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1918

Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors

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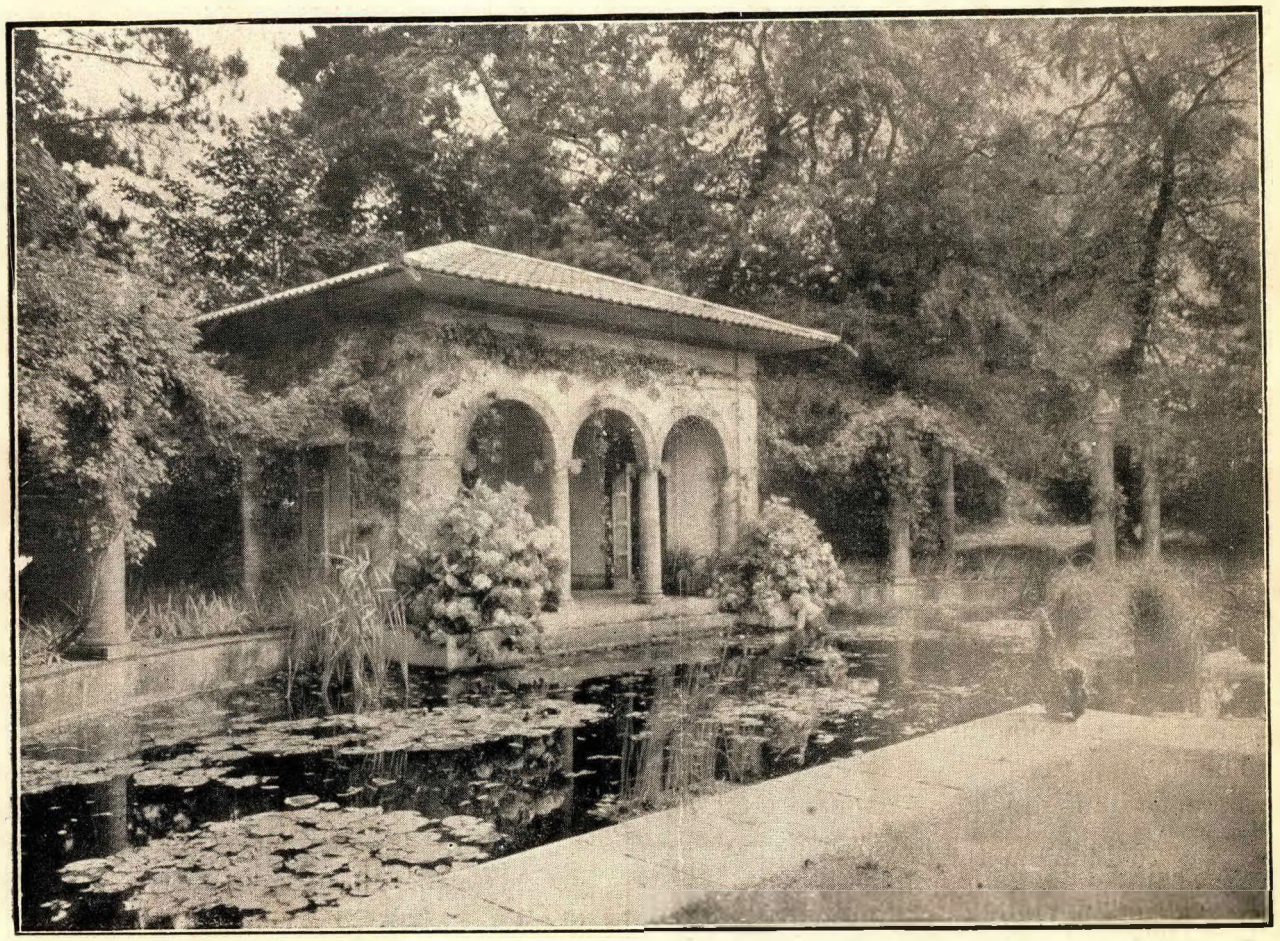

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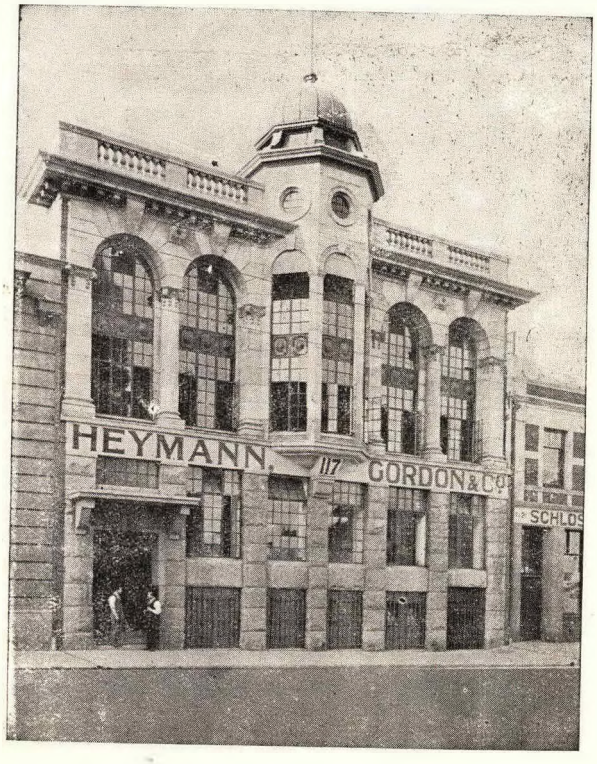

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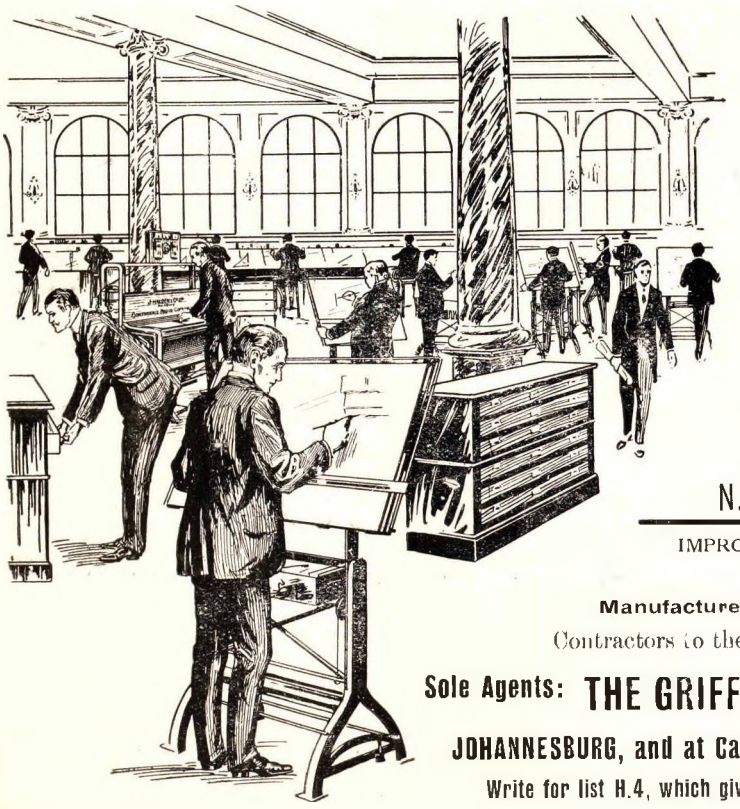

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No. 10. Vol. III. JUNE, 1918. [ISSUED QUARTERLY] Price 1/-

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RESIGNATION OF MR. E. H. WAUGH, A.R.I.B.A., M.S.A.

It is with great regret that the Council has accepted Mr. E. H. Waugh's resignation as Editor of this Journal. Mr. Waugh has felt compelled to curtail his activities in connection with various Associations owing to indifferent health. We hope that he will return from his holiday at the coast restored to perfect health, and with a full appreciation of the excellent work he has done in connection with this Journal, we entertain the hope that after a rest from the work of the Association, he will take up the Editorship again.

Mr. E. M. Powers, A.R.I.B.A., has been appointed Editor, with Mr. R. Howden, A.R.V.I.A., and Mr. E. H. Waugh, A.R.I.B.A., M.S.A., as Assistant Editors, and they will be pleased to receive contributions of literary matter or subjects for illustration.

Mr. D. Macdonald Sinclair, M.S.A., continues in the position of Hon. Business Manager to the Journal, and will be assisted by the newly-appointed Registrar to the Association as Business Representative.

The newly-appointed Registrar, Mr. M. K. Carpenter, has been rejected for further active service. Prior to being turned down for overseas, he served in German South-West with the 3rd S.A.M.R. and in the German East campaign with the 4th South African Horse. He has also seen active service with the old Cape Mounted Riflemen in the Anglo-Boer War.

ARCHITECTS' REGISTRATION BILL AND COMPETITIONS.

The progress of the Architects' Union Registration Bill has again been arrested and another period of stagnation reached. The position is briefly stated in an extract from the annual report of the Cape Institute of Architects, which reads: "In spite of our efforts no progress has been made in the matter of the Architects' Registration Bill during he past year."

The exact nature of the present *impasse* and the particular efforts of the C.I.A. in this direction are very obscure, as the Association of Transvaal Architects is still awaiting the Cape's acceptance of the principles embodied in the draft Act, or any amendments to those principles the C.I.A. may make.

When the Chairman of the Cape Registration Committee visited the Transvaal in December last, it was hoped that the opportunity afforded of discussing the various points would result in a mutual agreement, and indeed we understood at the conclusion of the meeting that excepting the incorporation in the Act of a Quantity Surveyors' Chapter, the principles of the Draft Bill would be acceptable to the C.I.A. Since then, however, excepting minutes of a meeting of the Cape Registration Committee and a notification of the Chairman's resignation, no further communication has been received.

It is a matter of conjecture whether the delay is due to a misapprehension of the conditions obtaining in the Transvaal or to the apathy of certain professional bodies concerned; the latter cause is the more probable.

The "Architect and Builder" refers to the professional policy underlying the A.T.A.'s attitude towards the recent Cape competitions, and apprehends that the Cape Institute's relationship to these competitions is purely one of policy to obtain equal conditions throughout the whole Union. Registration is suggested as a means to this end, and a round table conference for the settlement of professional disagreement. This latter course appears to be the only means of clearing up the C.I.A.'s difficulties in accepting the Draft Act, as correspondence in the past has proved utterly futile in arriving at a settlement.

To briefly touch on the question of competitions, it is unnecessary to enter into all the details of argument in the controversy relative to the recent competitions in the Cape Province. The correspondence between the .AT.A. and C.I.A. and the promoters of the competitions appeared in our last issue, and most of our readers are fully cognisant of the facts, and it can only be concluded from articles appearing in the public press and our contemporary, "The Architect and Builder," that there is a great deal of misunderstanding of the conditions prevailing in the Transvaal under the Architects' Act of 1909, but if the policy of reciprocity adopted by the Royal Institute of British Architects, as the parent body to its offshoots throughout the world, were emulated by the C.I.A. in its association with the A.T.A., the possibilities of obtaining a common basis for the Union Act would be achieved.

Statutory registration throughout the Union is essential for the progress of our art and unity in the profession in South Africa, and although the Transvaal Act has been subjected to severe criticism, it cannot be denied that the A.T.A., in spite of certain disabilities, has been enabled as a statutory body to prosecute a policy for the improvement of the profession and protection of the public it could not have otherwise done as a voluntary association. Voluntary associations in this country have in the past been impotent to deal with the diverse and complicated problems which have arisen from time to time, due, no doubt, to the fact that their membership has only included a few members of the profession, and without perfect unity and co-operation no good or lasting results can be obtained. It must therefore be recognised that the Architects' Private Act of the Transvaal is the foundation or stepping stone for statutory registration throughout the Union, and the experience thus gained should be invaluable in the drafting of a Union Bill which will elevate the architectural profession in South Africa to the dignified position which is its due.

E. M. P.

BENONI MUNICIPALITY.

NOTICE NO. 26 OF 1918.

COMPETITIVE DESIGNS: TOWN HALL, LIBRARY AND MUNICIPAL OFFCES.

The Council of the Municipality of Benoni is prepared to receive competitive designs for a building comprising Town Hall, Public Library and Municipal Offices, to be erected on the Market Square, Benoni Township.

Designs should be submitted on or before the 1st August, 1918.

Particulars as to Premiums offered and Conditions of Competition may be obtained from the undersigned.

J. B. WHITEHOUSE,
Town Clerk.

Municipal Offices,
Benoni, 6th June, 1918.

PROPOSED ARCHITECTS' REGISTRATION BILL FOR OPERATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES. AUSTRALIA.

The draft of an Architects' Registration Bill has been prepared by the President of the New South Wales Institute of Architects, and unanimously approved by the Council for submission to the Government. From a reference to the Bill in the last issue of "The Architects' and Builders' Journal" to hand, it appears that the draft is similar to the Transvaal Architects' Private Act, inasmuch that it makes architecture a close corporation so far as registered architects are concerned, but it does not prevent unregistered persons carrying out the functions of the licensed architect except that he may not use the title architect or recover fees in a court of law.

Appropos of the A.T.A.'s action in approaching the Municipal Council of Johannesburg that plans for proposed buildings exceeding an estimated cost of £100 should be received from registered architects only, the criticism of the Draft Act is of particular interest, and a reference to the Municipal returns show the proportion of plans submitted that are prepared by architects.

It is contended that "the Act should have aimed at the suppression of the jerry builder, who, on the specious promise of giving his clients something for nothing in saving architect's fees, badly copies the genuine architects' work, and foists on to a deluded public unsanitary and unsound buildings.

"The remedy for this would have been to insist on proper plans being prepared for every building, as is now required by local authorities, and to have made it impossible for these authorities to accept the plans unless these were prepared by a licensed architect.

"Surely this is an entirely reasonable proposition, and one that should be kept in view by the framers of our own Registration Bills, who must be only too well aware of the laxity of many of our minor local authorities with respect to the passing of plans."

It should be insisted that in every instance the building plan shall be prepared and signed by a properly accredited architect, whose functions no builder should be allowed to usurp. It is a curious anomaly that when it is only the public health that is to be safeguarded, the documents should be regarded with so much less strictness than those relating to transactions in real estate. Yet it is every whit as imprudent to build a house without consulting a properly qualified architect as it would be to transfer property without the aid of a lawyer, but in one case a man would be congratulated on saving the fees, in the other condemned as a fool looking for trouble."

SUGGESTED SOUTH AFRICAN DEAN OF GUILD.

It was in a spirit of earnestness that a few evenings ago a small deputation of architects attended a meeting of ratepayers to voice a desire for sympathy and encouragement in a movement for the improvement and appreciation of better architecture in the dwellings and planning of the townships adjacent and contiguous to Johannesburg.

It is somewhat melancholy to confess that the voice did appear to liken to that voice which cried in the wilderness, for there certainly seemed to exist in the minds of many of the ratepayers' delegates a feeling that "grab" was the private motto held by the architects, and that their sole desire was to set up a monopoly in architecture. Of course, it is a matter of great difficulty to disabuse the minds of most people —especially in Johannesburg—that "grab" and selfishness need not necessarily be at the back of any movement by a body of professional men when advocating reforms in matters which, by reason of their training and enthusiasm, they are perhaps best able to offer suggestions upon. It is not always a question of "where do I come in?"

Notwithstanding any misunderstanding as to their actions, the Transvaal Architects will continue to endeavour at every opportunity to gain the co-operation of public bodies for the civic betterment of our towns and cities. We undoubtedly have the hearty sympathy of the medical profession and the social workers, and it is only a matter of time when the general public will wake up and take pride in their civic surroundings.

Johannesburg has been called by one of South Africa's greatest statesmen "The University of Crime." If this statement is correct—and it cannot be denied that there is a great amount of crime here —what constitutes a University? In the ordinary sense a University is a place where learning is acquired under the most favourable surroundings. Johannesburg's "Universities of Crime" are conglomerations of hovels crowded together and where people have to live under the most appalling conditions. Respectably inclined people have to abide side by side with criminals. It is absolutely impossible to live with any degree of decency and privacy. Whites, blacks, coloureds and yellows are herded together in squallid courtyards frequently reeking with filth. Children are born and bred in an atmosphere of crime and immorality and never get a chance to be anything but vicious in their instincts. Social workers know this state of

things exists, doctors know it, sanitary inspectors know it, architects know it. Indeed, everybody who cares knows it. Then why in the name of humanity and Christianity cannot a sense of civic pride enter our souls and force us to wipe out such plague spots. Let the rack-landlords be brought to heel by legislation, and then let these " Universities of Crime " be rebuilt with due regard to social and moral conditions. Prototypes of the University buildings in Europe could be adopted; a central courtyard of good dimensions surrounded with tenement buildings such as one sees at Oxford Colleges. Laundries and common rooms could be added, and every sanitary convenience supplied so that these people could have a chance of living decent and clean lives. Segregate natives and coloured races to their own well planned quarters.

Vice is largely the result of environment, and I suppose, in a mixed community such as Johannesburg contains, we cannot hope to entirely eliminate it, but it is deplorable that in a city of only a little over 30 years' standing we are considered a University of Crime, and the fact is undoubtedly largely attributable to the want of proper control in the development of the city, coupled with the root evil of " greed and grab " of the rack-landlord.

The foregoing remarks may not be considered as architectural matter, but I maintain it is part of an architect's job to study the social conditions of the life in his city, and it is undoubtedly his duty to do his utmost to assist in the civic development of his surroundings. The gravest initial mistake in Johannesburg (as well as many adjacent townships) was shown in the absolute lack of imagination in its potentialities. Viewed as an important town, it is badly planned. But although we must make the best of it, surely there is every reason that newer townships springing up should benefit by the experience, and that the same lack of interest and carelessnss should not be shown. The new townships coming into existence on the Far East Rand are planned on the same old hard, cut and dried lines into square blocks of stands; and the same old jerry type of cottage work is being perpetrated, dreary and commonplace. We must try our utmost for the establishment of a Board to be appointed by the Government, composed of disinterested gentlemen and constituted on independent lines. This Board shall have in its hands the passing of plans for new townships, the reformation of existing townships where possible, and also the control, in a liberal degree, of the architectural development of the cities and towns. But perhaps more important than this, it should be our endeavour to engender a civic spirit into our community that every man building himself a house or a cottage, a warehouse or a shop, should consider it in the light that he desires to add to the interest and beauty of the neighbourhood.

Some of the township owners have assumed an architectural control over the development of their estates, with very happy results, but unfortunately other owners of townships have no controlling spirit, and the consequences have been most distressing. It is obviously unfair that when an owner has built substantially, suitably and well that he should be faced with an adjoining owner absolutely disregarding all ideas of good taste, by erecting some hideous and unsuitable structure to the detriment not only of the adjacent properties, but to the whole district.

The leadership of the suggested movement, namely, the establishment of a Board controlling township planning and architectural development, is the architect's by right; not because he may know better than others what to do, but because the opportunity of doing something definite is his by reason of his profession. What does it mean to bring about such a thing? It means unselfish work, work undertaken for the benefit of others without recompense. It is noble work, and means doing something for one's city and town, and that is surely good citizenship.

DURBAN NOTES.

DURBAN STREET BALCONIES.

In front of the Central Hotel a new verandah and balcony has lately been erected which is constructed on very weighty and heavy lines, the supporting piers being somewhat in the nature of those usually employed on the main facade of a building, and exceeding the Johannesburg limits by three or four times; between these piers heavy arches are sprung in brick or concrete. The Retailers' Association strongly object, particularly as Reid & Champion's corner is to be graced by another such structure also of a heavy character. They demand that the Town Council should define the meaning of " verandah " and stop the latter work, which the Council refuse to do as the plans are approved. The Central Hotel is in West Street, which is of very great width, and the obstruction to the street lines is not consequently of so much importance. Architecturally the innovation is welcome, but the hiding of the adjoining shops is certainly not likely to be pleasing to the owners. But apart from that point of view, the provision of shady loggias is agreeable in any sub-tropical town. It will be interesting to see if the Council will continue to allow such massive projections on public streets.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Mr. Harry Clayton, M.S.A., the well-known Johannesburg architect, has been promoted Captain, and is still attached to the R.F.A. on the Western Front.

We regret to state that we have been officially informed that Mr. John Adams has been missing on the Western Front since March 24th. We hope soon to have reassuring news.

Association members will be greatly interested in the advertisement appearing in this issue from the Town Clerk of the Benoni Municipality, giving the preliminary announcement calling for competitive designs for Town Hall, Library and Municipal offices. Particulars of the premiums offered and conditions of competition are obtainable from the Town Clerk, Benoni.

Wesleyan Central Hall, Johannesburg.—Building operations have now been commenced. Our readers will remember the publication of the first premiated design by Messrs. Howden & Stewart in our issue No. 7.

MR. ERNEST NEWTON, A.R.A.

This year the Royal Institute of British Architects have recommended Mr. Ernest Newton to His Majesty the King for the Royal Gold Medal for the promotion of architecture. The honour will carry the good wishes of the profession, as no one has done more than the recipient for the advancement of domestic architecture in England.

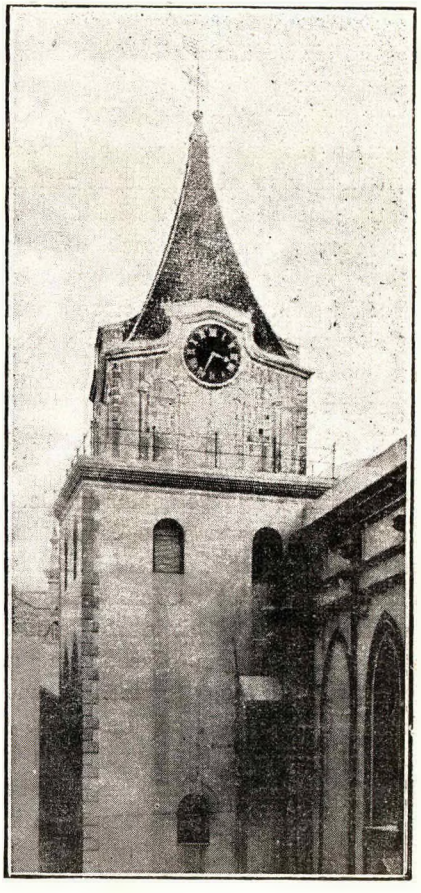
This honour, which is not confined to citizens of any particular country, has been many times conferred on foreign architects, but it has only once been the pleasure of the Dominions over the seas to see one of their number so honoured, Mr. Frank Darling, of Canada. The R.I.B.A. might very well on the next occasion give consideration to overseas claims, particularly as a large section of British architects as well as of its own members labour outside the United Kingdom. The medal has been awarded 69 times, 23 times to foreigners and only once to a Dominions architect, and the rest to architects in the United Kingdom or to artists there.

CAPE NOTES.

The "Architect and Builder," in the May issue, draws attention to an extraordinary step which is alleged to have been taken in connection with the Technical Institute Competition. It appears that shortly after it was decided to build the Polytechnic and the controlling body of the Institution had been appointed, members of that body were handed lists of reasons why the work should be done by the Public Works Department. If this be true, the private practising architect is severely handicapped in a very unfair competition with a Government department, and we strongly support the exhortation made by the "Architect and Builder" to the governing body, *i.e.*, "To pursue the policy already embarked upon to its only fair and safe conclusion, and to employ the winner of the competition to carry out the work."

TOWER, DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH, CAPETOWN.

The tower of the Dutch Reformed Church in Adderley Street, Capetown, is a fine example of the early architectural work in the Cape, which is now unfortunately almost hidden by a modern office building. The adjoining building is also church property, and prior to 1905 the front to Adderley Street



projected beyond the general frontage line, causing an awkward corner and bend in the footwalk. This projecting portion of the building and ground was expropriated by the City Council for the purpose of straightening the street frontage; the building was demolished and a new portion subsequently erected in line with

the adjoining buildings forming an addition to the D.R. Chambers and an arcade through to Church Square. During the demolition of the projecting building this photograph was taken, and for a short period the whole of the tower was exposed to the general view, but since the completion of the new building only the top portion of the tower is seen above the roof of the Church.

E. M. P.

TOWN PLANNING.

To the Editor, *Building*.

Sir,—There appeared recently articles and diagrams on town planning in the children's columns of the "Cape Argus," the object of which was to impress on the children that when they became responsible citizens it would induce them to carry into effect the duties which had been so neglected by present day architects and surveyors.

In the Transvaal nearly all the important townships are the property of the mining companies, the principal shareholders being non-resident in this country, consequently the best interest of the community is neglected, and in view of this fact it can be regarded almost without exception that as little as possible is paid for the development of such schemes, in all instances the townships are laid out by registered land surveyors, who in many instances have prepared plans with very little regard as to suitable gradients for streets, etc. The layout most general is that known as the "chessboard" pattern, this method being the least expensive, and with the present day motor traffic it is without doubt the most dangerous that can be adopted for pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Considerable excuses can be made for the land surveyor, as it is known that owners of land who desire to lay out townships want as many lots as possible, and they want to pay as little as possible for the laying out of same, and in consequence a surveyor who submitted a plan more in keeping with modern ideas would have to admit to his client that such layout would mean increased survey fees because of considerably more work being involved. I believe that the Germiston Municipal Authorities were involved in an expenditure of £16,000 by taking into the municipal area the New Primrose township, but of course the land surveyor would in no way be responsible for this expenditure.

Before anything can be effectively advanced in any new township scheme it will be necessary for the Government to appoint a Town Planning Commission, which should be composed of professional men, and given authority to frame regulations in the interest of the community. This Commission should have power to refuse approval to township plans except the owner agreed to provide proper roads, efficient water supply, and that furthermore the plans should show gradients, and levels of roads and building sites, as also the building lines and the means of disposal for storm water. Then, again, regulations governing the class of buildings to be erected and the minimum cost of each building in the various streets is also desirable.

It therefore appears that architects, land surveyors and municipal authorities should jointly submit their views to the Government with the object of a Bill being carried through Parliament to enable modern ideas on township planning to be carried out. A Township Board is in existence, but it can be regarded as of little value or protection to the community, therefore I trust that the Association of Transvaal Architects will take the subject up with others personally interested in this important subject.

"INTERESTED."

BUILDING STATISTICS.

REEF MUNICIPALITIES.

Municipality.	Period. From	Period. To	Total number of plans passed	Estimated Cost £	Number of plans signed by Architects.	Estimated Cost £
Johannesburg	1 7 17	30 4 18	2004	731 891	467	303,784
Krugersdorp	1 7 17	15 4 18	108	26,398	8	3,545
Roodepoort-Maraisburg	1 7 17	31 3 18	46	145.05	2	2,683
Springs	1 7 17	31 3 18	60	42,773	34	31.064
Boksburg	1 7 17	31 3 18	54	12,088	16	4,530
Pretoria	22 8 17	31 3 18	131	58,827	61	46,737
Benoni	1 6 17	31 3 18	443	265,155	127	15,9350

ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

(Incorporated under the Architects' Private Act, 1909)

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION.

The Council has decided to hold a Qualifying Examination for Registration as an Architect on Monday, 29th of July, 1918 and the three following days

Full particulars may be obtained on application to the Registrar.

By Order of Council,

M. K. CARPENTER,
Registrar.

P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg.

OBITUARY.

THE LATE MR. FRANCIS BLACK.

By the death of Mr. Francis Black on April 30, we have lost a valued and striking personality. Mr. Black was not actually a member of our Association, but as one of the best known quantity surveyors in South Africa he was closely associated with the architectural profession and the building trades. He was a man of unceasing activity, clear vision, and indomitable energy, and as a consequence of his thorough and practical knowledge of building matters he was frequently called in to arbitrate in building disputes.

He came to South Africa in 1896, and after a short stay at the Cape, settled in Johannesburg, and for several years was associated with the Technical and



Commercial Corporation as manager of one of their subsidiary companies. Afterwards he practised as a quantity surveyor, and subsequently joined Mr. C. A. Meischke as business manager in connection with the erection of the Union Buildings at Pretoria and the Johannesburg Town Hall. During the erection of the Union Buildings he lived in Pretoria, but always maintained his interest in Johannesburg.

He was an all round sportsman, and in his younger days was a useful bowler and fair bat, but in this country he was more prominent in sport as an enthusiastic golfer, and devoted his great powers of organisation to the welfare of the Johannesburg Golf Club. It was largely due to his energy and ability that the club was enabled to acquire its present fine course, and in the erection of the fine club house he gave his technical services gratis.

His keen sense of justice, large mind, and genial disposition made him a strong friend, and he will be greatly missed by a wide circle in the community, whose sympathies go out to his bereaved wife and children and to his mother and family in England.

E. M. P.

Lieut. John Filtness, who is reported killed in action in France while serving with the Royal Field Artillery, was a member of the Association of Transvaal Architects. Trained in London in the office of Mr. Detmar Blow, he came to this country in 1909, and soon afterwards joined the office of Messrs. Herbert Baker & Fleming, where he worked for about two years. From 1912 to 1914 he assisted Messrs. Reid and Delbridge, both in Johannesburg and Capetown. A keen volunteer before the outbreak of war, he was among the first to serve, and went through the South-West Africa campaign with the Imperial Light Horse. Immediately afterwards he proceeded oversea. Many members of the Association and friends remembering him mourn his untimely death, and South Africa is the poorer in the loss of a young architect of marked ability and promise.

General Bellgarde da Silva, Director of Surveys in Portuguese East Africa for many years, has just passed away at Lorenco Marques at the age of 65. The writer will never forget the wonderful Castilian courtesy of this distinguished official when he described to a number of Randites the methods employed in mapping the great Province under the control of his Government. He acted on several occasions as Governor-General during interregnums, and leaves behind him a host of friends who mourn the loss of a perfect gentleman.

E. W.

The Late Francis Bond, M.A.—No one has contributed more richly to Gothic lore than Mr. Bond, and the loss of so eminent a scholar will be greatly felt by all the architectural world. Though not an architect by profession, he produced a singularly able treatise on the origin and development of English Gothic. The work is a classic, and finds a welcome place not only on an architect's shelf, but in the library of the clergy and the general student, for it is produced in a popularly attractive style, and can be easily understood by the layman. The high niche to which Mr. Bond attained in architectural opinion was shown by the R.I.B.A. and the Society of Architects both creating him an honorary member.

E. W.

Ian Andrew Hossack.—The death of Ian Andrew Hossack at Capetown a few days ago, from the effects of malarial fever contracted in German East Africa, has added another name to the roll of those of our Association who have made the great sacrifice. He was born in Banff, Scotland, 39 years ago, and after serving his articles with Mr. Arthur Clyne, Architect, of Aberdeen, entered the office of Colonel Edis in London, where he worked for a few years. He came to South Africa shortly after the Anglo-Boer War and entered the office of Messrs. Baker, Masey & Sloper, Johannesburg, and left that firm in 1903 to join the Government service in the Public Works Department, first as a draughtsman at Standerton, and later at Pretoria.



At the time of Union he was appointed Assistant Architect and transferred to Capetown early in 1912, and remained a member of the Capetown staff until his death. He married in 1913 the youngest daughter of Sir Patrick and Lady Manson.

He enlisted for service in German East Africa in the 9th S.A.I. in 1915, and it was while on active service that he contracted fever, which ultimately caused his death. He was discharged as permanently unfit in 1917 and returned to his civil duties at Capetown.

He was a particularly gifted architect, and carried out many important Government works, including the Boys' High School, Pretoria; Alexandra Hospital, Capetown; Native Asylum, Falkenburg; also a number of buildings for Pretoria Mental Hospital and Potchefstroom Experimental Farm. His cheery disposition endeared him to a large number of friends among his colleagues and outside official circles, whose sympathy go out to his widow and little daughter.

J. B. DEY.

AN ARBITRATION COURT.

Everyone acquainted with building work must realise the absurdity of invoking the aid of a body of laymen to settle technical disputes. This absurdity will the more readily be seen if the position be reversed and a Court of Architects be asked to settle some legal points between lawyers. Really, both judges and lawyers do not want to be bothered with such cases, for the litigants speak in a foreign language to them. et the Law Court reports show how many building cases have been settled in such manner in South Africa. Judges at Home, when appealed to, advise arbitration, and were the machinery of an Arbitration Court in existence here doubtless most would avail themselves of its advantages. It is undoubtedly the fairest as well as the most commonsense way of settling technical disputes.

Cases in the Law Courts are more often than not decided not on moral grounds but purely on legal points, and frequently on precedent which may not "technically" apply. It is not an uncommon thing for counsel in discussing a case after a decision has been made, to exclaim "Morally, of course, we had no case," and so what should be a Court of Justice becomes nothing more than a Court of Law, for the benefit of the lawyers and those who give such momentous decisions. It is no doubt very entertaining for these gentlemen, if not lucrative, but the people who have to pay may have a different idea on the subject. Then there is a difficulty even with lawyers to know what the law really is. England and America are about the only two leading countries without a "code."

Most of the building disputes arise from a reluctance on the part of clients to pay extras, who more often than not are responsible for their ordering; on the part of the builder, failing to complete the work to time, causing loss to client; inferior work and material. As a rule a client will be guided by his architect, in fact he agrees to do so in the contract, and the same way be said of the builder. It is of

course most unfortunate when the client refuses to abide by the architect's decisions, when the latter is forced by a keen sense of honour to side with the builder. A client is then led to believe that the only explanation for such a situation is collusion between one and the other. Some clients seem to think an architect was specially invented to squeeze the contractor.

Attempts are sometimes made to evade payment by the "letter" of man-made laws—open to various interpretations. Here are two instances:—

In the first instance the building owner was dissatisfied, although the builder had on the request of the client reduced his tender—already nearly a hundred pounds below the next, the lowest having been withdrawn—but at the same time stipulated there should be no difference in specification or drawings, in other words he wanted to profit at the builder's expense, a thing the writer has no sympathy with, and accordingly issued his final certificate, which the client at once dishonoured. The builder invoked the aid of the Law Courts in consequence.

The law holds that if a man undertakes to carry out a contract, it does not matter if he is ruined over it, the law does not allow of mistakes on the part of the contractor whatever it may be disposed to do in the case of those who judge. If a builder makes them he must suffer by them, having had plenty of time to consider the matter before committing himself to paper. To put it another way, if the building owner wishes to obtain more than money's worth, the law of the land provides facilities for accomplishing his purpose, not directly of course.

The writer may not know much about man-made laws, but to every right thinking person the line of demarcation between right and wrong is a thick one, and in this case he stood by the builder.

The legal adviser of the client, with a firm practising as architects (who used to advertise as willing to do work at half fees) rendered a contra account to the tune of £120, no details, which looked like the summary sheet of a bill of quantities, in order to make it a High Court case. This lawyer cited a case in Court to show that it was only necessary for a magistrate to be doubtful on a single item for him to throw out the case as not within the jurisdiction of his Court, and the evidence was so taken. The case was never fought out, and the magistrate very naturally gave judgment in accordance with the case cited. The builder, having already lost money, let the matter stand rather than take it to the High Court, and the architect lost the balance of his fees, not to say some of his reputation, with those who put two and two together to suit their wishes.

In another instance, although the client expressed himself as very pleased with the work, when it came to the time of payment he was reluctant to express that pleasure in the shape of money. Three months after the final certificate became due he discovered a clause (4, R.I.B.A. Conditions) in the contract which would enable him to call the work a "lump sum job," although he had given instructions in writing for the quantities to be prepared. Lawyer's advice was sought and another firm of architects called in, and they both said the same thing, that it was a "lump sum job." The architects of the building did not dispute it, the clause relating to extras and variations meeting the builder's claim, and the bill of quantities thus became a "schedule of prices" provided for in the contract. The client was quite frank about it, he knew it was a quantity job, but felt if the offending clause would enable him to save his shareholders a hundred or so he would be justified in relying upon it, notwithstanding that the work had been carefully measured. The few shortages of £30 or £40 were met by some £150 worth of deductions. The firm of architects who were called in to advise the lawyers and client, after investigation supported the architects of the work, which both client and lawyers accepted, and so the Courts were saved discussing a complicated case.

From the before-mentioned instances it will be seen how much better it is for builders and clients to have disputes settled by those who understand all the details of building work.

Both architects and builders can feel some gratification after much deliberation that all contracts in future will be based on the bills of quantities, thus making them a part of the contract, so that any shortage will be paid for at the rates in such bill, and any surplus deducted. That is fair and just.

The absurdity of guaranteeing quantities will occur to every thinking person, though the inexperienced are always ready to guarantee—such should be asked for a banker's signature to be of use. It might be very well asked why should quantities be guaranteed any more than documents of the architect, lawyer, etc. Reasonable care alone should be expected, no one is infallible, in spite of assertions to the contrary.

Law is a life study and so is architecture; if a man is a lawyer he is not an architect, and *vice versa*. In an arbitration it is not required to settle legal points, but technical ones as to value and measurement. In the eves of the law the architect occupies precisely the

same position as the judge on the bench, his judgments cannot be questioned, he can only be sued for fraud. The reader is referred to "Fletcher on Arbitration" and "Emden on Contracts."

The client may perhaps not feel inclined to have his case submitted to arbitration, thinking that an architect is prejudiced in favour of the builder. That of course, is quite an erroneous idea, for the simple reason his professional life is occupied in checking builders. The builder, on the other hand, may just as well say an architect is biased in the client's favour. As an arbitrator is an independent party and knows no more about the case than a judge until the matter is put before him, both client and builder can rest content.

Although the "Conditions of Contract" provide for arbitration—where the architect does not, as in many cases, act as sole arbitrator—it is not often put into force, because of the absence of the machinery of such a Court. It is for the architects and builders to put their heads together to set about establishing one, not with the object of making a living out of it; the fees should amount to no more than expenses, as in the case of jurors.

The "Joint Board" established by the building trades is an undertaking of their own to settle trade disputes.

The procedure in cases before an Arbitration Court is similar to a Court of Law. First of all a "Deed of Submission" has to be prepared, setting forth the object of the arbitration, to be signed by the parties in dispute, who bind themselves to abide by the award, which said award can be made the order of any Court of Law. The witnesses are subpœned and give evidence under oath. The fees are paid the arbitrator before giving his award. It is sometimes advisable to have the guidance of a good lawyer as to procedure. See "Arbitration," Ordinance No. 24 of 1904.

E. J. WELLMAN.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

Frontispiece.

The Garden House, Bridge House, Weybridge.—This delightful illustration of garden architecture is the work of Mr. H. A. Pe o, and is a striking example of the conversion of a former dull garden with lawn cut up with orthodox flower-beds, into one of great charm and interest. The lily pond is T shaped, the short arm being slightly curved, and the garden house is set at the head of it, with a group of tall trees forming the background. This photograph was specially taken for "The Architectural Review."

Architects' Homes.

We are indebited to Messrs. Baker & Fleming for the photograph of "Stonehouse," Eton Road, Parktown, the residence of Mr. Herbert Baker, also the photograph of "Endstead," Escombe Avenue, Parktown West, the residence of the late Mr. E. Willmott (E. W. Sloper). Mr. Willmott will be remembered as a former partner with Messrs. Baker & Masey.

It is proposed to continue the series by publishing the residences of South African architects, and the Journal Committee will be pleased to receive photographs for this purpose.

New Federal Capital of Australia.

The plan for the competition held some time ago by the Australian Government for the lay-out of Canberra is by Mr. J. A. Moffat, of Johannesburg. With the exception of Mr. Griffins' accepted plan, it is the only one which has been published in this country. The backbone of the scheme connects the Capital Hill on the right of the commercial centre with the latter runs through to the industrial centre. The Capitol dominates the town, but the commercial centre is the middle of the city. The swamp area between the Molonglo River and the railway, being below the sewerage gravitation level, is retained as a public park, and the river bed is not opened out as in Mr. Griffins designs into so large a lake, and as the flow in the river is said to be very small, this is to make less demand on its capacity for keeping up the level during the fierce and long dry summer. Mt. Ainslie, on the top right-hand, surrounded by a semi-circular drive, is the highest eminence in the area, and is connected by an axial line with the Capitol Hill. The cob-web pattern is employed freely, and is further accentuated by minor nuclei forming secondary centres. The scheme is not so extensive as Mr. Griffins, which shows a really—for the purpose—huge town of a size which will probably never be reached. Purely legislative capitals are not likely to attain very large dimensions unless outside industries and commerce be attracted as well as the Parliament.

Proposed New Standard Bank, Eloff Street, Johannesburg.

The four perspectives of the proposed Standard Bank, Eloff Street, Johannesburg, completes the series of designs squbmitted in the recent limited competition, the other drawings submitted were published in our previous issue.

WHAT THE ASSOCIATION IS DOING.

On April 1, 1918, Mr. M. K. Carpenter was appointed Registrar to the Association. Owing to the increase of work it has been found necessary to appoint an official who would devote daily attention to the Association's needs, and Mr. Carpenter will be in attendance at the Association's office, 68, Exploration Buildings, every afternoon from 2 till 5 p.m. ('Phone 5821).

The appointment carries with it the business representation of this Journal, and all matters pertaining thereto can be dealt with at the office of the Association.

Competitions.—The projected competition in connection with the erection of a D.R. Church at Ermelo was unsatisfactory, and as the promoters would not revise the conditions to conform with the "General Conditions" adopted by the Association, the Council were reluctantly compelled to circularise members requesting them to refrain from competing.

As mentioned in the Editorial, Mr. E. H. Waugh resigned his position as Member of Council after the general meeting held on the 5th April, also the Editorship of this Journal.

Mr. J. S. Donaldson has been elected to fill the vacancy caused by this resignation on the Council, and Mr. E. M. Powers has assumed the Editorship of this Journal. Members will still have the benefit of Mr. Waugh's ripe experience in the new capacity of sub-editor.

The following are the officers and Committees for the current year:—

President, Mr. M. J. Harris; Vice-Presidents, Mr. D. M. Burton and Mr. D. M. Sinclair; Members of Council: Messrs. R. Howden, H. G. Veale, J. S. Bowie, T. G. Ellis, W. J. de Zwaan, F. L. H. Fleming, D. A. McCubbin, E. M. Powers, J. S. Donaldson.

Finance Committee.—Messrs. D. M. Burton (Chairman), D. M. Sinclair, H. G. Veale J. S. Donaldson.

Practice Committee.—Messrs. D. M. Sinclair (Chairman), E. M. Powers, R. Howden, F. L. H. Fleming, T. G. Ellis, H. G. Veale.

Architectural Classes.—Messrs. F. L. H. Fleming (Chairman), M. J. Harris, E. M. Powers.

Journal Committee.—Messrs. E. M. Powers (Chairman), E. H. Waugh, R. Howden, D. A. McCubbin, G. Moerdijk, E. J. Wellman, G. M. Nicolay, G. G. Fleming.

Art Committee.—Messrs. F. L. H. Fleming (Chairman), T. G. Ellis, G. Moerdijk, E. H. Waugh, V. S. Rees Poole, E. M. Powers, F. Emley, G. S. Burt Andrews H. G. Veale.

Building Bye-Laws Committee.—Messrs. E. M. Powers (Chairman) R. Howden, F. L. H. Fleming, D. A. McCubbin.

Draft Act Registration Committee.—Messrs. M. J. Harris (Chairman), R. Howden, E. M. Powers, H. G. Veale.

University Committee and Seymour Memorial.—The President, Mr. M. J. Harris, represents the Association on each of these bodies.

Pretoria Practice Committee.—Messrs. W. J. de Zwaan (Chairman), P. Hofman, J. R. Burg, N. T. Cowin, J. G. Kraan, F. G. McIntosh, V. P. Rees Poole, F. Roberts, P. Westmaas, P. V. Wyers, F. Soff. The President Mr. M. J. Harris, and Vice-Presidents, Messrs. D. M. Burton and D. M. Sinclair, are *ex officio* members of all committees.

Benevolent Fund.—The Trustees have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of a donation of £5 5s. received from Mr. F. L. H. Fleming.

Since the last issue the Trustees have received a call for the sum of £20, which has been paid out, to enable the two sons of a late practitioner to continue their education in England.

Ratepayers' Association.—A deputation consisting of the President, Mr. M. J. Harris, and Messrs. H. G. Veale, E. M. Powers, D. M. Sinclair and the Registrar attended the Ratepayers' Congress, and a full report of the proceedings appears in another part of this issue.

Education Commission.—A deputation consisting of Messrs. D. M. Burton, Walter Reid and A. J. Marshall gave evidence before the Education Commission at the School of Mines on the 17th May.

Governor-General's Fund.—The Association has donated the sum of £25 to the Governor-General's Fund.

Qualifying Examination.—The Council have decided to hold a qualifying examination for membership of this Association some time in July next, at which it is expected there will be at least five candidates. An advertisement respecting this appears in this issue.

The Association has for disposal a No. 10 Roneo duplicating machine in first-class working order. This is the latest model and turns out excellent work, and may be purchased for the sum of £12 10s. The Registrar will be pleased to give further information to prospective purchasers.

The present addresses of the following members are unknown. If any of our readers are in a position to supply this information the Registrar will be greatly obliged:—W. J. Cairns, W. J. Campbell, W. J. Ford, C. Jones, W. S. Law, G. G. Lawson, J. A. Melville, A. G. Monsborough, R. S. Murdoch, J. Neville, R. M. Robertson, J. G. Ross, C. H. Smith.

REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL JOURNALS.

The London "Builder" has lately devoted several articles of an important character to the "Architects' Future Status," and Mr. John Murray, F.R.I.B.A., has contributed a very long letter on the same subject to the pages of this weekly. The wholesale exclusion of architects—particularly in the early years of the Great War—from employment on the vast building schemes in England for the War Department was a great and painful surprise to the whole profession. Engineers, landscape architects and contractors were employed freely, but the Department had no use for architects, although their services were offered by the R.I.B.A. Mr. Murray has given great thought to this phase, and comes to the conclusion that the public, as represented by the War Office, did not for some reason regard architects as the proper persons for plain works of great magnitude requiring rapidity of construction and newer sciences. He endeavours, we think with success, to ascertain the reason, which he regards as arising from the national view that architects are artists and are not viewed as being sufficiently practical or scientific for the works in question. He goes further, and claims that the War Office attitude is that of the public generally, and that the profession has stuck to old ruts and has allowed much of its old functions to pass into the hands of quasi-professional and trade callings.

Mr. Horatio K. Bromhead, F.R.I.B.A., contributes to the R.I.B.A. Journal a letter on similar lines, and makes the revolutionary proposal—much in common with Mr. John Murray—of combining contracting with architecture. Both writers claim that the business side is too much neglected, and that the public wont a man who understands building finance, in addition to understanding his art. Hence the frequent success of what is generally termed the "business architect," who succeeds where the "artistic man" fails. Mr. Murray counsels the R.I.B.A. to sell out No. 9, Conduit Street and to move into a front street and bring in under their roof allied callings of all kinds. He advocates the abolition of the present method of admission to the Institute, so as to embrace all the relative sciences and specialists therein, so long as they pass a prescribed architectural test. Practice of architecture as a qualification should be dropped and the gates opened to lawyers, craftsmen and others who could pass the test, which would result in the ascendancy of the best aesthetic art arising out of an alliance with science. He contends that history points to the dominance of the scientific builder in architecture in the development of the art.

Sir Aston Webb supports Mr. Murray, whose high position in the English architectural councils commands the highest respect. The writer welcomes the movement Mr. Murray is leading, and a similar claim has been advanced in the columns of this journal. Architects want the public, but most often the public don't want architects, for which the profession blames the public. It is hopeless to educate the public to the present out-of-date system of running architecture. Most frequently they wan't have it, and it is the fault of the architects for not meeting the requirements of the public. The writer holds the view that this is nearly always the case.

The answer lies in the pregnant headings of a further and succeeding article in the "Builder" on the same lines, viz., "Co-operation, Combination and Partnership." Architecture, as a profession, is on the ridge of a crisis, and Mr. Murray foreshadows a return to the addition of the more ancient title of "Surveyor," which implied a closer association with the actual execution and scientific principles. He demands the admission of specialist courses in training, such as are afforded in medical schools, and claims a return to pupilage with school training as a support. "Back to the Sources." Back to the Charter of 1834 that architecture should embrace "the whole circle of the sciences."

"The decay of institutions which have outlived their time is usually marked by an excessive regard for minor points," thus the "Builder." The French Revolution was preceded by a marked aristocratic concern for points of etiquette, when the nation trembled on the verge of abysmal chaos. Louis XIV. said: "Après moi le deluge," but our profession can admit no such indifference to the future.

We worry about the dignity of the profession, and, dog-like, chop the bone for the shadow. In the words of Mr. Murray, "architects must attract and enlighten their patrons in order to serve the public"; "the architectural outlook has become too restricted"; "the professional bodies have not kept sufficient pace, with the result that new professions have arisen to do the scientific constructive work that should be done by architects. The public have, in consequence, patronised those profession instead of architects, because they receive the primary scientific essentials that they need, which include architectural design."

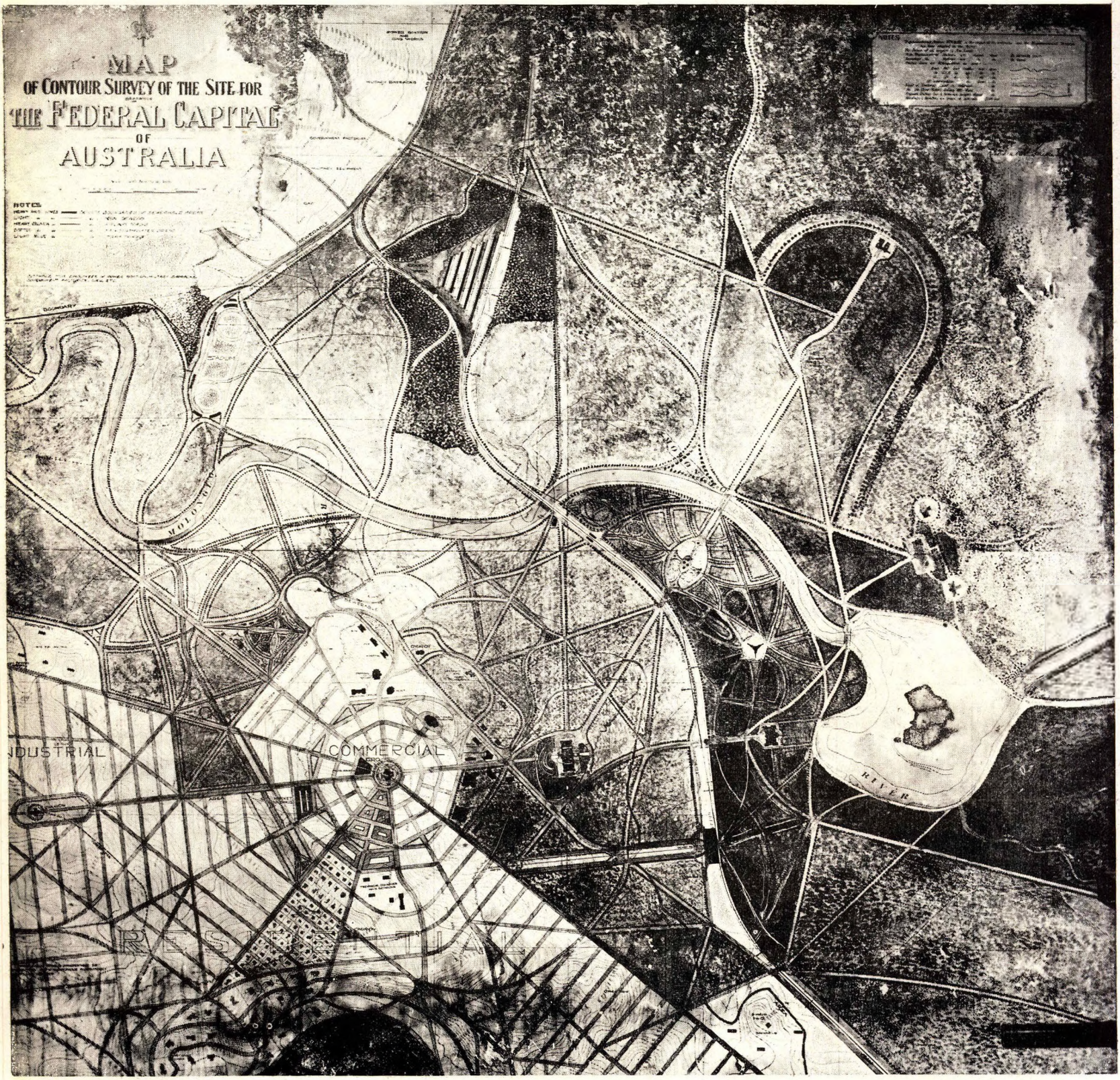
I once heard Gipsy Smith in Australia addressing a crowd. In his pungent way he said: "You people



"STONEHOUSE," ETON ROAD, PARKTOWN FROM S.E.
Residence of Herbert Baker, Esq., F.R.I.B.A.

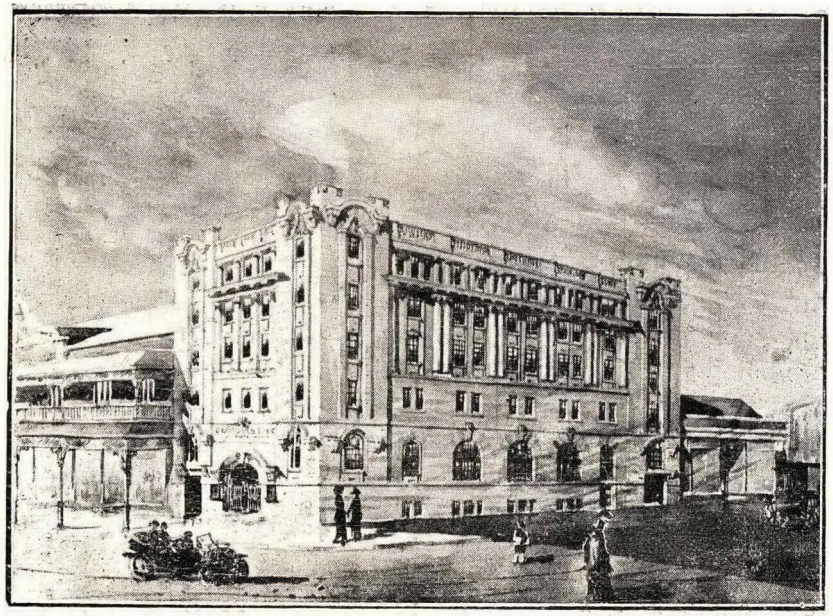


"ENDSTEAD," ESCOMBE AVENUE, PARKTOWN WEST, FROM S.E.
Residence of the late E. Wilmott (E. W. Sloper).

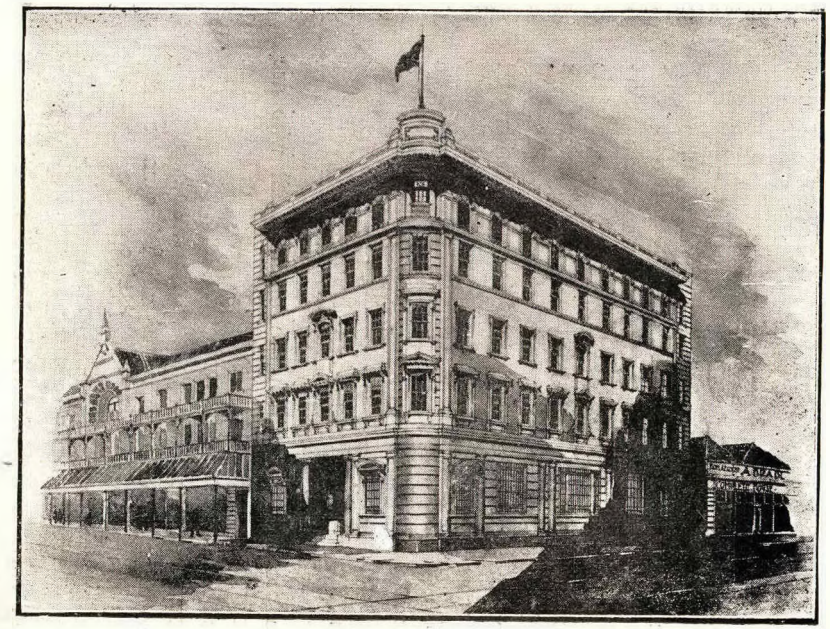


NEW FEDERAL CAPITAL OF AUSTRALIA.

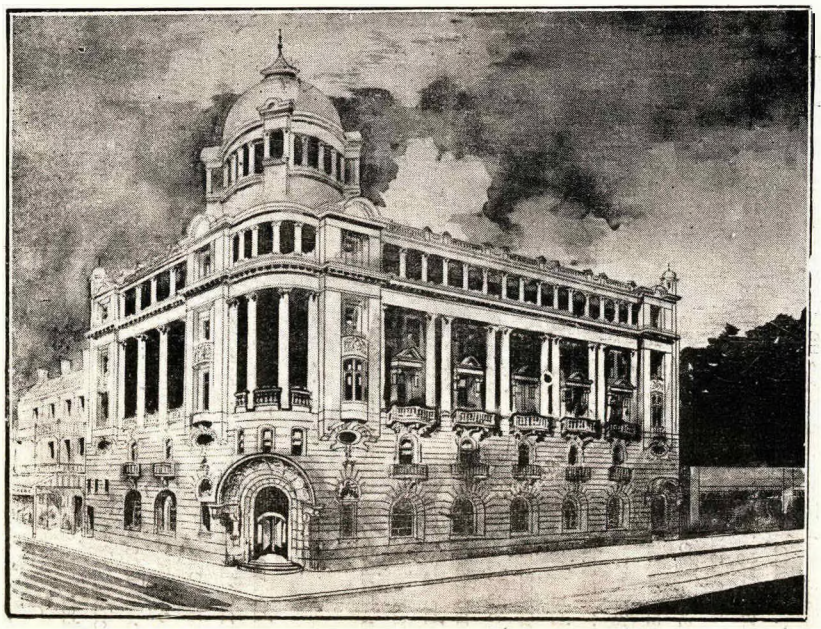
Plan of Lay-out submitted by Mr. J. A. Moffat, Architect.



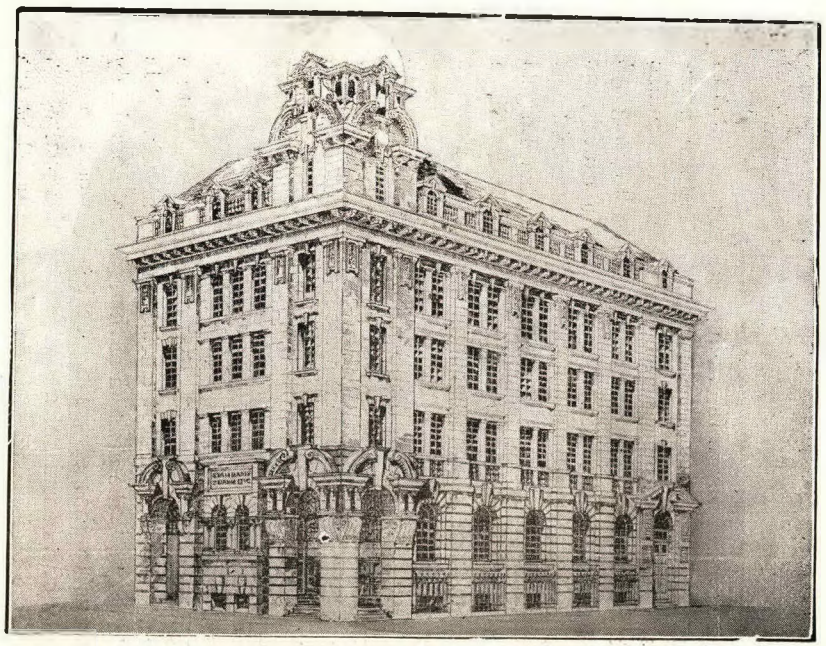
Mr. J. A. Moffat—Architect.



Messrs. Pearse and Ellis—Architects.



Mr. M. J. Harris—Architect.



Mr. John Waterson—Architect.

STANDARD BANK, ELOFF STREET, JOHANNESBURG.—Designs submitted in limited competition.

think the world wants reforming, and you all want to reform something or somebody else. Reform yourselves." There lies a lot of horse sense. The public won't reform architectural practice. It will spring out of the old tree, the R.I.B.A. itself. No church, no state, no institution was ever reformed from without. The church produced a Luther, an Ignatius Lorgola and a Wesley; the State produced a Cromwell, a Mirabeau, and a Danton; architecture produced a Wren and an Isodorus. Any other course Mr. Murray calls "a mistaken and impossible road to Elysium." For ourselves, we want to see an architect's mind in every cottage. The present system will never get that, and we are as much wrong in the Transvaal as they are in England.

Under the title of the "Architects' Future Status," the "Builder" carries on the attack. "Is not," it says, "the position of the architect completely analagous to that of the engineer who works in the capacity of a consultant and also that of a contractor, and whose professional position is not damaged by the fret? The engineer has the reputation of being a practical man, but we doubt whether, if he had confined himself to drawing up schemes to be executed by others, he would have the standing which is his to-day. The fact that men of professional capacity and training find work in contracting firms, not only raises the standard of the work of those firms, but increases the public appreciation of engineering as a profession, and so adds to the status of the consulting engineer or designer," and then "enquiry into the relative positions of the engineer and architect will establish the fact that they are practically identical." The paper implies that bridge building should never have left the hands of architects, if they had kept pace with modern requirements, instead of forcing the work into the hands of a new profession. "A wider programme of education" is needed "to fit the profession for its enlarged opportunities."

The veteran, Mr. John Slater, backs up the new movement, and supports Sir Aston Webb for a strong committee to report on inter-relations between architecture, architects, professional societies and the public. That men of such distinction, won on the old methods, should "dream dreams" of a newer and a better architectural life points to a descent of the spirit of prophecy upon them, for "the former things are passed away." The war has created "all things new."

E. H. WAUGH.

PROFESSIONS LICENCES.

Mr. T. A. White recently presented to the Provincial Council of the Transvaal a report from a Taxation Commission which deals with a number of possible sources of revenue. Among these is a professions tax in the form of an annual licence fee. Such a tax will be strenuously resisted as being class legislation and taxing one section who gain no special sectional benefit from the community and giving the tax to the whole community. Taxation of liquor licences and beer sellers is not an objectional sectional tax, as the licence creates a preserve round the holder. It is quite different with a profession, where no such monopoly can be created and which are open to all who are prepared to pass through the necessary training. The professions have tariff charges which are based on the value of work, but so do trades unions, and the latter exercise their power in this way which has never been done by the professions. There is no justification for this iniquitous proposal, and we would be just as opposed to making a baker or a bootmaker pay for the right of earning a living by a tax as we are to an architect or a doctor being made to do so. There is too much taxation on personal exertion in this country, and the income tax places the same levy on a year's toil as on the same result derived from investments. On this point the A.T.A. should lay evidence before the Income Tax Commission and on the proposal to tax professions as such, if persisted in, a united meeting of all professions should at once be held. Very few professional men attain even moderate wealth, the majority in all professions die comparatively poor, and sometimes destitute.

E. W.

ALTERATIONS TO ASSOCIATION'S BYE-LAWS.

The Special General Meeting called for consideration of Council recommended alterations to Bye-Laws took place on the eve of going to press, The meeting was a very successful one the necessary quorum being obtained and sufficient members were represented by proxies to admit of the business being transacted.

Journal of the SA Architectural Institute

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