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**1913**

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

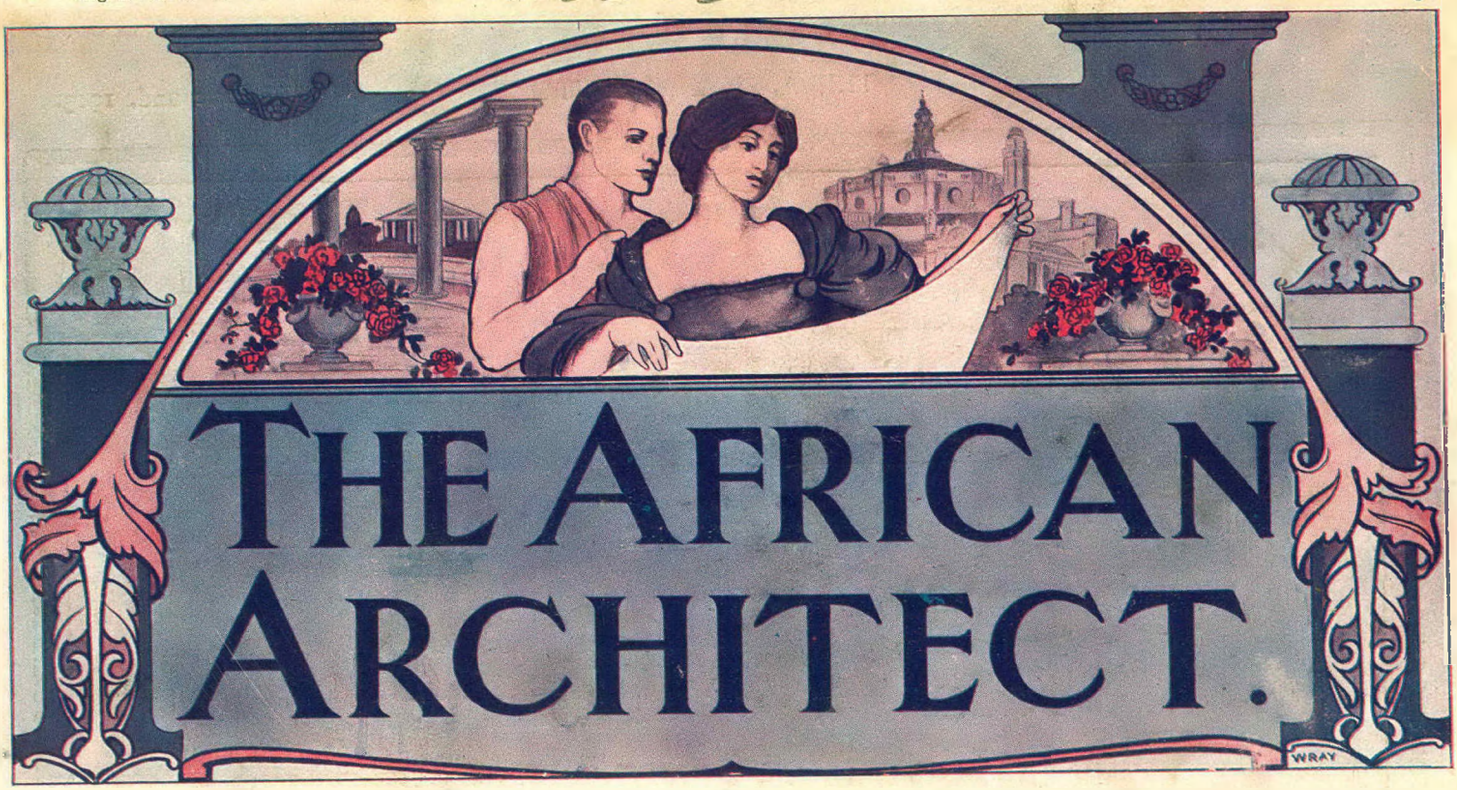
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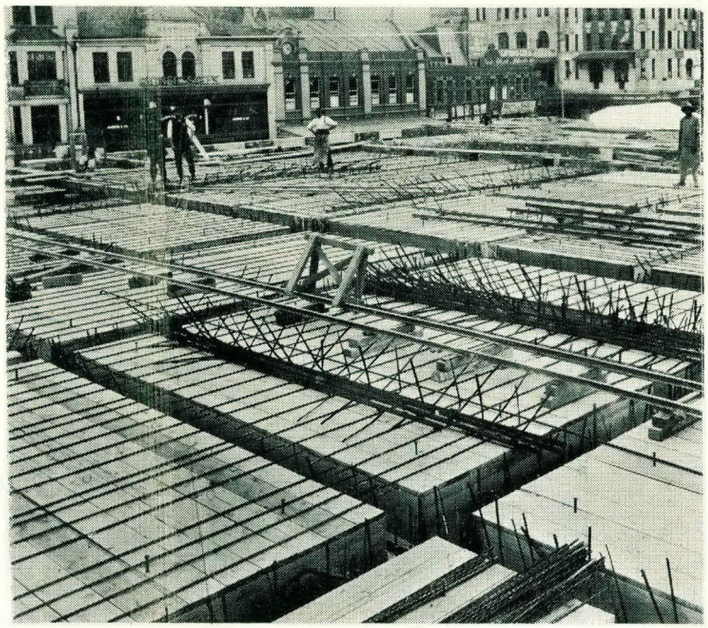
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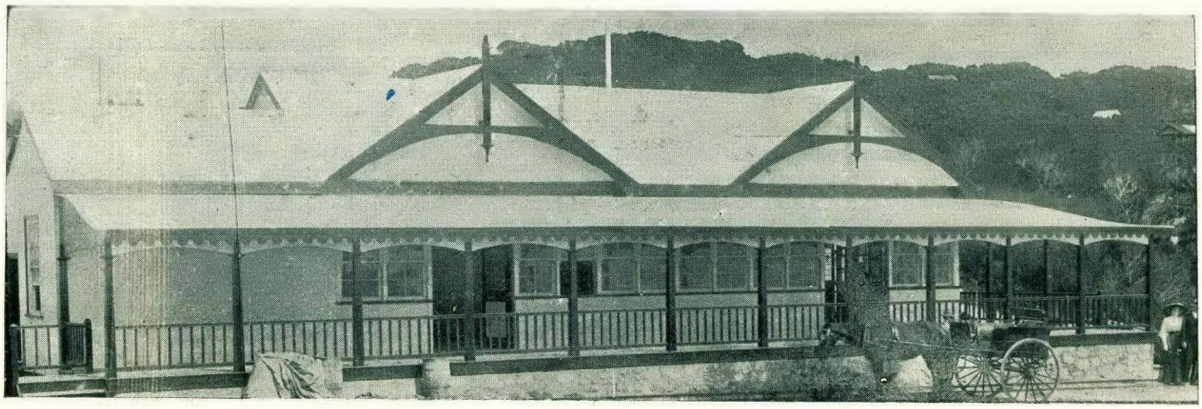
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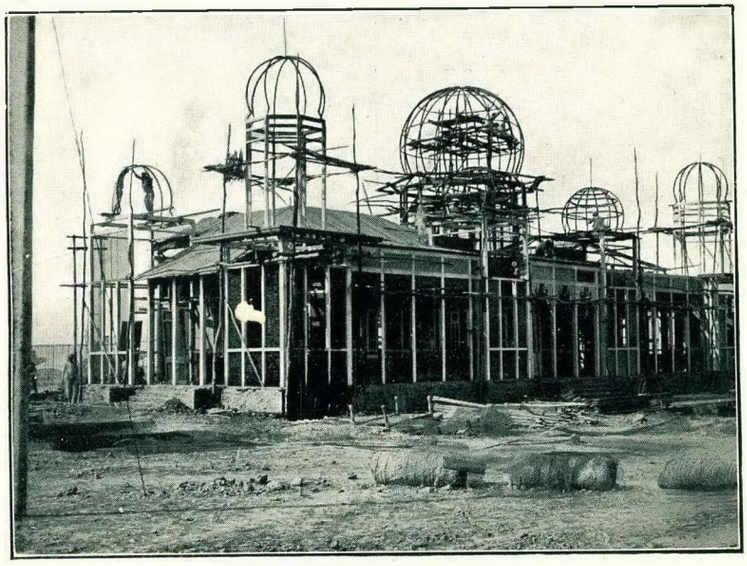
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The
# African Architect
THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

VOL. III. No. 1.] JUNE 2ND, 1913. [10/6 PER ANNUM POST FREE.

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

### The Trend of Theatre Design.

There has been for a considerable time consideration in certain quarters for a National Theatre in the Transvaal, or rather in Johannesburg, but the idea has not advanced much towards realisation. The extraordinary multiplication of theatres is much in evidence in the Golden City, and for our part we think it would be utter madness for the Union Government to enter into any theoretical scheme while all round us we see theatres closing down and going into liquidation. To our mind it is silly for a South African town to hold out such a project. Why, in London the great Opera House in the Kingsway has had to be converted into a cinematograph palace, and if that is the state of affairs in London, with its 8,000,000 inhabitants, what would be the result in a town in South Africa with only 125,000?

### Architecture at the Royal Academy.

We note in the Home papers that the standard reached in this year's Exhibition is a high one. Naturally there is no suggestion of a national school of training in architecture in the sense that is in evidence in France and America, but there are clear traces that architects have, for the most part, abandoned an attitude of "glorious isolation," says "The Builder," and they are directly and indirectly influenced by the tendency to conform more or less to what may be termed a uniform system of notation in expressing their architectural ideas. The designs from South African architects are especially commended.

### Association of Transvaal Architects.

We are informed that the Council is actively pushing forward the promotion of the Union Act for Registration of Architects, and also, we learn from authentic sources, that members of the Association will be given an opportunity of suggesting any amendments to the details of the Bill in accordance with the principles already adopted. The Council is quite in earnest as to the possibility of avoiding any further delay in this long-considered matter.

### Wren's House.

It is to be regarded with satisfaction that the last remnants of the house in London in which Sir Christopher Wren is reported to have lived during the erection of St. Paul's Cathedral, have been acquired through purchase by Alderman Sir Charles Wakefield, and will find a new home "on this side of the Atlantic." "The Architects' and Builders' Journal," to hand by last mail, says: "The information is somewhat ambiguous, but it seems to imply that the principal features of the house (now demolished) are to be preserved from the clutches of American curio enthusiasts. This house in Botolph Lane was not improbably built by Wren for himself. Its prevailing note was dignified simplicity, the proportions being excellent."

### New Residence for Governor-General at Cape Town.

During last month the Minister of Public Works, in the course of a speech in Parliament, made the interesting announcement that it is the intention of the Government to erect a new residence at Cape Town for the Governor-General, and that it is the intention to promote an architectural competition for the selection of a suitable design. This news should sharpen a few pencils in anticipation of what will certainly prove one of the most interesting competitions of recent times in this country.

### Architects Busy.

It is gratifying to note that most of the Rand architects are busy at the present time. There is a good deal of residential work being done, which fact denotes that a more settled condition of things is taking place on the Rand. This has been going on for some time, and is a reassuring sign of the times, and an evidence that there is no necessity for pessimism in regard to architectural work and building. A considerable improvement is taking place in the matter of the removal of old buildings and the erection of new and more handsome and commodious premises.

**The Skyscraper.**

It is interesting to note that, according to reports, apprehensions with regard to some of the "skyscraper" buildings in New York and Chicago are entertained, and "a jury of experts is to hear evidence" with a view to obtaining restriction of the heights of such erections. The danger chiefly feared is said to be electrolysis, caused, it is alleged, "by the escaping electric current." A correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" says that in one building in Chicago "the steel columns are being disintegrated at the rate of a pound an hour." It is new to us in South Africa to hear of steel-framed buildings suffering from "electrolysis," or anything else to this extent, and it will be interesting to watch the evidence submitted to the experts. By the way, it should be noted that the adoption of steel-framed buildings is on the increase in South Africa.

**The Blue Ribbon of Architecture.**

The Commissioners' Scholarship at the School of Rome is one that interests all British subjects engaged in the architectural profession. It is to be noted that the Jarvis Studentship is a close scholarship only eligible to students of the Institute, while the Commissioners' Scholarship, which is the blue ribbon of the architectural scholarships of the year, is open to all British subjects under thirty years of age. Apart from the relative value of the two scholarships, that offered by the Royal Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851 is therefore the higher honour and greater distinction, and it is to be hoped that its holders will, like the students who obtain the Prix de Rome, receive actual practical recognition of the honour they have achieved by finding their future an assured one.

## ANSWERS TO ENQUIRIES

*So many enquiries are made personally at this office concerning many matters connected with the profession, that we now find it expedient and only possible to answer these through the medium of this journal. In future, therefore, members are requested to send their enquiries direct to the Editor of "The African Architect," P.O. Box 4651, Johannesburg.*

"CONSTANT READER."—In reply to your letter regarding "The African Architect" competitions, we like your views on the subject. On the whole the number of competitive designs has been successful. The competitions, however, in our opinion, have been somewhat too severe for youthful aspirants to compete in any large numbers. We have had several complaints that in connection with the designs, which are practically public property after being published in these pages, that they can be copied and adapted to suit clients who do not wish to engage the services of the profession. We have another suggestion that to vary the competitions we should ask for essays on architecture. We have an open mind on this matter, and will be glad to receive any suggestions from members of the profession throughout the country.

'ARCHITECT."—On the subject of a standard system of measurements your letter is interesting. Both the Surveyors' Institute and the Master Builders' Federation have worked very hard in this matter. If you are a subscriber to the "Master Builders' Journal" you will have noticed that the system has now been adopted by the National Federation of Building Trade Employers in South Africa and the S.A. Institute of Quantity Surveyors. Moreover, the officials of each of these bodies are making extensive preparations to have the document printed and circulated throughout South Africa. As Mr. Cowling properly remarked at the Builders' Conference: "it lay in their power to make universal usage of the document by builders and surveyors for works of all sizes and all kinds, and, perhaps, for works scattered throughout the country from one end to the other. . . . Its realisation depended upon the exercise of a certain amount of tact, forbearance and goodwill between them. . . . He was also convinced that it would tend to the advantage of both surveyors and builders throughout the country." We presume that the next step to be taken will be to get the various Institutes of Architects to support the standard system, and when the document is in printed form probably the Builders' Federation and the Institute of Surveyors will be in communication with the different Institutes.

"JOHANNESBURG ARCHITECT."—Your commendatory remarks with reference to our leading article of May 1st are very much appreciated. We agree with you that if the Institute does not take advantage of the example of the Accountants' Registration (Private) Bill they will be shortsighted.

"ASPIRING ARCHITECT."—Your letter arrived just after publication of the May issue. If you turn up page 194 you will obtain all the information you desire with reference to the Special Examination.

"PRIVATE ARCHITECT."—Your query is: "Should the Public Works Department carry so large an architectural and surveying staff?" This is a subject we are not prepared to discuss. Why not think it out and read a paper before the Institute.

"NO QUORUM."—This is a matter repeatedly brought to our notice. Surely the members of your Institute are neglecting themselves and their profession when they abstain repeatedly from attending meetings. We believe that you are an occasional offender yourself. Try to set an example!

"ARCHITECTURAL STUDENT."—If you make application at the S.A. School of Technology you will receive all the information you desire in connection with architectural classes.

"NEW RAILWAY STATION FOR JOHANNESBURG."—We quite agree with you that the largest town in South Africa cannot boast of an up-to-date railway station. We believe that "somewhere" in the Administrative Offices plans do exist for a new station. Your idea, of course, is to have a competition. What would the department say to this?

"MERCHANT."—Yes; your wares are quite good. We know all about that. So are those of the merchants who advertise in these pages. If you emulate their example the probability is that you will get your materials on the market. Our advertisement manager is always eager to book contracts, and if you give him five minutes of your valuable time he will tell you all about this journal.

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# The African Architect

ORGAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

JUNE 2ND, 1913.

**"THE AFRICAN ARCHITECT"**

is published monthly. Price 1s. per copy. Annual subscription 10s. 6d., payable in advance to "THE AFRICAN ARCHITECT," P.O. Box 4651, Johannesburg. Telephone No. 2767.

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**SPECIAL ARTICLES** on general subjects of interest to the architectural profession, and photographs, are cordially invited from our readers. Where payment is expected this should be distinctly stated. Special care will be taken of MS., but the Editor will in no case guarantee its return.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**—The columns of "The African Architect" are open at all times for expression of the opinions of our readers, but the Editor disclaims responsibility for the views of correspondents. All letters must be signed with the name of the correspondent, not necessarily for publication, but in evidence of *bona fide*, and addressed "EDITOR, 'The African Architect,' Box 4651, Johannesburg."

**BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS.**—All communications on business matters should be addressed to "THE BUSINESS MANAGER, 'The African Architect,' Rooms 17 and 18, Provident Buildings, Fox Street, Johannesburg."

"The African Architect" is on sale at Chicken's News Agency, Pritchard Street, Johannesburg.


## INDIFFERENT QUANTITIES

OUR London contemporary, "The Builder," in its issue of April 25th, devotes its leading article to the subject of "Indifferent Quantities." In the course of its consideration we find several arguments advanced which scarcely commend themselves to our judgment; and, in view of professional conditions in this country, it may be serviceable to advance what seems to us a more correct standpoint. "The preparation of a thoroughly good bill of quantities," says our contemporary, "demands several qualities, which, if found in architects, are usually rather a drawback than an asset. These include great power of concentration, a fine memory, a logical and orderly mind, and a brain described by Oliver Wendell Holmes as containing a large ground floor (for storing facts), and no upper floors (which are reserved for ideas). The latter belong (if the architect is what he should be, a man of imagination and creative artistry), to him, and few men have been found to have both kinds of ability, as the one usually excludes the other in the nature of things. Architects also necessarily lack the training in method and routine that a surveyor needs, and also the experience in all the detail of trade customs, the want of which nothing can supply." All this, we think, is somewhat astonishing. The Colonial architect lives in an atmosphere less ethereal than that apparently enjoyed by the readers of "The Builder." The architect who does not possess a logical and orderly mind, a good memory, a brain capable of strong facts as well as ideas, methodical habits, and a thorough knowledge of trade customs, will find it impossible to exist in South Africa. There never has been a time in South Africa when the architect has been able to carry on his art irrespective of the practical needs of the time, and the study of those needs will always demand just those qualities which "The Builder" doubts as existing in the "man of imagination." In our reading we continually come across the high falutin' Art idea of architectural practice which is so utterly superior to knowledge of building trade customs or of quantity surveying. Sir Christopher Wren was a great mathematician before he became an architect, and there are instances innumerable of the most eminent men in the Art having been expert overseers of building work. Taken as two separate and distinct professions, it goes without saying that the interests and the views of each, taken from the other standpoint, will not wholly coincide, and for that reason it also goes without saying that quantity surveyors will argue that architects should never interfere with their profession, while at the same time architects, who, in many instances which we are aware of, have taken out their articles as quantity surveyors and also as architects, will urge that they are perfectly qualified and competent to fulfil the duties of both professions. That does not get away from the fact, however, that the lofty view contained in our London contemporary will continue to appear in some shape or other for all time coming. Incidentally, however, we believe that theories expressed about the architectural profession and that of the quantity surveyor would assume a sounder and more thorough shape if we had less of the bickering about the lack of practical knowledge, and where grievances do exist, if the two bodies were to come into close touch with each other and arrive at agreements which would hinder neither profession.

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The whole question to our mind has, no doubt, arisen from architects indifferently trained issuing their own quantities. With this practice we have no sympathy. Time and again to our knowledge we have had submitted quantities so vaguely expressed that they could not stand the light of day. Such a practice is neither good for architect, surveyor, or builder. We do have sympathy with the professional man qualified for both professions by reason of his training, and where the title of architect and quantity surveyor are synonymous terms. In Africa at the present moment, where a standard system of measurement has been drawn up by the Quantity Surveyors' Institute, and agreed to by the Master Builders' Federation, we have every reason to hope that this model will before long be in general practice. Such a state of affairs, however, cannot be brought about unless, as expressed by the Secretary of the Quantity Surveyors' Institute, there is a certain amount of "tact, forbearance, and mutual sympathy and agreement" gradually bringing the model Bill into general operation. Moreover, the Union Registration Bill for Architects is making provision for a standing for both quantity surveyors and architects which is just and equitable. In order to throw light on this important subject we quote in another column "The Builder's" article in extenso, and we invite discussion upon it.

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### SOUTH AFRICAN EXHIBITS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY

It is stated that the finest and most suggestive architectural designs in the Exhibition are Mr. Herbert Baker's three drawings, No. 1,697, Rhodes Memorial, Table Mountain, Cape Town, and the same architect's designs for Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa. They all show what we need and do not often obtain in the architecture of to-day—not only good proportion in design and detail, but the enthusiasm of a great artistic conception. We ("The Builder") have seen nothing finer of its type than the Rhodes Memorial, with the sweep of steps flanked by bronze lions leading up to the columned building at the top, the bottom marked by a fine equestrian group. The design is in keeping and sympathy with its rugged surroundings and background. The same feeling is present in the fine group of buildings for Pretoria, with its great semicircular terraced sweep and flanking features; both designs are instinct with vitality and life, nor are the exigencies of a classical rendering in any way sacrificed. We hope that both designs will be as successful in execution as they are fine in conception, and that the same note will be apparent in the New Delhi buildings, in which Mr. Baker is associated with Mr. Lutyens.

### THE QUESTION OF WALL COVERING

A very timely paper was that recently read by Mr. Noel D. Sheffield, before the Society of Architects, on the seasonable subject of "Wall Papers." It is not too late to be of service in scheming the details of spring renovations, which are not all in furious operation in Easter week, although that is the period when decorators are working double tides. It is, in any case, gratifying to find that this subject is being taken up more seriously by architects, who, with rare exceptions, are apt to leave it too much in the hands of the specialist. The latter, we are sure, would be genuinely glad of a more liberal expression of architectural opinion in the matter. We are not yet very remote from a short-lived period during which, owing to the appalling degradation of taste in wall paper design, the architect was inclined to give it up in despair, and to recommend that all walls should be painted, rather than papered with monstrous designs which exhaled poison and fostered putrescence. If not entirely prejudiced against paper, he was wont to give his clients some such advice as that which Mr. Sheffield attributes to William Morris, whose name is seldom omitted from any discussion of the subject. Morris is credited with saying, 'Have papers with pretty patterns if you like; but if you don't, I beg of you quite seriously to have nothing to do with them, but white-wash your walls and be done with it." That advice evidently antedated the introduction of sanitary washable distemper or water-paint, which many people now prefer to paper, because, while it gets rid of pattern, and thus simplifies choice, it also affords excellent opportunities for the display of taste in colour and tint, and at the same time is beyond all suspicion of noxious emanations or of harbouring uncleanliness. Nevertheless, among the vast majority of people paper is infinitely preferred; and of late years the marked improvement in its design, and the exclusion of arsenic from its manufacture, enable the architect to recommend it with a clear conscience. Moreover, he has other resources which his predecessors might well envy him. Wall-coverings are not restricted to paint or paper; and where richness of effect is desired, there is a wide choice of design and material ready to hand. These fabrics, by the way, although apparently representing the most recent form of mural decoration, really hark back to the earliest methods of covering walls—that of hanging them with tapestry. Wall paper is of comparatively recent origin, and was hardly known in England until late in the eighteenth century, when it began to supersede the wood panelling so familiar in Georgian interiors.—"The Architects' and Builders' Journal."

* * * *

The Premier Gate, Fence, and Wire Co., Ltd., are removing their works and offices from Bree Street to new premises at the corner of Chapel and Searle Streets, Cape Town, near the old Toll Gate, Sir Lowry Road. These premises have been designed for and built to suit the requirements of the firm's special industry. They have put in a large amount of additional plant which has been made expressly for them.

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# CAPE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY THE 24th APRIL, 1913, AT 4.30 P.M., IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF CAPE TOWN.

Present: Mr. Arthur H. Reid, President, in the chair; Messrs. Parker, Kendall, Smith, Forsyth, Delbridge, Jones, Sladdin, Morris, Edwards, Fallon, Kirsten, and Cran, and the Honorary Secretary, members; Messrs. W. Craig, Nesbit Roberts, Forbes, Pilkington, Cox, Glennie, and Mullins, visitors.

**Exhibit**

In the room were exhibited the drawings submitted in competition for the Institute annual prize for measured work, and also three sets of competitive plans sent from Cape Town for the Capital of the Commonwealth of Australia, which were examined with much interest.

**Officers**

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: F. K. Kendall, F.R.I.B.A., President; Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A., Vice-President; E. Austin Cooke, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer; W. J. Delbridge, A.R.I.B.A., F. R. E. Sladdin, Licentiate R.I.B.A., F.S.I., Fellows; J. Morris, Licentiate R.I.B.A., Hugh A. McQueen, Associates. The foregoing form the Council. W. G. Fagg, Licentiate R.I.B.A., Hon. Auditor.

**Ballot for Members**

Mr. F. R. E. Sladdin, Associate, was elected Fellow. Mr. John Perry was elected as Associate.

**Prize**

The President asked Mr. Mullins to step forward and congratulated him on gaining the Institute prize, which, unfortunately, could not be presented then as the books had to be obtained from England, but would arrive in due course. The President commented upon the educational value of such work, of which the advantages were enjoyed by all who competed. The prize drawings, and one sheet sent in by Mr. Glennie, would be sent to London (together with last year's prize drawings) for reproduction in portfolio form.

## ANNUAL REPORT.

The Council has pleasure in presenting the thirteenth annual report of the Institute.

**Membership**

Nine new members have been elected during the year, and one (Mr. W. S. Law) has resigned.

The names of those elected are: Messrs. W. Black, H. G. E. de la Cornillère, Thos. Davidson, F. A. O. Jaffray, W. A. Ritchie-Fallon, W. J. McWilliams, V. T. Jones, J. Clunis, and C. T. D. Lindsley, all but two being country members.

The Council has endeavoured to bring about a better understanding between the profession and the public, and, judging from the cases referred to them, it would seem to indicate that there is a growing tendency to regard this body as being helpful. It is believed that in time the work of the Institute will be productive of much good to architects, clients, and builders, by such means as establishing rules of practice, and a scale of charges which will be acceptable to and recognised by all. If those members of the profession who have hitherto refrained from joining our Institute would be enrolled it would strengthen the Institute, and enable the Council to speak with greater effect both to its members and the public.

The Council hopes that practising mmebers will urge any of their pupils or assistants who are not already members to take an early opportunity of joining the Institute.

**Meetings**

There have been two general meetings (another was called but there was not a quorum) and seventeen Council meetings held during the year. The attendances at the Council meetings were as follows: A. H. Reid, President, 17; E. Austin Cooke, Hon. Secretary, 16; F. R. E. Sladdin, 14; J. Morris, 12; W. J. Delbridge, 12; F. K. Kendall, 11; A. Forsyth, 9; C. H. Smith, 5; J. Parker, Vice-President, 3.

**Litrary**

During the year the following additions have been made to the Library: "Architects' Standard Catalogue" and "Academy Pictures, 1912." It is a matter for regret that so far very little use has been made of the Library. The Library funds have been

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augmented by one composition of £2 2s., as provided by Rule 21, in lieu of the writing of a paper. A catalogue of the books is prepared.

**Scholarships**

For the Institute prize for measured drawings of old work three sets have been sent in: By Messrs. F. M. Glennie, G. W. Cox, and F. W. Mullins. The subject set this year was four old Dutch doors and fanlights. The Council consider that the work shown by all is good, the first place being awarded to F. W. Mullins, whose selected doors are: Groot Schuur, back stoep; Castle (2), large hall and another; No. 96, Strand Street. Mr. Glennie shows a very fine specimen from the Normal College.

The Council will have these reproduced in portfolio form in conjunction with the drawings submitted last year.

Competitions for two scholarships, each of £200, are open to Colonial students; that of the British School of Rome, tenable for three years, and the Henry Jarvis Travelling Scholarship, tenable for two years. Although all but the final examination in both can be taken here, no applications for nomination have been received from this centre.

The Herbert Baker Scholarship will also fall due for competition next year.

**R.I.B.A.**

The time has now expired during which nominations could be made for election to the Class of Licentiates R.I.B.A. The privilege has been open to members of this profession who had attained the age of thirty years, and could produce satisfactory evidence of architectural training and ability. It has been the means of bringing the Royal Institute into touch with a large number of provincial and colonial architects, and has increased the number of those banded together for the advancement of the best interest of the profession. Seven members of our Institute have been elected to this Class, but your Council regret that several members in every way eligible have not joined.

**Junior Members.**

The Council have received complaints that the requirements of the younger members of the Institute have been somewhat neglected (during recent years). The Council will always be pleased to advise or help any of the younger members of the Institute who may meet with difficulties in their practice, if they will bring any matter upon which they may desire advice to the notice of the Hon. Secretary.

The Council again remind members that they welcome any suggestions that may be made to further the interests of the profession and the public.

**Public Bodies**

Our delegates, Messrs. A. H. Reid, F. K. Kendall, Jas. Morris, and W. J. Delbridge, have attended the meetings of the respective Publicity Association committees that they are serving upon.

Our delegates, Messrs. A. H. Reid, F. R. E. Sladdin, and the Hon. Secretary have attended the meetings of the Fine Arts Association and assisted in their endeavours to secure from the Government a suitable home for our City's pictures and art collection.

The Kalk Bay Municipality desiring to get a good comprehensive scheme for laying out their township, asked our Council, through the Publicity Association, to send delegates to help them. Messrs. A. H. Reid, Jas. Morris, F. K. Kendall, and W. J. Delbridge, were appointed, and have, in co-operation with Messrs. R. W. Menmuir, M.I.C.E., and Chas. Marais, Government Surveyor, devoted much time to the scheme. Their final report has not been submitted.

The same Municipality asked the Council for advice in the revision of their Building Regulations, and a sub-committee of the Institute Council has held seven meetings to date, but the work of revision is not completed.

At the request of His Worship the Mayor of Cape Town the Council inspected No. 23, Strand Street, formerly the residence of the late Mrs. Koopmans de Wet, and reported as to its suitability for a museum, its structural condition, and further advised as to what should be done to render it serviceable.

A local member, Mr. W. J. McWilliams, attended as our delegate the Congress of Building Trades Employers, held at Port Elizabeth, in April, 1912, and his report has received the attention of the Council.

**Architectural Competitions**

The Council have sent our circulars to all practising architects—about seventy-five—in the Cape and Orange Free State Provinces, asking them to co-operate in procuring more satisfactory conditions for public competitions by refraining from taking part in any the conditions of which the Council may certify as being unsatisfactory. Twenty-two members and eight non-members have agreed to do this, and two members and two non-members have agreed conditionally—thirty-four in all.

**Extra Charges**

It having been brought to the notice of the Council that School Boards require extra copies of plans over and above those supplied to the contractor, and that these additional copies have not in the past been paid for, the Council have interviewed the Cape School Board and obtained their recognition of the propriety of a charge in this connection, and in future all such copies will be paid for as per schedule: For "Ferrogallic" Sunprints, coloured.—"Double Elephant," 40 in. x 26 in., 10s. per sheet; "Imperial," 30 in. x 21 in., 7s. 6d. per sheet; "Half Double Elephant," 26 in. x 20 in., 5s. per sheet. For linen tracings double the above prices.

**Visits to Works**

Visits have been made to the New Adderley Street Pier, the S.A.R. Workshop at Salt River, and the new Supreme Court Buildings. The first of these visits was well attended, but in the case of the other two the attendance was unsatisfactory. The Council hope that in future when visits are arranged principals will allow their assistants and pupils to attend.

**Non-Contribution of Papers**

In spite of notices and motions at meetings, Rule 21 is not being observed. Although no papers have been read, the Library Fund has only profited to the extent of £2 2s. The Council wish to remind members that they have signed a promise to abide by the rules

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of the Institute, and by not doing so inflict much unnecessary trouble upon the Council and the Hon. Secretary.

**Subscriptions**

The original subscriptions provided in the rules were reduced by the Council on May 27th, 1907, on account of the depression then prevailing. At the general meeting held on May 23rd, however, it was considered that the time had arrived when the subscriptions should be raised to some extent. It was accordingly resolved that the subscription for the current year should be £2 12s. 6d. for town Fellows; £1 11s. 6d. for town Associates, £1 11s. 6d. for country Fellows, £1 1s. for country Associates. This increase has enabled our Treasurer to show a balance on the right side, as will be seen from the balance sheet.

**Registration Act**

The Draft Registration Act now being amended by the Association of Transvaal Architects has not yet been submitted for our approval.

The subscriptions towards the expenses of the Architects' Registration Act so far received by the Institute are as follows: From twenty-nine members, £67; from fourteen non-members, £30 9s.; from the Natal Institute, £44 2s.; making a total of £141 11s.

The Council wish to emphasise the fact that the Act when passed will be for the benefit of all architects, and that all members of the profession, whether members of our Institute or not, should contribute their quota towards an undertaking from which they individually will reap an advantage. There are still some thirty architects, practising or otherwise, who have not subscribed.

**Indian Appointment**

The Council have noted with pleasure that Mr. Herbert Baker, Fellow, has been appointed to an important commission by the British Government at Delhi.

**Exchanges**

We have exchanged reports, etc., with the following Home and Colonial Institutes: Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester, Devon and Exeter, New Zealand, America, Central America.

**Thanks**

The thanks of the Council are tendered to the "African Architect" and the local Press for their notices and generous assistance rendered.

**RETIRING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

Mr. Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A., retiring President, then read his address, as follows:—

After three years' occupation of the presidential chair of our Institute it is now my privilege to retire in favour of my friend Mr. F. K. Kendall, in whose hands I am happy to feel the destinies and interests of our profession in the Cape Province will be safe.

It will, I feel, be gratifying to the members to hear from me that not a cloud has crossed the Council's horizon during my term of office. Differences of opinion have naturally arisen from time to time—it would not be well if unanimity always prevailed—but the difficulties have been met, as they arose, in a kindly and liberal spirit, and I take this very proper opportunity of thanking the Council, individually and collectively, for the loyal and excellent spirit they have evinced towards me and their fellow-workers on your governing body.

Such, gentlemen, has been the bright and happy side of my presidency. The only regret I feel is that the submission of our Registration Act to the Union Legislature has not taken place during my term of office.

I assume that our incoming President will prefer to confine his remarks to the future policy of the Council rather than to the past, for which I am more directly responsible.

The annual report of our Council speaks for itself and I hope meets with your approval. At all events it records another year of unselfish and honourable work that should command your gratitude.

**Architects' Registration Act**

As one who has been actively identified with the registration movement since 1882, I crave your attention while I place on record my views and advice for the future guidance of the incoming President and Council regarding the Architects' Registration Act. Mr. Kendall will now take the reins, and I wish to prove a vigilant postillion to the coach that will, I hope, convey our Council along a smooth road to success.

As I feel this is an opportunity for submitting some of the leading points advanced by the promoters of the Act to the consideration of those who may have to deal with it hereafter, I hope you will pardon the reiteration of matter, some of which may already have received your attention. The experience of the promoters of the Accountants' Registration Bill is of the utmost value to us if only to show the line of reasoning to be expected from a Parliamentary Select Committee. I have sent newspaper reports of the Select Committee's finding to the Secretary of the Association of Transvaal Architects for the guidance of the Council of that body, who are still in labour over the draft of the Act. It will be for them to note that a Select Committee would, in all probability, view with displeasure:—

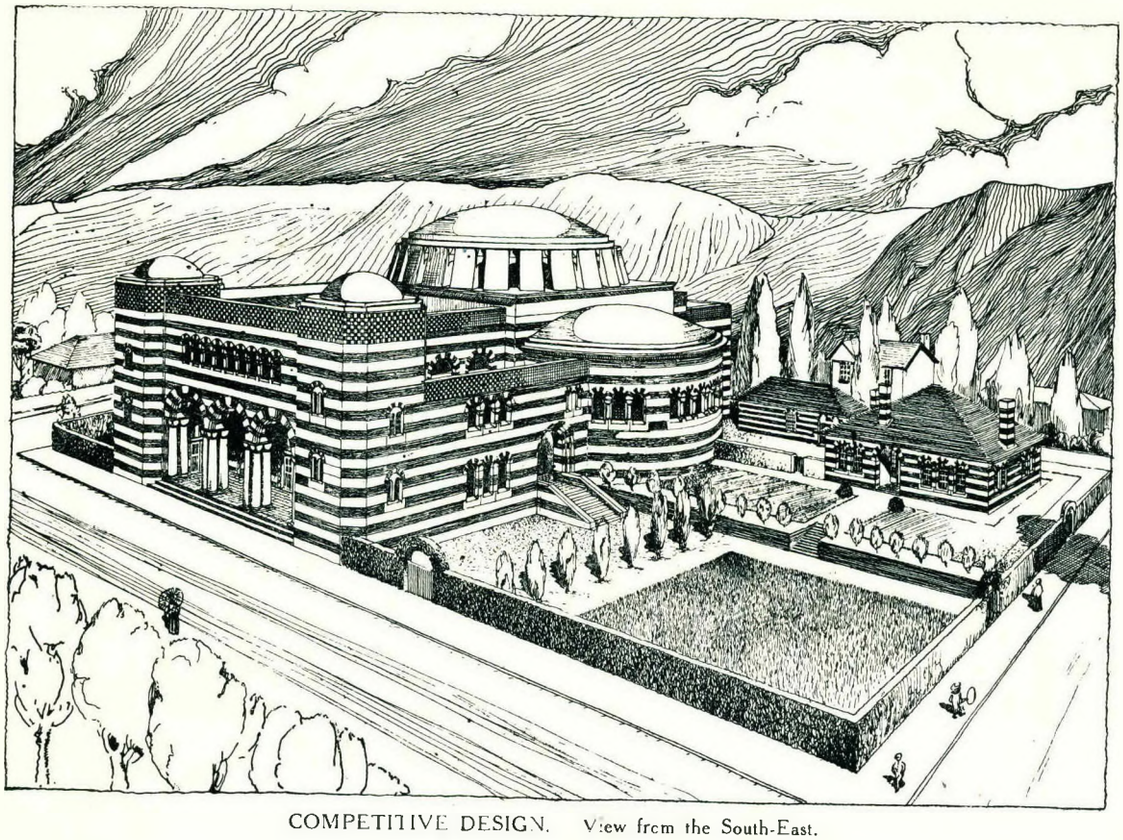
(a) The control of a registration roll of architects by any body composed exclusively of architects.

(b) The compulsory enrolment of registered architects as members of any professional institution.

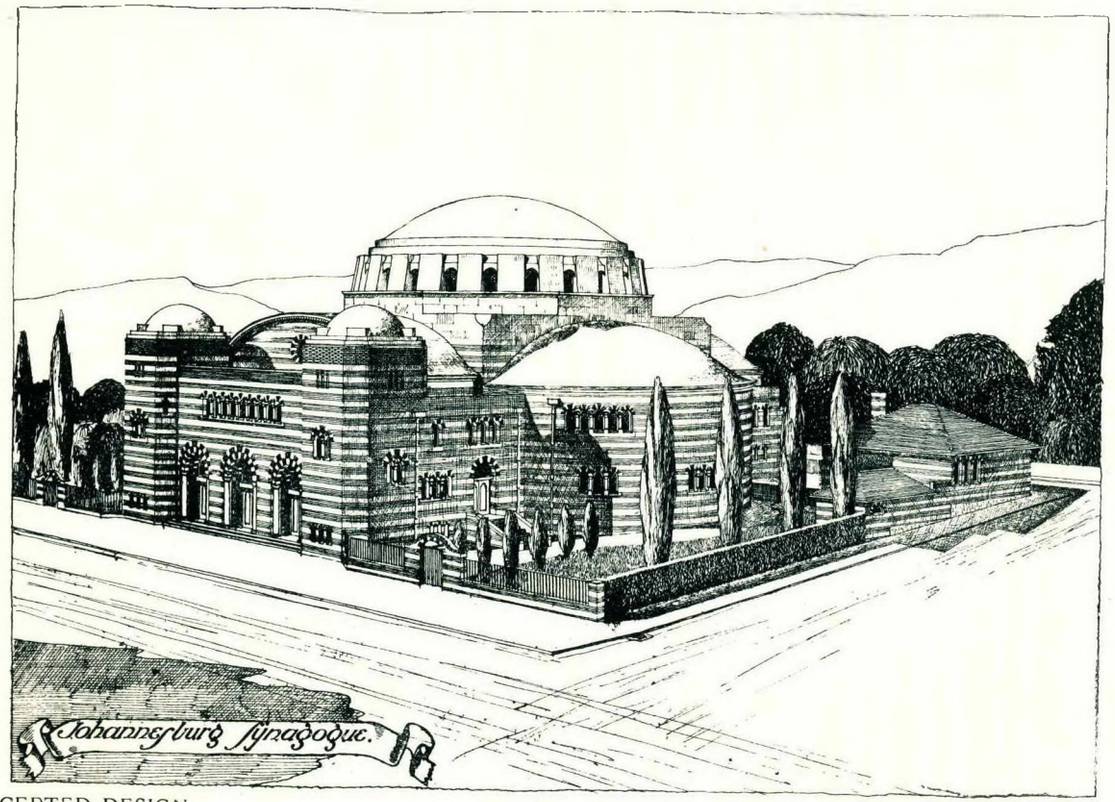
(c) The absence of appeal from the decision of the Council of any registered governing body.

The position to-day seems to be as follows: The Architects' Institutes of the Cape, Natal, and Transvaal Provinces are all bodies recognised by and allied to the Royal Institute of British Architects, which is a national professional body enjoying royal patronage and charter for the past seventy-six years in England. The three Institutes above named have, in conjunction with the Association of Transvaal Architects—a body recognised and protected by statute of the Transvaal Government since 1909, decided that in the interests of the public, as well as the profession, it is necessary to approach the

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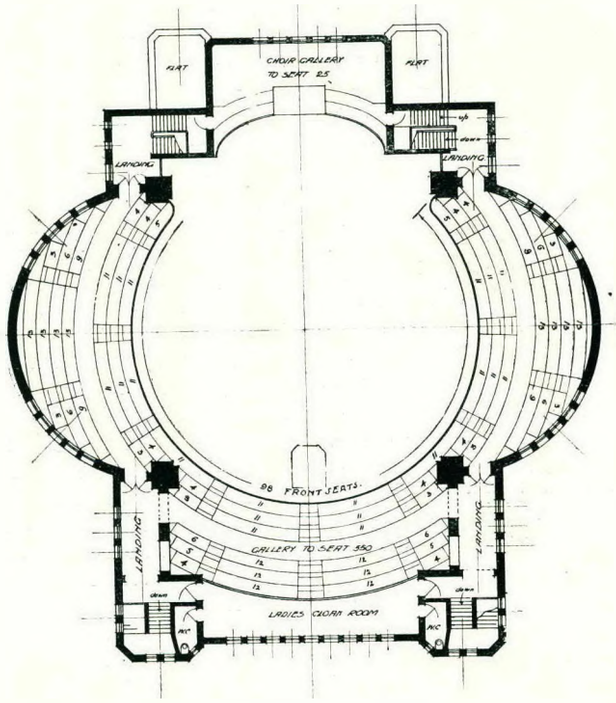
COMPETITIVE DESIGN. View from the South-East.



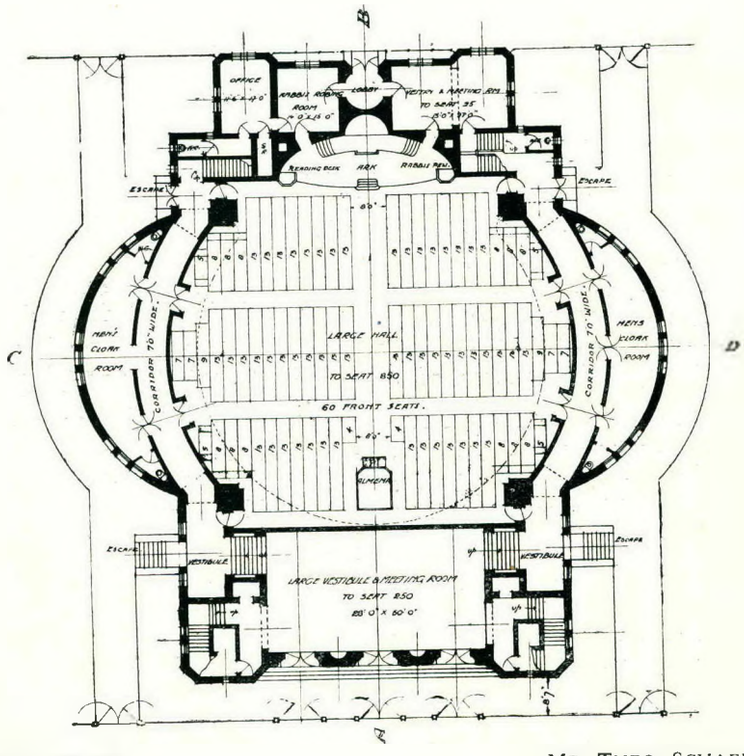

ACCEPTED DESIGN.

MR. THEO. SCHAERER, Architect.

PROPOSED SYNAGOGUE, JOHANNESBURG.




GALLERY PLAN.




GROUND PLAN. MR. THEO. SCHAERER, Architect.

PROPOSED SYNAGOGUE, JOHANNESBURG.

Parliament of the Union, praying that the privilege granted to the Association of Transvaal Architects be extended to the whole of the Union, but with certain amendments to the terms of their Charter which experience has shown to be desirable. In paranthesis, it must not be overlooked that the Natal Institute of Architects already enjoys a Charter of Incorporation from the late Government of that Colony.

In favour of the petition it may fairly be claimed that architecture reflects the social history of a people, as well as the state of civilisation under which a nation has lived at any particular period of its existence. It is, we submit, a democratic art and science tending to the mental, physical, and moral development of both rich and poor, for, next to the everyday necessities of life comes the influence of habitation and public surroundings. To improve those conditions is, we submit, a national duty, and as they are unattainable without the co-operation of pure applied, and constructive art with science, we feel that the profession of architecture, which embodies all of them, has a great responsibility attached to it in a comparatively new country such as ours. We further submit that it is quite impossible to secure the best results without proper equipment, and to attain that end entails close and continuous study of a very comprehensive and ever-increasing range of technical, scientific, and artistic subjects. Feeling that those who are outside the profession may perhaps not quite realise the importance of our work and duties, may I venture to submit a short resumé of what we assume to be the necessary qualifications of a modern architect ?

In the first place he must have enjoyed a liberal education and a thorough training in the art of good planning and design, including construction and materials, so that economy can be secured without sacrificing the comforts of artistic and hygienic surroundings.

He must have a thorough knowledge of personal and public hygiene and sanitation, for without it the decencies and comforts of all classes must be affected, and, as a result, their social and moral lives be impaired.

He must have acquired a knowledge of town development in all its aspects, and thus be able to secure the conformity of utility and economy with the refining influence of artistic effect, for it must surely be admitted that by the exercise of well-directed economy in construction the spending power of a people is increased.

The skilful and scientific planning of estates and towns results in the value, individually and collectively, being raised, while the provision of homes carefully planned and designed with sound construction tends to reduce disease and immorality and to encourage the amenities of home life.

An incompetent or indifferent practitioner wastes a community as much as an unscrupulous one. His employer suffers through his inconvenient or wasteful planning, through bad design, through the use of unsuitable material, and through the employment of incapable workmen, who are the natural concomitant of a poorly equipped architect. To be successful in the higher grades of professional practice an architect must be a man of resource and good social status, capable of dealing with all classes of clients, he must possess a level head, a thorough knowledge of the good and evil side of human nature, and have acquired an untarnished reputation, before he can fairly claim to act in a fiduciary capacity between clients and contractors.

Now, gentlemen, common sense must surely suggest the wisdom of such a profession, if only in the national and public interest, being placed under legally constituted control. Under such conditions local governing bodies, as well as the Provincial and Central Government, would have a responsible body to refer to for advice or assistance, while the general public would know that their interests could not suffer through the incompetence or dishonesty of those to whom they are entrusted.

At present there is no statutory control, and, with the exception of the Transvaal Province, no qualification or restriction is imposed upon a profession that has a considerable amount of the spending power of the nation in its hands. Any person, however ignorant or questionable in character, can now practice as an architect, and the public have no means of distinguishing the qualified man from the charlatan. As a natural result avoidable abuses produce dissatisfaction and suspicion upon the profession as a whole, causing serious annoyance and loss to the more capable practitioner.

Our Government acknowledges the necessity of having controlling bodies to other professions, such as medicine, law, land survey, and chemistry. Why, therefore, one naturally asks, should such a profession as architecture, which has the health, wealth, and happiness of the community to a great extent in its hands, be uncontrolled and irresponsible. The law of the land acknowledged the honourable and responsible position of an architect when acting in the usual fiduciary position of an arbitrator between contracting parties, and it seems unreasonable that such a profession should not enjoy similar statutory control and protection to that given to other professions. In several European countries, some of the United States of America, and in the Transvaal Province, recognition and protection has been insisted upon, while serious movements in that direction are now being made in Great Britain, Canada, and Australia.

With a view to following local precedent it will be observed that our draft Registration Act follows the lines adopted by the Medical Act of the Transvaal, which governs the allied professions of dentistry, chemistry, and nursing, and in the same manner we seek the control of quantity surveyors.

It will be noted, I hope, that there is no wish or proposal to interfere with the rights or privileges of persons at present practising as architects within the Union, even if they are not qualified to the extent that is desirable in the public interest, but we submit that the control of that class of practitioner is absolutely necessary.

I know considerable difference of opinion exists as to the best mode of dealing with the initial stages of this draft Act, so I venture to suggest that the Government be respectfully petitioned to appoint a

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Board of Enquiry to confer with a duly appointed representative or representatives of the four Provincial Architects' Institutes, with the object of discussing the terms of the draft Act and of ascertaining what objections are likely to be advanced against same. It seems to me that much time would be saved by such a course, and we would by such a reference be enabled, as Burns wrote, "to see ourselves as others see us," learn where our ideas may be divergent from those of the Government's advisers, and explain any matter that may, at first sight, appear undesirable to our critics.

I take it that the object of all is to do the right thing and to remove at once any suspicion of selfish motives that may exist in the minds of those with whom we have to deal later on.

**Municipal and Health Exhibition**

I may venture again to refer to the proposal I made some time since of organising a Municipal and Health Exhibition for the Union. Such exhibitions have proved most instructive to the public in every centre of Europe and America that they have been held in. I submit that it is right to assume that the responsibility of Municipal and Government authorities, as regards the health and refinement of the community, warrants the holding of an exhibition exclusively devoted to the purpose named. Such an undertaking would show the public what municipal authorities are doing for them, and how much still awaits their attention. I believe that the vast majority of ratepayers have no idea of what their money is spent upon, and an exhibition such as I suggest would be of great educational value in that respect. It would also serve the purpose of bringing to the notice of municipal engineers, municipal officials of all grades, and the public the latest improvements, inventions, methods, and appliances, and thus enable them to keep the administration thoroughly effective and up to date. It would also probably prove to a certain class of person that a too rigid economy is against the best interests of the community.

Conferences and lectures could be arranged of a technical and popularly instructive character. Such matters as public health, town planning, and development schemes, fire prevention, first-aid ambulance work, building regulations and by-laws, the abatement of nuisances, public abattoirs, street and road locomotion, tree planting, and valuations for assessment purposes could be dealt with.

The co-operation of the South African Branch of the Royal Sanitary Institute, the Institutes of Engineers and of Architects, Builders' Associations, the Federation of Municipal Bodies, the Institute of Valuers, and others could undoubtedly be secured, and the result would, of necessity, be both interesting and instructive to local and up-country municipal bodies.

I feel quite sure that our worthy Provincial Administrators, in whose hands the administration of local government lies, would assist such an undertaking, and that a deputation to His Honour Sir Frederick de Waal, our Administrator, would secure his most sympathetic and kindly advice.

**Professional Evidence**

One matter that I feel it my duty to refer to is the class of evidence that is submitted to and accepted by duly constituted courts in this country. It has been my misfortune to be interested in certain suits and arbitrations lately where the evidence tendered can only be described as ludicrous. We read of evidence given by medical men, engineers, and architects which is drawn from them by legal lights who are absolutely ignorant of their subject.

In valuations of real estate we are almost daily startled at discrepancies of 100 per cent., and we know that such scandals must continue so long as those who have to deal with such matters are incapable of cross-questioning the so-called expert evidence tendered. I submit, in the name of common sense and justice, that technical cases should be conducted, at all events, in collaboration with professional men who are qualified to analyse evidence and expose those who often subvert justice.

**Obituary**

It is pleasant to close our year without having to lament the loss of a brother professional, and I pray the Great Architect of the Universe to be equally merciful to us in the coming term.

**Congratulations**

I have pleasure in tendering my congratulations to our fellow-member, Mr. Herbert Baker, upon the conspicuous honour done him in being selected to collaborate with others in designing Government House and another public building as component features of the new Indian capital at Delhi. Mr. Baker, I understand, will also act as one of the three advisers to the Indian Government regarding all the other State buildings and the general planning of the city.

**Thanks**

In conclusion, I would tender our thanks to all those who have so courteously met us in our contact with them officially. The Provincial representatives and officers of the Public Works Department, the Education Department, the Administrator's Department, and the municipal officers of this city and the suburbs, have carried through their duties without serious friction or disagreement with the members of our profession.

Our thanks are also due to the Press for their public spirit in keeping the work of our Institute before their readers.

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

**delivered by F. K. Kendall, F.R.I.B.A., to the Cape Institute of Architects**

Gentlemen: I must first of all thank you for the honour of electing me to the chair of this Institute for the ensuing year.

My chief doubt in accepting it is whether I shall be able to do justice to so onerous a position—and particularly when following in the steps of one who—if I may say so—has occupied it for two and a half years with the most conspicuous energy and success. During his lengthy term of office Mr. Arthur Reid has laboured strenuously to bring together members of our Institute, and most ably discharged the many and

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diverse duties before him. His ripe experience has enabled him to preside over our meetings with a degree of tact and skill which I cannot hope to equal. Nevertheless, the pendulum of time cannot go on for ever swinging in the same direction, and at the end of another year I am sure it will be quite ready for a further change! Anyhow, while in office I feel confident of finding in our Council the same support and advice which they have always ungrudgingly given to their President in the past.

Gentlemen, the report of the Council is before you, and gives you a brief summary of their doings during the last year. The Past President's valedictory address you have just heard, which represents his last words of advice to us all before vacating the chair—advice which I know I can safely say on your behalf will be duly weighed and respected. As these two addresses cover the recent doings of our Institute, I will endeavour to avoid repetition in making a few further remarks to you upon this occasion.

It is particularly pleasing that—besides looking after its own affairs—our Institute has had some opportunity of acting voluntarily in the public interest. Upon the suggestion of the Publicity Association, a sub-committee of our Institute have met the Kalk Bay Municipality to consider with them the possibilities of developing their suburb. As a result a scheme has been prepared which it is hoped will result in adding very materially to the beauty and convenience of the place in question, and at the same time providing the Municipality with many more ratable properties than they could otherwise hope to secure, and increasing the ratable value of all such properties.

I venture to remind architects that it is their privilege—as well as their distraction—to live somewhat ahead of the public in their capacity to evolve constructive schemes. Although it is quite understandable, it is none the less regrettable, that the man in the street is so slow to grasp the possibilities of following this or that line of action; and for this inability he generally has to pay very dearly indeed in the long run. It is true that these circumstances are a safeguard against any such schemes as might be advanced by that impetuous animal the wild cat; nevertheless, a more enterprising public spirit is sadly wanted in this country in almost every line of life. The power of reasoning that demands that a man should look before he leaps is precisely identical with that which dictates a feasible plan and estimate for a building, or a proper lay-out for a town, before starting active operations, the chief difference being merely one of scale, and not of principle. The entire neglect of any such forethought is only too obviously apparent in the present hap-hazard state of Muizenberg. It would be difficult to imagine a place more richly endowed by Nature and opportunity more thoughtlessly desecrated. We have only to remind ourselves of the towns, say, of the Riviera, to realise the shortcomings of what we have been bequeathing to posterity. That strong action is needed there can be no room for doubt; and I would appeal to the population themselves to facilitate the work of the Municipality wherever possible, and not to allow desire for personal gain to outweigh that for the public good when the two conflict.

The great building Emperors of Rome have shown the world some noble ideas in the manner of laying out towns, and, later, Hausmann in Paris and Wren in London have done much to emulate their example. From these we may learn lessons in more ways than one. We know, for instance, that if Wren had been allowed to carry out his schemes in something like entirety, the City of London would have been saved some millions of pounds, besides being able to enjoy a better planned town than will ever now be possible. Very little penetration is necessary to realise that an all-embracing scheme must be undertaken at the outset if anything like a high degree of success is to be secured—either from the point of view of beauty, health, convenience, or economy in the long run. Here in South Africa are unique opportunities for being wise in time in this respect—and the clear atmosphere and air of spaciousness dictate that things should be done on a liberal scale.

One instance which occurs to me for deriving mutual benefit for all concerned by merely having a preconceived understanding is this: If—in an important street of ample width—each landlord owning a frontage could be induced to set back his building line on the ground floor so as to double the width of the pavement—he might be allowed to build a substantial arcade along the outside of the pavement, and project all his upper floors to this line. The landlord would thus gain as much on each upper floor as he sacrificed on the ground floor, and the public would gain a doubly wide footpath with a permanent and continuous cover over it; and, moreover, the whole would lend itself to a magnificent architectural treatment on the elevations, securing some kind of uniformity between the different buildings. Though there are obvious difficulties in enforcing regulations to provide for this in a street which has already been built, there is no reason that I can see why such a plan should not be followed in the case of a new township.

I have no wish to bore this meeting with what might appear platitudes to them, as expert planners, but architects will be doing a great service to the country if only they can convince the public of the supreme importance of proper town planning. It is not a subject to be approached in a niggling manner, with trumpery little competitions for designs for this or that corner of a town. I make so bold as to say that, instead of being an extravagance, it would be a magnificent bit of high policy and economy for the powers that be to embark forthwith upon a definite scheme for the development of the Cape Flats—before it is too late. I am one of the last people to say that such a scheme could be lightly undertaken; and I would not urge that every acre of the ground should at this stage be allocated unalterably to one specific purpose; but the main thoroughfares could be decided upon; certain areas assigned to certain purposes, such as residential suburbs, farm lands, recreation grounds, industrial centres, public abattoirs, sewage farms, locations, forest land, etc. Each division should receive due consideration as to its natural suitability in respect of altitude, drainage possibilities, prevailing winds, access and egress, roads, tram and railway lines, and so on. The result would, of course, be

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some initial expense in surveys and planning in the immediate future, but consider the inestimable benefit to the population at large fifty years hence!—the maximum advantages of transit, the minimum waste of land and roads, etc., with the most beautiful, convenient, and sanitary arrangement that could be devised!

I note with interest that Lady Phillips is initiating a scheme for the general advancement of art in the Union of South Africa—particularly, I gather, in regard to the design of important buildings. Although the ways and means of applying this laudable object are not yet made known, I venture to say that it should have the whole-hearted support of architects, and of all those who desire to raise the standard of public taste.

Gentlemen, there are other subjects I should have liked to touch upon, but, in view of the fact that this is the second address you have had to listen to at this meeting, I have curtailed my own, and I would only now add a few further words to say that I hope it may be possible in the coming year for our Institute to hold more general meetings. We have been promised a few papers by distinguished members or visitors, and I sincerely trust that our Institute will show their appreciation of the time and trouble expended by these gentlemen by being present to hear their views and profit by them.

The Council's annual report and treasurer's statement were taken as read, they having been circulated among the members.

#### Presentation of Books

The President announced the presentation of books to the library from Mr. Austin Cooke.

Mr. Cooke explained that as he was not prepared to carry out Rule 21 by reading a paper he compounded by giving the books.

#### Real Live Organisation

Mr. John Parker, in moving a vote of thanks to the retiring President, remarked on the way in which the Institute, mainly through Mr. Reid's efforts, had been brought from a moribund state to the real live organisation it was at present.

#### Future Papers

The Hon. Secretary hoped that some of the members would come forward with the offer of a paper to be read at an early date. He had several for the end of the season, but would like to publish a syllabus of papers in the "Kalendar," which was being prepared.

#### Notice of Motion

Mr. Delbridge gave notice of the following motion to be brought forward at the next general meeting: "That Rule 27 of the Constitution be amended to permit of the co-option by the existing Council of two more members, being one Fellow and one Associate."

A vote of thanks terminated the proceedings.

### NORMAN SHAW'S WILL

Mr. Richard Norman Shaw, R.A., of Ellerdale Road, Hampstead, who died on November 17th, aged eighty-one, leaving £104,627, of which £99,461 is net personalty, bequeathed £300 and his household effects to his wife, and during widowhood the use of his residence. The residue he left as to one-seventh each to his sons, Robert Norman Shaw and William Campbell Shaw, one-seventh in trust for his daughter Elizabeth Helen Shaw, known as Sister Elizabeth Helen, of the Order of the Sisters of Bethany, for life, and then for his two sons, and four-sevenths in trust to pay the income thereof to Mrs. Shaw during widowhood, or from £10,000 should she again marry, and subject thereto for his two sons.

### BUILDING COLLAPSES: REMARKABLE ACCIDENT

The Point at Durban, on the 15th of last month, says "The Mercury," was the scene of an unusual accident of a somewhat serious nature, which resulted in injury to four men—two Europeans and two natives—and in considerable destruction of property. This was due to the collapse of a building in course of erection in the Avenue—a very much misnamed thoroughfare—as an engineers' shop for the Naval Construction Company.

The building in question promised to be a somewhat imposing structure, especially for such a business, and possessed a substantial brick front, which, however, was not quite completed at the time of the accident; but the side and rear walls were composed of wood and iron, and rose to a height of probably some twenty feet. At the moment of the collapse the shell of the building was well on toward completion; the brick front, as mentioned, was not quite finished, but the other walls had been completed, and the big span of roofing timbers were all in place, and practically everything was ready for the roofing iron.

The building was, however, fated to remain uncompleted, for yesterday morning about 8.30, whilst a considerable number of men were working on and about the roof, the side walls with a loud report suddenly collapsed outward, and the roofing timber and the men who were working upon it were precipitated to the ground within the walls of the building, whilst other timbers brought down a portion of the newly erected brickwork in the front

As a result of the sudden collapse practically every man in the building, and there were quite a number, was in considerable danger, but naturally those on the roof, who came down with the timbers, were in most serious peril, and the others, so soon as they realised what had happened, went to their assistance. Remarkable to relate, nobody was very seriously injured.

The building immediately after the collapse presented a remarkable appearance. The side walls had not completely fallen, and were hanging outwards at a dangerous angle, whilst the whole of the interior was filled with battered and splintered woodwork, and, judging from its appearance, little of it will be of much use again.

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# INDIFFERENT QUANTITIES

In our leading columns we deal with the following article which appears in "The Builder" to hand by a recent mail :—

It is one of the high traditions of those who practise the professions in this country, and, indeed, in Europe, that efficiency and thoroughness are invariably their first consideration, that nothing perfunctory in the performance of the duties shall be permitted, and that the emoluments which accrue as a reward for the services rendered are always the last consideration.

We see it in all professions—in the Church, notably at the Bar, among solicitors, accountants, architects, and especially amongst doctors, and also amongst the best practitioners in that mixed profession, quantity surveying. In the latter case, however, in common with the other open professions, the tradition has suffered violent treatment, and the standard of efficiency is in many cases in inverse ratio to the size of the fees paid. In fact, it would probably be safe to hazard a guess that there are more bad quantities sent out than good ones. This is unfortunate, as it brings discredit upon a profession which includes many highly trained, high-principled men. There is perhaps hardly any other calling in which it is possible for the unqualified and the incapable to simulate the performance of the fully qualified without detection or objection, and to receive the fullest remuneration for doing it.

In view of recent correspondence in these columns it may be interesting to enquire into the reasons for this state of things. Why should it be possible for an inadequate and inaccurate document to pass muster for one that is full and accurate, and why should no one object?

### The Surveying System

The profession first came into being as distinct from a branch of a contractor's business in connection with the contract for the Houses of Parliament. The size of the contract made it impossible for each contractor to make his own calculations, and, therefore, one surveyor was appointed to represent the Government and one to represent all the contractors. This system continued until the recent contracts for the War Office and the Home Office, but is now abandoned, and the contractors have in future to rely upon the Government surveyor to act impartially between owner and contractor. They do not object to doing so, as the position of the surveyor is now generally considered by everyone to be that of an independent third party, holding the balance between the two opposing interests, and not favouring either, although—being more directly employed by the owner—he might be expected to favour him. As, however, the whole system is founded upon the trustworthiness of the representations made by the surveyor to the builders tendering, nothing less can be expected of him than implicit observance of this condition.

The general increase in building activity and the waste entailed by several contractors having to prepare quantities for the same building have led to the permanent establishment of a class of men who specialise in quantity surveying alone, and act independently of any one contractor. And now, in London, all the large contracts are let to contractors who tender upon quantities supplied by surveyors appointed either by the owners or the architects, without consultation with the contractor, who, however, accepts the statements made by the surveyors without question, and thereby substantially reduces his establishment expenses, and is able, therefore, to tender upon a lower scale of prices than before. In either case the owner pays for the estimate—formerly by the extra amount included in the estimate, and now by the fees of the quantity surveyor, which are sometimes paid direct, though frequently included in the amount of contractor s estimate.

In the South this practice of the owner supplying quantities to all contractors has become so general that in normal times no member of the Master Builders' Association will tender in competition for work exceeding £1,000 in value without quantities being supplied.

As soon as it was found that the preparation of the estimate was no longer in the hands of the contractor, architects with practices which did not absorb the whole of their energies eked out their incomes by acting also as quantity surveyors. To this, and to the fact that anyone who could induce an architect to employ him as surveyor—whether qualified or not—

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must be attributed the large amount of inefficient work turned out.

The preparation of a thoroughly good bill of quantities demands several qualities, which, if found in architects, are usually rather a drawback than an asset. These include great power of concentration, a fine memory, a logical and orderly mind, and a brain described by Oliver Wendell Holmes as containing a large ground floor (for storing facts), and no upper floors (which are reserved for ideas). The latter belong (if the architect is what he should be, a man of imagination and creative artistry) to him, and few men have been found to have both kinds of ability, as the one usually excludes the other in the nature of things.

Architects also necessarily lack the training in method and routine that a surveyor needs, and also the experience in all the detail of trade customs, the want of which nothing can supply.

### Architect-Surveyors

Architect-surveyors have, therefore, necessarily to depend a good deal upon their assistants. But the best of these are naturally absorbed by the surveyor pure and simple, and he can only usually get incapable men. On that account he is, therefore, severely handicapped, and can never organise his office in the rational and ordered way of a surveyor, which in itself is one of the best preventives against error.

Some of them, it is true, have so organised and departmentalised their work, and realised the full responsibilities involved, that only one exception could be taken to it, and that is one which may possibly be considered unfair to them as practitioners of an honourable profession, but which, nevertheless, undoubtedly enters into the transaction. It is not quite natural to expect an architect who is filled with trepidation as to the probable amount of the lowest tender for his building to exercise the same critical analysis of his drawings as a surveyor would do. "Who can know better what is there?" they say. Yes! But who is going to seek out the furthermost fitting, or to decide in favour of the clearer statement of some extra labour, or any similar but not obvious item of cost in order to increase a total already too high?

A consulting furniture expert who has undertaken to furnish an hotel for a fixed sum is not allowed to go to the shops or dealers and choose what he wants and make out his own bill. Without wilful misrepresentation on his part such a man could not be expected to value any of the antiques he had secured at quite their full value, nor to be over-particular about the small accessories, such as every hotel requires, especially if the total already exceeded the sum allowed. It is not a question so much of integrity as of opposing interests which can never be properly reconciled.

The other class of inefficient needs no comment. He is to be found in any other profession, and nothing but responsibility—direct and legally enforceable—will exclude him.

The public bodies understand this, and many of them provide in their contracts that the surveyors shall guarantee "the substantial accuracy of their work, and shall be financially responsible for any errors discovered." This is, of course, a heavy burden, and probably a greater one—considering the enormous risk of errors there must be, and that even surveyors are but human—than is imposed upon any other professional men.

Of course, substantial accuracy does not mean the absolute accuracy of every item, but the general average accuracy of the whole. This constitutes a sufficient protection to the employers against ignorance or carelessness, but makes quantity surveying no light undertaking.

### Liability of Surveyors

Good surveyors would not object to this in any case, and a wider resort to the condition would exclude many who now practise and escape all liability, for, apart from the liability to the owner for gross negligence, there is no liability of the surveyor to the builder, as it has been held that there is no privity of contract between the surveyor and the builder, because at the time the surveyor did the work it was not known who the contractor would be.

This makes the builder's position peculiarly unsatisfactory, as when the quantities do not form part of his contract he has no power of recovery in case of errors. His only security, therefore, is in refusing to tender except on quantities he knows to be carefully done. Unfortunately, however, the dearth of work frequently compels him to forego this objection and take his chance. If, however, builders were united and took a firm position on this matter it would have a most salutary effect in every way.

The awakening usually comes at the settlement of accounts, when "architect's extras"—i.e., things forgotten in the specification—and when the builder, having doubts, has protected himself by demanding that the quantities should be part of the contract) "surveyor's extras"—or things forgotten in the quantities—are claimed and cannot be refused.

Then, indeed, "the time has come to talk of many things," and the owner, having to pay, sometimes claims damages for negligence against the surveyor,



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and possibly the architect. He can never recover the amount of extra expenditure, and is prejudiced against building for the rest of his life.

Possibly an important factor in the situation may be found in the growing tendency on the part of public bodies to invite tenders for the preparation of quantities. Such a practice cannot be defended, and the Surveyors' Institution recently circularised most of the local bodies informing them of the objections to it. The rates offered sometimes are pitiful, and it is surprising that good work could be seriously expected at such remuneration.

**Charges for Quantities**

Various attempts have been made to agree upon a fixed scale of charges for quantities, but the Surveyors' Institution and the Quantity Surveyors' Association do not consider it advisable. The fees are usually based on a sliding scale, according to the amount of contract—i.e., an increasing rate as the amount gets less.

As we said before, the incidence of these charges is upon the owner, although frequently he knows nothing of the surveyor. We cannot refrain from expressing our unbiassed opinion that it would be better for everyone if the owner always paid the fees himself directly, and not indirectly, as he now does. He would gain by better work and by having more direct liability to himself on the part of the surveyor.

Some of our correspondents object to the over-elaboration which they find in a London bill of quantities. This is a charge which is frequently made, but as the principal London surveyors are in close touch with the principal London builders, and as their sole object is to present the bills in such a form as will enable the contractors to accurately value the work, it is quite clear that such elaboration as there may be is necessary in order to arrive at a proper result. It must be remembered that an estimator pricing a bill has no indication as to the exact methods of measuring adopted by the surveyor who prepared the bill, and as experienced estimators have frequently found that with every desire to assist the builder the method of presentation of various items has had the exact opposite effect, and has blinded him and prevented him understanding what he really has to do. The whole process of estimating is so refined that this clearness means a great deal to the contractor. "Estimator," who writes this week, knows this, and his testimony is valuable. Generally speaking, a contractor would much prefer to have the bare, actual facts, such as he expects from the leading London surveyors, rather than a bill from an inexperienced man who may have taken several items in excess, but who for that very reason raises grave doubts in the contractor's mind as to what he may have left out.

In the old days it was quite a common thing for contractors to take certain percentages off their estimates to allow for the margins which certain surveyors habitually allowed in their quantities to cover contingencies, and to gloss over portions of the work which they could not fully understand from incomplete drawings.

**Uniformity in Practice**

In spite of the efforts which are made to secure uniformity in practice, there are still wide differences even in the same districts. Local customs, of course, influence general practice, but within the same area one might expect a certain standardisation of method.

In the London area the contractors have more than once expressed their desire for a definite code of measurement, but surveyors prefer, as a class, to retain what they call "individuality" in their work. The arguments in favour of uniformity were most clearly stated in a paper by the late John Leaning at the Surveyors' Institution some years ago, and the arguments against it were by no means convincing. The matter, however, rests with the contractors, but they are too busy to demonstrate, and, not being abstract theorists, they seem content to take things as they find them, and trust to their native wit to see that they do not suffer. In recent years the text-books have provided a standard which, though not binding, has gradually become the vogue, and will probably develop into the settled practice of those who aspire to large practices.

There is one point in general practice which it is

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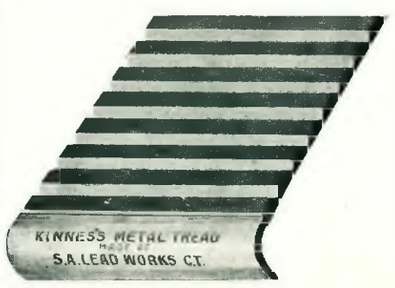
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extremely difficult to get architects to appreciate, and that is the absolute necessity of making specification and drawings agree with the quantities. It is usual either for the surveyor to write the specification himself when he has completed his work, and to touch up what has been prepared by the architect in order to make it complete, and to include some of the small items which, in his dissection of the building, have become clear to him, although they may have been overlooked by the architect. Imagine his dismay when he discovers some time afterwards that various alterations have been made without his knowledge by the architect in the specification without any corresponding alteration in the quantities or the estimate. The effect, of course, is to render the whole of the original estimate unsound, and the responsibility of the surveyor to whom the builder looks in this matter is seriously undermined. Obviously, such alterations should be brought to the notice of the surveyor before the contract is signed, or else both documents should be left intact, and these alterations should be treated subsequently as variations on the contract.

### Rivalry

There has been some reference to the rivalry which exists between architects and surveyors over work in each other's province, and for our own part we can never quite understand why architects should entrust their quantities to surveyors who also practise as architects. We have heard of several instances where they have lost large commissions which have been placed with their own surveyors. On the other hand, we are quite unable to understand the practice which exists with some architects to employ other architects as their surveyors. Such a thing could only happen in England, as practitioners abroad have more respect for their clients than to go to any other than the best men in each particular branch of his work.

### "THE GATEWAY OF INDIA"

It is proposed to commemorate the landing of King George in India by the erection of a gateway, which is to be called "the Gateway of India," of which structure Lord Sydenham, the Governor of Bombay, laid the foundation-stone last March. The gateway is described as being intended to be built in "shining white marble," and its architecture as "mixed Hindu and Moslem." From an illustration in the "Sphere" it reminds us more of some of the architectural efforts we see carried out in cement in the earlier Victorian suburbs of London, and might well be an amateur's chef d'œuvre; indeed, unless the illustration we have seen is libellous, we feel it would be infinitely better for the reputation of our race that it should never be built. Marriage has been termed the "picturesque gateway leading to a commonplace estate"; the "gateway to India" may be described as a "commonplace gateway to a great Empire." The latter is an achievement of our race which one would imagine would inspire the designer with ideas, if anything could do so. Even the "mixture of style" so feelingly alluded to has failed to produce any effervescence in the designer's imagination!

### TO PROTECT THE BUILDING OWNER

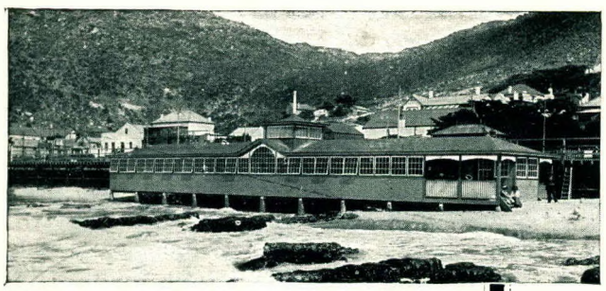
A Building Construction Indemnity Insurance Company is being formed, with the object, it appears, of protecting the building owner "against inferior labour, material, or other defects." This company "will undertake to fully guarantee that the proper class of work and material and a high standard of labour shall be maintained throughout; and this is effected not by the owner having additional expenses levied upon him, but by the contractor and architect having to conform to the rules of the company and receiving a certain percentage for their fee." The company, it is claimed, will relieve the owner of all risk; for, "in the event of the contractor not carrying out the work according to the specification, the company can justly claim and fully recover any sum which has to be paid to the policy-holder." But surely the building owner is already sufficiently safeguarded; and it is difficult to imagine architects and contractors embracing with enthusiasm any further opportunities of improving his present position. In the eternal triangular contest of building owner, architect, and contractor, the owner is always at the apex—that is to say, he nearly always comes out on top when he resorts to the litigation towards which his natural inclination needs no artificial impetus. To offer him fuller protection is absurd. Protection for the architect and the contractor against the whims and oddities and marked litigiousness of the building owner would be more to the purpose; but there are many cogent reasons why they should refrain from clamouring for it.

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## THE NEW DELHI

### MR. HERBERT BAKER'S IMPRESSIONS

We are indebted to Mr. Herbert Baker for the following interesting account :—

The existing City of Delhi stands on a flat alluvial plain; its walls border on the one side the River Jumna, and on the other the marshy ground between two rocky ridges—or kopjes, as we should call them in South Africa.

The only two sites available, therefore, were one on the north, on the existing Civil Lines and Government suburb adjoining the area of the recent Durbars, and divided by The Ridge, sacred to the associations and the Monuments of the Indian Mutiny; the other to the south, consisting of unoccupied land in the midst of many ruined cities, and the domes and minarets of the tombs of the rulers of older Delhis. Both sites, therefore, presented great attractions, which made the controversy over the two sites one of great interest.

#### Town Planning

The Town Planning Commission, which was sent out last year, consisted of Captain Swinton, then Chairman of the London County Council; Mr. Brodie, the Municipal Engineer of Liverpool; and Mr. Lutyens, the architect. They were assisted by an excellent staff of experts belonging to the Indian Civil Service. This Commission reported last year in favour of the south site. Owing, however, to strong local feeling against breaking away from the British associations which attached to the north side, the Commission were engaged during the early months of this year in the reconsideration of the advantages of the two sites; and further medical and engineering expert advice was called in. Finally, the Commission unanimously reported that the north side, in spite of its attractions and associations, was so limited in area that, if the new City grew to any extent in the future, further expansion would be possible only in the direction of water-logged and malarious land. The Viceroy and Government have, as announced in Parliament, adopted this report. Thus the probable ultimate growth of the new Capital became an important factor in the selection of the site. The following questions, therefore, with some of which we in South Africa are not altogether unfamiliar, were much discussed: Would the establishment of the seat of Administration in Delhi in itself create a large and prosperous City? Calcutta, which has lost the position of the Viceregal Capital, expresses the opinion that it does not miss the Administration and has suffered no diminution of its prosperity.

#### South African Comparison

The commercial and business activity of India being concentrated at the great ports, are the great firms and business men likely to move their head-quarters or establish branches at the inland Capital?

Will native Indian activities be attracted to the new Capital, the choice of which is undoubtedly in accord with the sentiment of the majority of Indians?

Can electric power be brought from the snow-fed rivers of the Himalayas, and Delhi be converted into a manufacturing centre? and might it not be better to encourage industrial centres nearer to the mountains from which the power is obtained, leaving the Capital in the cultured seclusion of a "Washington"?

The plan of the new City which has been prepared by the Commission has not yet been published, but it can be said of it that the Commission, taking advantage of the free site and the large powers given to it, have prepared a plan according to the best principles of town planning. The reticulated or grid-iron plan—unfortunately so universal in South Africa—in which every street crosses the other at right angles, has not been adopted. No street, therefore, in the new Delhi will appear endless and objectless, with nothing to be seen but empty space at the end of it. Streets will vary considerably in width, and the more important ones will be so designed that they will, as far as possible, have some object of interest, new or old, monument or building, to crown its vista. The greatest value should, therefore, be made out of what beautiful features the City may possess, and care will be taken to preserve and work into the scheme every old ruin and building with any sentiment or history attached to it or with artistic pretensions of any value.

Town planning improvements have been designed for the old existing walled city of Delhi, but as it consists of small crowded houses and narrow winding lanes this scheme for improvement can only be undertaken gradually.

#### Object Lesson to Architects in South Africa

There is a special interest to South Africans in the old buildings of Delhi in the means adopted in the

buildings and their surroundings to meet the needs of the Indian climate. Delhi is about two degrees further from the Equator than Johannesburg, but its low altitude causes a very much more severe summer climate. Its winter, however, is much like that of Pretoria, but is, perhaps, more pleasant owing to a short period of winter rains falling in February and March, which correspond to our August and September.

The best buildings at Delhi and Agra were erected by the Moghul Emperors in the sifteenth and seventeenth centuries, when the Dutch were first feeling their way round the Cape to the East, and were driving the Portuguese out of their Indian possession. It is worth thinking about that Babar, the great conqueror and founder of the Moghul Empire, who was half Turk and half Mongol, and who spent his earlier life hunting his enemies, and more often being hunted by them, over the deserts of Central Asia, yet was a poet and a man of artistic temperament and some taste. He was the originator of the best features of the architecture of Delhi and its neighbourhood, which consist of beautiful buildings enclosed in gardens intersected with straight water-ways designed to flood the beds and lawns between. It is a setting in such a garden which adds so much to the glory of the famous Taj Mahal. Many of the details of the buildings, which have been invented as a protection against the fierce vertical sun, present valuable object lessons to a South African architect.

Three of the Moghul Emperors, Babar, Akbar, and Shah Jahan, pursued a very liberal, broad-minded policy in connection with the arts of the country which they had conquered. They realised that India required the best that the civilised world could give in art, and took steps to see that she got it. They attracted to India the best artists and craftsmen—chiefly from Persia, but from other parts of the world as well. It is a disputed fact whether a Turk, or Venetian, or some even say a Frenchman, was the architect of the Taj, but there is no doubt that in addition to the best workmen from the Mohammedan world, Italian and Chinese artists and craftsmen were also employed in the building of it.


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### NEW JOHANNESBURG SYNAGOGUE

We give on pages 214 and 215 illustrations of the New Johannesburg Synagogue to be erected by Messrs. Hoheisen and Co., Ltd., from designs prepared by Mr. Theophile Schaerer, of Johannesburg.

The style of the building is an adaptation of the Byzantine. It will be built in brickwork, in light and dark red bands, with freestone dressings and granite steps. The large dome will be covered with copper. The windows will be steel casements throughout. The interior joinery is mainly of teak.

On the ground floor is a large entrance vestibule, giving access to the ladies' gallery, and, through corridors on either side to the main hall. The seats are arranged on either side facing the Almema, which is opposite to the Ark.

When a meeting, and not the service, is in progress, the entrance vestibule is used as the meeting room, with access from the side entrances. The gallery is circular on plan, and arranged over the vestibule, and the corridors and cloak rooms, so that it does not overhang the ground floor seats.

The cost of the building will be about £21,000.

It will be seen from a comparison of the perspective drawings that hardly any variation from the original has been made in the amended design.


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## THE ART OF BUILDING

### OLYMPIA EXHIBITION

Perhaps the strangest things at Olympia just now (says a writer in the "Westminster Gazette") are the three little models of snug green tents, tucked away in the midst of brick and stone and concrete and other stubborn substances with which a house is made solid and durable. Such suggestions of the Simple Life in an exhibition like the Builders' Exhibition is calculated to make one think more of Abraham than Cubitt.

In this respect the little tents stand like naughty pieces of impudence in the presence of their betters. For the exhibition represents an age far removed from the pastoral, or the vagabond, life. The very materials which are exhibited, in many instances, have been built up staunchly, as though for permanency rather than for a fortnight. There are brick houses and stone houses and wooden houses inside Olympia, which are almost ready for human habitation; and, if desired, they might be furnished serviceably enough and made to pass the sanitary inspector merely by drawing on the resources of the exhibition.

The exhibition is remarkably comprehensive. There are timbers and marbles, bricks and slate and stone, rubber roofing and rubber floors, fireplaces and shower-baths, fireproof material and fire extinguishers, concrete telegraph poles, working lifts, enamels and wall-papers, safes and strong-rooms, ties for scaffolding, and a lych-gate! And that is not all by any means.

A feature which is particularly noticeable consists of the various kinds of asbestos preparations for making a building resistive to fire. So prominent are these and the several forms of reinforced concrete that the casual observer might be excused for imagining that brick and stone were about to disappear from the builders' stock-in-trade. But it seems that, as a matter of fact, very little change in building material has taken place since 1895, when the first exhibition was held. The domestic house, externally, at any rate, is likely to present much its normal appearance for some time to time.

Indeed, this exhibition confirms what the work of good architects has been showing for a considerable time—that a reversion to the "two-inch" brick is going to make the domestic house look very much nicer. One stand, in particular, illustrates splendidly how fine a medium brickwork may be, with columns, capitals, mullions, and delicate mouldings—and not a bit of stone in the whole effect!

The newest invention to be seen here is the process called "ironating." You buy a powder, mix it with water until it attains the consistency of ordinary white-wash, and proceed with a brush to spread it upon your bricks, or cement, or tiles, or concrete, or whatever it may be. That surface is then said to be "ironated," and is water-tight. It is claimed that the wash is impervious to water, air, heat, cold, oils, acids, alkalis, or anything else.

Most elaborate means have been taken for the effective display of paints and enamels, and at many points the exhibition suggests that visitors are by no means confined to those actually engaged in building and "the allied trades." People who now engage an architect to build a house, indeed, do not "leave it all to him"—as Kipps did—but strictly enjoin him to incorporate in his designs sundry schemes and appliances which they have found out for themselves—at the Builders' Exhibition.

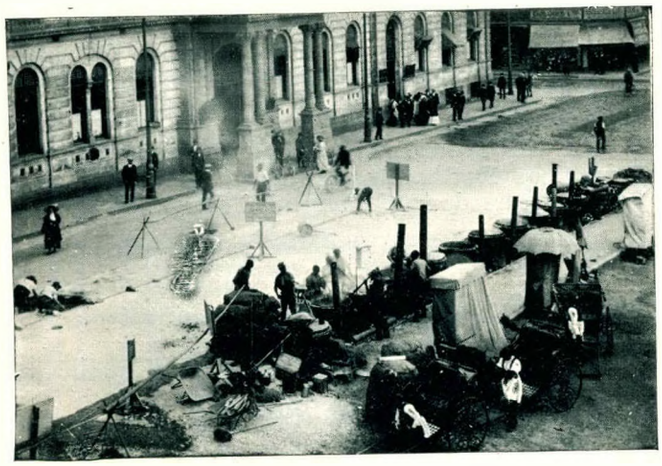


Photo of Asphalte Road being laid by Jenkins & Co., outside G.P.O., Johannesburg

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### ARCHITECTS AND BUILDING BY-LAWS.

Attention is called in the "Sanitary Record and Municipal Engineering," both in a leader and in two letters signed respectively by "An Architect (Retired)" and by the "Borough Surveyor and Architect" of Great Yarmouth, to what is termed the attack made upon municipal officials by Mr. William Woodward at the Surveyors' Institution. Our contemporary seems to regard Mr. Woodward's remarks as having a personal character and bias which, we think, cannot fairly be read into them. Mention is made of the attempt of architects to obtain cheap notoriety at meetings by condemning by-laws they are imperfectly acquainted with, and again of the "nauseous trotting out" of stock arguments against by-laws and local officials at the Royal "Institution" of British Architects. If our contemporary will tell us where the last-named body hold their meetings we will endeavour to obtain reports of their proceedings, and may in them find substantiation of the complaints made. But we have never heard of such attacks at the meetings of the Royal Institute of British Architects of which we have seen the reports. We do not understand a complaint against a stereotyped and cast-iron system as being a complaint against the officials who are appointed to see it carried out; they are but doing their duty in so doing. But it is quite open to anyone to suggest that if the complicated network of the Building Act can be administered by comparatively few highly-trained and competent men at a minimum amount of trouble and expense to architects and builders that some approach to a like happy result might be made in other districts. Mr. Woodward's suggestions in no way constitute an attack on officials, but simply contain the suggestion that a smaller number of men, having greater discretionary powers, might with advantage to the community be substituted for a larger number of men with almost no discretionary powers at all, and surely such a suggestion is one which can be considered and discussed on its merits without ill-nature? Few of us believe in the divine rights of kings, and many of us are doubtful whether there is much divinity behind the decisions of the autocrats of Whitehall. We may perhaps suggest that a joint conference between upholders of the status quo and those who, for reasons we believe to be absolutely well founded, wish to see it modified, might result in agreement, partial or otherwise, and in action.

### ARCHITECTS' FEES

It has been seriously suggested from time to time that architects like other artists should adjust their charges to their standing, and a reference to this was made by the Secretary of the Society of Architects in opening a discussion last session on some principles of professional practice.

Our contemporary, "Indian Engineering," shares this view, and in the course of an article on Architectural Competitions, says: "If the members of all other professions live by direct engagement with a client we see no reason why those of this single profession should not. In all professions there are the humbler and higher walks; for the latter specialist fees are charged, and the same ought to be permissible to architects who have attained eminence. When the doctor becomes a specialist he charges two guineas for an interview, while the struggling beginner, even when fully qualified, is permitted without odium to charge 2s. 6d. The successful barrister will demand from you per day a sum which a struggling junior will be glad to earn in a month of hard work, without being unqualified for his work. Why then should strict uniformity of charge prevail among architects? If each were permitted to fix his fee according to his standing in the profession work would be better distributed. A client would seek the architect best suited to his purse, and would not be called upon to pay for the design of a factory at the same rate as for that of a cathedral, as he would have to do if he called for competitive designs for the factory and received pictures for it from the highest to the humblest in the profession."—"Society of Architects' Journal."

### EARL CURZON STATUE.

A bronze statue of Earl Curzon of Kedleston, designed by Mr. Hamo Thornycroft, R.A., and provided by public subscription, is to be unveiled by the Governor of Bengal at an early date, on a fine site on the Maidan at Calcutta. The standing figure of Lord Curzon is on a high pedestal, resting on a dais, which is approached at front and back by wide flights of steps, and which measures on plan forty feet square. At the four angles of the dais are pedestals bearing groups of statuary, rather larger than life, each symbolical of some prominent feature of Lord Curzon's administration. In each group is an allegorical figure dominating the design, the other figures being more realistic in treatment, and representing typical Indians arranged to express the motive or subject of the design. The groups, which represent "Peace," "Commerce," "Agriculture," and "Famine Relief," are in bronze, as also are the four long bas-reliefs which fill the panels of the masonry of the sub-plinth of the central pedestal. The subjects of these bas-reliefs are the Delhi Durbar for the Proclamation of King Edward; the Taj Mahal and Gardens, which Lord Curzon did much to restore; a Procession of Imperial Cadets, the mounted corps of young Indian Princes which Lord Curzon instituted; and the Victoria Memorial Hall now being erected in Calcutta.

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### MR. ARNOLD BENNETT AND SEEING LIFE

In the first of a series of articles, entitled "Seeing Life," Mr. Arnold Bennett has a good deal to say that is pertinent and interesting concerning matters architectural. The writer states that "any logically conceived survey of existence must begin with geographical and climatic phenomena," and that all other influences are secondary to them, but the greatest of these secondary influences are roads and architecture. Entering England at Folkestone, for instance, the architectural illustration which greets you is absolutely dramatic in its spectacular force. As the tram winds on its causeway over the sloping town you perceive thousands of squat little homes, neat, tender, respectable, prim, at once unostentatious and concerted, each of which is a clearly defined entity and each with a ferocious jealousy bent on preserving its own individuality, all careless of the general effect, but yet making a very impressive general effect. This the writer contrasts with the immense communistic and splendid facades of a French town, and if you intend to see life you cannot afford to be blind to such general phenomena. Even the fact that the English lamp-posts spring from the curb, while French lamp-posts cling to the side of the house, has its significance. If one is struck with the magnificence of the great towns on the Continent, similar reflection will convince us that the major characteristic of the great towns of England is their higgledy-piggledy slovenliness. The English idiosyncrasy is, Mr. Bennett says, that awful external slovenliness causing it and being caused by it. And yet many novel writers describe a domestic organism as though it existed in the Sahara, or a vacuum, as though it reacted on nothing and was reacted on by nothing. How can such novels satisfy a reader who has acquired or wants to acquire the faculty of seeing life? We think that such criticism as this, and that of Mr. March Phillipps, is most valuable to both the architect, whose work to be of living value requires the humanising influences of a liberal education and wide sympathies, and also to the amateur, whom we hope to induce to take that interest in and appreciation of architecture which is essential to its growth as a great living art.

### UNION BUILDINGS: APEX STONE FIXED

On April 29th, in the presence of the Administrator of the Transvaal (Mr. Johann Rissik), the Deputy Mayor (Mr. J. H. L. Findlay), and several members of the Public Works Department, and other prominent Pretorians, the apex stone was set to the eastern dome of the Union Buildings, and the figure of Atlas fixed to surmount the whole. At a subsequent function the Administrator, in proposing the health of Mr. Meischke, thanked the latter, on behalf of those present, for the privilege they had all enjoyed in being permitted to take part in the ceremony of the afternoon. He congratulated Mr. Meischke on the successful issue to his labours, and on the magnificent pile of buildings which added so much to the beauty and dignity of Pretoria. After a jocular allusion to the various criticisms that had been expressed in respect of the undertaking, he added the hope that, should ever the time come when Pretoria was to become the home of another set of buildings not second even to the Union Buildings—(hear, hear)—the same contractors who had so admirably accomplished the present work would be found in charge of the later venture. (Hear, hear.) He congratulated Mr. Meischke on the admirable understanding that had prevailed between him and the P.W.D., and between him and his workpeople; nor did he fail to congratulate him on the immunity the work had enjoyed from untoward mishaps of any kind whatsoever. Understanding that Mr. Meischke was about to take a deserved holiday in Europe, he concluded by expressing the wish of all present that that holiday should be a most beneficial and enjoyable one. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Meischke, replying, thanked the Administrator for all his words of congratulation and goodwill. He confessed to feelings of trepidation when first he undertook a task of so much magnitude, and he reflected with thankfulness on the success which had since attended the undertaking. He especially acknowledged the goodwill of the P.W.D. in all stages of the work. The officials in charge had never failed to extend all the assistance in their power to the successful accomplishment of the undertaking. He regretted the absence of the architect, Mr. Herbert Baker, on this occasion, but he (the speaker) had invited his subordinates to accelerate this part of the work in view of his early departure for Europe, and in this, as in everything else, they had loyally carried out his wishes. He again thanked those present for their attendance and their words of goodwill.

Other speeches from Mr. Prentice and the various officials of the P.W.D. all testified to the cordiality prevailing on the works. The employees, in view of the occasion, left work at an earlier hour than usual, and were given facilities for taking part in the general celebration.


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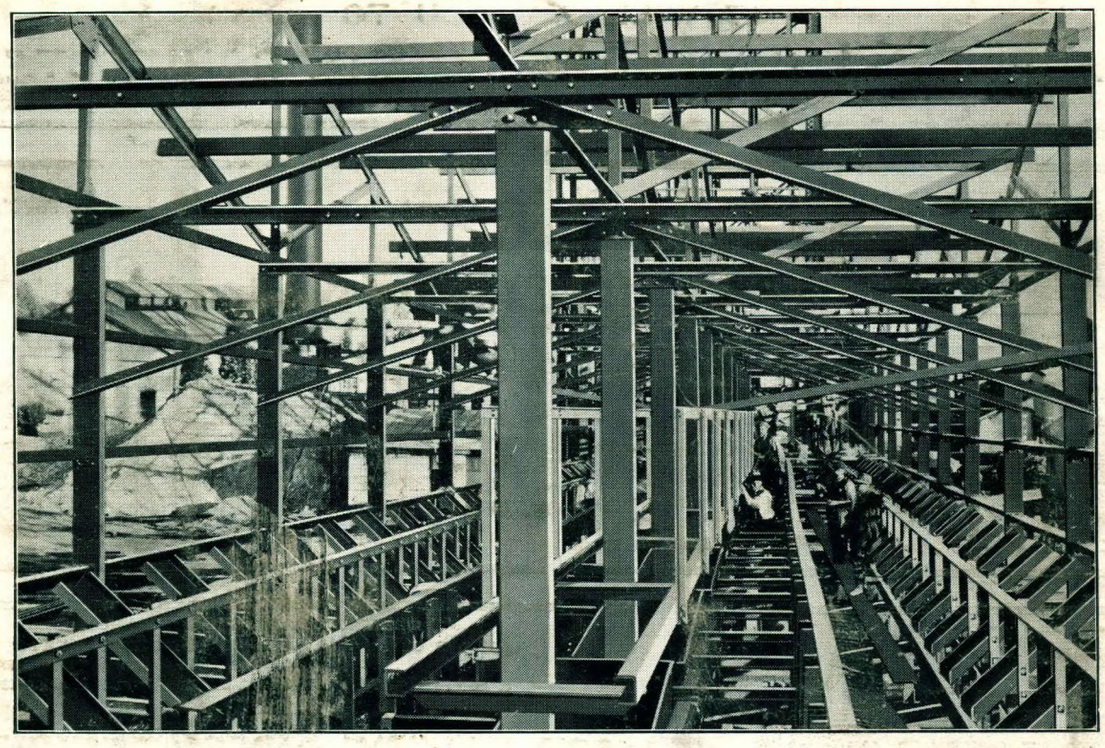
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