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

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THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS

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OUR POSITION.

The editorials of our first and third issues have called forth such expressions of dissent that the Council of the Association have directed the issue of a statement that such views do not represent the mind of the majority of our members. They exhibit a partial and one-sided aspect of the work done, and at times also a want of information regarding a continuous line of unrequited and ungrudging labour on the part of many of our members.

Our critic, after eighteen months or so on the Council, has not succeeded in showing us any new Sinai, nor been able to lead us into paths which would bring us into a new Promised Land of professional liberty and universal competence. We gladly accept his "inexorable law, the tools to the man who can use them." We only differ from our friend, whom we esteem highly for his own work's sake and for his evident sincerity of purpose, as to who is to be the judge of him who can properly use the tools. Napoleon himself would have been the last man to lay this task on the public as the sole arbiter. Sir Thomas Jackson, with unconvincing freshness, would let loose an army of incompetents so as to avoid a conjectural risk of losing a few geniuses. We entirely fail to see, however, how registration is going to blot out a genius by its examination, or that other registered professions have fallen lower in brilliance and achievement since they took this yoke upon them.

We would gladly welcome a better way, if there is one, for the average man, than a system of examinations, which must inevitably be preceded by a course of study. The exponents of registration are not necessarily pelf-mongers, but are genuinely conscious of the shortcomings of an old system, that has so drifted as to have failed to make any recognized minimum standard of competence, and the Council has put no unfair obstacles before anyone desiring to practice and willing to exhibit his ability, and our members would be taking a backward step if they decided that no examination would in future be laid before an entrant to the profession.

Why is the Association called upon to establish a Chair of Architecture, or a library? At the best, a none-too-rich profession, for what reason should architects alone provide seats of learning for other men? Is this done by the Surveyors, the Doctors or the Lawyers? It is right that the Association should encourage such establishments; but the financial foundation and support should be given by the State, and to this end the Association has made great efforts. Does any advocate for the support of such institutions by the architects themselves realise for a moment the burden of such a proposition?

It is easy to scoff at what has been done, but had the Association not worked as it has, much that has been accom-

OUR POSITION.—*continued.*]

plished would remain undone, to the loss of architecture and the public.

"*By the concrete examples of his own creative work,*" we agree that the real dignity of the true architect will be achieved, and the true artist will never think the humblest cottage beneath his powers. But, without some recognized and definite line of attainment, such as supplied by an examination standard, we entirely fail to see how many of us will escape the "obloquy of the passer-by," or how, without the raising of the level of architectural effort by the directive force of the associated living architects, any improvement in a too generally low standard of achievement is to be attained.

By raising the level of our many-sided profession in every way, the association will not only serve its own members, but also the people, for unless the latter are ultimately the recipients of the benefit of our efforts, we should, deservedly, cease to exist.

We are believers in our own cause, and while we may make mistakes, and achieve less than we set out to do, we are willing to learn from any critic, only postulating that he can shew a better way and lead us safely across a new Red Sea of decision.

The Association desires to stand for "the utmost for the highest," and it regards the proper training of our future architects as one of the greatest and noblest functions to which it can give its support. Without such a training it will continue to refuse anyone the title of architect.

E. W.

AFFORESTATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

During the course of the Annual Meeting of the Society of Architects (South African Branch), reported in another column of this issue, an interesting discussion took place on the subject of Afforestation in South Africa.

Mr. Waugh, speaking on the question, stated that the newly-elected Council and officers should press the Government of the Union on the importance of Afforestation, which, owing to financial stringency had apparently come to a standstill. Mr. Waugh pointed out that we are a long way behind other countries in this respect; only a few days previously he had received from Canada a splendidly illustrated booklet giving clear and concise details and descriptions of various timbers that could be easily obtained from that country, and contrasting the methods of those in charge of such matters with those in a similar position in this country, he stated that he had recently addressed the authorities in Pretoria, asking them to let him have a copy of any available literature, etc., *re* South African timbers that they had at their disposal, and the reply received was to the effect that all they could do was to recommend his visiting the Union Buildings, Pretoria, where various specimens of South African timbers could be seen and examined.

Mr. Waugh further illustrated the lack of real practical interest shewn by some of those in authority in this country, who should be the first to recognise the desirability of making as much use out of the material found in the country as possible; he understood that recently, when the question of furnishing the Victoria Falls Hotel at Livingstone was considered, although it was shewn that all the furniture for the building could be made out of some of the very fine locally-grown timbers at a fractional cost above the imported woods, it had been decided to have the furniture made of imported wood.

This country, Mr. Waugh said, produced magnificent timber, but it was a lamentable fact that in the Union there were only 70,000 acres of forest. But in Rhodesia there was a mahogany forest estimated to contain 50 million cubic feet of timber, and to be worth at least £5,000,000. The Johannesburg Municipality had used some of this wood at the abattoirs, and it was proving eminently satisfactory. But it was difficult to obtain at present, owing to the fact that it was not placed properly on the market. Then there was excellent Rhodesian teak, and there were good woods in the eastern part of the Cape Province. The country was capable of producing pines and firs and other woods suitable for building purposes, but yet, as far as he knew, very little was being done, except by the Railway Department, which was growing timber at Sir Lowry Pass and other places, principally for sleeper purposes. Afforestation was essentially a matter for the Goevrnment. Timber took a long time to mature, and for this reason afforestation could not be favoured as an ordinary business proposition. It was the duty of the Government to be up and doing. He could not explain why the country was bare of natural timber; but there was no doubt, with its many climates, it could grow timber of various kinds. An important point was that afforestation would provide a most suitable avenue of employment for men who may be workless in the near future, and would yield eventually an enormous revenue to the Government. At the present time practically all the wood used here for building purposes was imported.

Mr. Burton, in supporting Mr. Waugh, remarked that in July last he had represented this Branch of the Society of Architects as a delegate to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Union Buildings, Pretoria, and that whilst the delegates had been shewn great courtesy and given a patient hearing by Mr. Leggett, nothing further had been done, except that the Minister of Agriculture had evidently refused to act on the resolution which the delegation had laid before him.

Mr. Burton further stated that the area of forest timber in the Transvaal was very small compared with the Cape. The Union should profit by the example of Russia, where thousands of men were engaged in the planting and preparation of timber for the market. It had been established that wood suitable for building purposes could be grown in the Transvaal at a rapid rate, and it was a lamentable fact that it was impossible at the present time to get building timber of 12 ft. lengths.

(**Note.** It is only fair to state that the "Star" of Johannesburg a day or two after the above meeting issued a leading article on this question which indicated that the forest areas are larger than was suggested and that some 3,000 morgen were being planted per annum. The natural forests of the Union, in several cases known to the writer, are, however, not at all to be compared with equal areas in, say, Canada or Australia, as the growth is sparser and much smaller. Here only certain sized trees are to be cut in many forests and these are the least in number. Calculation by area is misleading without other qualification. While admitting the fairness of the tone of the "Star" article, it still appears that the afforestation question badly needs Governmental pushing and nothing short of supplying our own wants should satisfy South Africans.—Ed.)

HAGIA SOPHIA.

During my travels in the near East two and a half years ago, which embraced portions of Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Smyrna and Constantinople, I amused myself by taking stereoscopic photos of items of interest, and as I have been asked to submit some of these photos for reproduction in this paper I have selected a few that were taken of Hagia Sophia.

There were two edifices that I had long desired to see, viz.:—the Temple of Karnac, the ruins of the largest building ever erected, and Hagia Sophia at Constantinople.

Hagia Sophia is without doubt the most interesting building in the world. There are other buildings that are older, many larger, perhaps some that might be considered as beautiful, others might almost equal it in architectural interest and there may be some more costly in construction; but no existing building can compare with Hagia Sophia if all these points are together taken into consideration.

It was built to the order of the Emperor Justinian and dedicated in the year 537 A.D. The dome fell in 558 but was then rebuilt and the whole edifice stands in the main to-day as it was then, not having been materially altered or restored. Though the ruins, more or less preserved, of many much older buildings exist, and there are also many buildings still in use of which portions only may date to anterior times, there are very few as old that stand to-day in the same state as when first erected and are still used for the purpose for which they had been originally designed.

Hagia Sophia was about as old when the main portions of our Cathedrals were built as the latter are to-day, and it has been continuously used as a place of worship since it was first dedicated.

On the ground of architectural interest Hagia Sophia stands unique. All creations and improvements in style have been the result of slow modifications brought about by earnest and conscientious work in the effort to produce the best result under varying circumstances, and without any struggle after originality, just for originality's own sake, and there are therefore no sudden jumps in the history of architectural developments, with the one exception provided by Hagia Sophia, and how this came about will remain a mystery for all time.

Most readers of this Journal are probably acquainted with the term pendentives. They are the curved surfaces at the four corners, which effect the change from the square to the round so that the base of a dome, circular or plan, may be poised over a square erection. They are portions of the surface of a sphere, the diameter of which is equal to the diagonal on plan measured from angle to angle of the square erections that is to be domed. They are a very usual feature in Renaissance work, but before Hagia Sophia was built, they were unknown. What is so remarkable is that this innovation fully and freely developed should appear for the first time on so large and daring a scale.

Constantinople is built on a series of hills rising round about the waters of the Golden Horn, Bosphorus and Sea of Marmora. It comprises Stamboul, Galata, Pera and Scutari. Stamboul is the old town, and it is therefore there that the principal mosques and other characteristic buildings are found. Galata is across the narrow water called the Golden Horn and is connected by bridges to Stamboul. Pera is the European quarter adjoining Galata. Scutari is across the broad waters of the Bosphorus which is about 1½ miles wide at this point. In addition to these areas, there are suburbs containing marble palaces, old forts and country estates, that stretch both sides of the Bosphorus and line its shores for nearly half-way to the Black Sea.

The Golden Horn is about half-a-mile wide, and penetrates inland for about six miles where it narrows and receives the "Sweet waters of Europe."

Constantinople shares with most Eastern cities that are built on a slope, a certain characteristic feature at variance with European methods, and that is, that every point of vantage is occupied by a building having its main dwelling rooms facing the view. This especially when combined with flat-roofed houses gives that picturesque, piled up, blocky appearance so familiar in views of Eastern Cities. You can walk for miles along streets in the higher parts of Constantinople and never have the chance to catch a glimpse of the sea, or the glorious panorama that is all around, to view which you must enter some house and walk through till you come to the windows on its other or front side.

In these cities it is really the entrance and back of the houses that often face the road, the front faces the view.

In an English seaside town built on a slope the houses on the sea-side of the upper roads running parallel to the sea, would face the road, with a front door probably in the middle, and a room with bay-window each side, the back-yard and conveniences would face the view, not so in the East. In the English town the roads would have open ends and be continued down to the sea front, but this is not the case in Constantinople. At some point, such a road would sooner or later have been blocked by someone desirous of erecting a house and capturing the particular panorama there obtainable.

Most of the dwelling houses in Stamboul are built of wood, weather boarded outside, but covered with heavy projecting tiled roofs. As it is the roofs, rather than the sides, that receive the greater portion of the sun's rays and the full force of hostile elements, this seems a practical arrangement. We reverse the order here and build our sides of brick, and the roofs of thin sheet iron. The wood sides are not painted, but are weathered to a dark almost black colour and, with the mellowed red tiles, when viewed at a distance, give a pleasing appearance to the clustered groups of dwellings rising tier above tier amidst the green foliage, some nestling in the gulleys and others clinging to the hillsides.

Considering the number of wood houses, fire insurance must be a risky business in Stamboul to-day, yet fire-proof construction is no new, up-to-date method there, as the Emperor Justinian gave the order that no wood was to be used in the construction of Hagia Sophia, owing to the previous churches on this site having been destroyed by fire. Hence the entire building is covered with brick vaulting which forms a true roof.

On the whole, I found that walking was the best means of getting about. Roads are paved with cobbles and being so hilly, vehicular traffic is slow and uncomfortable. Motor cars were very rare. There is an electric tram service of one-storied cars, but they are generally very crowded. Each car is fitted with an adjustable division across the interior to divide the portions reserved for the women from

HAGIA SOPHIA.—*continued.*]

that for the men, and it is shifted backwards and forwards according to the relative accommodation required by either sex.

Constantinople must be the most religious city in the world, there are far more places of worship in proportion to the population than to be found elsewhere, and many of these edifices are of a most gorgeous type. There are about 100 mosques erected by the Turks since they captured the city in the 15th century, all more or less copies of Hagia Sophia, and about twelve of these almost rival it in size and magnificence. Viewing the city from the sea or from the Galata Tower or some other eminence, these various mosques are quite a characteristic feature, they rise above the surrounding buildings and occupy the most commanding positions, and it would require someone with some knowledge of the subject to distinguish Hagia Sophia from the others.

On meeting a tourist who had just returned from a visit to Constantinople I asked what he thought of Hagia Sophia, and in reply he stated that he had seen at Stamboul so many magnificent mosques that he had given up the task of distinguishing one from the other. This is an attitude of mind that might easily be engendered if one did not bring to one's investigations the historical interest pertaining to the subjects under consideration.

A great and mighty gulf separates Hagia Sophia from all other mosques in Constantinople. Nearly a thousand years passed between the building of the venerable pile that graces the Augusteum and the erection of its many counter-types.

When the Architects Anthemeus and Isidorous had finished their work it would seem as if human effort had exhausted itself for the time being, for not only was Hagia Sophia unlike anything that had gone before, but nothing like it was erected for centuries after. Such Christian churches as were built during the centuries immediately following were on a much smaller scale and their designers lacked the boldness and daring displayed in the construction of the domed vaulting over Hagia Sophia. They introduced the vertical drum below the dome, and utilised this for windows. The internal effect became cramped, especially as the tendency grew to increase the drum in height, and the glorious aerial impression that prevails in Hagia Sophia, as if the great central dome floated over the vast interior with little apparent support, is absent in these later churches.

For centuries after the fall of the Roman Empire, architecture fell to a very low ebb in the West, and through long and painful processes the foundations of the Gothic style were laid, but it was not until this style had grown to maturity, flourished, died, and been superceded by the Renaissance that the great lessons first taught at Hagia Sophia were generally applied to other buildings. It was about this time, or rather shortly before, that the Turks captured Constantinople, and they were so struck with its beauty that they set to work and built every mosque afterwards on the same lines. This was the more remarkable because previously every mosque throughout the world had been built on an entirely different plan, which mainly consisted of a large courtyard enclosed on all sides by a wall and with a loggia "Lewan" running internally round the four sides. The lewan along the side facing Mecca was much wider than those on the other three sides and was the portion that contained the sacred shrine and formed the Sanctuary. In the centre of the courtyard was placed the fountain or "Meida" used for the prescribed ablutions.

When the Turks built the new type of mosque after Hagia Sophia they added a forecourt with a pergola of one row of arcades round three sides and placed the fountain in the centre as before.

During the 16th and the beginning of the 17th centuries the Turkish Empire was very strong and was far more extensive than that of any other power, so that Constantinople must have been a city of much greater relative importance and wealth during those comparatively recent times than we generally imagine. Various and many were the magnificent mosques erected during that prolific period. Of course the ornamental details were Saracenic and therefore quite different to the Byzantine details of Hagia Sophia. Of these Turkish mosques, that built by Suleyman the Magnificent in the middle of the 16th century is generally considered the most perfect and representative, an illustration is here given of its interior.

I succeeded after some difficulty, through the kindly assistance of the Architect to the British Embassy, in obtaining permission from the Turkish Government to take photos of the interior of Hagia Sophia and to gain access to the galleries. When in the latter the priests always carefully locked me in, as certain State Archives are kept in the long West gallery. The level of these galleries is 90 feet above the nave and I shared their splendid and spacious solitudes with the numerous pigeons who apparently made these quarters their home. Access to the galleries is attained up a series of sloping gangways situated in a corner tower.

I do not propose to give a full description of the interior of Hagia Sophia as this has so often been described.

The shafts of the large columns on each side of the nave are verde antique monoliths, quarried in Thersaly and presented to Justinian by the Prefect of Ephesus. The large columns in the four exedra, viz.:—the feature at each corner of the nave, are porphyry. They were originally quarried in Egypt, once formed part of the Temple of the Sun at Baalbec, and were carried to Rome by Aurelian to adorn a temple there. The vaulted roofs of the aisles are supported independently of the nave columns by smaller columns of green marble.

The columns above the gallery floor are verde antique and white marble.

The core of the whole building is brick and finished on the interior wall surfaces with marble lining in the form of panelling and mosaics, and on the curved surfaces with marble mosaics, but the mosaics have been in many cases obliterated. The marble panels are generally in pairs, the slabs forming each pair, having been cut out of one slab of twice the thickness, and then laid with the edges originally adjacent, meeting, so that the figure or grain in the marble is continuous.

The floor is of marble but is entirely covered by prayer rugs, one rug to each worshipper, as these prayer rugs are laid in the direction facing Mecca rather than the East, a peculiarly skewed appearance is produced.

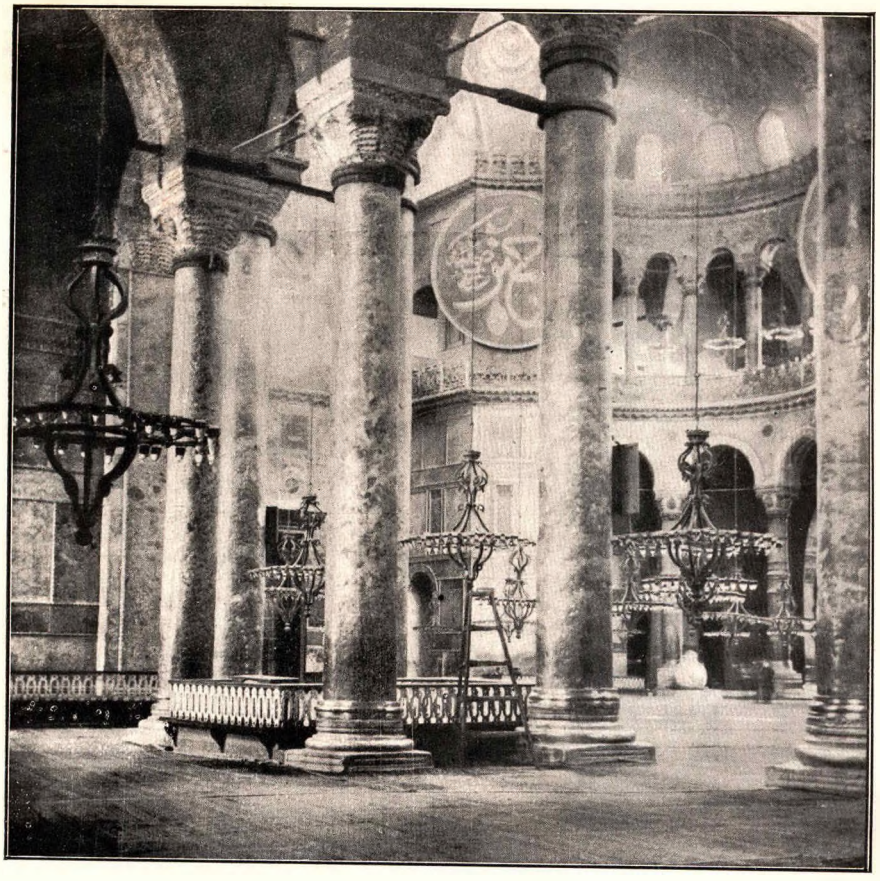
In many quarters it seems to be the opinion that Hagia Sophia does not excel in its external design; personally, I differ from this view entirely. The external effect is most

ST. SOPHIA, CONSTANTINOPLE



DETAIL OF CAPITAL

ST. SOPHIA, CONSTANTINOPLE



FROM FLOOR



FROM FLOOR, *Looking West*

harmonious without being too symmetrical and monotonous. There is a tendency towards the last direction in the designs of the later mosques.

The line of thrust from the central dome is met East and West by the two large semi-domes, and North and South by the four massive buttresses, each 75 ft. x 75 ft. The latter are assisted in their work by the enormous deep soft fitted East and West arches which span between these buttresses and are so conspicuous externally, and by the skew arches which are flung between the buttresses and the spandrils of the East and West arches. These last transmit the side thrust of the dome to the piers. No greater distinction could be conceived than the method of transmitting the dome thrust East and West, to the method adopted on the North and South direction, and yet both are equally effectual, and form a gratifying contrast.

There has been a good deal of public attention drawn to the question as to whether the main structure of Hagia Sophia is giving way owing to the presence of several cracks in the building. These cracks are somewhat in evidence round about the galleries, and are manifestly under observation; but to anyone coming from Johannesburg, where we are accustomed to that sort of thing in even new buildings, they do not appear alarming in an edifice that has been standing nearly 1,500 years.

I will conclude this discourse with a quotation from my old friend Procopius who witnessed the erection of Hagia Sophia. It of course does not altogether apply now that the Turks have covered with whitewash the representations in mosaic of created forms which are so offensive to the Moslems' creed.

"Within it is singularly full of light and sunshine; you would declare that the place is not lighted from without, but that the rays are produced within itself, such an abundance of light is poured into it. The gilded ceiling adds glory to its interior, though the light reflected upon the gold from the marble surpasses it in beauty. Who can tell of the splendour of the columns and marbles with which the church is adorned? One would think that one had come upon a meadow full of flowers in bloom—one wonders at the purple tints of some, the green of others, the glowing red and glittering white, and those, too, which nature, like a painter, has marked with the strongest contrasts of colour."

W. H. Stucke.

Farm Buildings and Building Construction in South Africa. By W. S. H. Cleghorne, B.Sc.

Works on architecture and building are so very rare in this country that the appearance of this practical treatise is all the more acceptable. It sets out to be a text-book for farmers, and is profusely and well illustrated by well-executed drawings mostly in isometrical view. The work deals with fencing with concrete in an especially full manner, and subjects of agricultural values such as cow-byres, dipping tanks, silos, barns, and other farm buildings. Much of the work is naturally intended for the instruction of a non-professional reader, but there is also much in it of great interest to architects from the pen of one who holds the post of Lecturer at the Potchefstroom Agricultural College. It is essentially a practical book, and should hold an important place for a long time to come.

The style of the book is throughout excellent, and both in printing and binding it is first class. Scrutator.

HOUSING IN ENGLAND.

Mr. Walter Long, President of the Local Government Board, met a deputation on September 20th, who urged that immediate preparation should be made for the proper housing of the population. Mr. Long replied that the question was the most *important* as well as the most urgent of the reforms which had to be undertaken. Such a question goes to the very root of the prosperity and well-being of the nation and should come first. The matter had already been the subject of proposals to the Government, and he and the Secretary for Scotland were determined to do all they could to forward this great work.

The deputation asked that 20 million pounds should be set aside; but Mr. Long considered the sum insufficient. The work, from its nature, would be a long one, and the plans for carrying it into effect were not yet sufficiently mature to enable definite figures to be put forward.

It is very encouraging to find an important Minister of State realising the greatness of this question. The squalor and degradation of a large section of the British public was an astounding shock to the writer when, as a Colonial visitor, he made his first visit to the old country. With an acquaintance of eight different colonies, he had never seen any approach to it, and came to the conclusion that the poor in the old country lived in a condition almost worse than serfdom, and the only freedom they really possessed was to die and get out of their misery. In some ways, the England of to-day seems to be learning from her chief enemy, and she is forcibly reminded of Robert Blatchford's words, that conscription or forced military service would be the death-blow of the slum, as in Germany, as the habits of cleanliness and order which such a training engenders, would make slums, and the cause of slums,—which is greed of a vile kind,—intolerable to the future manhood of the nation.

His present Majesty made use of a now famous expression, some years ago, at the Guildhall, when he called on England "to wake up." If she now arises to tackle this problem, the physique of a great section of the people will be immeasurably improved. E. H. Waugh.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

A drawing—kindly executed by Mr. Cornish—appears of the Law Courts in Johannesburg. It shows the main or southern facade, facing Pritchard Street. The fine building it represents has been for a long time a source of admiration to many of our members, for its vigorous and masculine qualities, both in massing and detail. Many of us would like to know who was responsible for the design, and perhaps the P.W. Department would be willing to enlighten us in our next issue.

The photographs of Hagia Sophia are personal studies by Mr. W. H. Stucke, and considering the amount of halation in this building, he has been wonderfully successful. His article on this building, so very famous in its wonderful symmetry and construction, is most acceptable, and we hope he will be able to afford us some more pleasure from the memory of his extensive travels. Crux.

REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL JOURNALS.

What can our brother professionals at the front think of us when they read or hear of competitions being held during their absence, which could without any difficulty be postponed till after the war? Such thoughts run through one's mind as one reads the general news of our journals for the past few months. Is it possible that while architects have sacrificed their practices, have run the risk of losing their connections, have given up their livelihoods, and are risking their lives for their country, that there can be those remaining behind ready to grasp, at the first opportunity, an advantage gained by the absence of these heroes? We are either shirkers or ineligibles. If the former, let us hang our heads in shame; if the latter, what right have we to take an advantage over our brothers, who are eligible, and doing their duty, when in reality we should be looking after their interests? Imagine the feelings of the man in the trench when he reads of this Architect, and that Architect, being successful for this and that Competition, when he knows, that, but for him and those with him, we would not be here, let alone to exist to gain an advantage through his sacrifice. It seems inconceivable that a commonwealth government, like that of Australia, with its thousands of citizens at the front, including a large percentage of the Architectural profession, can, at this moment, ask for competitive designs from architects for the new buildings of their Capital Canberra. This is one of the many Competitions being held which could just as easily have been held over till after the war. Let shirkers and ineligibles shew their loyalty to those at the front by refusing to compete, and by boycotting in every possible way the organisers of these competitions.

* * *

War memorials still occupy the attention of the Profession and numerous illustrations good, bad, and indifferent, fill the Journals. However much the utilitarian feels in regard to the necessity of devoting all memorial offerings to some useful object, his emotional instincts, as a result of so much sacrifice in this stupendous war, rise to something higher, and we hear little objection to money being freely spent on essentially artistic expressions of the feelings and admiration of those who have given their lives for their country. As Dr. Benson said: "We wanted what appealed to the eye and then darted a strong emotion into the heart." The one essential feature lacking in all memorials to date is any particular characteristic that will express the age and environment of this great 20th century upheaval. When one walks through the great Cathedrals of England, one sees most incongruously situated monuments of all periods placed in all positions; Gothic, of all periods mixed up with early and late Renaissance, but each so true to its style, that one has no need to look at the date to decide in which era such monument was erected. Can such be said of any of the monuments designed for this war? Would it not be better for all concerned to wait till the war is over, when maturer consideration can be given to these things and inspirations received from those actually at the firing line?

* * *

Considerable controversy is taking place as to the nature and extent of re-instatement of works of art—particularly Architecture—after the war. We read that 3,500 Churches and Chapels have suffered by the war; should these Churches be re-instated as they were before, or rebuilt on modern lines? The old associations connected with these destroyed buildings will be lost if new ones take their place: but will the old associations be attached more or less to a new building erected on the plans of the old one? It would be interesting to know how the Italians look upon the Campanile of Venice which fell to the ground a few years ago and was rebuilt as an exact copy of the original.

* * *

Registrationists are referred to the New York State Registration Law, in which an innovation is made, new to most Registration enthusiasts. Architects who were in actual practice at any time of the passing of the Act, are requested to register if they can measure up to an acceptable standard, but they are not required to register to practice. This gives the Provisional Council power to refuse registration to men not properly qualified but who yet had previously acquired a legal right to practice. Obviously the object of such a law is to insure that every registered Architect whether at the time of passing the act or subsequently should be a qualified man, and in course of time the unregistered men would be eliminated, the object of the law is to raise the standard of qualification of the profession and is not to secure professional advantage at the expense of public freedom.

* * *

A considerable amount of correspondence is taken up over the metric system, and the main point seems to be whether we should scrap our system of measurement and money entirely, and make a fresh start with the metric system, or try a modified system of metric measurements, that would enable us to adhere more or less to our accustomed measurements transformed into a decimal system. It is pointed out that in days gone by we had a primitive system from which our existing measurements have evolved, and to revert to what is called the Belgic yard, once common all over Europe, would be less inconvenient than a wholesale scrapping. That our system is antiquated, in the sense of being inferior, is accepted by everyone, and is proved overwhelmingly by many Englishmen, at present in France, using the metric system, who say unhesitatingly, that to come back to our system is retrogressing. Where we use several scales, they use one, where we use pages in calculation, they use one, and so on. The only debatable point seems to be what system is the best for all nations universally to adopt.

* * *

An example of Re-inforced Concrete floor construction, not yet seen in Johannesburg, known as the hollow steel tile construction, has been sucessfully used in one of the largest modern buildings recently erected at home, viz.: the new Cunard Building, Liverpool; and no doubt it will soon be adopted as the standard type of concrete floors. It has amongst other advantages, the reducing of beams to a minimum, it is lighter in construction, sound-proof, and a minimum of vibration, and an enormous saving in shuttering, and a saving of labour in erection. One would anticipate further, though it is too early to establish by fact that the proverbial cracks in re-inforced concrete buildings would be practically eliminated in this form of structure. Architecturally, it is infinitively superior to any

method existing, and enables the designer to treat his ceilings free and unencumbered to any design he may choose.

* * *

Interesting illustrations appear in the journals of the Quebec Bridge disaster, which appears to have occurred at the central span. Two large cantilevers, similar in construction to those of the famous Forth Bridge, were erected, but the central span being 640 ft. long, as compared with the smaller span of the Forth Bridge, necessitated considerable engineering skill. This central span was erected 3 miles away and floated to position on 6 large pontoons. As far as can be ascertained, the fault lay in the hydraulic jacks which failed and so led to disaster.

* * *

An interesting development has been made in the now 3-hinged steel trussed roof. It had its origin in the attempt to solve the problem of the resistance or thrust from a hemispherical roof with a semi-circular end, and was attained by erecting a two storey outside extension from ground to springing level, this load being utilised to insure cantilever action, instead of arch action. Numerous illustrations of the Construction are given and are of more than ordinary interest. R.H.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The following has been received for publication:—

E. H. Waugh, Esq.,
President of the Association of Transvaal Architects,
Johannesburg.

Dear Mr. Waugh,

It is with great regret that I find it necessary to ask you to accept my resignation as a member of the Council of the Association of Transvaal Architects.

You will perhaps recollect that when I was asked to allow myself to be nominated for election I declined. Notwithstanding my decision the members, at the Annual General Meeting, elected me, and I then felt that as there seemed to be a very definite desire on the part of my fellow members that I should represent them on the Council, I did not withdraw my name. One's acceptance of a seat upon the governing body of the Association is a task which should not be lightly undertaken, and the only reason for being on the Council at all is that any influence one possesses should be exerted on behalf of the interest of Architecture in South Africa, the Association and its members. I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that the affairs of the Association, as at present conducted, are not in accordance with those interests.

I prefer not to go into the particular circumstances in detail since the members of the Council are fully cognisant of these. My own opinion, however, is that they are deplorable. It would appear to me that in the interests of the Association some statement of the matter should be published in the journal.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

J. M. Solomon.

(**Note**—The Council generally supported Mr. Solomon's action on a question penultimate to his resignation, which arose out of the non-registration in the past of Architects resident in another Province, who were in partnership with a firm practising under their collective names in this Province. As however, it transpired that the Association could make no legal claim for subscriptions prior to the actual date of the registration now effected, the Council urged that these subscriptions should be paid in as an act of fairness, but they were not successful in having the matter so adjusted. We would observe that Mr. Solomon had no dispute with the *Council* on this and on general policy; he would have been able, if he had remained on the Council, to have shewn some better way of conducting the Association's affairs.—Ed.)

THE RELATIONSHIP OF ARCHITECT AND QUANTITY SURVEYOR.

To the Editor,

Journal of the Association of Transvaal Architects.
P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg.

Sir,

Since you have given publicity to the remarks of "Professional" on the above subject, I think a word from a quantity surveyor may not be without interest to your readers, and I trust that your sense of fair play will induce you to give them a similar hearing in your valuable publication.

I also, in common with your correspondent, and the majority of Quantity Surveyors in this country, have been trained in one of the older countries; and it is news to me that the relationship between the two professions, or as "Professional" prefers to call them, the profession, and the business, is that of "Chief and Subordinate."

It is true that in most cases, the practising quantity-surveyor has to depend upon the architect for much of his work, although in such cases, in England at any rate, he is not paid by the architect, but by the building-owner, through the contractor; but public bodies, and other employers of architects, are gradually realising that the surveyor should be appointed by, paid by, and be responsible to, the building-owner direct, and not necessarily be appointed by the architect.

"Professional" would appear to prefer, that in this country, the relationship should correspond to that between Dives and Lazarus, if possible, more closely than it does already.

I think a parallel may be found in the relationship between solicitor and barrister, the former employs the latter and puts work in his way, but I have never heard that the solicitor therefore considers himself the chief, and the barrister the subordinate.

"Professional" rather labours the view that a quantity surveyor is not a professional man, and quotes a definition by the Chief Justice of England in support of his view, he does not however explain to us, whether an architect belongs to the Church, Law, or Army. It is not of much importance though I think it rather a fine distinction, to say either architect or quantity surveyor is more a profession than the other.

We are told later that architecture "covers most of the arts and sciences." I should be glad of enlightenment as to in what sense it may be said to cover them, and which it covers.

It is true that architects and surveyors alike should know the laws governing their profession, also hygiene, mensuration, mechanics, land-surveying, sanitary science, building construction, etc., in addition to designing in the one case, and measuring and pricing in the other; but there are quite a few sciences left uncovered, and perhaps even undiscovered by "Professional."

I do not agree that surveying is only one branch of architecture, and a glance at the subjects required by the examining bodies of the respective Institutes of the two professions, will convince those in doubt, that the difference between the two lies not in the number, or nature, of the subjects required, so much as in the relative importance of each in the eyes of the respective Institutes.

"Professional" complains that Quantity Surveyors individually, and their Institute as a body, are encroaching on the province of the architect, also that they are individually getting work from builders. The real position is, that they are many of them forced to the latter course, because so many architects encroach upon the province of the Surveyor, and take off their own quantities, or alternatively, offer the work to surveyors at one-fifth, or two-fifths of what they obtain for the work from the building-owner, and themselves take the balance without doing the work, or any portion of it.

CORRESPONDENCE.—*continued.*]

"Professional's" instance of the sort of claim advanced by the surveyor acting for a builder, does great credit to his imagination, and I can only suggest, that if ever he has such a claim put forward, he refers the surveyor concerned to the Standard System of Measurement of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors, which clearly lays down when mitres should and should not be measured.

He quotes a case of a surveyor acting for a builder charging the building-owner for his work. This seems an impossible position for any surveyor to take up, and I feel sure, that if such cases were brought to the notice of the above body, they would take the matter up. The remarks of your correspondent on this matter are among the few things I agree with in his article.

I venture to think that if "Professional" really desires to improve the relationship between the two bodies, he would be wiser to refrain from articles written with a view of belittling a profession which is closely allied to his own in other countries, and should be here.

A better way in my opinion, is to realise that the Quantity Surveyor who is worthy of the name, and capable, has as much right to live as the Architect, and that their Institute is every bit as anxious to demand and maintain a high standard from its members as the Transvaal Institute of Architects. Further, that the more work the members of the latter give to those of the former institute, the less likelihood of claims for extras, owing to shortage of Quantities. An efficient surveyor does not, for the sake of his own reputation, leave loopholes for fictitious claims, or any other kind, and the architect who employs him will find him able to look after the interests of the employer, should any absurd claims be advanced in settling the final accounts.

I see no harm in a surveyor acting for a builder, any more than in an architect acting for his client, or a barrister for his client. The practice has long been recognised in England, and the fact that it is done proves that the builder has found it necessary in his own interests.

Such a surveyor should aim at impartiality and fairness, and trumped-up claims cannot be too strongly deprecated.

In conclusion, if "Professional's" opinions as to the inferiority in status and education of the "measuring man" are shared by the rest of his profession, I am astonished to find so many Rand architects lowering their status, and demeaning themselves by trying to take out Bills of Quantities.

I am, etc.,

G. E. HOWGRAVE-GRAHAM, F.S.I.

To the Editor,

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

Dear Sir,

The Council of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors would be obliged if you would afford space in the next issue of your Journal for some reply to the article headed "The Relationship of Architect and Quantity Surveyor" which appeared in the third quarterly part, 1916, of the Journal of the Institute of Transvaal Architects.

My Council do not consider it necessary to traverse several of the inaccurate statements made by your correspondent, but think it as well to advise gentlemen practising as Architects in South Africa of the following facts:—

(a) Members of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors are not allowed to encroach on the province of the Architect, unless they are also practising as Architects.

(b) That on one occassion representatives from the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors at the request of the Master Builders' Association and together with representatives from the Architectural Associations, conferred as to the framing of new Conditions of Contract.

(c) That it was not at the desire of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors that a chapter, dealing with Quantity Surveyors, was included in the draft Union Act. That the chapter was included at the express desire of the Architects and that an almost unanimous vote was passed by the Architects approving of such inclusion.

It would appear from the article that suggestions are made by your correspondent against one or more Quantity Surveyors to the effect that the same have been guilty of "unprofessional" conduct. Should such an allegation be made against any member of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors, the case, if brought to the notice of the Council, will be immediately investigated and, if necessary, dealt with under the rules and bye-laws of the Institute, full provision being made therein for dealing with such occurences, and I am directed to inform you—and any interested party—that my Council would court such an enquiry should occasion arise.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

J. W. COWLING,

Hon. Secretary.

S.A. Institute of Quantity Surveyors.

To the Editor,

JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg.

Sir,

As a member of the Association of Transvaal Architects, I venture to object most strongly to this journal being used for the publication of articles of the nature of that published, under the heading of "The relationship of Architect and Quantity Surveyor," in the September issue.

The article in question, despite the red-herring decoy allusions to New Conditions of Contract, R.I.B.A., Master Builders' sleeping sickness, etc., savours strongly of the plaint of one who has not come off best in the matter of disputes with his builder who has called in the assistance of a quantity surveyor and consequently, although the author shelters beneath the nom-de-plume of "Professional," such an article cannot be considered of professional or public interest. In addition it may be termed both scurrilous and inaccurate. I should be obliged if you will publish this letter in the next issue of the journal.

Yours faithfully,

D. A. MCCUBBIN.

THE KAISER AND ARCHITECTURE.

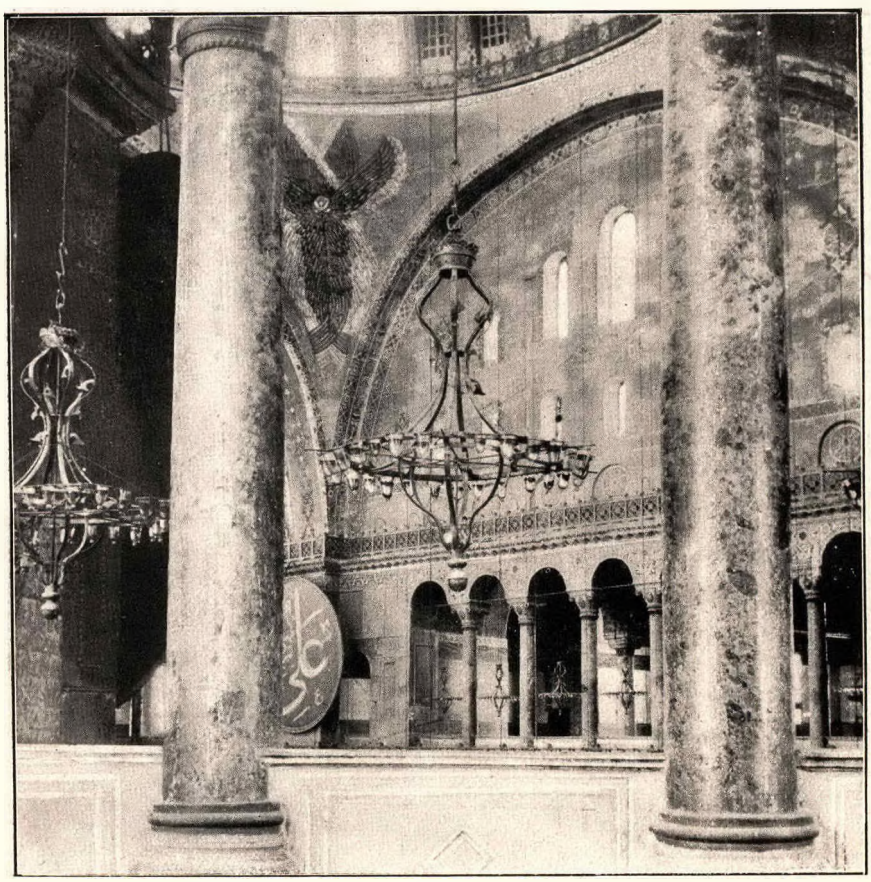
A good story is told by Mr. Ellis Barker in his book "The Modern Germany." The Kaiser takes a personal interest in the more important buildings to be erected in Germany. A large church was to be built, some time ago, in Berlin, and the plan was laid before the All-Highest, the unfortunate architect not being present. The Kaiser looked thoughtfully at the elevation, which showed a tall steeple, and then marked a letter above the spire at the top of the sheet of paper. He then connected it up by a line to the finial. Next, he scratched his head a bit, and decided to abandon the idea, and he put a stroke through the letter and sent it back to the architect, who was nonplussed and unable to discover the Imperial wish. He knew better than to ask questions, so he planted a long steel rod springing out of the finial and hung a large star on the end to represent the letter; and so the structure was ornamented, and was actually so when the teller of the story saw it.

CYMA.

ST. SOPHIA, CONSTANTINOPLE



THE GALLERIES



FROM GALLERY, *Looking across to North West*

CONSTANTINOPLE



ST. SOPHIA—THE DOMING



SULEIMANIEH MOSQUE—INTERIOR BEHIND COLUMN

SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Society of Architects (South African Branch) was held at the Board Room, Winchester House, on Wednesday, October 11th. The Acting President, Mr. D. Ivor Lewis, occupied the chair in the absence of Mr. S. C. Dowsett, the President, who is away on active service with General Smuts' Forces.

The Acting President's Report upon the work of the Branch during the year shewed that its activities have been somewhat restricted owing to War conditions, but that, nevertheless, its position appears to be very satisfactory. There has been a slight decrease in the number of members, partly owing to the deeply-regretted demise of Mr. James Donaldson Anderson (a prominent architect at Durban) and three other members have left South Africa, while one new member has been admitted, the total decrease thus amounting to three. Quoting from the financial statement presented by the Honorary Treasurer (Mr. D. M. Burton), the Acting President congratulated the Branch upon its excellent financial position. The Branch Committee has donated prizes for students in architectural subjects at the Transvaal School of Technology; but again, owing to the War, these classes had been too poorly attended to warrant all the awards being made. In one case, however, upon the recommendation of the Principal of the School, Mr. W. B. T. Newham had been awarded the book prize for a first class pass and first place in the qualifying examination. For the ensuing year the Council has again offered prizes to be competed for by the students of the school in the following subjects:—

Architectural History, Drawing and Design;

Building Construction and Drawing;

Sanitation; and Professional Practice in Architecture;

nine prizes in all for the various stages of the subjects mentioned.

Referring to the Architects' Bill for the Union of South Africa, the Acting President said that until normal times arrive, no great progress could be expected; but it was satisfactory to note that, when favourable times arrived, the Branch, working in harmony with other local architectural bodies, had pledged itself to assist the movement.

The following members and students of the Branch were known to be on active service:—

MEMBERS.

Dowsett, Sydney Charles (Retiring President), Sergt., South African Veterinary Corps.

Clayton, Harry, Lieut., South Notts Hussars.

Christie, James Alfred Cope, Captain, Rhodesian Defence Force, O.C., Rhodesian Volunteer Reserve.

Farrow, John Wilford Hilbert, Corporal, The Border Coy., South African Infantry.

Hurst, Godfrey Thomas, Major, 3rd Natal Mtd. Rifles.

Mitchell, Cecil Thomas, South African Mounted Cyclists' Corps.

Rose, Ernest, Corporal, 1st South African Infantry.

STUDENTS.

Van der Schyff, Robert Glasky, Staff Sergt., Union Defence Force of South Africa.

Parr, David Joseph, Gunner, 5th S.A.H., 2nd Mtd. Brigade 3rd Division, Army Post Office, Kilindini, B.E.A.

It was, however, probable that other members and students of the Branch were on active service; to make the list complete, the Honorary Secretary had to depend upon information from individual members, and this information was very desirable.

The Acting President expressed the Society's good wishes to Mr. Dowsett and all other members and students engaged on active service, sincerely hoping for a proud success in what they had undertaken, and their safe and speedy return. He further thanked his colleagues for the loyal support given to him while acting as President, and wished every success to the incoming President and Council.

A report by Mr. Burton, who had represented the Society on a deputation of various South African bodies to the Ministry at Pretoria upon the question of Afforestation in South Africa, led to an interesting discussion upon that subject, reported elsewhere. Finally it was resolved that the matter be left over, with the instruction to the incoming Council to re-open the matter with the authorities as soon as expedient.

Certain alterations of the Branch Rules were unanimously adopted.

The Acting President said that the nomination of Mr. D. M. Burton as President-Elect was unopposed, and he had much pleasure in declaring that gentleman elected as President for the ensuing year; than Mr. Burton, no one had rendered more loyal and beneficial service to the Branch, and this fact augured well for its continued progress. Mr. Burton then, amid applause, entered the chair, and briefly expressed his thanks for the honour conferred upon him.

The following gentlemen were then elected to the further offices:—

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Mr. W. J. McWilliam (Port Elizabeth).

Mr. H. G. Veale (Durban).

HON. TREASURER:

Mr. D. M. Sinclair.

COUNCIL:

Mr. S. C. Dowsett (retiring President) *ex officio*.

Mr. E. H. Waugh.

Mr. D. Ivor Lewis.

Mr. J. F. Beardwood

HON. SECRETARY:

Mr. M. J. Harris.

Mr. J. S. Donaldson was elected as Auditor.

Society of Architects.—*continued.*]

The Meeting next confirmed the terms of a resolution adopted at a Conference of Architects, held at Johannesburg on 28th June last, at which the Society was represented, the resolution reading as follows:—"This meeting expresses its confidence in the Registration Committee recently appointed by the Association of Transvaal Architects, and considers that the Registration Committee appointed by the various centres constitutes the proper body to act on behalf of the united profession in South Africa. This meeting affirms its sympathy with the proposal to preserve the identity of the existing South African Architectural Societies for local purposes, but to affiliate the same in a new organisation, the South African Institute of Architects, to deal with broader questions."

A vote of thanks to the retiring Council concluded the proceedings, special mention being made of the unique services rendered by Mr. D. Ivor Lewis in stepping into the breach by acting both as Acting President and Honorary Secretary during the year.

In connection with the foregoing, it is of interest to note that Mr. D. Ivor Lewis left Johannesburg on November 10th to take up a position on the staff of the Ministry of Munitions. Mr. Lewis's departure was the occasion for several presentations from local societies and organisations with which he had been connected; among them was a presentation from architect colleagues. On November 9th Mr. Waugh presided over a gathering of Mr. Lewis's friends in the profession, and made the presentation on their behalf. Mr. Lewis carries with him the good wishes of all who know him, for success in what he has undertaken, and a safe, speedy and happy return to South Africa with Mrs. Lewis and family, who accompany him as far as England.

GOVERNMENT WORK.

The following letter has been received for publication but the length of the previous correspondence unfortunately precludes the publication of the whole of it as requested. In brief, however, it arose out of a statement contained in the address of the retiring President of the Association, Mr. Walter Reid viz.: "From enquiries made in Cape Town I ascertained that work done by Government costs close on 50 per cent. more than that done by the private practitioner." On the 10th August, Mr. Charles Murray, Secretary for Public Works addressed the Association asking for substantiation, and this was sent to Mr. Reid. Not hearing from Mr. Reid, Mr. Murray again addressed the Association who replied that the statements were Mr. Reid's and not those of the body, and Mr. Reid, on having the matter put to him, said that he so regarded it and the letters should be addressed to him by the Sec. P.W.D. This was duly communicated to Mr. Murray on 14th October. The Editor does not know whether Mr. Reid has been directly addressed by Mr. Murray as the former claimed should be done, but in view of the publicity given to the address the same consideration must be given to the letter hereunder,—Editor.

Public Works Department,
Pretoria, 30th October, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th October (received on the 19th idem) and note that your Association look upon Mr. Reid's presidential address as an expression of his own personal opinions and that although it was published in your Journal your Council can accept no responsibility for the statements contained therein.

As you will realise from the correspondence that has passed between us, this Department is quite anxious that Mr. Reid's allegations should be put to the test—indeed much more anxious than appearances would indicate is the case with the author of them. But having invited Mr. Reid—through you—to justify his remarks and he having failed to do so, I do not feel disposed to pursue the matter further.

I would, however, ask that you would extend to this correspondence the courtesy of publication in your Journal, in order that your readers may appreciate the comparative willingness of Mr. Reid and this Department to have the facts established.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) Charles Murray, Secretary for Public Works.

The Registrar, Association of Transvaal Architects,

ASSOCIATION NOTES.

At the regular monthly meetings of the Association Council, held in September and October last, the following matters were dealt with:—

DRAFT ACT.

The draft Architects' Act for the Union was reported to be now under consideration by the Cape Institute of Architects, and the Council therefore decided to await the result of that Institute's deliberations.

INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY BOARD.

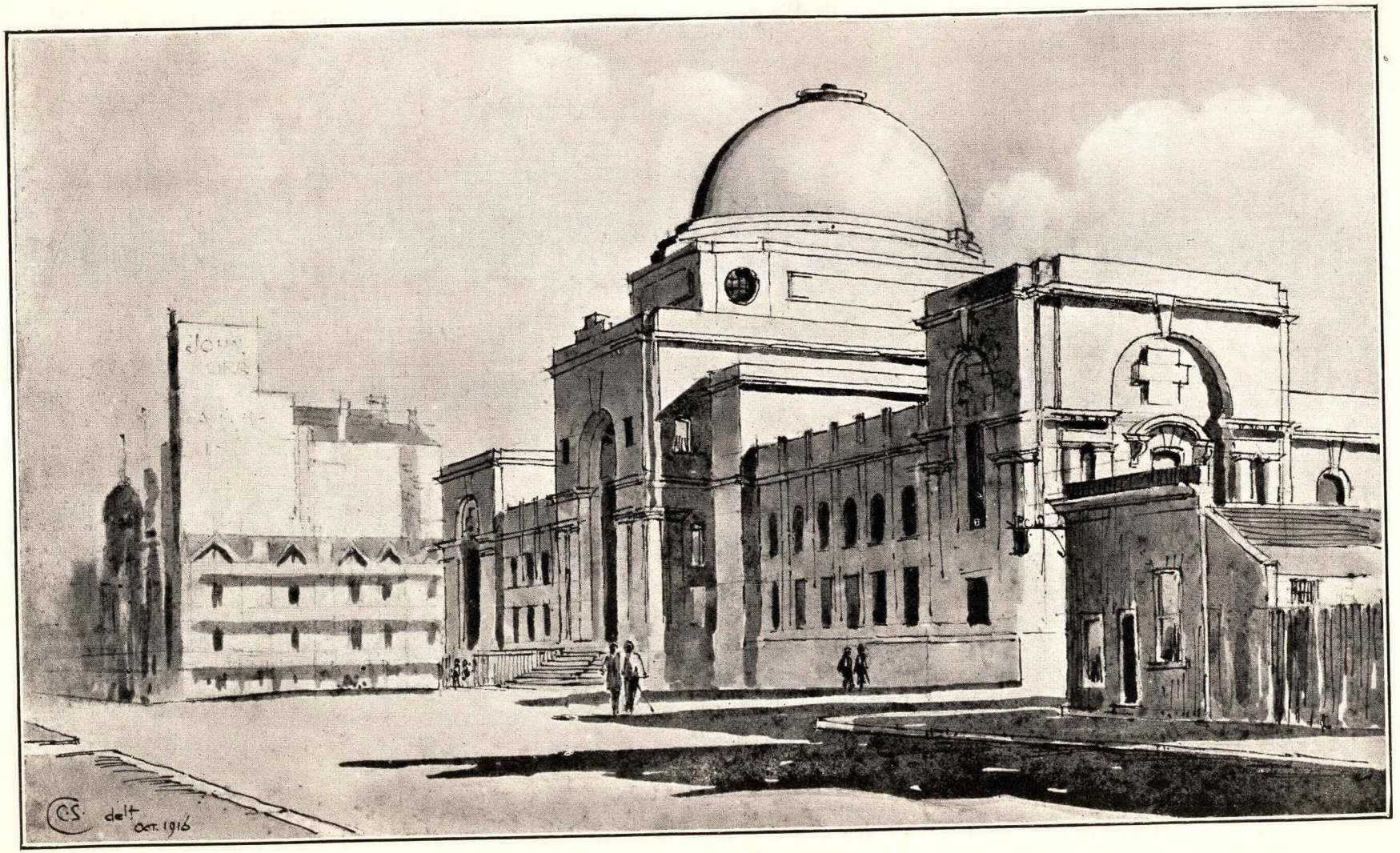
The Registrar reported that representations had been made to the Conservator of Forests, Pretoria, with a view to this Association being represented on the Advisory Board which it is understood was being formed for the purpose of assisting the Government in choosing building timbers.

MASTER BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION.

It was mentioned that a meeting between representatives of the Architects and the Master Builders had recently been held for the purpose of considering various matters such as coloured labour, standard rates of wage, etc., and that the matter of convening a special meeting of both bodies had been left to the Transvaal Institute of Architects.

SHOP-FRONT FITTERS.

The attention of the Council was drawn to the action of a certain firm of shop-front fitters who were carrying out certain alterations, including the erection of partition walls, steel constructional work, etc. As this was considered to be an encroachment on Architectural practice, it was agreed to approach the Master Builders' Association on the subject.



LAW COURTS, JOHANNESBURG

BRAAMFONTEIN COMPANY.

The President (Mr. E. H. Waugh) reported that a Sub-Committee consisting of himself and Messrs. D. I. Lewis and D. A. McCubbin (Vice-Presidents) had recently interviewed Mr. Boyd (Director) and Mr. Heard (Secretary).

(1) They asked the Company to place every Architect on the Register of the Company's List.

The Company said they could not do so, unless the Association guarantee them against financial loss arising from negligent or improper practice.

(2) They then asked the Company to allow borrower to appoint any Architect, and—if not a listed Architect—the Company to nominate one of their listed Architects to certify plans and specifications and also payments. The attached memo was exhibited to the Company's representatives, and they indicated that they could accept these terms.

The Company refused to increase the names on their present list.

MEMO.

1. The Architect to be nominated by the Client, and the Company to have the right to object to such appointment without giving any reason.
2. If such Architect is on the list, then no consulting Architect will be required, but if not on the list, then the Company shall nominate, if they consider it necessary, a consulting Architect.
3. Client to be informed of consulting Architect, when tenders are received, and before signing contract.
4. Plans, Specifications and other documents, to be sent by clients' Architect to consulting Architect, before tenders are applied for, who shall examine the documents, and give a certificate to the Company, whether same are in order or not.
5. Client's Architects to issue certificates of payments, and forward same to consulting Architect for his signature as correct, and no payments to be made by the Company until the two signatures appear on the Certificates.
6. The consulting Architect to be paid for his professional services direct by the Client's Architect, and such amount to be part of the usual Architect's commission, and not as an extra charge to the Client.

PROPOSED UNIVERSITY, WITWATERSRAND.

The following report was received from the President and a copy handed to each member:—

This movement is now assuming definite shape, and the Committee has now reported to the main Committee in favour of immediate beginning of courses in Arts and Sciences and ultimately Medicine and as scheme matures further courses in Agriculture, Architecture, Music, Domestic sciences and Fine Art. This the main Committee have agreed to, and the School of Mines has been approached to take over control of the studies mentioned in order in time itself to become a University College, with ultimate expansion into a fully chartered University. The Milner Park site of 81 acres has been granted by the Town Council, but in the meantime the present School of Mines with adjoining wood and iron buildings will be utilised for the new courses.

Advertisements for the following professors are now in preparation through the School of Mines:—

(a) Department of English, Logic and Physychology;
Professor and Assistant.

(b) Department of History;
Professor.

(c) Department of Education and Psychology;
Professor and Assistant.

(d) Department of Modern Languages;
I. Dutch and German: Professor.
II. French: Lecturer.

(e) Department of Classics;
Professor and Assistant.

(f) Department of Economics;
I. Economics: Professor.
II. Commercial Geography: Assistant.

(g) Department of Botany;
Professor.

(h) Department of Zoology;
Professor.

These, with existing courses, will provide full graduation courses in Arts, Science and Commerce and for Education Certificates.

The Second list will provide for the beginning of a medical and dental course, and next year Anatomy and Physiology will be added and afterwards subjects for final years for these courses of training.

It is necessary that funds be raised, and from various sources considerable amounts are in sight, but a general appeal to the public must be made at an early date, as the Government refuses at the present to do anything for this part unless the people first show them that they really wish for it by themselves commencing the work. With such an unfair attitude the Committee must cope till this centre, the largest in the Empire without proper provision for the highest education, pronounces itself in such a way that the Government must listen and meet this crying need of our growing young people.

(Sgd.) Edward H. Waugh,
Representative on University Committee.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS.

Messrs. Walter Reid and J. M. Solomon tendered their resignations from the Council. The resignations were accepted with regret, and Messrs. M. J. Harris and F. L. H. Fleming were elected in their places.

BUILDING STATISTICS.

On the suggestion of Mr. Sinclair, the Council agreed that it would be in the interests of the profession if returns could be obtained from the Pretoria and Reef Municipal Councils of all plans passed giving the approximate value of the buildings shewn on the plans, the class of building, and whether or not an Architect's name appears on the plans.

DESCRIPTION OF ARCHITECT.

It was agreed to point out to the Members of the Association that the use of the letters M.A.T.A. after a person's name was illegal, and that only the words "Registered Architect, Transvaal" were permitted to be used under the Architects' Act.

CECIL ALDER, Registrar.

NEWS AND NOTES.

The frequent gatherings for war meetings in London have led to a demand for the erection of street rostra or pulpits. The open-air meeting has become a daily occurrence in Johannesburg, and the absence of proper speakers' facilities is very marked. A more or less dirty waggon has had to do duty for a long time. As the front of the Town Hall has become the virtual forum of the city, it is high time that an ornamental tribune, in stone, should be erected, sufficient to accommodate a number of speakers.

* * *

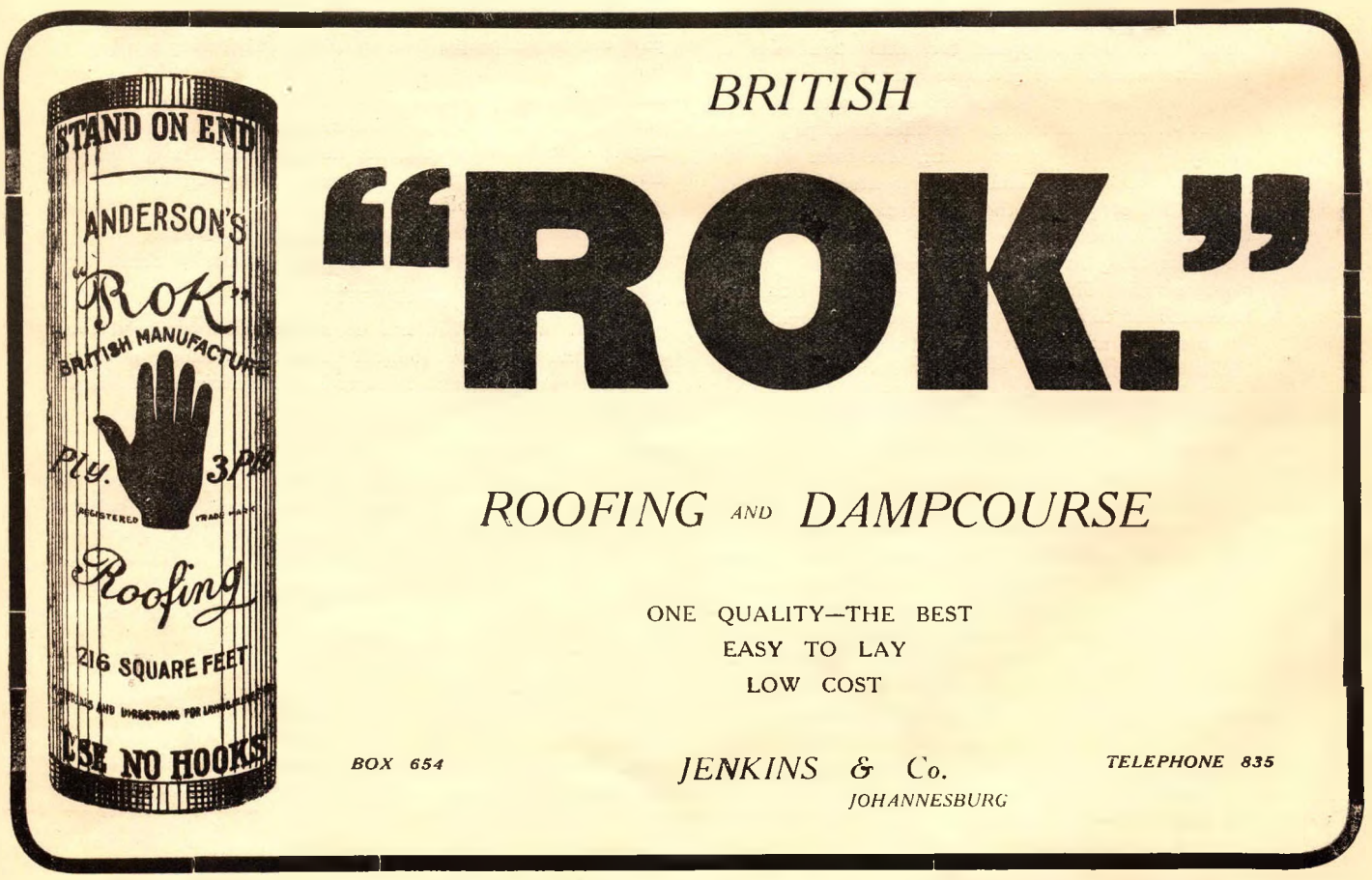
The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia has now, through the Secretary to the High Commissioner in London—Capt. Collins—definitely decided not to abandon or postpone the competition for the Houses of Parliament at Canberra. The reason given for this decision is that for a long time after the war, architects and builders will be more than busy restoring the "waste places of the earth," and therefore there will be enough to go round the architects now at the front.

* * *

A building trades conciliation board is sitting in Johannesburg to consider an application for an increase in wages in certain trades. It is common cause that living expenses have increased by 13 to 15 per cent. since the war started. On the other hand, the price of iron, timber and fittings has gone up, and the cost of building is now probably 15 per cent. more than before the war. This has had the very distinct effect of reducing building operations, and any further burden on production may still more depress the actiivty of the constructional world and, consequently, more than undo any advantage the operatives might receive from the increased wage.

* * *

It is a moot point whether the present high prices of materials will continue for a long time after the war is ended. Those able to form some judgment are somewhat divided in opinion. Unquestionably, however, for a long time after the war, the depletion of stocks and the return of millions of men to civil life will cause an abnormal demand, and prices will in all likelihood fall slowly. Consequently, the holding up of work for lower prices is not justified. Of course, locally-produced articles, which form the bulk of a new building—such as bricks, cement, stone and lime—are not affected by the war, and the scarcity of work is causing more cut rates in pricing than would be the case if the output increased. These factors assist in negativing the higher prices in certain materials.



The great effort being put forward by the Wesleyans in raising a large fund of £25,000 for the erection of a suitable central hall and Church office premises on their fine site opposite the Law Courts in Johannesburg, is being crowned with success, and about £19,000 has already been promised. The raising of the last few thousands is being actively pushed, and it is proposed that the foundation stone should be laid early next year by the Rev Dr. Haig, an eminent minister, who will be on a visit from England. It is likely that the building scheme will shortly form the subject of an open competition.

* * *

Our old friend, Mr. William Lucas, who is now resident in his native town, Melbourne, Australia, writes to one of our members, congratulating the architects here on establishing a journal during the present distress of war. He is still at work on the Federal Capital, in charge of the Architectural Section, and feels a peculiar charm in the duties, having some share in the beginnings of things at that new city, now in the making. He desires to be remembered to all old friends in the Association.

* * *

Some notable additions have lately been made to the Municipal Art Gallery at Johannesburg. Three busts, in bronze, of Generals C. de Wet, de la Rey, and Botha, by Aronson, are particularly striking. They were the subjects of sketches in clay some 12 years ago, in Europe, and have an arresting effect on the beholder being somewhat more than life size, and the work is of the dignified standard to be expected of such a master. Clite, by the late G. F. Watts, is a welcome arrival of very distinctive value. A large canvas, entitled "The Lady in the Pork-Pie Hat," appears to aim at a decorative effect with extremely garish wall-paper as a background, and badly hung at that. To many it will only appear as a grotesque, and has not been executed under the restraints usually observed by artists. Undoubtedly strikingly a new style, it will not, however, be likely to establish itself as a forerunner of a succession of any permanence, but will be regarded as a caper off the direct route. We regret not having had time to have it illustrated as an example of what can take place, even in an Art Gallery.

* * *

Mr. J. M. Solomon has resigned the post of Editor to this Journal, and the Committee has reluctantly accepted it with full appreciation of the initiative work he has, with so much virility, thrown into the production of its first issues. It is proposed that the Journal should follow the same procedure as the R.I.B.A. Journal, in having every article signed by a nom-de-plume or name. Mr. Solomon did not see his way, as Editor, to accept the probable effects of this policy, but, for all that, we hope to be favoured by contributions from him in future issues. Mr. Solomon will shortly be travelling, for some six months to come, in other countries. Mr. E. H. Waugh has been appointed Editor, and Mr. M. J. Harris Assistant Editor, and they will be pleased to receive contributions of literary matter or subjects for illustration.

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NEWS AND NOTES.—*continued.*]

Just before going to press we were grieved to hear of the death from wounds received in action in France of Mr. Norman Lucas, son of our former Councillor—Mr. William Lucas, now in Melbourne. Our deep sympathy goes out to our friend in the sad, but greatly honourable loss which he and his wife have undergone. The young officer had a splendid university career and gave ample promise of a distinguished and useful life.

* * *

Mr. Herbert Baker, one of our members, has just unfolded a scheme for transforming the grand reach in the Thames between St. Paul's and Westminster, as a perpetuation of the great army of heroes who have given their lives for their country, and as a vast Imperial design expressing the greatness and unity of the British Empire. Mr. Baker's own unusually wide experience and talent are sufficient in themselves to command attention, and the "Times" commendation of him as "one of the greatest living architects" will be particularly pleasing to his many friends here.

* * *

The recent Johannesburg Municipal elections resulted in the return of an architect, Mr. John A. Moffat, who is an old Councillor, with a record of initiative work. The huge intake system, and other sanitary measures in the past, were among work which he largely helped to create. Mr. W. H. Stucke put up a splendid fight, although a beginner in public life, and just missed the necessary quota, much to his many friends' regret. CYMA.

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