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South African Architectural Record: Journal of the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State Provincial Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors

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THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS

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EDITORIAL NOTICE

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CONTENTS.

Town Planning in South Africa	11	Style	18
The Illustrations	12	The First Issue	19
Roll of Honour	12	The New Rating Ordinance	19
The New President	12	Obituary	20
Sixth Annual Meeting	13	Association Notes	21
President's Valedictory Address	15	Correspondence	22
Review—City of Melbourne Building By-Laws, 1916	17	Current Events	23
		Disastrous Fire in Johannesburg	24

TOWN PLANNING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

South Africa is that most fascinating problem—a country in the making. The charge, therefore, which rests upon the moulders of its political, moral or physical character is one which cannot lightly be ignored. That this has not been realised with sufficient seriousness in the past is only too evident, architecturally, in the utterly unsuitable planning and building which characterises so much of the work done within the last twenty-five or thirty years. Whether it be in our important centres, such as Capetown, Durban or Johannesburg, or in the small and beautiful villages which abound in the Cape Colony, we have to admit to the entire unsuitability, both in plan and appearance, of nine-tenths of the homes, parks, civic centres or roads. Indeed, we go further and say that in many instances the rare and beautiful environment of much of the one-time glorious heritage of the early settlers has been entirely destroyed by the inroad of some modern "improvement," the offspring of an ignorant and untrained mind. That there is an awakening to a better state of affairs we are emboldened to hope. Quite recently we have watched the agitation on the part of that brilliant little contemporary, *The Cape*, whose editor may always be found on the side of enlightenment and well-being of South Africa, for a comprehensive Town Planning Scheme for the Cape Peninsula. Nature has modelled no fairer Garden of Eden than the range of mountains and the curving sea-coast which form the Peninsula. No more beautiful setting in the world could be found for the work of man.

From Sir Francis Drake to the late Sir Hugh Lane travellers have borne testimony to the grandeur and magnificence of scale of the Cape, which they vowed was comparable to anything they had seen. There rests, therefore, upon all of us the great responsibility of handing on this heritage to future generations untarnished by the ill-considered handiwork of the present generation. Can we honestly estimate that our efforts promise this? We think not! The magic of man's Art has in it the possibility of adding to the beauty of this and other and various parts of South Africa, just as in the ruins of the old cities of Greece we find eloquent testimony of the culture of its people, and from the remains of ancient Rome the civilisation which flowed over the world from this fountain source.

We shall not, however, accomplish this by vague prattling of Town Planning—a science in itself older than Aristotle, but even less understood than the philosophy of that master. Primarily, then, if we are to do any good with it, our immediate need is educational. We would suggest, therefore, that before any wild endeavours are made to create schemes of town-planning we should carefully prepare, by means of lectures, exhibitions of our own cities, sites and origins, their best past and present, and that of the world's great cities, their development and schemes, the difficult and immature mind of the "Plebs."

A recent writer on the subject has said: "The development of the true plan is not a matter of compass and rule,

TOWN PLANNING IN SOUTH AFRICA.—*continued.*]

of architects and engineers, it is the outcome and flower of the whole civilization of a community and of an age. Whilst starting from its fundamentals of post and road, of market and depot; and from its essentials, too, of family dwellings worthy to be permanent and hereditary homes, it develops onward to the supreme organs of the city's life —its acropolis and forum, its cloister and cathedral."

With education first, to pave the way for sympathetic attention later of vested interests, and organisation of public opinion, wherein one section would be concerned with Town Planning as a constructive art, and the other with the administrative and legal regulation of it, we might hope, in the not very distant future, to realise for South Africa what nearly every European state has long since discovered: that is, that the good seed of this ancient science, well sown, ultimately reaps a rich and rare harvest.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS

This number of the JOURNAL, at the suggestion of many members, contains additional illustrations, which should prove particularly interesting.

Annually it is intended that the President's portrait and a short biography shall be published. In the past it has been found that this important office-bearer has been altogether too little known to country members.

Two pictures appear of the Johannesburg Art Gallery, which illustrate the beauty and scholarly design of Mr. E. L. Lutyens, A.R.A. There is a photograph of the marble group, "l'Adolescence," presented to the Art Gallery by Sir Abe Bailey. This great work is by Naoum Aronson, a young Russian sculptor, who until the outbreak of war was resident in Paris. M. Aronson is also responsible for the figure "Peace" on the Rand Regiment's Memorial in the Sachsenwald. It is with infinite regret that we notice that some authority, with little idea of the incongruity, has placed a notice of "No Smoking" on the beautiful marble group in the Gallery. We hope that this ill-advised expedient has only to be instanced to have it rectified.

The picture of the beautiful old walled canal at Elsenberg, the Government Farm at the Cape, is by Mr. Arthur Elliott.

ROLL OF HONOUR

The names of the following members are added to the list already published:—

Lieut-Col. Geo. A. H. Dickson, M.V.O., holds a commission with the Worcester Regiment, and has been on active service in the Dardanelles.

Harry Clayton is in a Territorial Regiment, and holds a commission, and has been engaged in connection with recruiting work in England.

Sydney C. Dowsett (Council) is Staff Sergeant in the Veterinary Corps in G.E. Africa. When last he wrote, he had been able to have a little swimming in one of the rivers in spite of the dangers from crocodiles.

Oakley Coltman, of the Town Engineer's Department, Johannesburg, in spite of his previous wounds, has left for England to join the Heavy Artillery.

THE PRESIDENT



Edward Henry Waugh was born in 1872 at Wesley College, Melbourne, Australia, of which his father, the Rev. J. S. Waugh, D.D., was President.

Like many another, Mr. Waugh made a false start in studying medicine for a year at Melbourne before discovering the work he preferred.

After nine months in a builder's workshop, Mr. Waugh was articled, in 1891, to Thomas Anthoness and John Edmund Burke, architects, of Melbourne. After some work in Western Australia, Mr. Waugh sought pastures new, and came to Cape Town in 1898, where he entered the service of the City Corporation as Assistant Building Surveyor. In 1899 he entered the Architectural School at King's College, London, under Prof. Elsey Smith. Returning to South Africa, Mr. Waugh was appointed Building Surveyor to the Johannesburg Town Council, and in 1907 received the additional appointment of Town Valuer. In 1908, on re-arrangement of the Municipal Staff, he was appointed Chief of the Architectural and Building Survey Branch in the Town Engineer's Department.

In his official capacity Mr. Waugh has been connected with many important works, amongst the number the Johannesburg Markets, Abattoirs, four District Fire Stations and a very large number of miscellaneous buildings.

Mr. Waugh is an Associate of the R.I.B.A., and has for many years been an indefatigable worker in promotion of the best interests of the Transvaal Association of Architects, bringing to it an energy and judgment for its advancement which well merits the distinguished position conferred upon him by his colleagues.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

This meeting was held in Winchester House, Johannesburg, on Tuesday, the 29th February, when a considerable number of members were present. Mr. Walter Reid presided.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting were confirmed.

Annual Accounts.

The annual accounts were presented.

Mr. D. M. Sinclair drew attention to the large amount of subscriptions in arrear, and Mr. Alder, the Registrar, explained that a great deal of this was owing to a large number of members who had become permanently absent from the Transvaal and South Africa, and as it was not allowable to write off their names, their subscriptions had to be shewn as in arrears.

Mr. R. Graham wanted information as to action taken against members still in the country who were in arrears.

Mr. E. H. Waugh explained that the Association solicitors had followed up a number of these with fairly successful results. Where, however, such persons were obviously without means to pay, it was useless to take extreme action.

Mr. D. M. Burton complained of the paucity of detail in the financial statement, which should include arrears and other information, as in 1911.

The Registrar stated that the auditors objected to including arrears as assets, but the other information could be made somewhat more extensive.

The accounts were then passed.

The Report of the Council.

This report was presented.

Mr. D. M. Sinclair said that he knew of four, practising in outside districts, who were not registered, and suggested more activity in country towns on the part of the Council.

Mr. W. Reid objected that such would cost a considerable amount in travelling and other expenses, which the Association could not bear.

The report was adopted.

Retiring President's Address.

Mr. Walter Reid read his presidential address, which will be found elsewhere in our columns.

Mr. D. Ivor Lewis moved that the address be published, although he did not agree with all in it.

Election of President.

The candidates for this office were Messrs. E. M. Powers and E. H. Waugh, and the latter was elected, and took the chair and returned thanks for the honour done to him, remarking that he had now, almost continuously, sat on architectural councils for the last ten years, and that he loved the profession and desired to do anything he could to serve the interests of its members.

Election of Vice-Presidents.

The following gentlemen were candidates for these offices: Messrs. Lewis, Harris, McCubbin and Powers. Messrs. Lewis and McCubbin were declared elected.

Election of Council.

The proposals for the Council were as follows:—Messrs. Beardwood, Burton, Dowsett, F. L. H. Fleming, M. J. Harris, Harrison, P. Hill, Howden Powers, W. Reid, Sinclair, J. M. Solomon, and Veale, and the following were elected:—Burton, Beardwood, Veale, Howden, W. Reid, Sinclair, J. M. Solomon, Dowsett and Powers.

Uniform System of Quantities.

Mr. Walter Reid moved the following proposition as a recommendation from the Council:—

> "That the Association recognizes the standard system of measuring builders' work in South Africa as compiled and issued by the S.A. Institute of Quantity Surveyors."

Mr. R. N. Hodder seconded the proposition.

Mr. Reid, in support of his motion, said that it was high time that architects recognized some general basis of measurement, and that the recognition of Quantity Surveyors' system had been generally adopted by practically all the building and architectural societies in South Africa.

Mr. D. Ivor Lewis (Vice-President) stated that the Council was not unanimous on the proposal.

Mr. Kroll said that some time ago a circular was issued by the Council on the question, asking for the views of members. He had not received one, and could not therefore vote.

Mr. D. M. Sinclair asked if the letter sent to the Master Builders' Association by the Council, requesting that they should report cases of bad quantities, had been withdrawn.

The President replied that it had not been withdrawn.

Mr. Allen Wilson enquired if such a resolution as put forward by Mr. Reid could be made binding on members. He doubted this, and saw no use in passing the resolution unless it became compulsory.

Mr. D. M. Sinclair reflected a doubt as to whether the system advocated could be called a standard.

Mr. M. J. Harris objected strongly to the motion. He referred to the original green book issued by the quondam Transvaal Institute of Quantity Surveyors. This was better than the new production, which was far too diffuse and extensive. He had tried it and found it caused difficulties and took too much time. It might do for Government men, who had the time, but private practitioners could not go into extreme detail, measuring arrises and small trifles. He found the builders did not like elaborate quantities. He contended that there seemed to be a growing desire for grandmothering the profession, and the next thing would be standard specifications, and perhaps drawings. As an abstract principle it might be supported by a number, but to pass it in this meeting would give it a definiteness and purpose to which he must entirely dissent, and it would lay pitfalls for the practitioner.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING.—*continued.*]

MR. MCCUBBIN (Vice President) recognized Mr. Harris' gift of sarcasm, and even envied it. Mr. Harris had complained that the system increased cost of measuring the work. He, however, believed in bringing in everything, which Mr. Harris expected his percentage for not doing. It was the old cry, "the same good old South African way." (Laughter.) "Never improve; stick to the old roads." He had a price from an old builder, on the old squaring method for a roof at £3 10s., while with the standard system, taking off all the pieces, hips, jacks, etc., his price was only £2 19s. The standard system was to the advantage of the client, and, if it took more of the surveyor's time to prepare, it was time they earned properly the fees they charged.

MR. ALLEN WILSON supported Mr. McCubbin.

MR. JOHN WATERSON said that the Transvaal Institute of Architects had passed a resolution which would achieve the main purpose aimed at, while probably meeting objection fairly. Some architects certain employed measuring methods very puzzling to builders, and this should cease. He moved, as an amendment, the resolution, to which he had referred, as follows:—

> "This Association agrees with the principle of a uniform system of taking off quantities, and pending the formulation of a standard system for the whole of South Africa, recommends its members to conform with the standard laid down by the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors so far as local conditions permit."

MR. POWERS stated that a uniform system was eminently desirable. The builders throughout the Union had adopted it, and he held that it was the cheapest method for a client, as tendering was closer and better. It eliminated disputes as to description of work. It was immaterial to the surveyor himself as far as the work went. Why should we go on on a vague method, as Mr. Harris had suggested, which really defeated the main object of measuring at all—accuracy? Do not charge the client, if quantities are no use to him, as they sometimes are found to be. The system was based largely on the London system, and systems such as the "Northern" system were not used as a guide. One system is the best for a country, as contractors get used to it, and understand it, whereas they do not if there are as many systems as men, as at present.

MR. D. MCL. BURTON thought the motion ventured on dangerous ground, and it was unfair to bind members, as in case of legal dispute, it would be unfair to a man who had not used the system adopted by his Association.

MR. LEITCH thought copies of the standard system should be distributed.

MR. J. F. BEARDWOOD considered it a novelty to adopt the London principle here, where many would not understand it. He regarded the proposed system as far too minute in detail, and he found that in following it and taking plaster work, as an example, billing all the arrises, etc., it ran up the cost greatly—as much as 50 per cent. over the old method. No doubt, the present was not the best, but the new system would have to be of an educational character for a long time, as the present was understood, and the proposed method was not. (Mr. Howden: It is time they were educated!)

MR. ROBERT HOWDEN said the hour was late, and he would only say that a uniform system was better for client, architect and builder, that the one under discussion was the result of high expert opinion, and no other had been put forward. Some architects' objections were childish, and appeared to savour of a style of "better no definite system than adopt the only one standardized."

MR. MCCUBBIN (V.P.) contended that the S.A. standard system was not based on London system, but had been made to suit this country.

MR. BEARDWOOD maintained that it was based on the London type, and that it made the plasterer's account particularly high.

MR. SINCLAIR seconded Mr. Waterson's amendment, which was carried, Mr. Burton noting his dissent.

Charging for Quantities.

MR. E. M. POWERS moved, seconded by Mr. Allen Wilson:

> "That this meeting considers that when an architect takes out and supplies Bills of Quantities to Contractors on which to form tenders for the execution of the Architect's designs, it is desirable that he should do so with the knowledge and concurrence of his client, and the cost of such Quantities should not be included in the five per centum Architect's commission. Also that Architects on the Register of the Association of Transvaal Architects be circularised to this effect.

MR. POWERS spoke to his motion, and referred to a case in Pretoria where for an £800 house 2½ per cent. had been charged to and paid by the builder unknown to the client, whereupon the latter wrote to the Association Council, asking for a ruling, and in reply received an extract from the by-laws. This client had a distinct grievance, as he was charged for something he knew nothing of. If the client had agreed beforehand, it would have been correct to charge the builder; but he was kept in the dark, and naturally thought he had been done by collusion between architect and builder. If the client were told, he could object and have his undoubted right to discuss the item. The Council itself was not unanimous on the point, but nevertheless the present practice amongst some architects required improvement.

MR. ALLEN WILSON said that he always acted on the method set out in the resolution. Last week he called tenders without quantities, because the client would not pay for them.

MR. M. J. HARRIS said this resolution should not go by default. The continued restrictions being imposed were becoming too frequent. Why should an architect go cap-in-hand to his "eight-hundreder" client, as to whether he wanted quantities, when those were essential to carrying out the job? He might as well be expected to ask his client if he required a specification.

MR. ALLEN WILSON said our own circumstances should not be law for the multitude, and he did not like secrecy between an architect and his client. There was something to be said for the builder paying for the quantities, as he was a party to the contract, and the architect had to decide between builder and owner, as an arbiter, and has to be fair to both. The client should, however, know all about the arrangements.

MR. W. REID said thanks were due to Mr. Powers for taking a stand on this question. We were met here to



MARBLE GROUP: "L'ADOLESCENCE," by NAOUM ARONSON.
Presented to the Johannesburg Art Gallery by Sir Abe Bailey.



THE MAIN HALL FOR FURNITURE AND TAPESTRY AT THE JOHANNESBURG ART GALLERY.

The Collection of Furniture and Tapestry in this room is on loan from the home of Sir Lionel and Lady Phillips.

promote ethics. The R.I.B.A. rules required the full concurrence of client, and we should not be afraid of this, as any other course would only damage the profession in the end. This course would avoid law suits and suspicion. He had himself lost jobs through telling the client of the charge of 2½ per cent., but, through being open, he had gained more than he had lost.

Mr. P. J. Hill said it was not necessary to wait for a law court to lose one's fees, as they were often lost before. (Laughter.)

Mr. Allen Wilson said that the builder does not really pay; the client does so in the end, and so should be told of any charge.

Mr. Sinclair considered that if the client were told of the 2½ per cent. he would simply worry himself how he could avoid paying, not considering the effect on the job. They did not want a whole system of laws telling them how to arrange their business matters.

Mr. Powers replied to the various criticisms, and his motion was carried by 10 votes to 5.

Votes of Money.

The meeting voted, with one dissentient, £100 to the Architects' Benevolent Fund when funds were available; also ten guineas to the S.A. School of Mines and Technology, Johannesburg, for prizes in the architectural classes and a sum of twenty guineas to the Seymour Memorial Technical Library, Johannesburg, for the purchase of books.

PRESIDENT'S VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

Mr. Walter Reid, F.R.I.B.A., delivered the following address at the Annual General Meeting at Johannesburg, 29th February:—

Gentlemen,

Registration.—In July, 1909, the private Act came into effect providing for the registration of architects in the Transvaal, and the creation of our Association. For the last five years endeavours have been made to promote a Registration Act to apply to the whole of the Union, with varying degrees of success. A definite stage has at last been reached in our negotiations with sister institutions in the adjoining Provinces by the creation of a permanent Registration Committee, with headquarters in Cape Town, under the auspices of the Cape Institute of Architects. It is in connection with the work of this Committee that I feel a few words are due from me this evening, with a view to helping the matter forward to as satisfactory and speedy a conclusion as possible. It was my privilege last month to spend a few weeks in Cape Town, and I took advantage of the occasion to discuss the matter in all its aspects with some of the Committee. As one who has been intimately and continuously connected with the whole of the negotiations and arguments used in this country in connection with registration since your own Act was first suggested in 1907, it may be of assistance to those persons who will be entrusted with future efforts and negotiations in connection with the Union Act if I take this opportunity of recording my convictions and experiences.

If those efforts and negotiations are to be used to the best advantage, you in the Transvaal must have complete and unqualified confidence in the decisions of the Committee which has been appointed. Taking into consideration the unsettled political and economic conditions now prevailing in this country, and likely to so continue for some years on account of the world-wide war disturbance, I am convinced that there is little or no chance of getting such an Act through Parliament as the last one drafted by the Council of this Association. The case for an extension of our present Act in an improved and amplified form was put to me in Cape Town in a most convincing manner; I repeat it here, and trust that your incoming President and Council will attach that importance to, and approval of, the facts which they certainly deserve.

> "We have taken legal opinion and consulted several members of Parliament, all of whom assure us that the political conditions of the country are all against the passing of a new Act, more particularly one embodying so many contentious points as your 1912 draft. A new Bill must go to the House of Assembly, which means tremendous delay, expense and risk, all of which in our mutual interests should be avoided. An extension of the present Act (with amendments) can be put through the Senate quickly, without risk and at minimum cost.
>
> "We rely on the Transvaal to advise us as to any shortcomings in the present Act, and we ask them to remember that we are the applicants in this matter, as they now enjoy the protection we intend asking for."

As this Association has approved of the constitution and appointment of the Standing Committee, and has also elected delegates to confer with it, it is up to us to acquiesce in the findings of that body.

It is somewhat of an anomaly that our profession in the Transvaal for the last six years has enjoyed the benefit of legal protection while our brethren in the adjoining Provinces have been left without. It must be clear to anyone who takes a large perspective of the matter that such an anomalous position cannot be allowed to exist for an indefinite period; if it can be cleared up and accelerated by introducing amending rather than entirely new legislation, such a course must be adopted; and this, in effect, is what the Standing Committee is advocating at the moment.

On the principle that "half a loaf is better than none," it is a perfectly sound proposition; a principle which must call for your ready acquiescence. It would not be gracious to pass this matter of "Registration" without paying a tribute to the efforts of those of our members who in the past spent much time and exercised an unusual amount of patience in turning out "Draft Acts"; unfortunately without legal assistance and without the authority of a properly constituted permanent Committee. These shortcomings have now been remedied, and a considerable advance made towards accomplishing our common end—"An Union Registration Act." Let me remind those responsible for the furthering this (to us) important legislation of the fate of the recent Accountant's Bill. That profession essayed on an entirely new Act to apply to the whole of the Union in place of an amendment and extension of the Transvaal Act, and so met with failure. I am advised by members of that and the legal profession that an extension of their Act, with amendments based on a few years' actual working experience, would have been readily granted by a Select Committee of the House, at very slight as

PRESIDENT'S VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.—*continued.*]

against a heavy expenditure of money. On the face of this one fact, my convictions and recommendations surely need no further amplification.

Quantities.—Your outgoing Council have agreed in principle to the Standard System of measurement as laid down by the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors, and recommended the members of the Association accordingly; thereby falling into line with the resolutions passed by all other architectural institutions in the Union. The relationship of Architects and Quantity Surveyors is one that cannot be overlooked under the prevailing conditions in this country, the two branches of our profession being so interlocked that cementing same in a practical manner becomes the first duty of each unit. Without concerted action the two businesses must in the course of time inevitably drift apart; to prevent which I would suggest that the incoming Council arrange with the School of Mines that a class in Quantity Surveying be included in the standard set for the qualifying course in the practice of Architecture. It is worthy of note that on the coming into operation of our Act, we admitted into our ranks (without demur) all Quantity Surveyors who ranked themselves as Architects without actively relying on same as a means of livelihood; and I think it is up to the Quantity Surveyors to return the compliment by taking into their ranks (also without demur) those Architects who have been actively employed for many years taking out their own quantities as an integral part of their livelihood. I take it that the aims and objects of both Architects and Quantity Surveyors are twofold and common, viz., the best supervision of their members and the provision of a test by examination as a condition precedent to qualification and admission to the Register. It is in this spirit that I put out the foregoing suggestion based on our own experience as a registered body, when no man's present means of livelihood was interfered with. I feel that my remarks may be open to carping criticism by a few who take a narrow perspective of the matter, who object to paying a second subscription, no matter how small, who are always looking backwards instead of forwards; with such it is impossible to argue. To those who take a broader perspective of the matter (and I feel they comprise the majority) I say combine on the best lines possible to attain our common aims, slowly but surely, and in the end we are bound to succeed. As a means towards an end, I would further suggest that the joint Councils of this Association and the Institute of Quantity Surveyors meet at an early date and formulate a mutual programme to create a separate panel of those Architects who have been accustomed to take out their own Quantities.

By such an arrangement the following common benefits will be obtained, to mention the more important only:—

(a) More complete supervision of members practising Quantity Surveying;

(b) The earliest possible creation of an examination standard in quantity surveying;

(c) A central body of appeal in case of builders' disputes or work done not up to standard;

(d) The minimising of disputes and law cases.

Education.—The education and training of Architects in this country is a matter which should receive more attention in the future than it has done in the past, if only as a matter of patriotism. We have in the country a plethora of mediums for the conduct of examinations, but only one medium for teaching and education—The South African School of Mines and Technology. This institution has a well-defined course, which was fairly well attended up to the start of the war. The thanks of this Association are due to the governing body of the School of Mines for the very able way it has undertaken the teaching and examination of students since the Registration Act came into force; work well done, at a monetary loss. So far no students have qualified for registration, but it is anticipated that the first will do so within this or next year. It will be seen that the Minister of Education intends introducing into Parliament extensive legislation providing for establishment on a firm basis of sundry Universities within the Union, in which connection the incoming Council should use every endeavour to get a Chair of Architecture instituted. The Cape Institute of Architects have resolved to make certain representations in the matter; and so should this Association. The adjoining provinces in the Union will not be content to be left indefinitely without means of professional education, and in view of the intended application for an Union Registration Act, I feel that the moment is ripe to make a strong and combined appeal to the proper authorities for the establishment of a Chair of Architecture as a national necessity; which appeal I feel sure will not be made in vain if backed up by suitable argument in a spirited manner. The South African Branch of the Society of Architects (London) and the Transvaal Institute of Architects have generously contributed sums of money to be expended in prizes to students in Architecture at the School of Mines and Technology, and I trust you will this evening pass a vote for a similar purpose.

Public Works.—In the adjoining Provinces a certain number of schools, hospitals, etc., are given out to Architects in private practice; in the Transvaal nothing is given out. The P.W.D. central government discourages the employment of private practitioners in any capacity, for obvious reasons. In the case of School and Hospital Boards the Provincial authority back up with 30/- each 20/- raised by public subscription, and in this way keep a certain amount of control over the work. The work of the private practitioner has to be approved by the P.W.D. Provincial administration, who also employs a staff and undertakes similar work, often in the case of smaller work submitting model or typical plans to the various boards, and thus sometimes preventing the employment of an Architect in private practice.

From enquiries made in Cape Town, I ascertained that work done by Government costs close on 50 per cent. more than that done by the private practitioner; that when the latter's plans are submitted for the former's approval, an endeavour is made to turn them down on account of the low estimates; yet when put to the test of competitive tendering the estimates have been confirmed, but the argument is constantly repeated. We have here practical demonstration that the work of the private architect is much more economical that that done under the departmental system; and considering the present straightened financial conditions of the country, I contend that it is the duty of the Government for the time being to encourage economy and the employment of the private practitioner. This is a matter on which the Government should court an enquiry.

Competitions.—The past year has been conspicuous by the absence of same, which is perhaps as well, if the latest trick of not selecting the best designs is to be perpetrated. The coming year, I understand, may bring to light one or two competitions, so this may be an opportune moment to appeal for a fair deal. The principle of seeking competitive designs for buildings to be erected from funds publicly subscribed is quite sound, and I would remind intending promoters that the advice of our Council is at their disposal, free of charge. If the promoters take upon themselves the responsibility of preparing the conditions and judging the designs, then members of the profession must refuse to compete. The judging must be done by a professional man or man respected and trusted by his fellows, and his award should be made binding on the promoters if log-rolling is to be avoided. Unless these precautions are taken, the promoters will not get honest competition, nor value for their money.

The War.—Mention of this at once brings us in touch with our professional brethren throughout the world; we shall ever remember those who have been taken away doing their last and grandest bit of work, and to the relatives of all we should like to extend our most heartfelt sympathy. To the really cultured and artistic nations of Europe who have suffered by acts of vandalism beyond human ken, we extend the hand and heart of brotherhood, and mourn with them the loss of irreparable works of art and Architecture. The insensate and calculated destruction of valuable buildings by a violent and relentless foe must ever remain a blot on 20th century civilization; a huge black mark against the self-appointed exponents of so-called "Kultur." In times of world-wide distress and misfortune, it is not opportune to dwell on our present business losses or future prospects.

You will see from the Council's report which has been circulated for your information, that during the year many subjects of vital interest to the profession have come under consideration. The Council, wishing to take members into its confidence, made several attempts to hold special general meetings to endorse its views, and further the code of ethics laid down in our bye-laws; it was unfortunate and disappointing that the requisite quorum could not be obtained. At no meeting of the Council did we fail to procure a quorum, and I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks and gratitude to my co-office bearers for their loyal support and attendances during my year of office.

The Roman Emperor Septimius Severus, when breathing his last at Eburacum (York), used the single word "laboremus," implying that now they had consolidated the Empire they might turn their swords into spades, or turn from fighting to work. We have not yet reached the stage when we can say "laboremus," but we may be permitted to at least prophesy that we are approaching it, and the effects of war on architecture will be most marked. It will purge the dross from the nations and clarify the artistic vision. Much of the worthless will disappear, and, as in the Napoleonic period, architecture will assume a more austere and severe character combined with more dignity than much of the work of the last generation.

REVIEW

THE CITY OF MELBOURNE BUILDING BY-LAWS, 1916.

These by-laws were confirmed by the Governor of Victoria on the 28th February. They have been in course of preparation for a number of years, various causes of delay having arisen to prevent their earlier appearance. The authors can be congratulated on a very up-to-date and comprehensive work, and some old difficulties are frankly met and solutions found. Certain points are fresh, notably one, which requires proper exits from large shops in case of fire. These shops are divided into two classes—A. and B. A. comprises shops used for the sale of drapery, millinery and fancy goods, either solely or combined with the disposal of other goods; while B. covers premises in which the more inflammable goods are not sold. Any shop of over 600 square feet area must have two exits, and the number of these is increased with the size of shop till a shop of 22,500 square feet must have six 5-feet stairs, of which two must be fire isolated. Any building over three stories, every factory and every shop of 2,000 feet area must have water supply for fire extinction, and also every timber yard. Wired glass or prisms in metal frames are allowed in walls with the "fire-distance" from adjoining buildings without other protection, such as fire-doors. No wood is allowable for walls of clubs, hotels or apartment buildings.

The rule for ventilating rooms is interesting, viz., outlet ventilators to have total area in square inches not less than capacity of room in cubic feet divided by 40; thus a room of 1,000 cubic feet must have $\frac{1,000}{40}$ 25 square inches; which on Johannesburg practice is entirely inadequate, and the climate is much hotter.

The by-laws hold firmly to the 400,000 cubic feet limit for divisions in warehouses, unless all fireproof when there is no limit—a serious matter if goods inflammable. Hollow concrete blocks are allowed where the thickness of walls for brick would not be required to exceed 9 inches. Walls for single-storied warehouses under 50 feet long may be 9 inches if provided with 4½-inch projecting piers, the total width of which must equal 1/5th the length of the wall. This is easier than Transvaal practice, which requires 14 inches if over 35 feet.

Another important change from usual custom is that permitting walls of warehouses under twenty feet long and of any height to be two-thirds thickness required for longer walls. Shops in different occupation and having a common entrance must have the fronts returned into entrance to be at least 6 feet apart.

No reinforced concrete wall is to be less than 6 inches in thickness.

In public buildings 2 sq. inches of inlet and outlet ventilation (natural) is to be allowed for every 4 square feet of floor area, as against 72 square inches for every 6 feet in floor area in Johannesburg—a most extraordinary difference! The people in Melbourne do not appear to be fond of ventilation; the difference between us is that we want 25 times more than they do.

Only cantilever verandahs are allowed—verandahs on columns never having been greatly favoured in Melbourne. It is a wonder more treatment like this cantilever principle is not adopted in the Transvaal! In the view of the writer, it is more architectural and less obstructive than a self-supporting verandah.

E. H. Waugh.

STYLE

Among many valuable characteristics which have distinguished the greatest artists of all times, whether architects, sculptors or painters, not one leaves so indelible, such cherished marks as individual style.

No reference is here made to the various styles of art which appear to be a legacy of peoples or times rather than of individuals.

In architecture (to which this brief note relates), the impress of style which a man leaves as his special legacy is exhibited in three principal means of expression. His ability to satisfy the practical necessities of his design—to provide, namely, for the wants of his employers. His ability to construct his buildings naturally, worthily, and in the most suitable manner with reference to the material at his disposal. And his ability to impose upon his works whatever of beauty is consistent with their nature and limitation.

Briefly, he may shine as an arranger—his plans may be good. Or as a constructor—his building may be good. Or as an artist—his effects may be good.

But if he is to reach the summit as an artist (and none so often as architects claim to aspire to this appellation), he must infuse beauty, which is the soul of art, into all—his arrangements, his constructions, and his effects must be alike beautiful.

And in this he is on all fours with other artists. Both with the painter and sculptor, the plan of their works and the arrangement of the parts and accessories, the means employed to concrete their designs, and finally to the very last touch (of colour or for texture) their work must be good to look upon, for that is the sum and aim of the matter.

For if it is proposed merely to construct for utility, to model for utility, or to paint for utility, it is obvious that the artist may be dispensed with, although in that case he would be the best, but in these so-called strenuous times he would probably be unable to resist some more lucrative employment.

But there is no fear of anything of the kind. Nothing is more remarkable than the early stage in man's affairs at which the study (at least the expression of his appreciation) of beauty appears in concrete form. It could hardly be otherwise. He sees it all about him! And although not all men realise the beauty of their natural surroundings to the full, because they make no study of them, each in his degree or power of perception shares the enthusiasm of the artist, at times when some special appeal, made by means of exceptional scenery (as the saying is), or personal beauty; or when, his usual business less pressing for the moment, allows relaxation and leisure for the charm of his surroundings to influence his feelings.

Man—his speech, movements, and all that pertains to him—is characterized by style or manner, and when these are good, or even special and rare, acquires distinction akin to the polish of a gem of value. The architect who adds this personal accomplishment to his work—the opportunity presenting—will always occupy a distinguished position, and instances will occur to anyone who has scanned the career of noted architects of our time. Careful and laborious students, all of them work at first with much enthusiasm to put forward some favourite style or school of architecture, then though still scholarly imposing their own thoughts about things architectural, their own individuality as to things of beauty, become at once true artists—soul and hand.

But it must not be supposed that only the great among us are endowed with those personal traits which are the basis of the distinction under discussion. They are in all, to a greater or less degree. But owing to all kinds of deterrents, worthy and unworthy, they do not appear. Most generally because the architect, not having a sufficiently sure grasp of his work, has not the courage to put forward his own aspirations. Sometimes from a not ignoble diffidence which persuades him that he can do better by following closely some admittedly great worker. Others again adopt the fatal course of allowing their crude imaginations to become concrete permanencies before they have had time to mature, and thereafter take pleasure in regarding them with senile satisfaction or feel infinite disgust at the sight of their own work.

No doubt the eclecticism of modern education has much to do with the difficulties which present themselves to the student; no doubt it influences the work of maturer years, and hampers both thought and action. But perhaps the bane of it is rather ideal than actual, because there are not, after all, a great many modes the broad lines of which are sufficiently diverse to embarrass the thoughtful student much less the master.

There is, after all, the architecture of the wall, the architecture of post and beam or pillar and architrave, the architecture of the pillar and arch, and various combinations of these; and as instance in brief of these, take the noble Farnese Palace for the architecture of the wall, or some military work of the middle ages. The pagan temples for that of the pillar and architrave. For the pillar and arch the Christian churches of the middle ages. Last, for the combined treatment, the public buildings, baths, and so forth, of ancient times.

Working along these lines, with close attention to the details which the best of our predecessors found most suitable to their work, will ingrain the student with what is best for his work, though with modification which he will find necessary in application—for who, being a free man, would wish to make a slavish copy of another man's work; or if he did, how could he hope for any personal distinction? Let us be thankful that he will never have the opportunity.

And applying this to the matter in hand, it is inconceivable that so contemptible a method should produce style; but if a man will persistently think for himself, he will get such style or such approximation to it as his ability reaches, and will find even approximation an improving, even an exalting attribute.

But if the personal matter is so precious, why should the study—the close and intimate study—of the past works be insisted on? Why not lay this all aside, and with the best modern thoughts, materials and methods, embark on a new and intensely interesting voyage towards a still more modern art and one of more freedom.

It is a vain thought. Yesterday is the mother of to-day. To-day the begetter of to-morrow, and so of all ages.

Nor can the sum of what is now the inheritance of the student be compassed in a man's lifetime. Let us there-

fore take the lessons of the past with thankfulness, use them for present purposes, and if we may, pass on some personal addition to them for the use of those who come after.

It has often been asserted that a clear field such as is supposed to exist in South Africa is specially encouraging to the artist. If so, it must be all the more helpful to him who developes this quality of style. But however this may be, the thing itself, this attribute—personal, distinctive, sub-spiritual—is invaluable, and to be acquired to the utmost and at all hazards; and with patience and work it will be found within the reach of all artists.

G. W. Nicolay.

THE FIRST ISSUE

BY A CORRESPONDENT.

The first issue of the Journal is a distinct credit to those who are responsible for its compilation, and if the same tone is continued in subsequent issues, the Journal will be looked forward to with great interest.

The moral of "Good Work" aimed at in the leading article is particularly apt and to the point; it is high time that Architects realized that Architecture is not only a profession but an art, and that the only thing that will tell in the end is "Good Work." A high ideal is the thing wanted, and a strenuous effort to reach that ideal is the only road to success; all the other attributes go for nothing if good work is not produced. Some Architects may excel on account of their physical abilities, some their powers of speech and oratory, some their artistic abilities, some their business capacity, some their social positions, but each and all are of no avail if the results of their labours are not "Good Work."

There is no argument in the producer of good work being born and not made; there is no argument in the producer of good work having had exceptional training, and there is no argument in the failure being attributed to lack of opportunity. There are too many successful men not born but made, too many with little training but self-made, and too many men who have had little or no opportunity, but have risen to the front ranks, for such arguments to hold good.

"There is a tide in the affairs of all men which taken at the flood leads on to fortune."

We must rise to the occasion when it presents itself, whether in the humblest cottage or the grandest monument, conceive an ideal, eliminate all that is bad, and strive for all that is good.

On these lines and these alone are we going to be successful, and let us plant such an ideal in our youths who are to be the Architects of the future generation, and by so doing give a guarantee that whatever work is entrusted to the profession will result satisfactorily.

The tone of some of the other articles, particularly that of Mr. Wellman, is rather on the pessimistic side, which is fatal in art. No progress will ever be made by wholesale condemnation; there is always some good, even in the worst of us, and it is up to us to appreciate that good, however small. The fatal error one is liable to make is to permit one's condemnation to usurp all other consideration, and in so doing miss the opportunity of grasping the good that exists. The only road to success is that of being able to discriminate between bad and good work; eliminate the bad by all means, but do not fail to grasp and hold on to the good.

In Mr. Waugh's article he has in all good faith hinted at the possibility of Architect and Builder being combined, as a substitute of the Builder acting solely on his own in the erection of the numerous buildings which pass through the Municipal offices unsigned by any Architect. That some such collaboration existed in the middle ages there is no doubt, but Builder and Architect were both in those days craftsmen; the hopelessness of such a result to-day is apparent. Unless the Architect has absolute control of the design from beginning to end, the result must be fatal. How often does an Architect find that a Builder takes it upon himself to deviate from his details, and invariably with fatal results? An Architect cannot be true to his principles unless he is responsible for every detail in the building, and which should be thought out as much as the original sketches. The master mind conceives the monument, however small, and he only knows why this is done and why that is done, and nothing less than an abortion can result from the deviations which would be inevitable if he lost absolute control of the supervision.

Would not the solution of the difficulty be met much more satisfactorily by the appointment by the municipality of an advisory committee who should refuse acceptance of designs not of sufficient architectural merit, and force the intending employer upon the Architect. Such a course, though apparently drastic, would be no injustice, and the public would soon realize that they were benefiting rather than suffering as a result.

It is regrettable that so many employers can and do pass the Architect by, but in the interests of the profession far better to accept the inevitable than to have the status of the profession lowered, which would be the result of this suggested combination or amalgamation.

Robert Howden.

THE NEW RATING ORDINANCE

On the 22nd March, this Ordinance was gazetted, and it provides for the optional rating of site values only by Town Councils and other local authorities in the Transvaal. This method, which is new to this country, will replace the time-honoured custom of rating land and buildings equally, and its object is to unload industry as represented by buildings, and create a more or less complete site value, or land tax, and thereby encourage the use of land. It is claimed that in towns in Western Canada, Sydney and other places where it has been tried, that it results in better buildings and more of them, and that the disreputable structures now often retained on very valuable sites will be pulled down to make way for buildings more in keeping with the growth and importance of the town. The new method is thus not without precedent in other places, but it is believed to be the first time it has been attempted in towns like those in the Transvaal where depreciation of land values has been generally very marked for the last ten years, and its effect may consequently prove not to be so gracious as has been the case in all the towns which have previously adopted it, where land values have been gradually improving.

THE NEW RATING ORDINANCE.—*continued.*]

Its interest to architects lies primarily in the lessening of burdens on buildings and a consequent encouragement to owners to improve their premises. In Johannesburg, rating on property is generally about 1¼ per cent. per annum of the capital value, and if the site value only contributes the rate, there will follow a shifting of burden to unoccupied lands as well as on to the site value of a built-on property, and it is estimated that the lessening of rates on a building may represent a saving of anything from ¼ per cent. to ¾ per cent. on the capital value of the whole property, according to the proportion of the building value to the site value. Naturally, where the building value exceeds the site value, the relief will be more than where the latter approximates to the former, and when the building is worth much less than the site value, the burden of rates will be increased. Thus an average suburban property, where the building is generally worth from 5 to 10 times the site, the relief will be very considerable, as the ratio decreased the relief is less, till where the site value is the higher it disappears, and the extra burden reaches its maximum on the empty site. The old rating limit was 3d. on land and buildings; the new is 7d. on land only, and the following figures afford comparisons on rating on the two extremes:—

Site value.	Building value.	Rate payable: Old rate at 3d.	Rate payable: New rate at 7d. on site value only.
Suburban Property:—		£ s. d.	£ s. d
£100	£1,000	13 15 0	2 18 4
£100	£500	7 10 0	2 18 4
£100	Site vacant	1 5 0	2 18 4
City Property:—			
£10,000	£15,000	312 10 0	291 13 0
£10,000	Site vacant	125 0 0	291 13 0

Options in Rating Incidence.

The Provincial Council, in framing the law, have wisely allowed certain options, which prevent a too sudden and drastic change, and for two years Town Councils must place a rate on buildings amounting (approximately) to 2/7ths of the whole rate, and they may place up to (approximately) 3/7ths of the whole rate on buildings. After two years they can rate site values only, or alternatively, buildings as well, to any amount not exceeding 3/7ths of the whole rate. It thus appears that the change is to be gradual, and that it need not be a complete change unless any town desires it so. The difficulty of this arrangement lies in the uncertainty which now surrounds the rate any property is likely to bear, as the amount will oscillate according to the wishes of the majority of each Council, to whose wisdom it must be left to attain to general level of incidence, as uncertainty is a very disturbing factor in the property as in any other market.

In theory, the new law should be welcome to architects as tending to unfetter the industry of building and to remove the desire of clients to refrain from the erection of good structures because the rates will be more. In practice, only experience will show how much the relief will help building. It is probable that it may cheapen suburban land, of which there is a plethora, and that it will not affect central city land values, but encourage the removal of disreputable shanties on expensive sites which have for long been an eyesore and a disgrace in the middle of palatial and worthy structures.

E. H. WAUGH.

OBITUARY

ALEXANDER ELEAZAR DUGUID.

Mr. Duguid was an occasional visitor to our general meetings, and his terse Scotch expression and common sense always secured a hearing. He sprang from Aberdeenshire, having been born at Ballater, where he served articles to his father's firm—Duguid and Son—and pursued art studies at Aberdeen. For health reasons he went with his wife and young family to Australia in 1882, and in Melbourne carried on a flourishing practice and became very widely known and appreciated. He built Stainer's great store in Swanston Street, and churches at Essendon, Moonee Ponds, Flemington, Kensington and scores of other places, and when the absolute depression in building caused him to migrate once more—this time to South Africa—he left a name deeply respected, and a large amount of extremely well-designed executed works. Landing at the Cape in 1897, he practised at Stellenbosch till 1902, when he came to Johannesburg, where he designed a number of works, the best known being the large residence "Toward," in Berea.

He was a man of versatile talents, and was the first President of the Shorthand Writers' Association, and elder of the Presbyterian Church, Yeoville.

I knew him well, and esteemed him highly. He was a lovable man of broad sympathies, and his heart always went out to the weak and helpless. His interest in the Association never tired or became weary. His canny Scotch good humour prevailed always in his relationships with my office, when an architect's temper must at times be sorely tried, and of him it can be truly said: "Verily thy place shall be empty and thou shalt be missed." He bore through his long career the white flower of a blameless life. He leaves a widow and family in Johannesburg, and our sympathies go out to them.

He died on the 22nd March, of heart failure supervening on dysentery, at the age of 66, having been born in 1850.

Like most architects from the granite country, his work was imbued with a strong local feeling, and he was happiest working in stone on the lines of Scotch Gothic; but some of his largest efforts in the way of business premises were also quite successful expositions of adapted classical designs.

E. H. WAUGH.

R. N. HODDER.

It is with the greatest regret that we have to record the untimely death, at the early age of 35, of Mr. R. N. Hodder, 2nd Architectural Assistant in the Town Engineer's Department of the Johannesburg Municipality.

Mr. Hodder's professional record is a brilliant one, although, owing to his retiring disposition, it is not as well known as it might be. He served his articles with the late Oliver Caldwell, F.R.I.B.A., of Penzance, Cornwall (who was architect to the County Council), afterwards acting as his assistant. He was nine years in this office, and did highly creditable work, including the restoration of one or two old churches, and the design of several of those beautiful country residences with which Cornwall abounds. It was in this office, too, that he developed the artistic ability for which he was noted.

Mr. Hodder came to South Africa in 1905, owing to in-

different health, and immediately securing an appointment with the Johannesburg Municipality, remained in the service until his death, on the 14th April last. His end was due to appendicitis, of the existence of which, however, he had had no warning. He continued his duties up to within a day of his death, thus literally dying in harness.

His work in the Municipality was of the highest order, and he showed marked ability as a designer. To him were entrusted the Abattoirs, various Native Compounds, as well as numerous dwellings (in which class of work he particularly excelled) for Municipal officials at Klipspruit, Newtown and elsewhere.

Mr. Hodder enjoyed an excellent reputation as a quantity surveyor, and amongst other achievements in this branch of the profession he " took off " the Art Gallery, from the plans of Mr. E. L. Lutyens, of London, and " measured up " during the progress of the work and for final settlement with the Contractor.

Mr. Hodder was a Licentiate of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and a Member of the Association of Transvaal Architects since its inception.

Owing to his high personal character, strict integrity, devotion to duty, and unfailing good humour, he was held in the highest esteem and regard, not only by us, his colleagues, but by all with whom he came in contact.

Dick, as we affectionately knew him, will be sorely missed, not only professionally but socially, and our hearts go out in sympathy to the widow and tiny daughter he has left behind to mourn his loss.

P. J. Hill.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

The usual regular monthly meetings of the Association of Transvaal Architects were held in February, March and April of the current year, and the business executed is summarised under the following headings:—

DRAFT UNION ACT.

The Transvaal delegates have been considering a communication from the Cape Institute of Architects regarding a suggestion that this Association should submit notes of leading points such as may from time to time have arisen, as possible amendments of the existing Act, as an alternative to presenting the proposed new Bill to Parliament.

The suggestion has naturally opened up a new position, and has received careful consideration from our delegates, who will report on their deliberations at the next Council meeting.

In view of Mr. H. G. Veale being indefinitely engaged in carrying on the practice of the late Mr. J. D. Anderson, at Durban, it was felt that another delegate should be added to the list of those representing the Transvaal, and Mr. Howden was unanimously elected to the office.

COMPETITION.

The Council made application to the Muizenberg Town Council for a copy of the conditions of the competition designs advertised for in connection with the proposed bathing pavilion at Muizenberg, which were duly received. These were carefully examined, and the Council were pleased to see that they were fully in keeping with the requirements of the profession in regard to competitions.

COMMITTEES.

The following members have been appointed to the committees as hereinafter detailed:—

COUNCIL, 1916:

PRESIDENT.

Mr. E. H. Waugh, A.R.I.B.A.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Mr. D. I. Lewis, M.S.A.
,, D. A. McCubbin, M.S.A.

COUNCIL:

Mr. J. F. Beardwood, M.S.A.
,, D. M. Burton, M.S.A.
,, S. C. Dowsett, M.S.A.
,, R. Howden, A.R.V.I.A.
,, E. M. Powers, A.R.I.B.A.
,, W. Reid, F.R.I.B.A.
,, D. M. Sinclair, M.S.A.
,, J. M. Solomon.
,, H. G. Veale. M.S.A.

JOURNAL COMMITTEE:

Mr. E. H. Waugh (Chairman).
,, Gordon Leith.
,, D. I. Lewis.
,, G. W. Nicolay.
,, E. M. Powers.
,, J. M. Solomon (Editor).
,, E. J. Wellman.
,, R. Howden.
,, M. J. Harris.

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSES:

Mr. D. I. Lewis.
,, J. M. Solomon.
,, H. G. Veale.

SEYMOUR MEMORIAL LIBRARY:

Mr. E. H. Waugh (President).

SPECIAL REGISTRATION ACT COMMITTEE.

CAPE REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A. (Chairman).
,, F. K. Kendall, F.R.I.B.A.
,, C. H. Smith, A.R.I.B.A.
,, Wm. Black, F.R.I.B.A.
,, Chas. Hougham.
,, W. J. Delbridge, A.R.I.B.A.
,, E. Austin Cooke.
,, W. A. Ritchie-Fallon, A.R.I.B.A. (Hon. Secretary).
,, James Morris, L.R.I.B.A.
(With power to add.)

TRANSVAAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. M. J. Harris, M.S.A.
,, R. Howden, A.R.I.V.A.
,, E. M. Powers, A.R.I.B.A.
,, H. G. Veale, M.S.A.

ASSOCIATION NOTES.—*continued.*]

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

Two applications for registration have been considered, one from Mr. J. W. Small, who passed the architects' examination in 1912, was passed while the other was referred back for further consideration.

JOHANNESBURG UNIVERSITY.

The subject of the proposed University has been considered, and after discussion it was decided that the President be appointed to represent this Association in the matter, and support it.

DRAFT REGISTRATION ACT.

At a recent meeting of the Council, the members were advised of the fact that Mr. Delbridge. President of the Cape Institute of Architects, would be visiting Johannesburg during June, and it was decided to hear this gentleman's views on the Draft Act, and that all members of the Association be invited to attend the meeting.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

Two further applications for registration, one from Mr. A. H. Reid, and the other from Mr. W. J. Delbridge, both of Cape Town, were considered and passed.

DEATH OF MEMBER.

The Council regrets to have to advise the members of a further death, Mr. A. M. de Witte. An obituary of the late member will appear in the next issue.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE.

At the invitation of the Mayor of Johannesburg, who is Chairman of this Committee, the President was appointed to represent this Association on a Sub-Committee. The work of this Sub-Committee is to prepare a detailed plan for the establishment of Arts Courses and a School of Medicine on the Witwatersrand.

MUIZENBERG PAVILION COMPETITION.

The Council approved of the conditions of competition for the proposed Pavilion at Muizenberg.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS,

P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg.

DEAR SIR,

We are instructed by the Council of the Society of Architects (South African Branch) to write you with reference to the article headed "Alleged Contravention of Architects' Act," appearing in your journal of February, 1916.

We desire to bring to your notice, and to the notice of your readers, that the case referred to in the aforesaid article does not, by any means, constitute a precedent, warranting or justifying any infringement, in the future, of the Architects' Act, or the use of the letters "M.S.A." A careful perusal of the records of the case will elicit the facts that the prosecution against Mr. Leeney was heard some months after the alleged infringement; that he stated that, after he had received notice, he refrained from using the letters "M.S.A."; and that the Society of Authors had been extended to embrace Playwrights and Composers, and that the letters used by him were, in consequence, "M.S.A.P.C."

The Secretary to the Incorporated Society of Authors, Playwrights and Composers has stated definitely, and in writing, that the Committee of his Society does not encourage or authorise the use of the letters "M.S.A.," and that if any letters are used by members, they should be "M.I.S.A.P.C."

On instructions from the Branch Council of the Society of Architects, we are forwarding to the Association of Transvaal Architects the procedure which we consider should be adopted in the event of any future infringement or misuse of the letters "M.S.A."—Yours, etc.,

LINDSAY & CHIVERS.

The Editor,

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS,

P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg.

Sir,

After reading the leading article in the February issue, I am convinced that, with me, you share the honour of knowing Mr. William Adams.

A fine type of South African architect, all too rare, is Mr. Adams. His work bears the stamp of genius, far transcending the understanding of common men. His views on art have the compelling quality of mystery, fascinating and bewildering. Mr. Adams is of distinguished descent, being of the same family as the illustrious Mr. Bill Adams who—it will be remembered—won the Battle of Waterloo. On the point of his family connections Mr. Adams is, however, singularly reticent.

When asked his opinion upon current South African architecture, Mr. Adams modestly deprecates any claim to authority. But he will hasten to add, lest the questioner be offended by his seeming refusal to discuss the question: "Look at it!" This profound remark is accompanied by a mournful shake of the head a look of much sagacity. Of course, there is little current architecture of note which is not the work of Mr. Adams. His clientele—which is huge—will in time be sufficiently educated to understand the beauty of that work.

Yes, sir! I agree that "we architects in this young country have before us a tremendous and sacred task, on virgin soil practically—for we may dismiss from our calculation the brood of mis-shapen offspring which the past generation, except in one or two rare and wonderful instances, has brought forth." Ah, those rare and wonderful instances! *Of course I* KNOW *you mean Mr. Adams*! Peace hath her Victories, Art her Battles of Waterloo, no less renowned than those of War.

And in regard to the "brood of mis-shapen offspring which the past generation has brought forth." Four hundred architects have been carrying on their work in South Africa, and how few Mr. Adamses amongst them! Why should not you, Mr. Editor, speak your opinion of their miserable efforts?

Quintilian interrupts: "We should pronounce our opinions of such men with modesty and circumspect judgement, lest we be found condemning what we do not understand."

But Quintilian, as long as we can remember, has been a bug-bear!—Yours, etc., M. J. H.

[We are not, of course, desirous of expressing any opinion upon the individual architectural offspring of our facetious correspondent, except to say that if he puts into his work the same supercilious energy which fills his writing, it must indeed be remarkable, and we apologise for having written without a better acquaintance of it!—EDITOR.]



DETAIL OF A NICHE IN THE FACADE OF THE JOHANNESBURG ART GALLERY.



THE WATER FURROW, ELSENBURG [*Copyright Photograph.*

CURRENT EVENTS

The annual meeting of the Association was much enjoyed by those who had the privilege to be present at the debates which took place on questions revolving around the ever-green subject of Quantities. The interest displayed was very general, and the subject matter excellent. There was an obvious desire to improve the professional methods, not merely because it would impress the public favourably, but because of a sincere recognition that it was the right course to adopt. Such a spirit naturally gave a direction to the debates which was both impressive and dignified, and the result is that the Association has distinctly put itself on loftier ground.

* * * *

The Architects' Benevolent Fund has been further augmented by a generous gift from Mr. W. H. Stucke (Past President). On his return from England, Mr. Stucke handed the Trustees a cheque for £100, and it has been added to the fund. Mr. Stucke, during his stay in England, spent his time in helping convalescent soldiers back to health and strength, and as he could not secure acceptance for active service, devoted himself to this useful work, and, taking a steam barge, went through the canals of England, of which the mileage is astonishingly large, carrying the men with him. His experiences in this direction were unique. Some of the canals did not appear to have been used for years, and frequently he and his companions had to open the locks themselves.

* * * *

Some years ago Lord Gladstone, addressing a score of architects in Johannesburg, said that the Transvaal had produced an extraordinary number of ugly buildings, and it must be admitted that there is considerable justification for the statement. The excess of light in this country is very unkind to anything not of the best, and there is little natural assistance to architecture in the way of soft lights and foliage. The country calls on this account for an extra amount of skill in design.

* * * *

The University question has made a great stir in these regions lately, and the neglect of the interests of higher education has been intensified to our business community by the allocation of the Beit bequest to the Cape. The deprivation of this munificent gift has given university work here a set-back, but the interest aroused will go far to replace it. The only hope of architectural teaching lies in the biggest centres such as Cape Town and Johannesburg, as for a considerable time architectural students will only find themselves able to command night classes, and that only in these two towns, as the numbers are not likely to warrant day classes. On this account the Council of the Association of Transvaal Architects considered that it should support the Johannesburg demand for a University.

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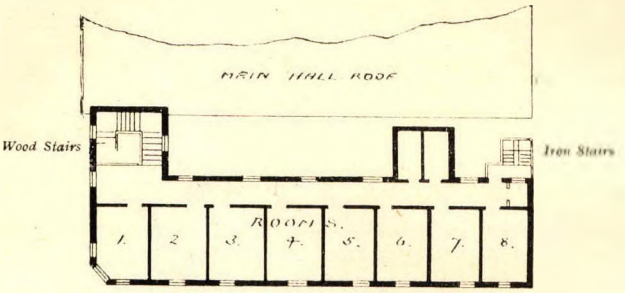
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DISASTROUS FIRE IN JOHANNESBURG

The most exciting fire that has occured in Johannesburg since the Glencairn Building fire, recently took place in the Caledonian Hall, End Street, Johannesburg, resulting in three-fourths of the building being gutted and the lives of some ten persons being placed for some time in considerable danger. The building consisted of a Concert Hall, 80 feet by 46 feet, and several shops on the ground floor, while over the shops were two floors of residential rooms, eight on each floor. Access to the two floors of rooms was provided for by a wood stair at one end, while at the opposite end a narrow iron escape stair was situated. The fire originated in another concert hall in the basement beneath the ground floor hall and, fanned by a westerly wind, soon secured a proper grip on the building, and by way of the wood stair spread rapidly to the two upper floors of inhabited rooms. The outbreak occurred at 3.30 in the morning, and, with the exception of one, all the rooms were occupied. Several of the occupants managed to escape by means of the iron escape stairs, but three women and seven men were cut off in consequence of flames from the burning stair being fanned along the corridor leading to the escape. At nearly every window on the upper floors people were clamouring for help, which eventually arrived in the shape of a 90-feet fire escape, the ten—two of them were unconscious—being conducted or carried through the windows to the ground.

The inflammable nature of the material often utilised in the construction of stairs in large buildings has been the cause of many deaths—besides the loss of property. The stair-well, acting as a flue, assists the spread of fire more, perhaps, than any other factor to be reckoned with, as once the stair catches the well quickly changes into a fierce furnace, rendering corridors on upper floors useless as a means of escape, and more often than not spreading fire into the roof trusses.

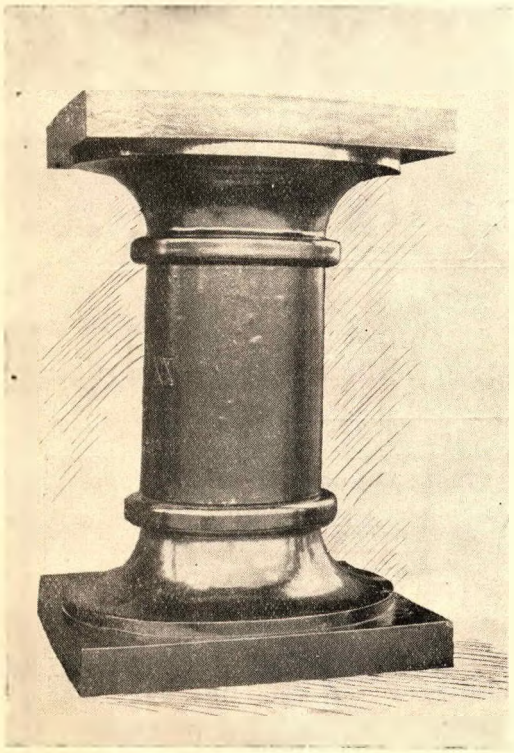


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Certain towns have by-laws whereby property owners are compelled to provide openings in stair-wells with self-closing fire-resisting doors, but this is not altogether satisfactory as a way of escape is usually cut off by the closing of these doors. The only method of dealing with this danger-spot is by constructing stairs in large buildings of fire-resisting materials not only in residential but in office and warehouse buildings, so as to prevent unnecessary loss of life and property.

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