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1911

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

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The African Architect

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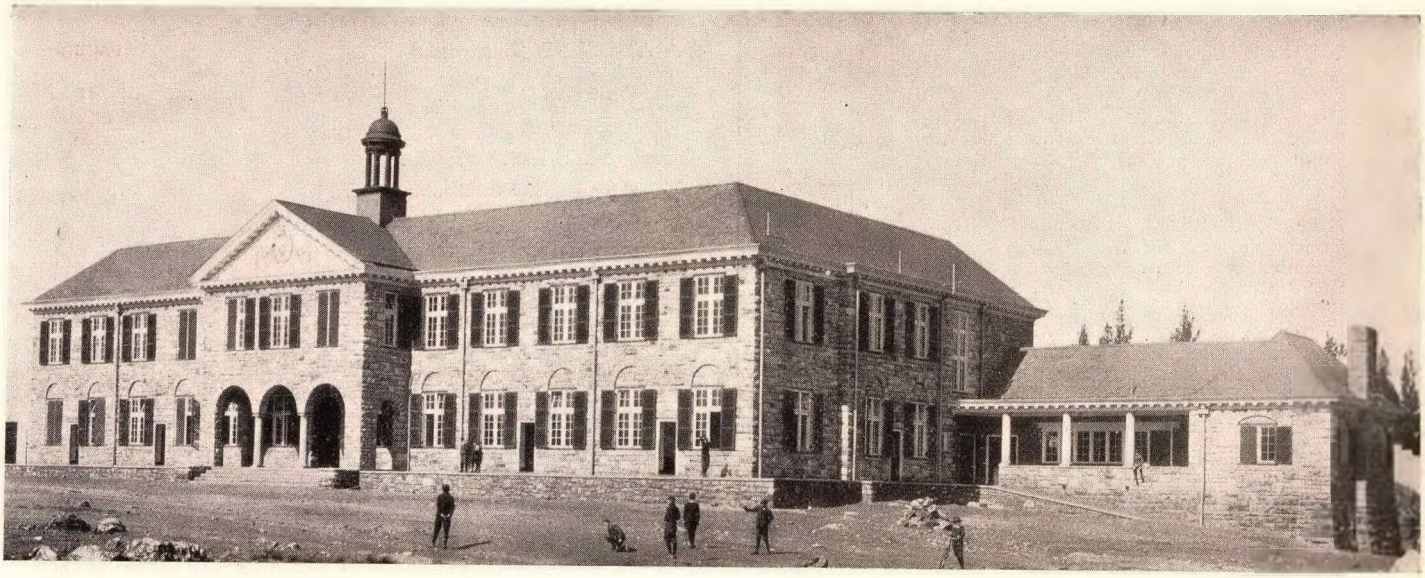
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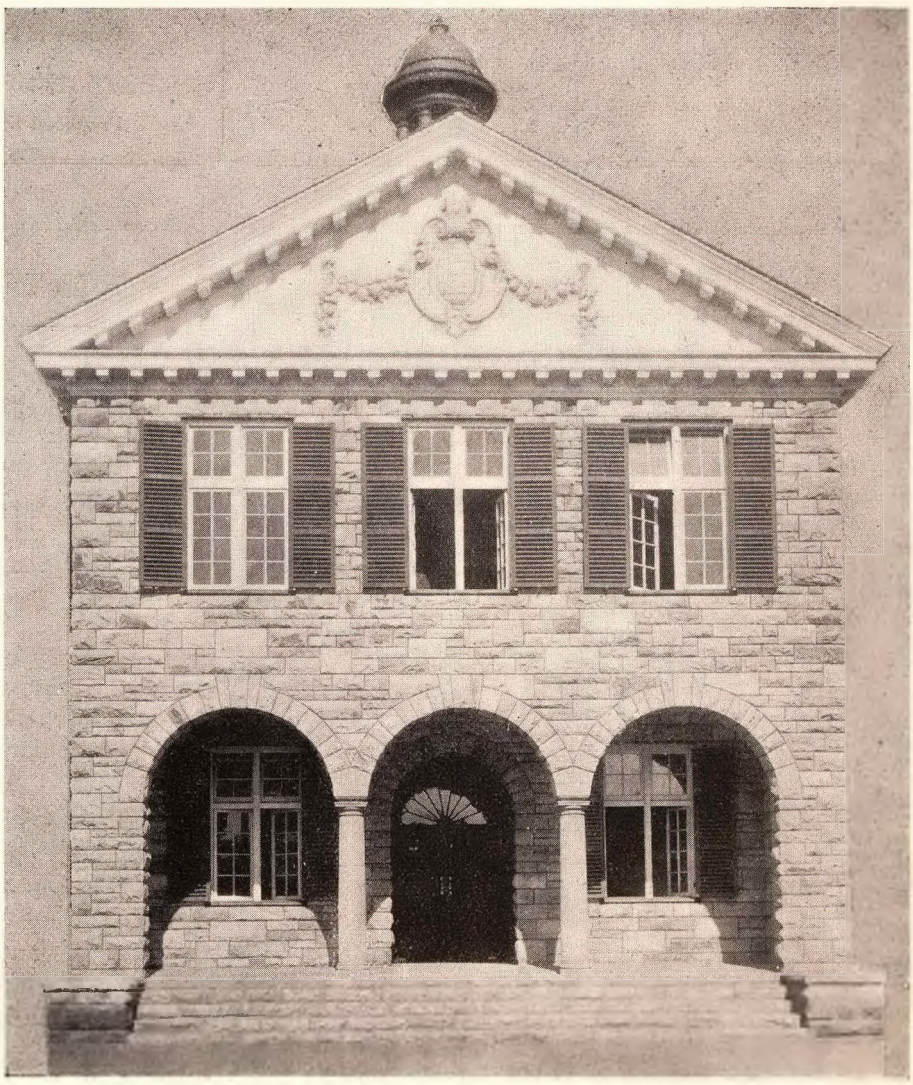
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The
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THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

VOL. I. No. 2.] JULY 1st, 1911. [10/6 PER ANNUM POST FREE.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

Draft Union Act

The Council of the Association of Transvaal Architects have been devoting a great deal of time in connection with the new Union Act, which it is hoped will give greater powers to the new Association than does the existing Transvaal Act. It may interest the members of this journal to know that several defects have been discovered in the Transvaal Act which are distinctly detrimental to the Association and its members, and that experience in law suits, etc., up to the present has necessitated some very radical changes to the wording and meaning of the Act, particularly as a result of the Court's interpretation of the different sections. It is desirable, therefore, that every effort should be used to remedy these defects, and the best advice be obtained in the drafting of the new Act. We publish in this number the first rough draft of the proposed Union Act, which the Council of the Association of Transvaal Architects are now discussing and amending, and will in due course call a meeting of the association to approve of. As the council have not finally decided on this draft, any expression of opinion regarding the several clauses will be welcomed by them, with a view of submitting the draft as complete as possible to the Association.

Registration

Owing to the discovery of several defects in the Transvaal Act above referred to, it was considered advisable to obtain eminent counsel's advice as to the exact position of the Association, with the result that, in accordance with counsel's opinion, the Act does not give the Association anything like the powers which it anticipated, and many of the matters of keen interest to the profession with which the Association was dealing have had to be abandoned till further legislation is obtained.

Committees

The Council of the Association, finding it difficult to cope with the work of the Association, formed itself into several committees, viz., Practice Committee, Education and Examination Committee, and Publishing and Literature Committee ; each of these committees had a vast amount of work in hand until counsel's report above referred to was received, and in consequence of which most of this work has been abandoned, and the parties interested notified that it is beyond the powers of the Association to deal with same. This is extremely regrettable when one is cognisant of the several schemes of libraries, museums, benevolent funds, etc., which the Association was about to inaugurate.

Reading Room and Library

A letter appeared in our last issue regretting that no such accommodation as a reading room and library existed, and hinted that the Association might take the matter up. Unfortunately, owing to the interpretation of the Act above referred to, the Association is unable to devote its funds to such a purpose, but we understand the council are considering the advisability of rooms in the centre of the town, and the question of literature, etc., may be provided by the generosity of the individual members of the profession who, we feel sure, would contribute to such a fund, and in time a good library be established. We shall probably have more to report on this matter in our next issue.

R.I.B.A.

The R.I.B.A. are drafting an Act with a view of obtaining statutory qualification at Home, and with this object in view are preparing a scheme of amalgamation with the Society of Architects, London, so that no opposition will be forthcoming from bona fide members of the profession. As the several Institutes of the Colonies of South Africa are affiliated to the R.I.B.A., it is hoped that such affiliation may lead to

amalgamation and ultimately result in a uniform scheme throughout the Empire.

Amalgamation

With the existence of such a scheme in the minds of many, it is suggested that all the Institutes and Associations of South Africa should amalgamate and sink their little differences in one embracive union, based on similar lines to the R.I.B.A. Bill and in sympathy with their ideas ; the fact that the R.I.B.A. and M.S.A., both at present voluntary institutes, are prepared to make any sacrifices they each may have to make, with a view to obtaining a uniform statutory qualification, should be sufficient precedence for South Africa to follow ; the existing Institutes and Associations are most confusing to the public and necessitate a great deal of time from several members of its profession which is not necessary, and the arguments used for the necessity of voluntary as well as incorporate associations cannot be of much importance when the Home societies have agreed to abandon such principles for that of unification in one large incorporated body registered by Act of Parliament.

We appeal to the members of the profession of South Africa to view this matter in a broad light. Think imperially and in a grand manner towards the subject, and provide for future generations.

The R.I.B.A and the Society of Architects

With reference to the amalgamation of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Society of Architects, it is recalled that the institute was founded in 1834, and obtained a Royal Charter in 1837. A supplemental charter, conferring, among other privileges, power to hold examinations and issue certificates or diplomas, was granted in 1887 by the Queen in Council. The society was founded in 1884, and was incorporated in 1898. The number of honorary members, members, and students of the society is more than 1,000.

Education

Attention is drawn in this issue to the syllabus of the course of architecture established at the School of Mines and Technology. This course of architecture is in accordance with the provisions of the Architects Act, and a student, who by examination obtains the diploma, is entitled to be registered, providing he has had in addition four years' professional and practical experience as an assistant to an architect.

Examinations

In addition to the above examinations, the Association of Transvaal Architects is prepared to institute a special examination of a less technical nature to those who have had, previous to the coming into operation of the Architects Act, an experience and practice in architecture sufficient to entitle them to present themselves for such examination. Any likely application for this examination should apply immediately, as sufficient applicants must be forthcoming before the Association can undertake this work, and the committee cannot extend this concession indefinitely.

Standardisation

A committee composed of representatives of all technical societies is engaged at present on making tests of materials used in building and engineering works, and good progress is being made. At present tests are being made of Portland cement, sands, and building stones, and readers are requested to furnish any information on these matters to the Secretary, Mr. Patrick Hendry, Box 1176, as early as possible.

Scholarship

The Baker Architectural Scholarship is making good progress. The adjudicators of the designs submitted are now sitting with an object of selecting the most suitable candidate for this honour. Unfortunately, Mr. Emley was unable, through illness, to act as the nominee of the Association, but Mr. Stucke has kindly consented to take his place.

Municipal Ordinance

In the new Municipal Ordinance a clause appears to the effect that no councillor shall act for reward either on behalf or against the Council as architect. As this prevents any architect, while a councillor, being employed by the Municipality, it appears to us to be somewhat stringent. The danger, in our opinion, is not the employment of the architect while councillor so much as the architect being a councillor while a competition is being held, in which case he is in a better position than his confreres outside in obtaining information regarding the use of the building ; but if an architect, having won a competition, desires to sit on the Council, it surely would be an advantage to everyone concerned and yet no injustice to anyone outside.

Arbitration

Most contracts provide for arbitration, and anyone reading the able article on architectural supervision in our last issue must be impressed with the necessity of arbitration in place of law in all building disputes, failing which a tribunal consisting of two professional men and one legal judge should try all building disputes. The fact that so many things are regulated by custom and ordinary practice, and so many things theoretically correct are "practically" impossible, render the difficulties of a judge insuperable, and no one but the professional experienced man can be competent to judge these matters.

Master Builders and Architects

The General Secretary of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers in South Africa (Mr. Jas. T. Brown) has received the following interesting communication from the President of the Cape Institute of Architects and Honorary Secretary in South Africa to the R.I.B.A. (Mr. Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A., etc.) :—

"I have to acknowledge and thank you for your circular letter setting forth a resolution of appreciation of the work of the South African professional bodies passed at your Bloemfontein Conference. From what I have read of the proceedings of your Federation there appears to be every prospect of good resulting from its labours in which the trades, professions, and the public must benefit.

"Personally, I desire, and rely to a great extent upon, the whole-hearted co-operation of your body for the removal of many disabilities under which an honest practitioner labours, for many years of study have convinced me that until contractors and

merchants co-operate with the executives of the professional institutes by exposing what they know to be dishonourable practices on the part of those in authority over them, a solution of the abuses we all deplore can never be effected."

The letter concludes by reciprocating the kindly greeting of the Federation.

Transvaal P.W.D. and Architectural Instruction

A course of evening lectures and classes has been arranged by the Public Works Department at Pretoria with a view principally to assist the junior members of the staff of the department in the study of architecture and allied subjects.

Members of the staff and other gentlemen have kindly promised to give their services as lecturers or otherwise assist in conducting the lectures and classes, which will be held twice weekly in one of the large offices in the P.W.D.

For some of the lectures permission has been granted for the use of the lecture hall at the Normal College, Pretoria.

A limited number of tickets will be issued to those outside the department who may be interested in the subject, and these may be obtained on application to Mr. G. Whitmore, the honorary secretary.

The initiation of these lectures and classes is an excellent movement, and they should prove of great value to the student in architecture in a place like the Transvaal, where so few facilities of this nature are within his reach. The plan to include interested outsiders is to be highly commended, and no doubt Mr. Whitmore will have the pleasure of disposing of all his tickets. The movement has met with the hearty approval and support of the higher officials in the department, and Mr. Herbert Baker, the architect, and Mr. H. E. Schoch, Assistant Surveyor-General, have also promised to assist the movement by lecturing on design and surveying respectively.

The general committee in charge of the lectures is composed of the following gentlemen :—Messrs. Bell-John, Adams, Hossock, and Stephens, with Mr. Whitmore as secretary. The syllabus of subjects and the lecturers are as follow :—Mr. W. Lucas, History of Architecture; Mr. D. Hoets, Building Construction; Messrs. H. Baker, W. H. Gibson, J. D. Robertson, and R. Howden, Design; Messrs. Adams and Cowin, Quantities; Messrs. Stephens and Cleeves, Electric Light and Heating; Mr. H. E. Schoch, Surveying; Mr. H. L. Attridge, Sanitary Engineering; Mr. T. Stromsoe, Steelwork; Mr. E. M. Powers, Perspective.

Asphalte Contractors' Grievances

The attention of architects is directed to the interview which a representative of this journal obtained with the leading asphalte contractors in Johannesburg concerning an allegation which has been prominent of late, viz., that the specification of this particular class of work is vague and uncertain; in fact, it is claimed that there is "no specification at all." While expressing no opinion on the matter, until it has been sifted properly, we trust that the Association of Transvaal Architects, as well as the Cape and Natal Institutes, will give their attention to the subject, as we think it is well worth study by all the parties concerned. We invite correspondence on the subject.

The African Architect

ORGAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS.

JULY 1st, 1911.

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VANDALISM

The vast majority of South African villages have been dumped down amid such depressing surroundings that the efforts of the jerry builder have to a large extent harmonized with their setting. But here and there are to be found localities selected by pioneers which for their sheer beauty would be hard to equal, and which deserve at our hands the most careful and artistic treatment. Of all Transvaal villages, Rustenburg stands pre-eminent for beauty, nestling as it does at the base of the lofty Magaliesberg, with streams of pellucid water coursing down its streets. The old voortrekkers were not slow to appreciate the bounties which nature had dowered this part, and their first care was the laying out of extensive gardens. In this delightful nook, with its almost tropical climate, palms and various other heat-loving plants thrive with extraordinary luxuriance, so that at a distance the village appears to be hidden in a glorious wealth of verdure.

The quaint cottages erected by the founders of the village, with their simple lines and deep overhanging eaves of warm-coloured thatch, harmonized delightfully with its exquisite setting. For years past Rusten-

burg has been famous throughout the length and breadth of the land for its sylvan beauty, and one would have imagined that its inhabitants would have zealously guarded against any diminution of its rustic charms. But, unfortunately, with that extraordinary apathy that seems indigenous to the soil wherever beauty and refinement are concerned, the villagers have allowed the uprooting of many magnificent trees and shady gardens. In their place have arisen the ordinary type of suburban villa of an even more blatant vulgarity than those to be found in the cheaper townships of Johannesburg. If the inhabitants do not recognise their responsibility, the beauty of the village will soon become a thing of the past and Rustenburg take its place as one of the many drab and depressing dorps to be found in South Africa.

BUILDERS AND QUANTITIES

Representation has been made to the Association from the National Federation Trade Employers of South Africa requesting that quantities should be given more complete and detailed with regard to the labour instead of the present vague system sometimes adopted of covering a certain amount of work under preamble. Though there are still some unsatisfactory bills of quantities being presented to builders, there has no doubt been a great improvement of late, and we feel sure if the Builders' Federation themselves would take the small pamphlet issued by the quantity surveyors some time ago and expand this so as to make it a practical pamphlet, much of the difficulty would be overcome. It is the terms as much as anything that require to be standardised, and, we submit, the sooner such things as the facing of kopje stone walls is defined the better, and less legislation in the law courts would result. What one can calls "hammer dressed squared," another calls "sneck work," and another "uncoursed rubble," and another "pitched face with tooled beds," and another "hammer dressed face and tooled beds and joints," all of which have been applied to the same work and led to no end of legislation.

Our Prize Competition

We are desirous as soon as the prize of £10 10s. to be given for a design for the outside title of the journal is decided, and to which we again call attention in this issue, of inaugurating a series of monthly competitions to encourage the young men in the architectural profession. These special competitions will be set by a prominent member of the profession, and will be decided by competent judges. Students should look for the conditions next month.

IN THE LAW COURTS

J. Annett & Co., v. Hoogveld Eendracht Boeren Ko-operative Vereeniging.

In this matter plaintiff sued defendant society for the sum of £99, balance of an architect's certificate given in terms of a contract entered into between the parties. Defendants pleaded "non-completion of the work," which plea was subsequently abandoned. They also counterclaimed the sum of £100 for damages, in terms of the penalty clause of the contract (which is clause 25 of the form of contract sanctioned by the Transvaal Institute of Architects and Master Builders' Association), which reads:—"If the contractor fail to complete the works by the date named in clause 24, or within any extended time allowed by the architect under these presents, and the architect shall certify in writing that the works could reasonably have been completed by the said date, or within the said extended time, the contractor shall pay or allow to the employer the sum of £3 sterling per day, as liquidated and ascertained damages for every day beyond the said date or extended time, as the case may be, during which the works shall remain unfinished, except as provided by clause 24, and such damages may be deducted by the employer from any moneys due to the contractor."

To this plaintiffs replied that the sum of £3 per day was a penalty, and not liquidated damages, and that even if it was liquidated damages, such damages did not in all amount to more than £50; and, also, that liquidated damages could only be awarded after the architect had granted a written certificate that the work could reasonably have been completed by the extended time allowed by him.

In reply to the latter contention, defendants produced a letter written by the architect, in reply to a query by defendants, for the purpose of a directors' meeting, suggesting that it would be fair to allow to plaintiff six weeks' extension.

After evidence had been led on the question as to the amount of damages sustained by defendants, the magistrate (Mr. H. H. Jordan) gave judgment in favour of the plaintiff, stating that, according to clause 25, it was clear that an architect's certificate that the works could reasonably have been completed within the six weeks allowed was a condition precedent to the defendants' claim for damages. In his opinion, the letter written by the architect giving an estimate of the extension to be allowed was not such a certificate, and the defendants' claim, therefore, fell to the ground.

He accordingly gave judgment for plaintiff for the amount claimed, and granted absolution from the instance with costs on the claim in reconvention.

An appeal from this judgment has been lodged.

As will be seen from our advertising columns, Messrs. Schroeder, Ltd., of the City Deep Brick Works, have just installed one of the latest plants for the production of pressed bricks. They intend to make a speciality of this feature, and their town representative Mr. Cassere, of No. 5, Chorlton Chambers, Harrison Street, is now in a position to book unlimited orders for same.

CAPE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

RETROSPECT OF THE PROFESSION, 1884-1911.

We are indebted to Mr. Reid for the following interesting retrospect of the profession of architecture in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, now the Cape Province of the Union of South Africa, compiled from the minutes of the Cape Institute of Architects.

1884. The first attempt to form a professional body in South Africa took place at Capetown in 1884, when, after many meetings of members of the constructive professions, it was decided to form a combined Association entitled "The Engineering and Architectural Association of South Africa," with its domicile at Capetown.

The foundation members were: Messrs. A. W. Ackermann, J. W. Alexander, T. Cairncross, A. M. de Witt, H. S. Greaves, F.R.I.B.A; E. B. J. Knox, A.R.I.B.A.; George Ransome, A.R.I.B.A.; W. R. Reid, and Arthur H. Reid, A.R.I.B.A. Meetings were held, extending over two or three years, and attempts were made to secure Government recognition and incorporation, but without success, and when the discovery of the Transvaal Gold Fields took place in 1886, the Association dwindled away.

1886. Attracted by the gold "boom," however, many young architects began to arrive and settle in Capetown, taking the place of those who had settled at Johannesburg and Barberton. These, however, had not lost interest in their old centre, and as the population began to increase in sympathy with that of Johannesburg, it was felt once again that the profession needed a controlling body.

1899. Early in 1899, on account of the political unrest in the South African Republic, many architects returned to the Colonies, especially to the larger centres, such as Capetown, Port Elizabeth and Durban, in all of which places building "booms" developed. It was then decided to hold a general meeting of architects, and as a result the following were appointed a Committee to draft a constitution for a Society, viz.: Messrs. A. W. Ackermann, Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A.; Charles H. Smith, A.R.I.B.A.; H. Visceboxe, and Francis E. Masey as Secretary.

On May 3rd, 1899, another meeting was held, and the "The South African Society of Architects" (afterwards entitled the "Cape Institute of Architects") was founded.

1901. The Transvaal War commenced in October, and a blight once more fell upon the aspirations of the profession, not, however, to last long, for immediately after the declaration of peace, a meeting of practising architects in Capetown was summoned, and a fresh start was made with the following names enrolled as foundation members of the "South African Society of Architects" on December 30th, 1901, viz.: Messrs. A. W. Ackermann, H. Baker, F.R.I.B.A.; P. H. Hitchen, — Milne, John Parker, Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A.; C. H. Smith, A.R.I.B.A.; and F. E. Masey, F.R.I.B.A., as Secretary.

Meetings were held and sundry matters came under review, but a resolution was carried to await the return of Mr. A. H. Reid, who was then in England.

1902. On May 9, 1902, another meeting of foundation members was held, and it was resolved to invite the following architects to become members of the Society, viz.: Messrs. W. Adamson, J. W. Alexander, W. Black, F.R.I.B.A.; — Curry, A. Forsyth, — Gildare, F. K. Kendall, A.R.I.B.A.; W. Law, Geo. Ransome, A.R.I.B.A.; — Robertson, E. Simpkin, Thos. A. Sladdin, J. C. Tully, A.R.I.B.A.; and A. M. de Witt.

A general meeting of the foregoing and of the foundation members was summoned and held on 30th May, 1902, with Mr. Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A., in the chair, those present appointing the following organisation committee, viz., Messrs. Arthur H. Reid,

chairman; and A. W. Ackermann, T. H. Hitchen, Geo. Ransome, A.R.I.B.A.; T. A. Sladdin, C. H. Smith, A.R.I.B.A.; and F. E. Masey, F.R.I.B.A., as Secretary.

On 11th July, 1902, a general meeting was held at which a draft constitution and bye-laws were laid upon the table.

After discussion it was resolved that in view of separate institutes having been started in the Transvaal and Natal Colonies, the name of the Society be changed to the "Cape Institute of Architects," and that the following Council be appointed, the election of President to stand over, viz., F. K. Kendall, A.R.I.B.A.; F. E. Masey, F.R.I.B.A.; J. Parker, F.R.I.B.A.; Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A.; Thos. A. Sladdin; with T. H. Hitchin as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. On 11th September, 1902, the adjourned general meeting reassembled, and it was arranged that Mr. John Parker, F.R.I.B.A., accept the Presidentship, with Mr. Arthur H. Reid as Vice-President, and Mr. C. H. Smith, A.R.I.B.A., to fill the vacancy in council caused by the election of Mr. Parker to the chair.

This Council and officers continued in office and in perfect harmony without objection on the part of members until 1907, and the membership roll was increased by 18 members.

1907. Hon. Sec. to R.I.B.A. appointed for S.A.

On 11th February, 1907, the Council were informed that the Royal Institute of British Architects had appointed Mr. Arthur H. Reid as their Hon. Secretary in South Africa.

On 25th April, 1907, the statutory annual general meeting was held, preceded by a dinner at the Opera House, when the following council and officers were elected, viz., Mr. F. E. Masey, F.R.I.B.A., President; John Parker, F.R.I.B.A., Vice-President; and Councillors A. Forsyth; F. K. Kendall, A.R.I.B.A.; Thos. A. Sladdin, F.R.I.B.A.; C. H. Smith, A.R.I.B.A.; and Thos. A. Hitchin as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

The roll of membership numbered 33.

On 27th June, 1907, the Council considered a letter received from Mr. Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A., then in London, stating that upon his own initiative he had approached the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects with a view to securing the alliance of the Cape, Transvaal, and Natal Institutes to that body, and presuming the Council would endorse his action. It was resolved to thank Mr. Reid for what he had done, and assure him of the Council's support.

Alliance to R.I.B.A.

On 16th July, 1907, at a specially convened general meeting of members, called to consider Mr. Reid's action, the Cape Institute decided that alliance with the Royal Institute was desirable, approved Mr. Reid's action, and instructed him to give effect to the resolution. It was further resolved that a cablegram be dispatched to Mr. Reid according him the thanks of the Institute.

On 8th October, 1907, the Cape Institute applied formally for alliance to the Royal Institute, and on 2nd December, 1907, a letter was received from Mr. A. H. Reid in his capacity as Hon. Secretary in South Africa to the Royal Institute informing the Council that the Cape Institute was an allied body to that Institute.

1908.

On the 14th February, 1908, it was decided that in view of the many important matters in hand, the present council do continue in office for another year.

International Congress of Architects in Vienna

On the 30th June, 1908, the Council resolved that a vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Arthur H. Reid, for representing this Institute at the International Congress of Architects at Vienna in May.

1909. Transvaal Registration Bill.

In January and February of this year the Council was engaged, in co-operation with the Transvaal Institute of Architects, in discussing the Draft Registration Bill that was in preparation by an association of Transvaal architects for presentation to the Legislature of the Transvaal Colony.

1910.

On 28th July, 1910, the Institute learnt with much regret of the death of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Thos. H. Hitchin, and on 30th inst. representatives of the Institute attented his funeral as a last mark of respect.

Registration Act for Combined Institutes.

On 4th August, 1910, a general meeting of members was held to consider the Institute's position, when it was resolved to ask Mr. Arthur H. Reid to act temporarily as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. This he undertook to do, and reported "inter alia" that in July and August of 1909 he had communicated to the late Hon. Secretary the fact that he had, on his own initiative, induced the Transvaal and Natal Institutes to agree as co-allied bodies to the Royal Institute of British Architects, to join with the Cape Institute, as the senior body, in an attempt to combine and submit a Registration Act to the Union Parliament as soon as possible after its constitution was completed. It was regretted that through illness the late Hon. Secretary had not brought this proposal before the Council, and it was resolved that the action of Mr. Reid be approved, and that the Transvaal and Natal Institutes be assured that the whole business will receive the Council's immediate attention. On 18th August, 1910, the Council met and discussed

preliminaries of the scheme, and it was resolved to prepare a draft scheme for presentation to a general meeting of members to be called on 18th October, and further that a conference of members of the three Institutes be summoned, to be held at Capetown on December next.

The following Council and officers were then nominated by the outgoing Council for the year 1911, viz.:—

As President: Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A.
As Vice-President: John Parker, F.R.I.B.A.
As Members of Council: W. Adamson, F.R.I.B.A.; A. Forsyth; F. K. Kendall, A.R.I.B.A.; Geo. Ransome, F.R.I.B.A.; C. H. Smith, A.R.I.B.A.
As Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: C. H. Smith, A.R.I.B.A.
As Assistant Secretary and Treasurer: E. A. Cooks.
As Auditor: W. G. Fagg.

On 18th October the general meeting was held and the foregoing Council and officers were elected. The newly elected President, Mr. Arthur H. Reid, then delivered his address.

Licentiates R.I.B.A.

On 17th November, 1910, it was reported to the Council that the Royal Institute of British Architects were advertising the fact that it was desirous of receiving applications from all tect's Act as the basis of that proposed to be submitted to the Union Parliament.

On 27th November, 1910, after careful perusal, the Council decided to adopt the Transvaal Architect's Act as the basis of that proposed to be submitted to the Union Parliament.

Conference of Architects upon Registration Act.

On 19th December, 1910, a conference of South South African Architects (organised by the Cape Institute) was opened at Capetown under the presidency of Mr. Arthur H. Reid, and which was attended by the following Delegates:—Mr. Walter Reid (President of the Association of Transvaal Architects), Mr. J. F. Beardwood (President of the Transvaal Institute of Architects), Mr. E. H. Waugh (Secretary of South African Branch of the Society of Architects, London).

A letter was read from the Natal Institute of Architects regretting its inability to send a Delegate, and expressing its sympathy with the object of the Conference.

The President, in welcoming the Delegates, reviewed the correspondence that had passed between the four Institutes, which had resulted in the Cape Institute being deputed to draft a Bill for the Registration of Architects, for presentation to the Government of the Union of South Africa. The draft was completed and in the hands of all concerned, and as the Act now in operation in the Transvaal had been followed as closely as possible, he hoped there would be no serious objection to the result of his Council's labours.

Mr. Walter Reid said the Association of Transvaal Architects had affirmed the principle of an uniform Registration Act which would absorb all other existing institutes, and he was instructed to move for the appointment of a committee to go into the whole matter at once.

Mr. E. H. Waugh said the Society of Architects of London, as represented by their South African Branch, favoured the federation of all professional bodies. There was a difficulty inasmuch as the Association of Transvaal Architects was an incorporated and registered body which the other institutes could not claim. His Society had affirmed the principle of registration in South Africa, and had pledged itself to assist in promoting legislation to that end.

After a lengthy discussion it was resolved "That this meeting, consisting of members of the Cape Institute of Architects, representatives of the Association of Transvaal Architects, of the Transvaal Institute of Architects, and of the South African Branch of the Society of Architects of London, confirms the desirability of proceeding with the project of promoting and passing an Architect's Registration Act through the Union Parliament as soon as possible, and further that the Cape Institute be appointed to act as the medium of communication between the Profession and the Union Government.

It was further resolved that the discussion of details of the Bill with the Delegates from the Transvaal be left to the Council of the Cape Instiute.

A vote of thanks to the Delegates for their presence and help was carried unanimously.

On the two following days meetings of Delegates with the Council of the Cape Institute were held under the presidency of Mr. Arthur H. Reid, when Mr. R. Howden, Vice-President of the Association of Transvaal Architects attended.

The preamble and every article of the Bill as drafted, were discussed, and resolutions taken upon each. It was finally resolved to provisionally pass the Draft Bill as amended, a fair copy of same to be submitted for final approval of the four South African bodies. The Conference then dispersed.

1911.

On 17th January, 1911, Mr. Arthur H. Reid, President of the Cape Institute, reported to his Council that he had interviewed the Clerk to the House of Assembly and the Minister of the Interior, the result being that the proposed Registration Act would have to appear as a Private Bill rather than as a Government maesure. He had also placed the matter in the hands of Mr. Gus Trollip, Attorney at Law and Parliamentary Agent, who will review the Draft Bill and advise the Council in due course.

On 26th January, 1911, the Council, acting under advice, and in view of the press of Legislative measures before the House of Assembly, decided to postpone the application for permission to submit the Bill.

PLEA FOR ENGLISH GOTHIC

By Herbert Baker.

In our June issue we published a letter with the heading, "Plea for English Gothic," which had appeared in a contemporary under the signature of Edward W. Hudson, Asso. Royal Inst. British Archts., New York. The subject is of such educative interest that we are not surprised that an exceedingly interesting controversy is likely to result. The following valuable letter has been received to begin with. [Ed. T.A.A.]

Sir,—Mr. Hudson's advocacy of the Gothic style for the architectural needs of South Africa is of so much interest that I trust you will encourage further discussion. He has written on the subject to several South African papers, but his best letter, it appeared to me, was to the "Natal Mercury," reproduced in the "Star" of June 1st. This letter, unlike the others, seemed to confine his plea—and wisely, I think—to ecclesiastical architecture. There is much to be said for his contention, if he would thus limit it to our church buildings, and if we could widen the definition of Gothic architecture to include all those forms of developed Romanesque or half-Gothic that were created in the south and centre of Europe pari passu with the growth of the purer Gothic in the north. Sympathy will be generally felt with any endeavour to impress on a new colony the stamp of the national characteristics of the architecture of the Mother Country; but a blind and pedantic attempt to achieve this end would only defeat its object; for the impress must be of the spirit, and not of the outward form only. The vitality and adaptability of the parent nation must be expressed in its children's architecture.

Primitive Gothic

It is true that there is much in the earlier and more primitive Gothic of England which may be adaptable to South Africa. But the examples which are of most value for adaptation are to be found in the less fully developed forms, built when architecture was being slowly evolved from the Norman-Romanesque in the simpler churches, and the semi-fortified castles and monasteries. A pointed arch in itself does not alone constitute Gothic architecture. The ideal of the builders of Amiens, Westminster, and Cologne was to rear a framework of stone, filled in with glass. They built "in light itself," as has been well said. Such buildings would be intolerable in the glaring sunlight of the Transvaal. Without these wide-spreading windows, and the peculiar construction they demand, the meaning and charm of the characteristic features of Gothic architecture—the flying buttress, the pinnacles, the higher form of tracery, and continuous masses of stained glass—must, to a great extent, disappear. York Minster can measure its glass by acres. Its east windows, and those of Gloucester Cathedral, have each an area of about 2,500 superficial feet. Try and realise the blinding effect of such windows exposed to a South African sun!

Ruskin Quoted

Mr. Hudson gives an interesting quotation from Ruskin. Ruskin sang the praise of the purer forms of Northern Gothic, with its huge windows, and of the Romanesque, Byzantine, and the so-called Gothic of Northern Italy. But the Venetian Gothic, which he especially idolised, is not really, in its essential feature, Gothic at all. Its style may be suited to South African needs; but then its use, according to Mr. Hudson, would be "impolitic and unpatriotic."

But the best answer lies in the unanimity of critics that the attempt to introduce pure Northern Gothic into Italy in the fourteenth century was a failure: at least it failed in so far as the more essential features of Gothic were attempted. The cause of the failure was due as much to the unsuitability of the style to the climate as to the dominance of classical tradition amongst the Italians.

Ruskin was a poet and prophet, and we architects cannot go to him for inspiration too often, but we must always remember that his one great attempt at practical architecture—the Museum at Oxford—was a dismal failure.

Norman Shaw's Church

Mr. Hudson's reference to Norman Shaw's church near Port Elizabeth is an exception which proves the rule against himself. In the original design for this church the external windows of the north elevation were entirely covered by lattice screens, showing how this great master instinctively felt that Gothic architecture required modification to suit the bright climate of South Africa. Emerson, too, the introducer of Gothic into India (whom Mr. Hudson also refers to), if we may judge by his last design—the Coronation Memorial Buildings—seems to have at last repented of his error.

But I, for one, am not in favour of throwing overboard all our national traditions in church architecture. I feel, however, that the more sincerely we architects set about our work, the more nearly we shall find ourselves unconsciously approaching the forms of the Romanesque rather than those of the more highly-developed Gothic style.

Mr. Rhodes' Ideals

I cannot think where Mr. Hudson got his odd notions of the architectural ideals and intentions of Cecil Rhodes. I do not remember hearing Rhodes ever mention the word "style." His favourite buildings were certainly those which were not conspicuous for any definite style. He had truer instincts, and seemed to feel for the great elemental principles underlying great architecture, rather than the superficial and accidental shapings, which give names to the different styles. He thought that the Cape homestead embodied right principles for homely domestic buildings; and that the classic simplicity and bigness of Greek and Roman architecture met the more monumental demands of the vast and rugged landscape of South Africa. And so, perhaps, for all of us architects, the less we think of styles, the better for our craft. We cannot ignore tradition; we must be scholarly, "soaked in the old masters," as Reynolds told the first Academy students; then there is hope that hard and sincere work, gentlemanliness, and good craftsmanship, may produce results creditable both to our old and adopted country.—I am, etc.,

HERBERT BAKER.

MR. WALTER REID,

F.R.I.B.A.

(Past President of the Association of Transvaal Architects).

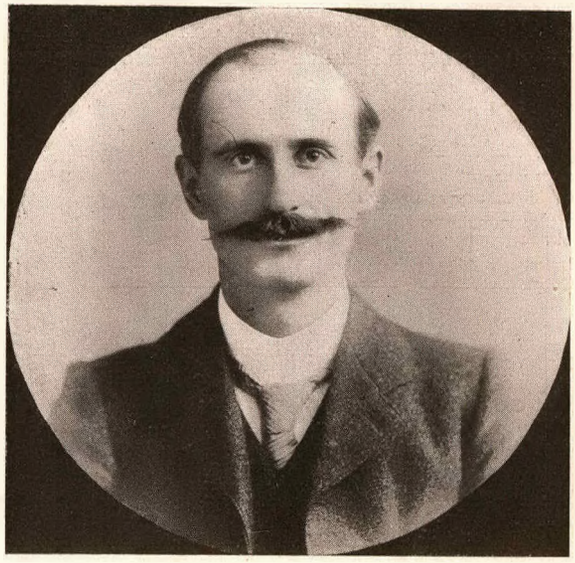
In this sketch of the career of Mr. Walter Reid, F.R.I.B.A., ex-President of the Association of Transvaal Architects, we would begin by saying that he is a man most unassuming in manner, but, nevertheless, prominent, broad-minded, and active in promoting the interests of the profession to which he is deeply devoted, while some of his time has been spared for participation in public life. Professionally, Mr. Reid served his articles with his father, who held the diploma of the R.I.B.A. as far back as 1863, and served his articles with the celebrated architect, Mr. James Pennethorne. The subject of this sketch commenced his articles in 1884, and served three years as architect and surveyor. He had the advantage of nine years' experience in the Capetown Municipal service in charge of building and survey work.

Mr. Reid started his own private architectural practice in Cape Town, and then joined his brother, Mr. Arthur A. Reid, F.R.I.B.A. (in 1897), with whom he is still in partnership. He first came to the Rand in 1889, being a Rand Pioneer, and then returned to Capetown for several years, but came back to the Rand in 1897, and has been on the Goldfields ever since in active private practice. He has been following his profession for twenty-seven years.

Mr. Reid came to South Africa in 1877, and the name has been a household word in architectural and public circles in South Africa for thirty-four years. His whole life-work is bound up in South Africa. As a matter of fact, he knows the requirements of the profession in this country through long experience, and has worked assiduously and very single-mindedly in the interests of the profession. This is shown by his original conception of a Registration Bill for architects practicing in the Transvaal, which was carried to a successful issue during his presidency of the Transvaal Institute of Architects, and which it is now advisable to extend throughout the Union, powers for which are being sought.

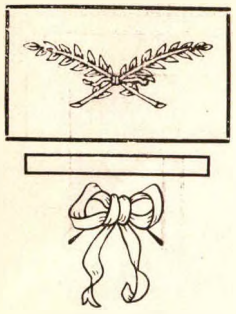
Mr. Reid occupied the presidential chair of the Transvaal Institute of Architects for three years, and the Association of Transvaal Architects for one and a half years. He is a member of the R.I.B.A., the Architectural Association of London, the Association of Transvaal Architects, Transvaal Institute of Architects, the South African Institute of Valuers, the Royal Colonial Institute, and many other bodies. He holds an appointment as Lecturer on "Professional Practice" at the South African School of Mines and Technology.

As a traveller, Mr. Reid has been all over England, Holland, Belgium, and Germany, and he has carried out work in every Province of the South African Union, and also in Rhodesia. His main idea in formulating the idea of an Architects' Registration Act was the love of his profession and "the country we live in," to provide educational facilities for the youth of the country; and to institute professional journals and foster architectural literature. He is a firm believer in the sound and healthy principle of competition for large public works, which he has consistently advocated in and out of season, as may be judged from the reports of his speech which was printed in the last issue of this journal. Mr. Reid argues that competition is the surest way of educating the young South African architect and in bringing out latent national talent which might otherwise remain undis-

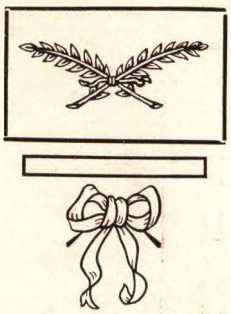


covered; and hopes that those who occupy the presidental chairs in South Africa in succession to him will advocate the same policy, and in an equally disinterested manner.

During the five years which Mr. Reid occupied presidental chairs, he did good work in consolidating the members of his profession, in promoting the interests of architecture, and it was mainly through his influence that uniform conditions of contract were agreed to and adopted with the Master Builders' Associations of the Transvaal and architects. It may be interesting to our readers to know that Mr. Reid has a son attending the architectural courses provided by the South African School of Mines and Technology, to qualify in due course for registration as an architect —making the third generation of architects in the family.



The Economy of Reinforced Concrete.



Now that reinforced concrete is recognised to possess all the strength claimed for it by popular engineers, it behoves us in South Africa to see that we take advantage of the economy afforded by its use.

There are works existing in which reinforced concrete has been used where the concrete itself was sufficiently strong without reinforcement, just as there are works in which the concrete is cumbersome by reason of its mass, and costly in consequence.

The economical use of reinforced concrete, especially for floors, depends upon the strength that can be depended upon.

Can you safely increase the width of your spans, or lessen the thickness of your concrete, are questions which to-day can be answered satisfactorily.

Mixing of Concrete

Provided proper care is exercised in the composition and mixing of concrete, and steel of a guaranteed tensional strength is used and placed in the correct position, then there is no reason why one should not calculate the strength of reinforced concrete according to the formulae laid down and used by the public authorities in Great Britain and the United States, and been a tendency with some to only add strength where strength already existed, the justification being urged that liberal allowance had to be made on account of the uncertainty of the cement or in the mixing of the concrete.

I certainly do not advocate taking undue risks, but cements can always be tested, guarantees can be obtained of the tensile strength of the reinforcing steel, and the rest depends upon seeing that the composition of the concrete and the mixing of same is carried out correctly.

During the past two years a large number of reinforced floors have been built in the Transvaal, and it is noticeable in many instances that advantage has been taken of the economy afforded by making the spans wider than usual, besides which the method of construction has given a maximum amount of fire protection.

Economy in Floors

In floors especially can economy be effected, as ample evidence exists of floors designed with wide spans and a minimum thickness of concrete which have been proved, both under heavy load and severe

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM DEPTH OF SLABS IN INCHES. SPAN IN FEET. MIXTURE 1:2:4.

Live load in lbs. per sq. ft.	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
50	2.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5
100	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0
150	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8 0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.0
200	3.5	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8 0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.5	11.0
250	3.5	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.5	10.0	10 5	11 0	12.0
300	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.5	10.0	10.5	11.5	12.0	
350	4.0	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	10.0	10.5	11.5	12.0		
400	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.5	11.0	12.0			
450	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.5	10.0	11.0	11.5				
500	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	7.0	7.5	8.5	9.0	10.0	10.5	11.5	12.0				

The depths given are the total thickness of the slab, assuming the centre of the reinforcement to be ¾ inch above bottom. More covering than this may be used by increasing the depth, the extra weight of this concrete being added to the live load.

It is always allowable to use depths greater than here specified, thereby decreasing the amount of reinforcement and increasing the amount of concrete. It is also possible to use somewhat less depths, but not economical. For depths greater than 12 inches, it is more economical to use reinforced concrete beams with thinner slabs between. These depths may also be used for a carefully graded mixture of 1:2½:5 concrete.

which are based on perfectly safe lines and are economical in practice.

The above table will give a good idea of how thicknesses vary with different loads and spans.

To-day, in the Transvaal, the standard of workmanship and supervision should be sufficiently high to enable any architect or engineer to base his calculations on the most economical method of reinforced concrete construction. In many cases very conservative calculations have been made, and there has even fire test, to be perfectly safe and thoroughly satisfactory.

With a reasonable price for cement, reinforced concrete should be used very largely, as reliable data is available to-day of concrete construction in a wide variety of forms. In this connection the reduction in price of local cement should mean much to the furtherance of reinforced concrete and should induce architects and engineers to study the economy that can be effected without sacrificing efficiency but rather adding to it.

Architectural Students.

COURSES IN ARCHITECTURE.

The Council of the South African School of Mines and Technology having been approached by the Association of Transvaal Architects, arrangements have been made to conduct annually examinations in the subjects mentioned below, and lectures and classes are being organised in each subject, except modelling and applied arts and crafts, provided a sufficient number of students enrol.

The subjects are as follows:—

Building Construction and Drawing, Stage I.
Building Construction and Drawing, Stage II.
Strength of Materials and Theory of Structures.
Architectural History and Theory.
Architectural Drawing.
Architectural Design.
Practice of Architecture.
Sanitation.
Modelling and Applied Arts and Crafts.

In order to qualify for registration under the Architects' Private Act (Transvaal), 1909, a candidate must have obtained at least 40 per cent. of the marks in each subject, with the possible exception of modelling and applied arts and crafts, which is an optional subject, and he must have also obtained 50 per cent. of the possible maximum aggregate of marks.

In computing the aggregate the following are the relative values of the subjects:—

Building Construction and Drawing, Stage I.	50
Building Construction and Drawing, Stage II.	100
Strength of Materials and Theory of Structures	125
Architectural History and Theory	100
Architectural Drawing	125
Architectural Design	200
Practice of Architecture	50
Sanitation	75
Modelling and Applied Arts and Crafts (optional)	100

In addition he must have had at least four years' professional and practical experience as an assistant to an architect.

With reference to the examinations in these subjects, which need not be taken in the order given, students of classes at the school, who have made 75 per cent. of the possible yearly attendances, will be admitted at a charge of two shillings and sixpence per subject. Persons who do not come under this category, but who wish to take the examinations with a view to qualifying for registration under the Architects' Private Act, 1909, must pay a fee of ten shillings for each subject.

For a limited period a special examination in Architectural Design, and such other subjects as may be decided upon, may be held for those who have had considerable architectural experience, and whom the Association of Transvaal Architects consider should not be called upon to pass the whole of the examinations of the architectural course. If a candidate satisfies the examiners in this examination he will be eligible for registration. The fee for this examination will be £3 0s. 0d.

The classes will be open to all students who are over sixteen years of age; no student, however, will be admitted to any class unless he has satisfied the lecturer that he is capable of benefiting by the class. For the guidance of students the following co-ordinated course has been tabulated and students are strongly advised to follow it as far as possible:—

COURSE IN ARCHITECTURE.

First Year.	Second Year.
Mathematics, II. or III.	Graphics, II.
Graphics, I.	Building Construction, II.
Building Construction, I.	Applied Mechanics, I.
Third Year.	**Fourth Year.**
Architectural History & Theory.	Architectural Design.
Architectural Drawing.	Practice of Architecture.
Strength of Materials & Theory of Structures.	Sanitation.

Every student who intends to take the full architectural course must, before being admitted, produce evidence that he possesses some knowledge of mathematics and freehand, model and geometrical drawing. The following preliminary course is recommended:—

Mathematics, Stages I. or II.
Freehand, Model and Geometrical Drawing.
General Elementary Science,

classes of which are conducted in the evening classes of the school.

On next page is given a list of classes, together with time of meeting and the name of the lecturer. Classes have already been organised in the subjects marked with an asterisk; and classes will be started this term

in the remaining subjects should a sufficient number of students apply for admission.

TIME TABLE OF CLASSES.

Subject.	Time of Meeting.	Lecturer.
*Mathematics. †		
*Freehand, Model and Geometrical Drawing.	Tuesday, 7.30-9.30 p.m.	A. Matheson, Certificated Teacher.
*Graphics, Stage I.	Thursday, 7.30-9.30 p.m.	P. Hendry, B.Sc.
*Graphics, Stage II.	Monday, 7.30-9.30 p.m.	W. H. S. Cleghorne, B.Sc.
*Applied Mechanics, Stage I.	Tuesday, 7.30-9.30 p.m.	P. Hendry, B.Sc.
*Strength of Materials.	Thursday, 7.30-8.30 p.m.	W. H. S. Cleghorne, B.Sc.
*Building Construction and Drawing, Stage I.	Friday, 7.30-9.30 p.m.	S. C. Dowsett, M.S.A.
*Building Construction and Drawing, Stage II.	Thursday, 7.30-9.30 p.m.	P. J. Hill, Certificated Architect (Transvaal)
Architectural History and Theory.	Monday, 7-8.30 p.m.	Wm. Lucas, F.R.V.I.A.
Architectural Designs and Drawing.	Wednesday, 7.30-9.30 p.m.	W. G. Gibson.
Practice of Architecture.	Friday, 7.30-9 p.m.	Walter Reid, F.R.I.B.A.
*Sanitation.	Tuesday, 7.30-9.30 p.m.	E. H. Waugh, M.S.A. M.R. San.I.

* Classes are held in Stages I., II., III. and IV., and in Practical Mathematics Stages I. and II., on various evenings throughout the week. (See Evening Class Prospectus.)
† Graphic Statics and Design of Structures forms a separate course.

Syllabuses of the various classes, with text books and books of reference recommended, will be found in the evening class prospectus of the school.

Intending students are requested to make immediate application at the South African School of Mines and Technology, Eloff Street, Johannesburg.

The fees for the classes are £1 1s. 0d. per term for each subject. Apprentices and learners will, however, be admitted to all classes except architectural history and theory, architectural design and drawing, and practice of achitecture, for a fee of 10s. per term for each subject.

Recognition of Merit

There was recently quite a stirring of the waters at the Royal Academy, in the shape of the promotion of one associate and the election of five new ones, on two successive days. Among the latter it is gratifying to note that there is one architect, and the election of Mr. Ernest Newton as A.R.A. will receive universal approval, as that of an architect who has maintained a high standard of refinement and pure taste in every building that he has carried out; and his election is a wholesome recognition of the fact that these qualities may be as well illustrated in domestic architecture as town halls and cathedrals.

It will be noted in Messrs. Campbell, O'Brien and Co.'s advertisement that they are the sole agents for Lockerbie and Wilkinson's ball-bearing fittings, etc.

IN OTHER LANDS

Architectural Meetings

At the annual meeting of the West Australian Institute of Architects, held recently, it was reported in "Building," that during the year the long-desired affiliation with the Royal Institute of British Architects was accomplished, the parent institute expressing a keen desire for the most cordial relations.

Regarding the question of registration and statutory qualification, the institute having decided to adopt the board system, a Bill was drawn up by Mr. Draper on the lines of the Medical Practitioners' Act and the Dentist Registration Bill. The State Government have promised to discuss the principle of the Bill with a view to making it a Government measure next session.

The by-laws for the new metropolitan system were gazetted early in the year, and it is to be regretted that the recommendations made by this institute were not carried into effect, as the by-laws in their present form have given rise to much dissatisfaction.

Perth Town Hall Competition

After much correspondence and hesitation, the City Council decided to pay over the premiums in connection with the recent competition, thereby closing the history of a competition which proved unsatisfactory to all parties concerned.

The attention of the council was drawn to the unprofessional conduct of certain architects practising in Perth. The Victorian Institute being communicated with, took such action as caused the imposition to be stopped.

The Institutes of the Australian States have now been requested to unite in drawing up a code of ethics for the conduct of professional business.

The R.I.B.A. regulations for architectural competition, revised 1910, which govern all affiliated societies, have been adopted.

In principle they differ in no way from the previous suggestions, but set out in more definite and complete expression the duties of assessors.

Trade Commissioner

Inquiries were made by H.M. Trade Commissioner in Australia on the subject of promoting British trade, and in reply many suggestions were sent by this institute, and a general desire was expressed to use Australian or British made goods in preference to foreign made goods provided the best qualities could be obtained, stamped and guaranteed up to a standard or specification.

After the fullest consideration, the council decided that the request of the Builders' and Contractors' Association for a special agreement in the matter of bills of quantities could not be entertained, but that members of the institute were willing at all times to afford reasonable facilities to enable quantity surveyors to take out quantities and issue bills for works for which tenders are required.



DEFINITE SPECIFICATIONS:

ASPHALTE.



We have been led to believe that there are certain complaints, not without foundation and good ground, made from time to time by the principal asphalting firms in Johannesburg in connection with the specifications used in this line. We have, therefore, made it our business to interview several leading firms, and have elicited the following information :—

The first point brought to our notice was that, owing to certain adulteration which it is alleged is being practised, there ought to be a proper form of specification framed for this special work. We have been informed, also, that if a specification exists at all, it is entirely inadequate, and can be read in such a manner as to allow of inferior work being supplied, and, in some instances, a totally different class of paving to that which is implied in the word "asphalte."

It has come to our notice that tenders have been called for two-inch thickness "asphalte," while "tar macadam" has really been the paving intended. As a matter of fact, while specifying "asphalte" it was the intention all the while to use "tar macadam," quite a different article, and much lower in cost.

One job has been especially brought to our notice in this respect, where tenders were asked for one-inch "asphalte." On the asphalte contractor interviewing the builder, he was told that it was not "asphalte" that was wanted, but "tar and stones." Naturally, this information very much astonished him, and the representatives of the firm made application to the responsible official to know what was actually required, and were assured that it "did not matter what was laid on the floor so long as it was 'something black'!" This is a glaring instance of what is perpetrated under the heading of "asphalte."

In connection with the constituents of genuine asphalte, we have been particularly requested to point out that there is absolutely no coal tar, nor any of its bye-products, used in asphalte paving.

One special point mentioned by the asphalte firms we have interviewed is the fact that they in no way desire to encroach on the legitimate work of the builder ; that is, in so far as laying the bed of concrete to receive the asphalte is concerned (unless the asphalte firm combine that special department with the other, and have been asked by the responsible contractor to give a quotation for laying the concrete as well as the asphalte).

The asphalte firms, however, allege that there are instances where rough concrete supplied by the builder is laid unevenly and left unscreeded. The result of this is that instead of the asphalte contractors laying a one-inch thickness, as specified, it may vary in thickness from one to as much as three inches. We believe, therefore, that the matter of "concrete finish" is of great importance, and we learn that this should be specified to be "finished screeded level to proper falls," and not left in a rough or uneven state. It has to be particularly mentioned that as the asphalte takes the same formation and levels as the underlying finish of the concrete foundation, the stipulation made in connection with "concrete finish" is certainly an important point.

A most peculiar point has been brought to our notice, viz., the fact that in Government specifications where asphalte is required a guarantee for no less a period than ten years is insisted upon.

With further reference to the need for a proper specification, it is sometimes asked that a $\frac{3}{8}$-inch thickness be laid. We are assured by all the leading firms we have seen that it is impossible to give a lesser thickness than $\frac{1}{2}$-inch in order to secure a workmanlike job, and one which will be to the satisfaction of the client.

We come to another item as to what is termed "asphaltic." This, we are assured, is a misnomer. "Asphaltic" is a term that is now being applied to represent any form of paving in which tar, stone, or even asphalte itself is embodied, but, of course, as previously stated, tar and asphalte are never used in conjunction in genuine asphalte work.

What is wanted is a proper form of specification for these two distinct forms of paving, viz., "asphalte," and "tar macadam."

Of late these complaints have been so frequent, and emanating from responsible and well-known firms, that we have thought it proper to deal with this subject in "The African Architect." We trust this article will serve its purpose in attracting the attention of architects throughout South Africa, and we hope that as a result the Association of Transvaal Architects will arrange a meeting with local asphalte firms in order that a definite specification may be arrived at, which, we feel sure, will be to the mutual advantage of architect, builder, asphalte contractor, and the principal alike.

Municipal Art Societies

TOWN PLANNING CONFERENCE.

Proposals by Mr. A. H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A.

The following interesting remarks and proposals in regard to the proposed Town Planning Conference at Capetown were made by Mr. Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A., at a general meeting of the Cape Institute of Architects, summoned on March 23rd last, to consider the question.

Mr. Reid said: Gentlemen,—As President of your Institute I have to report that in view of the pending unification of our city and its many suburban municipalities, and of the very important Pier and Foreshore improvement scheme now decided upon by our City Council, which may be looked upon as the first instalment of a larger general scheme, I have ventured to provisionally place the advice and co-operation of our Institute at the disposal of the City Council. The proviso submitted was that the City Council undertake to honour me with their confidence, sympathy and aid in return for the sacrifice of time and skill that we shall be called upon to make in the public interest.

Cape Town's Position.

In taking upon myself the responsibility of making this advance, I was actuated by the conviction that the Council and citizens of Capetown have at last awakened to the necessity of making such sacrifices as will bring us into line with other large centres of population. Upon such a presumption it naturally follows that the Council will be forced to embark upon undertakings that are new to them and will require the best architectural and artistic guidance that is available.

Past experience has demonstrated to us, and I think to the public, that there has been a disposition in the past, on the part of municipal bodies, to relegate work to their engineering staff that is absolutely beyond their duties and attainments. That department, for reasons best known to itself, has not been slow in undertaking any work that offered itself, with the result that many of our main thoroughfares have been spoilt by the erection of buildings that are no credit to us as a community, and have, in all probability, cost a great deal more than a skilled architect could have provided the same accommodation for with a better effect and greater comfort.

Friendly Co-operation.

This matter is not a pleasant one, and I do not propose to enter further into it, but I have called you together this evening to consider the whole position, in no mean selfish spirit, but simply as citizens and members of an honourable profession, who feel it their duty to do all in their power to make right what is wrong and to join in friendly co-operation with our representatives and any other societies that are working upon similar lines to ourselves, namely, to make our city and surroundings more pleasant to visitors and creditable to ourselves.

You are all, no doubt, aware of the great Town Planning Conference that was so successfully organised on international lines by the Royal Institute of British Architects in London last year, and how completely the Government, Local Government Boards and municipal bodies generally acknowledged that the work covered by the Conference was such that only architects and artists could successfully deal with it, of course, in co-operation with sympathetic laymen and municipal engineers, for, without their sympathy and confidence, it would be absurd to attempt what was in their minds.

The Proposal.

Now what I have in view is the organisation of a Town Planning Conference on the same lines as that held in London, but, of course, on a smaller scale and with less ambitious aims. At that Conference I propose to invite the attendance of representatives of the Provincial and Union Governments, city and suburban municipal bodies, the National Society for the Protection of Objects of National Beauty and Historical Interest, the Cape Publicity Association, the Institute of Civil Engineers, the Institute of Architects, the Society of Artists, and any other persons that may hereafter be found able and willing to work with us, medical and legal men not being overlooked. This Conference should, I think, after a general discussion, start a "Municipal Art Society," with an unlimited membership and executive committee, whose duty would be to propose and stimulate the formation of a similar committee or societies in the larger centres of the Union. Such a body has done magnificent work at Hartford, Connecticut, and I can see no reason why we should not be equally useful here. Founded in 1904, the Hartford Society has for its objects, "To conserve and enhance in every practical manner the beauty and convenience of the streets, buildings and public places of the city, to stimulate public interest in the scenic, artistic and architectural development of the city, and to encourage civic pride in the care and improvement of public and private property."

The Society is governed by a board of directors, consisting of 18 members, and there are standing committees dealing with such matters as the general city plan, civic centres and public buildings, exhibitions and competitions, parks, thoroughfares, playgrounds, street fixtures and equipment, advertising and decorations.

Quoting from a report in the R.I.B.A. Journal,

the President of Hartford Society thus sets forth the need of such a society in any large modern centre of population.

An Important Factor.

Municipal art societies find authority for active existence by virtue of those privileges which, in civilised communities, go with citizenship. Certain important rights are conferred upon citizens of good standing, and one of those rights is a voice which can become a factor in the suppression of certain popular evils.

One of those evils to-day is the spirit of commercialism. Excellent, when well directed, it is often misapplied to the detriment of public architecture, sculpture, painting and all other arts and crafts.

Under such circumstances the ill effects of such a spirit can best be dealt with by civic art societies, composed of men who will act with courtesy and intelligence in the interest of good taste and real economy in all questions affecting the natural beauty and artificial ornamentation of the city and its surroundings. A municipal art society should be absolutely representative of all arts, crafts and professions, so that advice upon all questions of municipal expediency may be secured from members at little or no cost, and also because the larger the organisation the more widespread will be its influence. It should interest itself in public sculptures and decorations, in the design and grouping of public and private buildings, so that the conglomerate composition of such buildings will ensure a harmonious appearance of the streets, avenues and squares. It should also be interested in streets, signs, parks, gardens, bridges, waterways, docks, and all avenues of public traffic, as such form parts of a civic scheme and involve questions of civic taste and culture.

Rights and Duties.

Such a society should not interfere in any way with the rights or duties of municipal officers, but should co-operate with them whenever possible, and by courteous advice or persuasion lead them into correct channels when, perhaps by ignorance of a subject, or by over zeal, they are tempted to rush where angels fear to tread. It should be the ready and helpful friend of any worthy administration or body, regardless of party or local politics, occupying itself strictly within the limits laid down for the exercise of its skill and energy.

It is a mistake to assume that because they are specially interested in matters of taste and art, municipal art societies are likely to encourage extravagant expenditure. Quite the contrary has been the experience in the United States of America, where properly organised attention to matters involving questions of taste have resulted in a more economic adjustment of civic expenses and in an increase, not of the burden of taxation, but in the roll of taxable property, for such a policy adds to the health, comfort and convenience of citizens, and naturally induces a speedy and permanent increase in the population.

Archaeological.

Now reviewing South Africa as a whole, it is a comparatively new country and, therefore, little can be found that can fairly be claimed as being of archaeological interest. The remains discovered at Zimbabwe and elsewhere in Rhodesia, and bushman paintings in all parts of the country are the only evidences of a past civilization or art that we know of. Again reviewing the past there is little outside Capetown that can claim to be even antique, but within that sphere there is much that claims our respect and protection, and still more that demands our attention in view of natural future evolution.

Those of us who can remember the simple but comfortable homes of Capetown that existed 40 years ago, as well as the shady trees and quiet retreats that made us take the best out of life, must thank Bowler and others for the records left to us of those halcyon days.

Most of those old buildings have been swept away, but much remains in and around the city that the exigencies of modern requirements will threaten unless steps be taken to check the vulgar and wanton hand of the spoiler, for he has no head, eyes, or heart.

The National Society for the Preservation of Objects of Natural Beauty and Historic Interest has done most excellent work, and deserves every credit for its foresight and patriotism, but there is much to be done in regulating the future development of the city and suburbs, especially in view of the unification scheme that we must bring to an issue, and this can, I submit, only be done in co-operation with the local government authorities. At present these bodies only interest themselves in the safety and health of the public and have little if any power to control the architecture and art attributes of our streets, squares and open areas, which are left to the idiosyncracies of speculative builders or landowners.

Again nothing is more inimical to the dignity and fitness of a city than the engineer's invasion of a sphere that is absolutely beyond him. Need we go further than the Dock Road and its approaches to Adderley Street? Was a grander chance ever offered to a modern city to secure a magnificent entrance and to give a favourable first impression to new arrivals from oversea than the road and foreshore I have alluded to. But what has been the result of City Councillors and officials dealing with matters they do not and could not be expected to understand. The Botanical Gardens and the old Town House are further examples of how not to do it, and unless we are watchful the Adderley Street Pier and treatment of the reclaimed foreshore will be another example.

Artistic Cape Town.

In the foregoing remarks I have dealt generally with my subject, but it will be well to apply its propositions to the future of Capetown and its surroundings, for with the unification of the city and suburbs we are face to face with the necessity of providing means for the organised and artistic treatment of the Peninsula as a whole.

Taking a mere cursory glance around we find at Muizenberg and Kalk Bay practically the whole of the sea frontage and much of the most valuable land occupied by a railway and its appurtenances, the public approach to its chief asset and attraction, the sea beach, cut off by dangerous crossings and wire fences.

Nearer home we find Claremont, naturally one of our most delightful centres, depreciated in value by the injudicious jumble of shops, dwellings, Malay

quarters, and worse, the result of the inexperience or greed of uncontrolled land speculators, and of the indifference or ignorance of by-gone municipal bodies. All these matters require amendment, and it will be the duty of a Municipal Art Society to advise those in authority how to proceed in the matter. Nearer home the following seem to offer a good start, namely, the treatment of the sea frontage from Sea Point to Woodstock, the precincts of the Castle and Sir Lowry Road, the reorganization and treatment as one scheme of all Government, municipal and private properties bounded by Orange Street, Grey's Pass, Queen Victoria Street, Wale Street, Bureau Street, Parliament Street, and St. John Street, including Staal Plein.

Advisory Board Director.

Turning from the mistakes of our public bodies it is pleasant to realise that of late years individual owners have done much towards giving a lead in the matter under review by employing capable architects and erecting a class of building that has been a revelation to the untravelled members of our population, and a stimulation to others to follow their example.

And here arises a factor that is indispensable to the future national evolution that I wish you to consider very carefully, and be prepared to advise those outside our profession upon.

It seems only reasonable that such an advisory body as I have suggested should have a technical head or director, who would be capable of directing conflicting opinions and of reducing those asperities that are bound to appear when idiosyncrasies are disposed to assert themselves.

Such a head would be available to advise Governments, municipal bodies and others in conjunction with his Society or committee.

My own idea would be to make an appointment, more or less honorary, as such would be valued by architects of standing more as an honour than from mercenary interests, which would only attract pushing and inferior place-seekers.

At all events it seems reasonable that when the unification of the city and suburbs is an accomplished fact such a body, with such a head as I have suggested, should be constituted as an experiment for say three years, thus giving time for the preparation of a general scheme for the future development of this centre. The Cape Institute of Architects, or the councils of other professional institutes might be asked to nominate one, two, or three architects for the position of head director, from which the Municipal Art Society could select one.

To Guide Public Thought.

In conclusion, I would submit for your consideration that never in the history of this country has it been so necessary as now for the architectural profession to assert itself and to guide public thought into safer and more creditable channels than those into which it has drifted in the past. It seems lamentable that seats are not offered to architects in our city and suburban councils where their advice would be to the public benefit, but with the spirit of commercialism that I have before referred to in the ascendancy, the prospect does not appear to be very hopeful. I hope my action in approaching the City Council in this matter will meet with your approval, and that this evening's discussion will elucidate many difficulties I know have to be overcome.

THE
South African Master Builders Federation Journal.

SOLE OFFICIAL ORGAN of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers in South Africa, of the Colony Federations and all Local Associations affiliated thereto.

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE MASTER BUILDERS AND ALLIED TRADES.

Edited and Published by JAS. T. BROWN.

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ARCHITECTURE IN MARITZBURG

With the exception of the new Post Office Buildings in Longmarket Street, the public buildings of Maritzburg have all been in existence and occupation before the commencement of the present century, and they are all grouped within a small circle of which the Legislative Buildings may be considered the centre. Their co-incidence ends abruptly here, however, for in style and proportion they are diverse enough to suit the most exacting seeker after change. They are grouped on the eminence which forms the highest point of the plan of the township, and from all of them, but particularly from the Town Hall tower, splendid views may be obtained of the surrounding country, from Zwaartkop and the Town Bush in one direction, to Table Mountain in the other, with the belt of thorn country below it.

So far as the private dwellings are concerned, the city has little to commend it from an architectural point of view. Those who have built them have done so just to suit their own individual tastes and convenience, without much reference to the proportion which architecture demands. The connoisseur, therefore, must turn to the public buildings, and find in them the pleasure or the pain, as the case may be, which they hold for the critical gaze.

In any community, the Town Hall is one of the first public buildings raised, because it is the first required. Maritzburg did not depart from this rule, and in its early days as a city found itself in possession of a building which suited its needs at that time. If this structure had continued in existence it would have had to be added to, and perhaps might have become ungainly, and just as misfortunes in other directions often prove best in the sequel, so it may be held to have been with the fire which demolished the old Town Hall, and allowed the present handsome building to rise from its ashes like the Phoenix of old.

Town Hall Architecture

The Town Hall is one of the buildings in the city that can lay claim to real architectural beauty. It is well proportioned and built in the French Renaissance style, with spacious loggias and porticos, and in its main hall it contains one of the finest organs in South Africa. The structure stands with its back abutting on the Market Square, and soon from its back loggias the spectator will be able to gain a splendid view of the public gardens which are being constructed on the square.

Almost the opposite extreme of architecture has been carried out in the construction of the new Post Office building. Solid in the extreme, and with deep-set windows and semi-circular ends, it presents a massive front of granite on to Longmarket Street. The formation is that of a three-sided quadrangle. The only relief to this bold but rather plain architectural conception is the addition of two dark-coloured domes, one at each end of the main structure. Inside, the building is luxuriously fitted, and there exists a labyrinth of passages and stairs in which the unsuspecting visitor may easily lose himself.

Greek Classic

The Colonial Buildings furnish another example. The proportions of the pillars are more exactly in accordance with the Greek Classic, on which the building is modelled, but there are a few details, such as the mouldings and so on, that would not bear the scrutiny of a skilful architect with a true eye for proportion. The designers had every advantage in the planning of this structure, as regarded material, for there was no need to consider the question of expense. Good stone was provided for the front and green Westmoreland slates for the roof, and the provision of a marble staircase assisted the work of designing the handsome entrance hall which exists to-day.

The Corinthian Order

There still remain the Legislative Buildings to be criticised, but there is little to say of them excepting that they are of the Corinthian order of architecture, with deep-set pillars, and an entrance porch extending well up to the second storey and providing a deep balcony above. The buildings lack the interest that would otherwise attach to them because they have never been completed. They now stand in the form of a right angle, minus the necessary wing which would give them their architectural stability. The loss must be deplored, if what never existed can be regarded as a loss. Its construction now would seriously interfere with the Court Gardens, which are fast becoming one of the small beauty spots of the town, but it is unlikely —unless some very unforeseen circumstances should arise—that there will ever be any need to construct the missing portion.

It might be thought difficult to include in one small town of less than a hundred years' growth more styles of architecture than have been enumerated, yet a walk of half an hour from the centre we mentioned will bring the pedestrian to a handsome new building built

in the Georgian style. This is the new Asylum building which has just been completed with the intention of providing accommodation for those patients who can afford to pay, and in design it easily out-does the older building close by, which has no particular style, but reminds the observer forcibly of the Chateau style of the Continent. The building stands on a commanding site and contains a fine dining hall beautifully panelled in hard, indigenous wood.

Representative Architecture

Maritzburg, as a whole, may be considered representative of the architecture of South Africa from its earliest days. There are still many of the old Dutch houses, with their windows abutting on the pavement, looking as rough and uncompromising as their first inhabitants; and there are still the houses, recognisable even in their old age, of the first British settlers: neat little cottages, set well back from the roadway, with the stamp of English comfort about them. And, again, there are the larger houses of more recent completion and more modern and luxurious design, marking the time when the boom was here and fortunes were being easily made; and, finally, there are the pretentious houses and the numerous cottages of the last few years, which have sprung up as the richer portion of the community desired or the poorer portion caused demand. All these, together with the public buildings already described, combine to make the pretty, well kept town of Maritzburg, which in its youth seems destined to be stunted in its growth through the more insistent demands of its larger brothers for the humanity which is their food.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters for this section should be written on one side of the paper only. The writer may adopt an assumed name for purposes of publication, but he must in all cases furnish his real name and address to the Editor.

To the Editor of "The African Architect."

Government Competitions

Sir,—In view of the fact that your publication is not a local one, but South African, it may not be out of place to draw the attention of architects practising in the other Provinces to the determination of the authorities in Pretoria to have no more competitions, but to keep a large staff of draughtsmen to do the work, some of whom, I believe, have been imported, although there are practising men in South Africa who are doing little or nothing.

The object of this letter, then, is to emphasise the remarks on the subject of competitions by the President of the Association in his address reported in your previous number, and to draw the ranks of the practising men together in a common grievance.

The first competition held by the Government was that for Park Station, which was of a "limited" nature. If the idea for such a competition were suggested by any of the competitors, then they had only themselves to thank for the result, for the work was given to an official who had just arrived. The Government, rightly or wrongly, came in for a good deal of criticism over the matter.

Limited competitions are almost invariably suggested by the man of mediocre attainments, who fears open competitions, and also by the selfish, who want to guide things to their own laps.

The man who looks upon competitions as a waste of time has missed his vocation and should take up some trade. They are education—especially to the younger members of the profession, and for which reason the Government should be the last to limit the opportunities for practice in that direction.

The Pretoria Post Office

The last competition by the Government was that of the Post Office at the Capital. The authorities in Pretoria have not disguised their opinion of the result of that competition by ignoring the selected design, refusing to employ the authors, and choosing one for themselves, which is now being carried out.

It has been put forward that, in issuing the "Conditions and Particulars," the Public Works Department were not competent to formulate the requirements of a post office, and did not know what they wanted, which is absurd on the face of it, for having every facility for obtaining expert knowledge on the subject, if they don't know, no one does.

Irony

The authorities have, therefore made it clear that they had a grievance, which is the reason for their present attitude towards practising men in South Africa, who have to suffer because the decision of two assessors displeased them, which is rather unjust, to say the least. The irony of the matter is that this piece of injustice does not materially affect the two referred to, who have enjoyed a very large practice, the lot of the very few.

It has naturally set up ill-feeling in many directions, which is not good for any community. The Government is building from public funds to which South African architects have contributed, and not a few have spent a large part of their lives in helping to build up the country they have made their home, and have shown in competitive work that they are not inferior to men of other lands, to which some of the leading architects at Home have testified, as pointed out by one of your correspondents last month.

Appeal to Parliament

The architects in each Province should interview their members of Parliament and point out to them the facts of the matter, so that they may be in a position to discuss the subject in its proper place, and convince those in power, who have been led quite unwittingly through the prejudice of a few, to an act of injustice.

I feel quite sure that when the Government is appealed to in the right way a better state of things will be brought about.

The subject matter of this letter is of too much importance to make an apology for its length necessary.—I am, etc.,

"FAIRPLAY."

Welcome to The African Architect.

"The African Architect," we are pleased to record, has met with a most cordial welcome from the members of the Architectural profession, the general public, and the Press of South Africa. We are, naturally, extremely gratified at the heartiness of the reception of our first issue, and in succeeding numbers will endeavour to do everything in our power to carry out the policy laid down in our introductory article. We reiterate that we intend "The African Architect" to be a useful and educative organ devoted to the interests of the profession, and now that it has been so successfully launched, we feel there is sure ground for its future advancement and influence.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Mr. Herbert Baker, F.R.I.B.A. (Johannesburg), congratulates the Editor in the following flattering words:—"I must write and congratulate you on your first number of "The African Architect." I think it is excellent. If you can continue a series of articles and correspondence possessing the same interest as those of this number, you will be conferring a very great benefit on the cause of Architecture in South Africa. I wish you every success."

Mr. Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A. (Capetown) writes:—"I have to acknowledge No. 1 of "The African Architect," which is certainly interesting and creditable. Accept my congratulations and best wishes."

Messrs. Gilbert, Hamer & Co., Ltd. (Durban) write:—"Success to "The African Architect." It does you credit."

Mr. J. R. McKillop (Johannesburg) writes:—"The African Architect" is a production which greatly pleases me, and I wish it every success."

We have selected the opinions, above quoted, of two architects and two advertisers respectively, out of numerous other congratulatory letters, and we take this opportunity of extending our warmest thanks to our correspondents.—[Ed. T.A.A.]

PRESS NOTICES.

Transvaal Leader.

South Africa's increasing list of sectional and technical publications has received a notable addition in "The African Architect," the first number of which has just appeared. The new paper, which is admirable in matter, form, and appearance, is to appear monthly, under the auspices of the Association of Transvaal Architects, whose president (Mr. R. Howden), in a letter addressed to Transvaal architects, appeals to them to do their utmost to support the paper and make it "a live publication." The first number, indeed, offers every hope that the new journal will live up to this character.

Rand Daily Mail.

Of the making of papers there is no end. The latest to be published in Johannesburg, "The African Architect," is one that should be extremely interesting and useful, to judge from the first number now before us. . . It can certainly be said that the journal has begun its mission in a worthy manner. Educative articles of distinct value are included, and they should prove interesting to people who do not belong to the profession for which the journal will specially cater. One of the most interesting contributions is an illustrated dissertation on South African architecture. There is another on Municipal Art Societies, and the proposals of Mr. Arthur H. Reid, F.R.I.B.A. Detailed reference to the features of the paper are, however, unnecessary. Suffice it to say that Mr. J. T. Brown, the proprietor, is to be heartily congratulated on the production.

The Star.

"The African Architect" is a new journalistic production which is in keeping with the progress of the times. Architecture in South Africa has undergone many changes. A new era is in front of the architectural profession, which is now composed of many talented members of their craft, and it is only natural that a high-class journal devoted to its interests should be instituted at the present time. "The African Architect" is inaugurated under the auspices of the Association of Transvaal Architects. . . It is most creditable in every respect to the editor and publisher, Mr. James T. Brown, whose other productions, notably "The Master Builders' Journal," are all allied in their trade and professional connection. The articles and illustrations in the new journal are excellent, and are printed on fine art paper. The tone of the contributions by leading architects is lofty and educative. Notably in this respect may be mentioned an article on South African architecture, which is illustrated, and deals with the different periods which marked the advance of the craftsman through the early, middle and modern periods. It will be of interest to all architects to have a record of the Association of Transvaal Architects' Act of Registration, the full text of which is given in the journal. We fully endorse the statement made in the "Introductory" article by the editor, which says that "Already in this opening number we can point with no little pride to the articles which have been contributed by members of the profession on many interesting architectural subjects," and we also note with pleasure that the policy of the new journal will be "consistently to strive for the betterment of the profession, and for its advancement in intellectual and artistic attainments." "The African Architect" has made an excellent start, and is a welcome addition to the press of South Africa.

Natal Mercury.

We have received the first number of "The African Architect," a journal which is published by Mr. James T. Brown, editor and proprietor of the "S. A. Master Builders' Federation Journal," under the auspices of the Association of Transvaal Architects. We welcome the journal, and wish that it may have a successful career. There will be plenty of scope for a work of this kind, as indeed the first number clearly promises, where many interesting and important subjects are dealt with. It is an attractive looking periodical, the portraits of the Presidents of the Transvaal Architects' Association, and Capetown Architects' Association, are excellent, and there is an admirable process illustration of the Transvaal University College. The paper employed is art paper, which assists in making the printing and illustration clear and distinct, and gives a first-class appearance to the publication.

[PROPOSED ARCHITECTS' REGISTRATION BILL, 1911.]

AN ACT

To provide for the Registration of Architects in the Union of S. Africa.

PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the registration of persons publicly practising or entitled to practise publicly as Architects within the South African Union, with a view to distinguishing qualified from unqualified persons.

And whereas it is necessary to provide a qualification for the admission and registration of such Architects.

And to form a South African Institution for this purpose and for the general advancement of Architecture and for promoting and facilitating the acquirement of the knowledge of the various arts and sciences connected therewith.

The co-operation and support of the following established professional bodies has been secured, viz.:—

(*a*) The Association of Transvaal Architects (Incorporated under the Architects' Private Act, 1909, of the Legislature of the Transvaal Colony) as published in the *Transvaal Government Gazette* extraordinary of 21st July, 1909, and by Proclamation of a supplement thereto in the *Transvaal Government Gazette* of 24th December, 1909.

(*b*) The Transvaal Institute of Architects.
(*c*) The Cape Institute of Architects.
(*d*) The Natal Institute of Architects (incorporated).
(*e*) The Society of Architects.

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty and with the advice and consent of the Senate and Legislative Assembly of the Union of South Africa as follows:—

Six months after the coming into operation of this Act the Architects' Private Act, Transvaal, 1909, shall be repealed and this Act take its place, and all the assets and liabilities of the Association of Transvaal Architects shall be taken over and assumed by the Institute hereby incorporated. All members of the Association of Transvaal Architects will *ipso facto* become members of this Institute without paying the registration fee hereinafter referred to.

1. After the expiration of six months from the coming into operation of this Act no person shall describe or hold himself out as an architect or use any name, title, addition, or description, or letters indicating that he is an architect, whether by advertisement, by description in or at his place of business, or residence, by any document, or otherwise, unless he is registered as an architect in pursuance of this Act.

This clause shall not apply to any person resident outside the sub-Continent of South Africa, who is entitled to register under Clause 8a, but such person must apply for registration if resident in the Union of South Africa for a longer period collectively than one month in five years, he shall, however, be entitled to practise after having made his application for registration until he has been accepted or refused. Nor shall it apply to any person engaged solely in the capacity of Architectural Assessor.

2. Any person contravening any of the provisions of section *one* hereof shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds for each offence and in default of payment to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months.

3. Upon the coming into operation of this Act there shall come into existence a body corporate entitled "The South African Institute of Architects" with perpetual succession and the right to use a common seal and to sue and be sued in its corporate capacity, and the said body corporate shall be capable in law of taking and holding any movable or immovable property for the benefit and purposes of the Institute with power to dispose thereof, but so that the Institute shall apply its funds and assets in promoting the objects of the Institute and shall not at any time pay any dividend to its members.

The said Institute shall further be empowered to dispose of its funds, subject to such limitations or restrictions as the Bye-Laws may from time to time prescribe, in furthering architectural education and in conducting such examinations as the Institute may be empowered to hold under the authority of this Act or may hereafter be empowered by statute to hold, and in founding, maintaining, and improving libraries, museums, laboratories and collections, in publishing a journal or calender, in conducting or assisting architectural or scientific research, the collection of models and other works of art, the support of architectural schools, in assisting any member thereof in or initiating any litigation in which questions affecting the rights of members generally are involved, and in otherwise promoting the objects of the Institute.

The said Institute may, after complying with all requisites from time to time required by law in that behalf receive and hold any donations or endowments consisting of property of any description, real, personal, or mixed, for the general purposes of the Institute, and may also receive donations or endowments for prize medals, exhibitions, studentships or scholarships or for any special objects connected with the Institute which shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

The said Institute may after complying with all requisites from time to time required by law in that behalf receive and hold any donations or endowments which may be given for any benevolent purposes connected with architecture or architects.

Every person registered as an architect as hereinafter provided shall upon such registration *ipso facto* become a member of this Institute.

4. Upon the coming into operation of this Act, there shall come into existence a Provisional Council comprising four local committees, and consisting of a total of 17 members in proportions as hereunder mentioned:—

Transvaal local committee	7
Cape Province local committee	5
Natal Province local committee	3
Orange Free State local committee	2
Total forming the Provisional Council...	17

Note.—The names of the members to represent the several local Committees to be selected as follows, and before the Draft Act is complete, and their names only to appear in the Act opposite their respective Province.

Transvaal.—To be elected by the Association of Trans- Architects and to include the President of the said Association.
Cape Province.—Ditto Cape Institute of Architects.
Natal Province.—Ditto Natal Institute of Architects.
Orange Free State. Ditto resident members of the Society of Architects.

In the event of any of the above Institutes or Society of Architects failing to comply with the above conditions, the vacancies shall be filled up by the Governor-General in Council.

The Provisional Council shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, exercise all the powers of the Institute not otherwise allocated to the Local Committees, until the Council hereinafter mentioned shall come into office.

Should any of the said persons die or become incapacitated or refuse to become or remain members of the said Provisional Council or Local Committees, the Governor-General in Council may appoint other qualified persons to fill their places.

5. The quorum necessary for the business of the Local Committee shall be a full majority of the whole committee personally present, and that the Provisional Council shall be a full majority of the whole Council with a minimum of 7 personally present and the remainder represented by proxy.

Upon the coming into operation of this Act, the Local Committees shall thenceforth receive applications for Registration, and shall forward same to the Provisional Council with their report on same for Registration, each application to be duly entered under the Province from which the application was received.

Upon such dates to be fixed by the President of the Transvaal Association of Architects, who shall be the convener of the said Provisional Council, the said Provisional Council shall meet at Johannesburg, and shall decide all questions relating to this Act, including the admission or otherwise of the applications for Registration, and shall have power to allocate to the Local Committees any powers they may deem it necessary.

Written notices of all meetings at which the admission of members is to be dealt with shall be posted at least 14 days before the date of such meetings.

The Provisional Council shall have power to appoint a clerk or registrar, and such other officers as they may deem necessary for the purpose of the Institute.

The said Provisional Council shall remain in office until six months after the date of the coming-into operation of this Act.

The Provisional Council shall be empowered to allocate such sum or sums of money as they shall deem fit in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

6. The Provisional Council shall forthwith open a register in which any person shall be entitled to be registered as a member in pursuance of this Act who proves to the satisfaction of the Provisional Council within six months next after the coming into operation of this Act that at the date of the coming into operation of this Act he was resident and domiciled in British South Africa, and possessed of the following qualifications:—

(*a*) was a member of the Cape Institute of Architects, Natal Institute of Architects or of any other institute or society of architects of equal standing; or

(*b*) Was publicly and *bona fide* practising as an architect in South Africa prior to 31st December, 1910; or

(*c*) was at such aforesaid time, or prior to the coming into operation of this Act, engaged as an assistant to an architect in South Africa and has had at least seven years' professional experience; or

(*d*) that he is possessed of qualifications and experience which may be declared by the Governor-General-in-Council by proclamation to be equal to those in one or other of the foregoing instances.

(*e*) Though belonging to no Institute or Society of Architects, has been publicly and in good faith practising exclusively as an architect in any portion of British South Africa for a term of four years prior to the date of this Act and was still so practising at that date provided he can produce

(1) regular articles of indenture for a term of three years, or evidence that he has served previously as an assistant to an architect for four years, making a total of seven years' experience; and

(2) sufficient documents in support of work done during the four years' private practice, also sworn affidavits that he has originated and composed architectural designs and carried them into execution; or

(*f*) was employed and salaried for such employment in British South Africa exclusively as a responsible architect; provided that he can produce

(1) letters of appointment in such capacity and employer's testimony or other evidence of satisfactory service;

(2) sufficient documentary evidence in support of purely architectural work done and carried into execution during that period, also sworn affidavits that such work was his own and original composition; and

(3) has had such previous architectural experience and engagements as may make up a total period of seven years' employment; or

(*g*) was engaged in British South Africa as an assistant to an architect who is entitled to be registered under this Act provided he can satisfy the Provisional Council that he has had at least seven years experience exclusively in architectural work.

7. At the expiry of the six months mentioned as the limit of the authority of the Provisional Council the powers of such Provisional Council shall be transferred to the Council hereinafter mentioned, who shall thereafter deal exclusively with all applications for registration that may be received after the expiry of the said six months. The Provisional Council is to deal definitely with all applications received by them within the term of their authority, and if necessary the term of such authority may be extended by the Council for the completion of the special duty connected with such applications for registration.

8. Upon the expiration of six months from the date of the coming into operation of this Act no person shall be entitled to be registered in the said register as an architect unless he shall prove to the satisfaction of the majority of the whole Council hereinafter mentioned

(*a*) That he is possessed of the diploma of the F.R.I.B.A. or R.A. or A.R.A. or other diploma of equal qualifications or experience which may be declared by the Governor-General-in-Council equivalent to the diplomas referred to in this sub-section.

(*b*) That at the date of his application for registration he is resident in British South Africa and has attained the age of twenty-one years; and

(*b*1) has passed the examination for associateship of the Royal Institute of British Architects or the examination for membership of the Society of Architects of London or the examination or examinations conducted by the Council and prescribed by the bye-laws of the Institute or some other examination which may be declared by the Governor-General-in-Council by proclamation to be equivalent to one or any of these examinations, and has in addition had at least four years' professional training and in addition one year's practical experience as an assistant to an architect; or

(*b*2) that prior to, or at the time of, the coming into operation of this Act he was registered as an associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects or as a member of the Society of Architects of London or as a member in any class of the Association of Transvaal Architects, or of the Transvaal, Cape, or Natal Institutes of Architects or of some other Society or Institute of Architects which the GovernorGeneral-in-Council may by proclamation declare to be of a standing equal to that of one of the said Institutions.

(*b*3) that he is possessed of qualifications and experience which may be declared by the Governor-General-in-Council by proclamation to be equal to those in one or other of the foregoing instances.

9. Where the Council has refused to register the name of a person applying to be registered under sections *six* or *seven*, such person may apply on notice of motion to the Supreme Court for a review of the decision of the Council, and the said Court may thereupon make such order as it may deem fit.

10. The Provisional Council or the Council, as the case may be, shall, within a week after the registration of any person under this Act, transmit to the Minister of the Interior a duplicate of the said entry and the Minister of the Interior shall cause a duplicate of the aforesaid register to be kept in his office. Every change affecting the register shall be noted therein and notified to the Minister of the Interior.

11. No person shall be placed upon the register until he has paid such registration fee, not exceeding five guineas, as shall be fixed by the Provisional Council or the Council, as the case may be.

12. It shall be lawful for any person whose name has been placed on the said register and whose professional conduct is not then the subject of investigation at any time to resign by writing under his hand addressed and delivered to the Council and thereupon his name shall be removed from the said register and he shall cease to be registered as an architect and to be a member of the Institute.

13. Every member of the Institute shall pay an annual subscription at such time and of such amount as shall be fixed by the bye-laws framed as hereinafter provided; provided however that members who have ceased to practice shall be entitled to remain on the register without being liable to pay such subscription but shall not be entitled to be officers of the Institute or to be present or vote at any of the proceedings of the Institute or to be reckoned in any quorum.

14. All sums of money due by members to the Institute

for registration fees or subscriptions may be recovered in the court of any resident magistrate within whose jurisdiction the debtor may reside. An affidavit by the secretary setting forth the necessary facts shall, in cases by default, be *prima facie* evidence upon which the court may grant an order or pronounce judgment by default in such suit and such judgment shall be enforceable in ordinary course of law.

15. Upon the completion of the duties of the Provisional Council, as set forth in Article 7, that Council shall within one calendar month of such completion, convene a meeting in Johannesburg of all persons whose names appear upon the register at the date on which the notices convening such meeting are issued, such notices to be posted to the registered address of such persons at least one month before the date fixed for the said meeting, and at such meeting the persons present or represented by proxy in writing shall proceed to elect in manner to be provided by the Provisional Council a Council of 20 members who shall come into office upon the expiration of six months from the date of the coming into operation of this Act and thereupon the Provisional Council shall cease to exist. The Council shall hold office until the date of the first or next annual general meeting as the case may be when they shall retire from office, but shall be eligible for re-election.

The above-mentioned 20 members of Council shall be elected by a ballot of members in the following Provinces whose representation upon the Council shall be regulated by the comparative number of the members practising in the province with a minimum of three, viz.:—The Transvaal, the Cape Colony, Natal, the Orange Free State. It being understood that the province in which a member is registered shall be the province in which he must register his vote, and he can only vote for the representatives of that province, he may however transfer his vote to any other province provided he has been resident in that province for a period of not less than six months.

16. The following acts and practices, whether of commission or omission, upon the part of any architect shall be offences under the provisions of this Act and, if found guilty by the Supreme Court of having committed or engaged in any one or more of such acts or practices, such architect shall be liable to be suspended from practice for any period that may be decided on by the said Court or to have his name removed from the register as hereinafter provided: that is to say:—

(*a*) allowing any person except a registered architect in partnership with himself to practise in his name as an architect;

(*b*) directly or indirectly sharing his professional remuneration with any person not being a registered architect in partnership with him, or directly or indirectly accepting any share of the professional remuneration of such person or any commission or bonus thereon;

(*c*) signing accounts, statements, reports, specifications, plans, bills of quantities, or other documents purporting to represent any architectural work performed by himself which work shall not have been performed under his personal supervision or direction;

(*d*) directly or indirectly paying a person or persons a commission for bringing him work, giving any person or persons monetary or other consideration as a remuneration for bringing him work, or for inducing other persons to give him work.

(*e*) improperly obtaining or attempting to obtain work;

(*f*) performing any architectural work in connection with any matter which is the subject of dispute or litigation upon condition that only in the event of the said dispute or litigation ending favourably for the party for whom the work is performed shall payment be made for such work;

(*g*) conducting himself unprofessionally or dishonourable in connection with any work performed by him as an architect;

(*h*) wilfully disobeying, refusing, or neglecting to carry out and perform any bye-law or order lawfully adopted and established by the Institute regarding any point of professional practice;

(i) engaging in any practices or performing any acts similar to those acts and practices prohibited in the aforegoing sections.

17. If the conduct or behaviour of any member of the Institute shall appear to the Provisional Council or the Council to require investigation, they shall, before proceeding against such member in the Supreme or Provincial Court, as provided in the next succeeding section, hold an enquiry and, if required by such member, hear evidence on the matter. Fourteen days' written notice of the charges against him and of the date and place of such enquiry shall be given to the member concerned, who shall be entitled to appear at such enquiry to answer such charges and to produce evidence on his behalf, and his own evidence (if any) shall be admissible against him in any other proceedings, civil or criminal. If such member requires evidence to be heard the Provisional Council or Council may also hear evidence against such member. Where evidence is to be heard the President or Vice-President may administer the oath to witnesses and such witnesses shall be subject to the law relating to perjury.

18. In the event of any member of the Institute, being in the opinion of the Provisional Council or Council guilty of any act or omission prohibited by this Act, or offending against any bye-law framed thereunder, the Provisional Council or the Council may call upon such member to show cause to the Provincial Court of this Union why he should not be prohibited from practising as an architect, and why his name should not be removed from the register. All such proceedings shall be taken in the name of the Institute. Upon the hearing of any such matter the court may suspend such member from practice, remove his name from the register or make such other order as may seem fit and may further make such order as to costs as may seem fit. In case of such suspension or removal, copies of the order of Court shall be lodged with the Minister of the Interior and the Institute and noted in the register.

19. In case any member of the Institute shall in consequence of an order of Court be suspended from practising as an architect in this Union, such person shall, during such time as he is suspended, cease to be a member of the Institute, but shall nevertheless be liable to pay all moneys due by him up to the date of such suspension.

20. No claim against the assets of the Institute shall exist in the case of, or to be made by, any person whose name has ceased to appear upon the register of the Institute.

21. Every person whose name appears on the register shall be entitled to style himself Registered Architect, South Africa.

22. The Council shall have power to do each and all of the following acts:—

(*a*) to manage and superintend the affairs of the Institute; and to take all steps necessary to protect the interests of its members;

(*b*) to appoint and remove any servants of the Institute and to determine the duty, salary, and remuneration of the same;

(*c*) to accept or refuse for good cause any application for registration made in pursuance of this Act;

(*d*) to provide for examinations for applicants for registration and to grant certificates to such persons as have satisfied the examiners in such examinations;

(*e*) generally to exercise all the powers of the Institute, except such powers as are expressly reserved by this Act to the Institute in general meeting.

23. Any member who is more than one month in arrear with his subscription shall not be qualified to be present or vote or be reckoned in a quorum at any meeting of the Provisional Council, or Council, or of Members, while he is so in arrear.

24. There shall be held once in each year a general meeting of the Institute whereat every architect upon the register who is not disqualified under sections 13 and 23 hereof shall be entitled to vote personally or by proxy in writing. The quorum for such general meeting shall be fixed by the bye-laws.

No member shall, under any circumstances, be allowed to exercise more than six votes by proxy either directly or indirectly at any meeting.

Any question to be decided at such meeting shall be decided by a majority of the members present or represented thereat.

The Council shall prepare as at the thirty-first of December in each year a balance-sheet of the affairs of the Institute and an account of all moneys received and expended by the

Institute and submit such account duly audited to the Institute at such general meeting for discussion and approval. The officers of the Institute who shall consist of the members of the Council and of a President and two Vice-Presidents (who shall, however, be members of the Council) shall be elected annually at such meeting, and the said officers shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election.

It shall be lawful for any member or members of the Institute at such meeting to move any resolution which is not inconsistent with the purposes and provisions of this Act.

25. The person presiding over the Provisional Council or Council or at any general meeting shall have a deliberative as well as a casting vote.

26. The Provisional Council shall forthwith prepare draft bye-laws for the Institute for the purposes enumerated in the next succeeding article which shall be submitted to a series of meetings of members of the Institute after the duties of the Provisional Council are completed in terms of Article 7. Such bye-laws are to be approved by members within three months of the coming into existence of the first yearly Council mentioned in Article 15. The notice convening such meeting or meetings shall be posted to the registered address of each member of the Institute at least 21 days before the day appointed for such meeting or meetings and shall be accompanied by a copy of the said draft bye-laws.

A majority of the members personally present or represented by proxy in writing at such meeting shall be sufficient to determine all matters to be decided thereat and the non-receipt of the said notice or copy of the proposed bye-laws by any member or members shall not invalidate the proceedings at the said meeting, provided that one-third of the number of members then on the register shall be present personally or be represented by proxy in writing.

27. The Council may from time to time, subject to the approval of the Institute assembled in a special general meeting called for the purpose, make bye-laws for any of the following purposes, provided that such bye-laws be not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, and may alter, amend, or repeal such bye-laws including the bye-laws framed under the last preceding section, that is so say:—

(*a*) for fixing the amount of the annual subscription payable by members and the time of payment of the same;

(*b*) for defining what shall be considered unprofessional or dishonourable conduct on the part of an architect;

(*c*) for regulating the time, mode, and place of summoning and holding ordinary and special general meetings and the quorum to be present thereat and the mode of voting and the conduct of proceedings at any such meetings and the regulations for the adjournment thereof;

(*d*) for regulating the time, mode, and place of the meetings of the Council and the quorum to be present thereat;

(*e*) for regulating the mode of nomination of members for election to the Council and the mode of filling casual vacancies thereon;

(*f*) for regulating the times and places for holding examinations of applicants for registration and the subjects and the manner of conducting or holding any such examinations, and for fixing a reasonable fee to be paid by applicants and the conditions on which the examiners shall hold office and their remuneration, if any;

(*g*) for relegating powers of examination to Universities of the Union or other bodies;

(*h*) for regulating the mode of election of the officers of the Institute;

(*i*) for fixing a tariff prescribing the remuneration which architects shall charge for their services;

(*j*) for regulating the relation of architects to quantity surveying;

(*k*) for determining the qualification and disqualification of members of Council;

(*l*) for the regulation of architectural competitions;

(*m*) for constituting, organising and controlling provincial or district branches and for dissolving same;

(*n*) for appointing such committees as the Council may deem fit for promoting the objects of the Institute;

(*o*) for framing standing orders for regulating the conduct of debate at all meetings of the Institute;

(*p*) for regulating and registering the terms of apprenticeship or pupilage to architects;

(*q*) and generally for framing such bye-laws as from time to time seem to the Institute requisite for giving effect to the provisions of this Act and for the furtherance of the objects of the Institute.

28. No alteration in the bye-laws as adopted at the special general meeting referred to in section *twenty-seven* shall be made save by a majority of two-thirds of the members personally present or represented by proxy in writing at the special general meeting convened for the purpose of sanctioning such alteration. Notice of such meeting, and of the alteration or alterations to be proposed thereat, shall be sent by post to the registered address of each member of the Institute at least one calendar month before the date fixed for the meeting but the non-receipt of such notice by any member or members shall not invalidate the proceedings thereat provided that one-third of the members then on the register shall be personally present or be represented by proxy in writing.

29. No bye-law framed and adopted under sections *twenty-six* and *twenty-seven* of this Act and no alteration, amendment or repeal of any such bye-law shall have any force and effect until the same shall have been approved of by the Governor-General-in-Council and published in the *Union Gazette* whereupon they shall have the force of law and shall be binding upon all members of the Institute in so far as the same are not in conflict with the provisions of this Act.

30. The Governor-General-in-Council shall at all times have the power to repeal the existing bye-laws of the Institute and may from time to time alter, amend and add to such bye-laws, provided that such alteration, amendment and addition be not in conflict with the provisions of this Act.

31. The Council may allocate such sum or sums of money as shall be proved to their satisfaction to have been expended in promoting this Act, and which sum or sums are, in the opinion of the Council, reasonable, and may order the same to be paid through their Treasurer to the body or bodies, person or persons, who may establish the claim or claims within twelve months of the coming into operation of this Act.

32. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Architects' Registration Bill 1911, and shall come into operation and have the force of law on the publication thereof in the *Union Gazette*.

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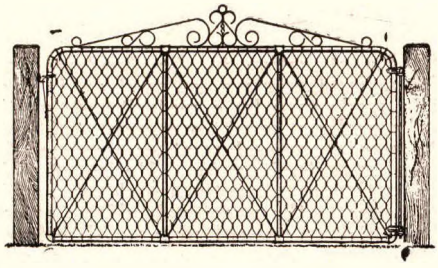
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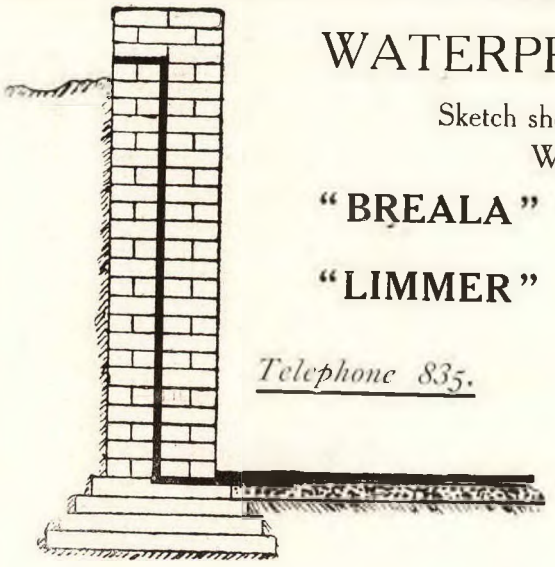
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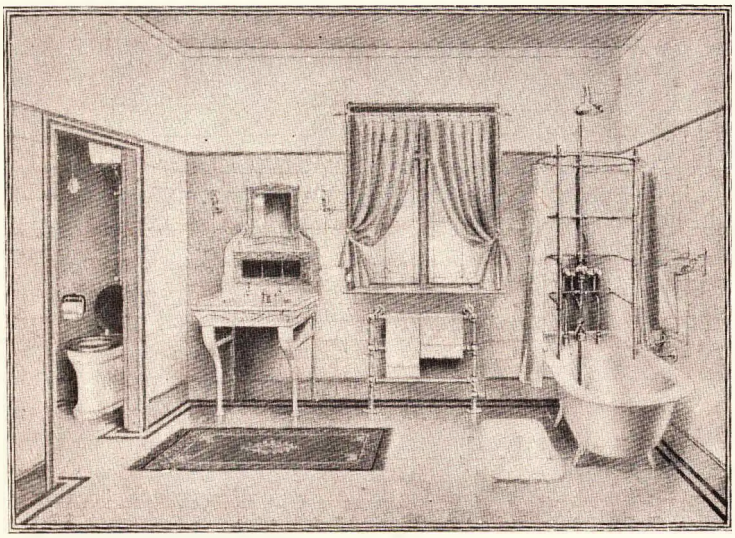
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