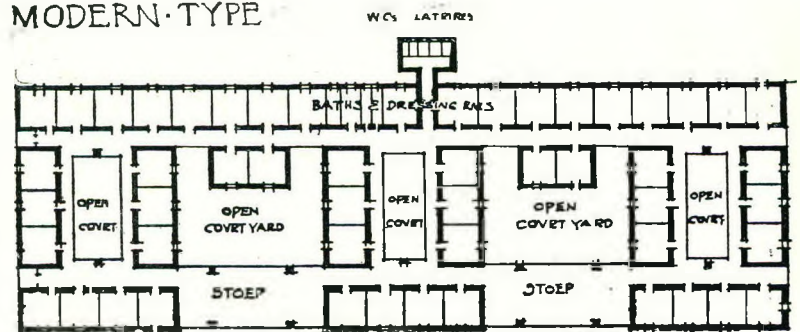
When greater confidence began to grow in the life of the mines and the captains of the industry began to realise that better results would be obtained from the workmen if more care was given to the conditions under which they lived, attempts were made on the more modern mines to correct these evils by a different arrangement of the rooms, so disposed as to secure perfect cross ventilation and to obtain greater interest by grouping the rooms around grass courts. Many of the mining companies called in Mr. Herbert Baker, South Africa's eminent architect, and obtained his assistance in developing their various schemes.

With the single men's quarters he brought about a radical change.

OLD TYPE



MODERN TYPE



He gathered the stoep space into large covered areas, forming an open-air lounge, giving shelter or protection from the wind and sun, and providing a ready means of convenient sociability amongst the men.

The rooms were grouped in blocks of fifty, provided with lavatory and bath accommodation centrally placed, with drying rooms, showers, and heating rooms for ample hot water supply.

The cost of this improved type was found to be little greater than the old-fashioned plan, and it soon became apparent that slightly increased capital expenditure was fully justified by the results.

With the advent of these new dwellings the squalor and filth in which this important section of the community spent its daily existence began to disappear, and the mining companies, realising the value of the greater contentment and health of the workmen, decided to develop their schemes on wider lines.

The number of miners employed began to increase, and with the more settled state of the community the men married. Those who had left their wives in England when emigrating were encouraged to have them brought out.

In 1911 the total number of white workmen on the various groups of the Witwatersrand reached its highest, and accommodation had to be found for 24,708 men. To these numbers were added the wives and children of the men who had married. The necessity of married quarters had already become apparent. On several of the groups housing accommodation had been provided for married men, but no attempt was made to plan these rapidly increasing areas with any thought for the future. When, however, it became evident to the companies that better results were to be obtained from the men if they could be kept out of Johannesburg, every effort was made to provide means of recreation for them nearer their quarters on the mines.

Billiard-rooms, reading-rooms, libraries, and dining-rooms were added, where the miners might find wholesome amusement after the day's toil was over.

The houses began to be laid out in small villages with ample ground for gardening and open spaces for the children's playground. The most important of these villages is "The Hill" Township, situated on a block of land possessing exceptional advantages as a site for an urban settlement.

It is in close proximity to several of the mines, but just beyond the dust of the dumps and the roar of the battery stamps. The ground has a gradual slope and a northern exposure which, in South Africa, is the most satisfactory. This enables every house to open its windows to the north. The "kopje," or hill, on the south acts for the houses below as a cloak, sheltering them in the winter against the cold winds. On this land the City Deep Gold Mining Company, Ltd., has erected forty cottages. The land is freehold, and is within easy access of several mines.

The cottages are built on plots one-third of an acre in extent, and are supplied with electric light, hot and cold water. The streets are wide, and have been planted with avenues of trees, and the Government has built a school for the education of the children of the miners.

The village has not yet been proclaimed a township by the Government, but immediately this has been done, the company intends to sell the cottages in freehold to the miners, at cost price. The amount will be payable in instalments over a period of twelve years, carrying interest at the rate of 5 per cent.

The conditions inserted in the deed of sale have been arrived at in discussion between the chairman of the company and the employees. The intention has been to attract and keep good workmen. It is provided, moreover, that should a workman, after having decided to purchase, leave the employment of the company, his purchase of the cottage shall not be interfered with.

On the property of the Crown Mines, Ltd., the houses have been grouped in various types, and planned around parks on the shore of a small lake which affords opportunity for yachting.

The Village Deep Gold Mining Company has planned its houses around central recreation grounds.

The various plans of model villages on the Witwatersrand of the Transvaal, which are shown in the Victoria League Exhibition, will best indicate the efforts made in South Africa for the adequate housing of the only large section of its industrial population.

Much, however, remains to be done.

The difficulties in the way of more rapid development in the satisfactory housing of the working classes must adjust themselves in the future.

At present the high rate of wages on the Witwatersrand keeps up the high cost of living.

Foodstuffs, however, are only half as much again in South Africa as in England, and only one-sixth more than in the United States of America, but rents are abnormally high throughout the country.

The Report of the Economic Commission in South Africa, issued in January of this year, presents the following tables:—

Index Numbers of Working Class Rents.

Belgium	...	...	...	...	17	Johannesburg	...	...	...	100
France	...	...	...	...	22	South Africa	...	...	...	80
England	...	...	...	...	23	United States of America	...	...	...	47
Germany	...	...	...	...	28	Australia	...	...	...	46
Canada	...	...	...	...	45	New Zealand	...	...	...	46

Index Numbers of Money Wages of Skilled Artisans.

Belgium	20	South Africa	80
United States of America ...	72	Johannesburg	100
Canada	70	England and Wales	31
Australia	60	France	23
New Zealand	58	Germany	26

The predominant cost of working-class housing in England is about 5s. 6d. per room per month, including the kitchen, which is there used as a living room.

The cost in Johannesburg, including the cost of the same local services and including the kitchen, which is seldom so suitable for a living room as in England, is about 24s.

Even, however, allowing for this expense the cost of living as compared with other industrial centres does not account for the high rate of wages in the country, so that the working man in South Africa is distinctly better off than elsewhere.

If, therefore, he be content to live as he is satisfied to do in England or America, he could save a considerable amount of his earnings, which gives him an opportunity to provide himself with a better home. The truth, however, is that the working man in South Africa demands a great deal more from the world than he is content to accept in other countries. The small white population in the country has compelled the white workman to place an exaggerated premium on his services. The entire lack of competition has at times given undue prominence and reward to inefficient artisans, who have taken as a right what circumstance has bestowed upon them.

The future prosperity of the country, however, demands that it shall carry a larger white population, and with it must come greater competition, when the working man will be compelled to reduce his extravagant wants and a more satisfactory standard of living will result.

The advent of this era will necessarily bring with it greater complication of the housing problem unless some attempt is made to prepare for it by an adequate Town Planning Act, which will prevent haphazard building.

South Africa is that most fascinating problem—a country in the making. It lends itself by reason of its wonderful sites and the amenities of its climate, which makes for an open-air social and domestic existence such as older civilisations with similar conditions have enjoyed since time immemorial, to the creation of happy, healthy, and beautiful homes.

The work, however, needs the aid of a far-sighted statesman, who, by planning wisely for the future, will bring comfort to the people, and honour, dignity, and reputation to the country.

ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

Council Meetings.

(Officially Communicated.)

A meeting of the Council of the above Association was held in the Board Room, Winchester House, Johannesburg, at 5 p.m., on Wednesday, the 12th of August, 1914.

Mr. Beardwood, President, occupied the chair, and in addition there were present Messrs. E. H. Waugh, Walter Reid, W. Lucas, E. M. Powers, R. Howden, H. G. Veale, T. Schaerer, and S. C. Dowsett.

The minutes of the previous Council meetings, held on the 8th and 15th of July, 1914, previously circulated, were taken as read, and after discussion were confirmed.

Mr. Veale introduced the subject of the proposed Architects' Benevolent Fund, and after some discussion moved the following proposition:—

Benevolent Fund.

The following proposition by Mr. Veale was read:—

“That a Special General Meeting of members be called for the second Wednesday in September, 1914, at 8 p.m., for the purpose of presenting for their approval a draft Deed of Trust drawn up by our Solicitors appertaining to the Architects' Benevolent Fund.”

After consideration it was decided that a general meeting of members should be held on the second Wednesday in September.

The Registrar intimated that the Association had been asked to nominate two members to the Advisory Board. This Board having been formed on the suggestion of the Minister of Public Works as a consultive body to be at the disposal of the Government in cases of public competitions. It was eventually decided that Messrs. Frank Emley and Walter Reid should represent the Association during the pleasure of the Council.

A proposal of the Government to erect an Art Gallery at Capetown was then considered, it being understood that the work was intended to be done departmentally.

The Registrar stated that the Cape Institute of Architects had formally protested against the proposed action of the Government, this body suggesting that the matter could be referred to the newly-formed Advisory Board.

The Council decided to write to the Minister of Public Works supporting the Cape Institute in its suggestion that an open competition should be held.

A resolution of regret was passed by the Council in connection with the death of Mr. H. H. Snowball, and it was decided that a letter of sympathy should be sent to the late member's relatives.

The Council then entered on a discussion regarding the awarding of prizes to architectural students at the S.A. School of Mines, which eventually resulted in a decision to appeal to all members of the Association. It was further resolved that Messrs. Howden and Veale should be appointed as visitors to the classes for the purpose of watching the interests of the students, and that these appointments should be voted upon at each Annual General Meeting.

On the suggestion of Mr. Waugh, it was resolved that a resolution should be sent to the Prime Minister intimating that this Council gives its loyal support to the Government in the present crisis, and that the Prime Minister be asked to forward a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State.

The meeting extended its good wishes to Mr. Schaerer on the occasion of his forthcoming trip to Europe. Mr. Schaerer replied, and trusted that subject to the will of the German forces he would soon be back from Switzerland.

A further meeting of the Council was held in the Board Room, Winchester House, Johannesburg, on Wednesday, the 26th of August, 1914, at 5 p.m., those present being Mr. J. F. Beardwood (President), Messrs. W. Lucas, R. Howden, Walter Reid and H. G. Veale.

The minutes of the previous meetings having been confirmed, the meeting proceeded to discuss matters relative to the draft Union Act. The fact of the Act having been referred to the Cape Institute of Architects for attention in October last without further result was remarked on with regret, and the Registrar was instructed to ask the Cape Institute what action had been taken in the matter.

The Registrar reported that the following letter has been received from the Secretary to the Prime Minister :—

Prime Minister's Office,
Pretoria,
20th August, 1914.

Sir,

I have the honour by direction to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., and to state in reply that the assurance of loyal support in the present critical juncture is much appreciated by the Government and that your communication will be transmitted as requested.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) W. E. BOK,
Secretary to the Prime Minister.

In connection with the Capetown Art Gallery matter, the Registrar reported that he had received the following letter from the Minister of Public Works :—

Office of the Minister of Public Works,
Pretoria,
21st August, 1914.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour by direction of the Minister of Public Works, to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 17th inst., relative to the proposed Art Gallery at Capetown, and to inform you that the question of holding a public competition is having consideration.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) P. L. LINDUP,
Private Secretary.

The Secretary,
Association of Transvaal Architects,
P.O. Box 2266,
Johannesburg.



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Transvaal Institute of Architects.

Annual General Meeting.

The annual general meeting of this Institute took place on August 27th, Mr. Robert Howden, the retiring President, occupying the chair. Several important matters were discussed in addition to the ordinary routine on such occasions, Mr. D. M. Sinclair, the Institute's energetic hon. treasurer, presenting a satisfactory balance sheet, on which, improving the shining hour, he took the opportunity of making some trenchant remarks as to a possible widening of the Institute's sphere of usefulness. The Secretary, Mr. Cecil Alder, tendered his resignation as from the election of the incoming Council. This was accepted with regret, and a vote embodying the Institute's material recognition of this last of his seven years of excellent service. We make further reference to this matter in another column. The annual elections resulted as follows:—

President: Mr. John Waterson, F.R.I.B.A.

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. Walter Reid and Frank Emley, F.F.R.I.B.A.

Council: Messrs. J. F. Beardwood, M.S.A.; G. Grainger Fleming, Lic.R.I.B.A.; R. Howden, A.R.V.I.A.; D. Ivor Lewis, M.S.A.; J. A. Moffatt, M.S.A.; H. G. Veale, M.S.A.; and W. J. de Zwaare.

Treasurer: Mr. D. M. Sinclair, M.S.A.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. M. J. Harris, M.S.A.

Various communications from the S.A. National Federation of Building Trade Employers, arising out of the recent Master Builders' Congress at Durban, were dealt with as follows:—

(a) P.C. Sums and Builders' Discounts.

It was resolved that while a hard and fast limit of 2½ per cent. cannot be regarded as practicable, this Institute recommends its members to keep P.C. sums in specifications as low as possible.

(b) Unsatisfactory Quantities.

On this matter it was resolved that: "This Institute approves of the proposal to create a standard system of measurement for quantities, and, pending the formulation of a final system for the whole of the Union, recommends its members to conform, as far as possible in view of local conditions, to the system laid down by the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors."

(c) Opening of Priced Schedules.

Resolved hereon that this Institute recognises the confidential nature of the prices stated in contractors' priced schedules of quantities, but considers that same should be retained by the architect with the other important documents.

The Chairman reported that on the eve of Viscount Gladstone's departure for England his Lordship had accepted, with many expressions of goodwill, the Honorary Life Presidentship of this Institute.

Mr. Waterson, the newly-elected President, in a brief speech expressing his thanks for the honour of his election, declared his intention of serving the best interests of the Institute, but warned his hearers that, in view of existing troubled conditions, it might be impossible to show any tangible achievement.

The compliment of hearty thanks accorded to the outgoing President and Council brought the proceedings to a close.

Transvaal Institute of Architects.

Mr. Cecil Alder's Resignation.

We hear with regret that Mr. Cecil Alder has tendered his resignation as secretary of the Transvaal Institute of Architects, the parent body of the Association of Transvaal Architects, Mr. Alder has advised the Institute that in consequence of the great amount of attention he has to devote to the Association he is reluctantly compelled to hand over the secretaryship in order that fresh blood will resuscitate the duties for which this body should be responsible and of which the Association is legally unable to perform.

The Institute has held Mr. Alder in its Council as secretary for some seven years, and as far as we can gather he took over the duties at the time when the Architects Act was about to be drafted. The difficulties and strenuous work connected with the initial stages of drafting a new Act and the tactful methods of steering such an Act through its Parliamentary career can be understood only by those who have experienced such work, and apart from the merits or demerits of the Transvaal Architects Act, the secretarial labour connected with the Act was carried out in a manner highly satisfactory to the promoters.

It is with regret we learn that Mr. Alder has seen fit to resign his post.

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Architectural Training.

The article under the above heading in the "African Architect" number for May (p. vii.) deals with such an important subject that I accept your invitation for discussion, and give my mature views for what they are worth. Neither they nor those of the original writer may be acceptable to those to whom premium and pupil are desiderata.

The first thing is that the aspirant and those responsible for deciding on his life's work should be firmly convinced that for him there is no other calling for which he is better fitted, and that he will give his whole mind to its pursuit for its own sake.

It is not a money-making calling. The prizes are few, and it is already overcrowded. Our Government is no patron of the Arts, and when it does anything on architectural lines it does it in a cheese-paring way. We are "a nation of shopkeepers," and as such do not carry on business in palaces, as they aim at doing in the United States. Nor is costly domestic architecture the way in which the successful merchant usually spends his money. Nor in church buildings do we seek for more than getting so many sittings for so little cost per sitting.

Close application to study is, of course, a primary necessity in the tyro whatever means is adopted for getting a training. There is no trades union system for him, which brackets the mediocre man (except as to fees which the Courts do not recognise) with the efficient practitioner. But hard work alone will rarely suffice. Pupilage, however, may be the nearest

approach to a royal road to success as the world counts success, provided always that the master to whom the lad is apprenticed is "eminent." To have been a pupil of Mr. So-and-so undoubtedly gives a prestige which is not imparted by pupilage with a mediocre man (i.e., as the world counts mediocrity). Such a one may be clever enough, but all the same almost unknown. But his operations are small, and a wide experience cannot be gained in his office, and what is of more importance, gained still less on the work outside. In the best offices the pupil rarely sees enough of the practical side. If he only learns to make pictures, he may get employment for that from a man who has "arrived;" his salary will be small and continuous employment uncertain. In a small office he will be kept at the minor routine, saving the master the salary of an assistant if there is work to do, and after a year and a half or so he makes no progress. The principal cannot spare time, and there is no clever assistant from whom he can gain anything. Under such circumstances it is doubly important that he get the bulk of his training outside at the sacrifice of leisure hours. I judge, therefore, that his earlier years are better spent at a good School of Architecture.

Another reason for my calling pupilage with an "eminent" man valuable is that the big sum paid is a premium for future introductions that bring in work. More attention will be paid to you, your views, and your productions by those at the head of the profession. It is the same in the world of painting.

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It is the artist's name people buy, not the picture per se. There are comparatively few parents or guardians who can pay high premiums or whose children or wards have the other advantage of education at one of the great public schools, where they meet others who later on give them commissions as old college chums. A few other favoured ones who have relatives among church dignitaries are pretty sure of success. But the poor boy will have a hard struggle when the time comes to start practice. There is the heart-breaking competition road it is true he may traverse, and he is lucky if it finds him one decent job in his career. I admit this may lead to another sometimes; and there are rare instances where, towards the age limit, he may be looked on as an expert in one class of buildings.

The winning of an R.I.B.A. scholarship or bursary if he be a fine draughtsman leads to employment with some eminent man, and even to a final partnership. I am afraid that advice to join the A.A. school or one of the other schools in England is not practicable for the S.A. tyro, nor that he should study English architecture practically in situ. I have always regretted I did not belong to the A.A. Being fairly occupied when quite young, I was misadvised it would not then be much use to me. Perhaps, after all, the little time I had to spare was better spent round our

ancient buildings, like as the rough old-time M.D. told the "medico": "My books are the bedsides of patients."

While I give my views honestly, I do not want to be too pessimistic. I admit that I know men who never were trained in an architect's office at all, who by unwonted strenuosity and good luck have got to the very top of the profession. Having practical knowledge acquired at the bench, and by devoting the nights to such "School of Art" advantages as were available some fifty years ago, by passing examinations for Government posts, they have step by step got the highest positions and (by the help, of course, of skilled subordinates) carried out the largest works in the country. Moreover, I have had office boys, promoted to assistants who by dint of night work and self-denial for years worked up for and passed examinations for Government employ, and are now in receipt of good salaries, with future pensions. A pupil without zeal, doing nothing useful after office hours, was of no use after his articles expired.

The movement for ateliers is a wise one. I advocated it some time ago in this Journal, and if a good one should be established in the Union, I advise all students to join it. In the United States the Paris Ecole des Beaux Arts has been the Ultima Thule, and their best students have been sent there for training, but ateliers being now available at home they are largely patronised. Up to now the young men who are back from Paris as architects "Diplômés par le Gouvernement" have had no difficulty in getting employment at salaries of from 40 to 60 dollars a week. Others have set up for themselves, and act also as representatives of bigger men who have work in distant cities too far from their offices to give personal attention to it. They are au fait with French architecture, which is very much the vogue in the Western Hemisphere. I regret to see that this style of work is becoming popular in England, and is receiving laudatory comment from our leading men, who are neglecting to a great extent our national architecture. Even in South Africa I note that highly important buildings are largely of a French type of Renaissance. The writer of your recent article deplores the fact of so much indifferent planning, and it is good planning that is the chief characteristic of

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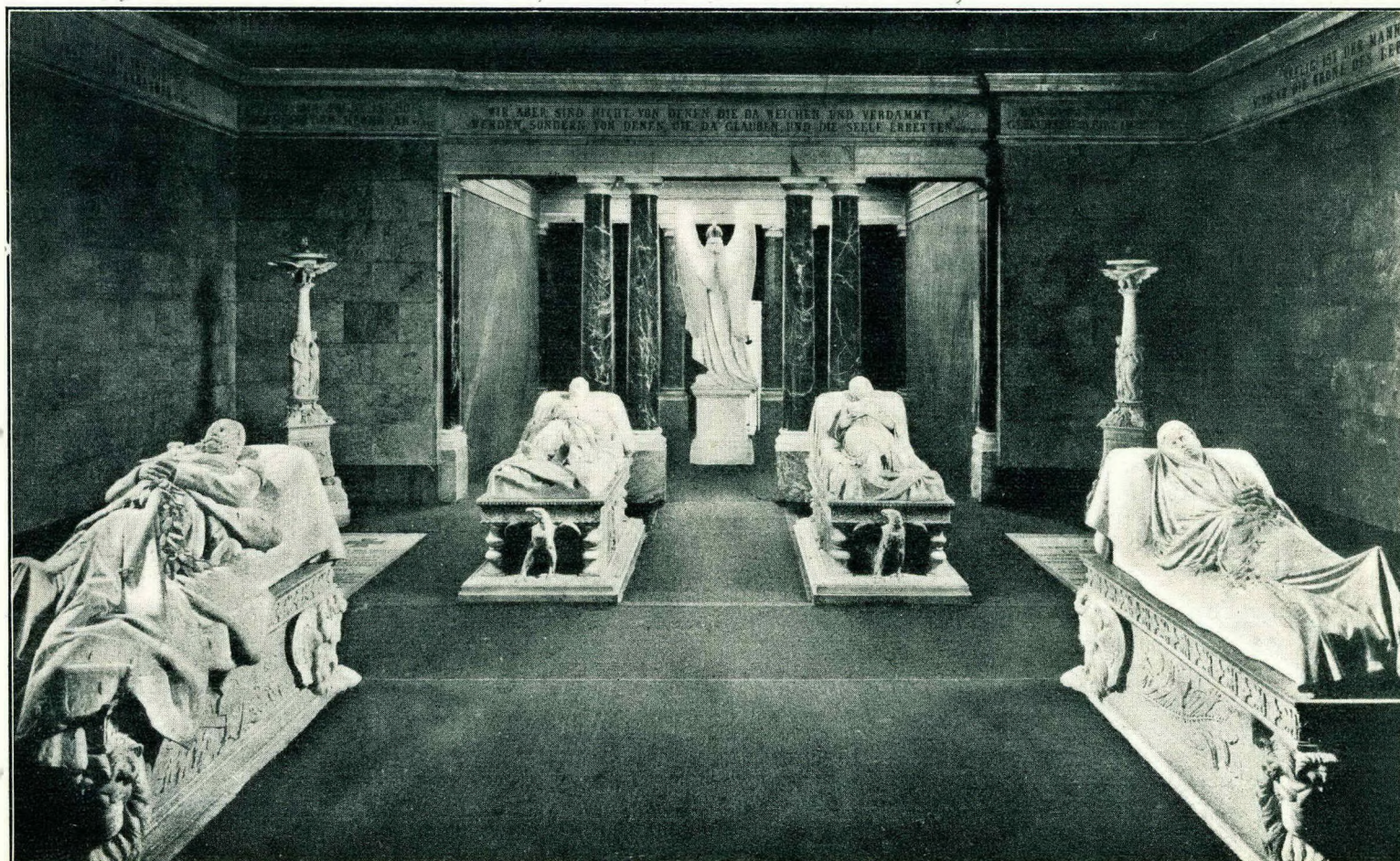
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Paris training, but you may have too much of symmetrical planning. It often restricts the convenient arrangement of a building, and there is much to be said for English planning where convenience predominates. It is in this that Gothic excels; your elevations are guided by it, and note vice versa.

The young South African who cannot study buildings in England or Europe, and who cannot join a school of architecture is handicapped, and must make the best of existing conditions. If articulated to an architect there his friends must make a sacrifice by going to a busy man and paying a good premium. The young man must make up his mind that this is not half the battle; he must work like a Trojan, and give strenuous nights and days to outside work. For this he need have a good physical constitution, and a mental condition which can find his pleasure in his work. He must put his art before money-making. He must disregard the general advice of our leading men to-day that he must "follow the crowd," who are bound (so they say) to give he public whatever it asks for. He will be told he must stoop to the low standard of a mercenary age because he cannot help himself. If he feels he cannot reject this view of his profession let him give it up, and go into commerce or the building business itself.

If he adopts architecture after mature consideration he need not attempt to become an expert in all the new branches of collateral work which are grafting themselves upon the old stem, or he will overshoot the mark. It will be quite legitimate to seek help in regard to such matters as steel work, reinforced con-

crete, warming and ventilating, disposal of sewage, etc. One may be too much of an "all round man."

Let him while young (and always) see all the constructive work he can, make careful notes of what is new to him, analyse other men's designs and see where any weak points occur to him. Above all, in designing let him keep to English traditions, and not seek inspiration from Pagan architecture (which arose under utterly different conditions), as so many of his compeers are foolishly doing. If he does his best with the chances that offer he will have no cause for regret; if he loves his art, and I assure him whatever the pecuniary result, he will have his reward.

EDWARD W. HUDSON, A.R.I.B.A.

Jas. T. Brown, Esq.,
General Secretary,
National Federation of Building
Trades Employers, S.A.

Dear Sir,

Your letters dated 7th, 8th, and 9th July came duly to hand, and were laid before the Council of my Association at their monthly meeting on the 12th ult.

I have been instructed to reply as follows:—

P.C. Sums and Builders' Discounts.

Whilst agreeing in principle that P.C. amounts on provisional allowances made in contracts should not be excessive, it is deemed inadvisable to limit such to any fixed proportions of the contract amount, seeing that circumstances could easily arise whereby

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such a limitation would hamper the architect and be undesirable in the public interests.

Unsatisfactory Quantities.

The Council having given its assent to the principle of measuring as laid down in the "Standard System of Measuring" will request its members to comply with same.

Should flagrant violations of that principle come to the knowledge of your Federation details of such should be communicated to the Council of this Association to be dealt with by it as it should deem advisable.

Opening of Tenders.

My Council holds, with you, that priced schedules should be treated as confidential, and it has no reason to believe that any member of the profession would regard them in any other light. Accepting this as an axiom, my Council can find no reason why the schedule upon which a contract has been based should not be retained by the architect and filed along with the other contract documents.

Yours faithfully,
CECIL ALDER,
Registrar.

Association of Transvaal Architects.

To the Editor, "The African Architect."

Prizes to Architectural Classes.

Dear Sir,—At the last meeting of my Council I was directed to appeal to all members of the Association with a view to obtaining prizes for the students at the architectural classes of the Johannesburg School of Mines. In view of the publicity given to your journal I venture to hope that by inserting therein the attached copy of a letter which has been sent to every member of our Association you will be

assisting the effort of my Council to help the students of the profession.

Yours faithfully,
CECIL ALDER,
Registrar.

Association of Transvaal Architects.

P.O. Box 2266,
Johannesburg,
31st August, 1914.

Dear Sir,

Architectural Classes, S.A. School of Mines.

I am directed by my Council to state that you may probably be unaware that a series of lectures in architectural subjects were commenced some time ago at the South African School of Mines and Technology, and that a number of students have availed themselves of the opportunities of qualifying themselves as members of the profession.

The Council has been approached by gentlemen controlling these classes with a suggestion that the awarding of prizes would undoubtedly stimulate competition among the students, and as the suggestion is considered to be of value and likely to assist in the advancement of architectural studies, I have been asked to approach you with a view to ascertaining if you could possibly see your way clear to contributing a prize or donation for the purpose of applying it to the purchase of a prize for competition in the classes. The architectural subjects covered by the School authorities include: Architectural Drawing and Design, Building Construction, Sanitation, etc.

In the event of your wishing to interest yourself in this matter, will you kindly communicate with me?

I may add that the School authorities would be pleased if you could visit the classes at any time they are in progress.

Yours faithfully,
CECIL ALDER,
Registrar.

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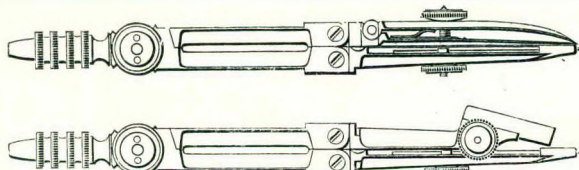
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Association of Transvaal Architects.

To the Editor, "The African Architect."

Dear Sir,

Unprofessional Conduct.

Can you conveniently find space in the next issue of your journal to insert the attached circular relative to the actions of certain local township companies in their relations with members of our profession?

Yours faithfully,

CECIL ALDER,
Registrar.

The Association of Transvaal Architects.

31st August, 1914.

Unprofessional Conduct.

I am directed by my Council to state that it has come to its knowledge that the position of architect has been accepted to work for which the plans and specifications had been already prepared. This was done in order to satisfy the terms of a certain township company who stipulate for the engagement of an architect.

This is considered by the Council to be a breach of professional conduct, and they beg to advise every member that in future they will so deal with the matter.

Yours faithfully,

CECIL ALDER,
Registrar.

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TO ARCHITECTS.

The Shakespeare Memorial Committee is instituting a competition for designs for the erection of the theatre, and as a preliminary step it invites architects to submit photographs or drawings of important buildings they have erected or designed, with a view to the selection of six architects, who will be invited to enter the competition.

The Committee reserves the right to add two names to the number of architects so selected, and has appointed Mr. T. E. Collett, Past President R.I.B.A., to act as assessor for the competition, to draw up the conditions and instructions, and to select six designs.

The authors of five such selected designs shall each receive a premium of 150 guineas, and the author of the design placed first by the assessor shall receive a premium of 500 guineas, to be merged in the remuneration payable to him on the preparation of the contract drawings. Such remuneration shall be as provided in the schedule of charges for professional practice as sanctioned by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Preliminary conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to the Secretary, the Shakespeare Memorial Committee, 3a, Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, S.W., to whom drawings and photographs must be sent on or before the 15th day of September, 1914.

To Natal Architects.

'PHONE NO.
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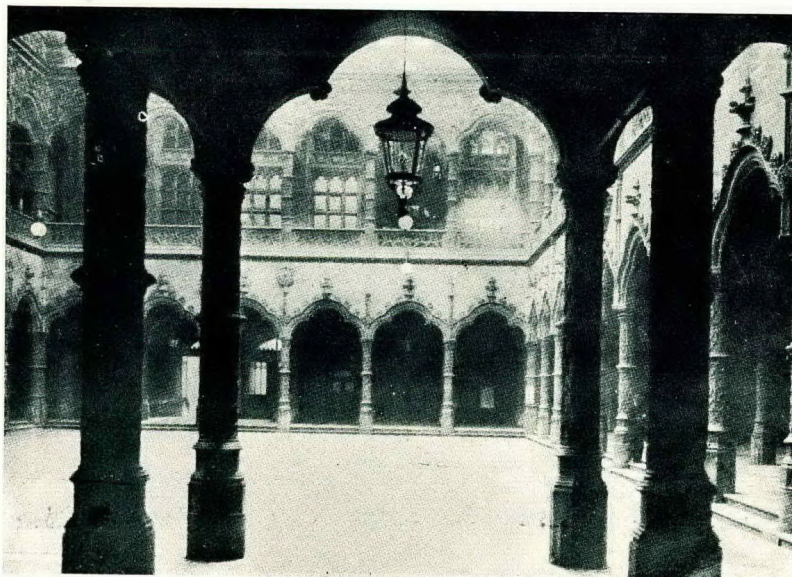
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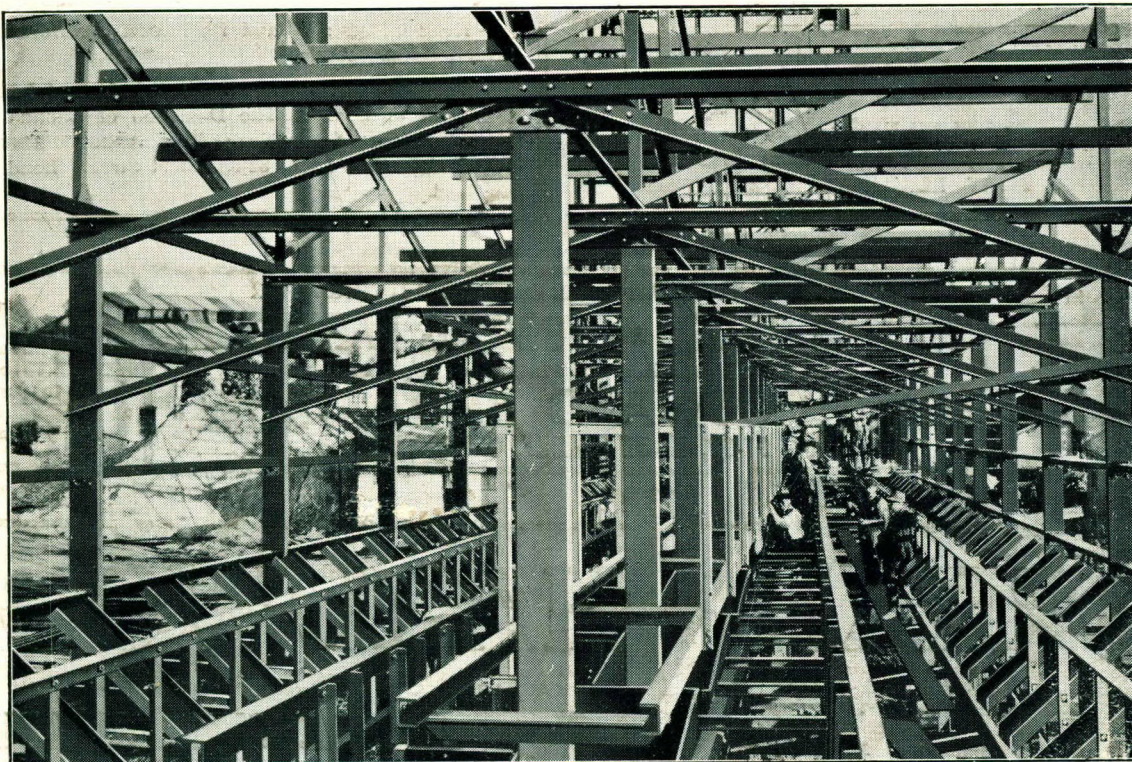
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