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

1916

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

http://hdl.handle.net/10539/18868

South African Architectural Record; Journal of the Transvaal, Natal and Orange Free State Provincial Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors. 1916 vol 1: 1-4 p1-50

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THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TRANSVAAL ARCHITECTS

No. 3. Vol. I. SEPTEMBER, 1916 [ISSUED QUARTERLY] Price 1/-

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EX NIHILO, NIHIL FIT.

Elsewhere in this issue of the journal is published a brief resumé of the proceedings of the meeting of Transvaal Architects held on June 28th last, to hear a paper read by Mr. Delbridge on Professional Organisation amongst Architects in the Union of South Africa. After some seven years of the very organisation advocated by the lecturer, the Architects of the Transvaal were able to muster to the magnificent number of fifteen, and so prove conclusively the the value of Jacob's term of service.

We listened carefully throughout the evening, for three hours and a half, hoping against hope that some argument might be produced to enlighten us upon the reasons for this onslaught upon the architectural freedom of the remainder of South Africa. We could find no single ground upon which any justifiable cause could be based for further increasing the menacing shackles upon the young aspiring architect in the country—except that it was going to benefit the existing practitioner.

Indeed, after the paper had been read to the meeting, those present were not at all astounded that one of the oldest and most respected practitioners in the Transvaal should arise and inform the Chairman that he could see no reason why the meeting had been called!

The surprise of the evening, however, and to no one more so than the mover, was, that the proposal to pray for the repeal of the existing Transvaal Registration Act was only negatived by three votes! Surely a situation such as this should be cause for reflection.

In the first issue of this journal we had occasion to point out the hollow mockery of an Act which had been set into operation with no apparent machinery for architectural education or the care of the interest of the student; and had been so ill-drawn and so utterly lacking in foresight and common sense that it even failed in the only evident object the promoters had in mind, which appears to us to have been a desire to "form a corner" in Architecture for existing practitioners.

We can imagine no more conclusive statement against such an intolerable position than the remarks upon the registration of Architects by Sir T. G. Jackson, R.A., which were read by Mr. J. M. Solomon.

Further, we have not one jot of sympathy with those members who voted against the suggestion for repeal, simply on the ground that it would be a retrogressive step. What is the evidence against the Act? It deals harshly and unfairly with old-established architects—or, for the matter of that, young ones—who have gone through years of training and practice, but can produce no paper evidence of a diploma by any body recognised by the Association of Transvaal Architects; it refuses them admission, except by examination, to the ranks of the Association, and often places them under obligation of examination by those who themselves have not acquired their papers of registration by any such means.

It brings its ponderous but powderless batteries into operation, through the Courts, upon some unfortunate and

Ex Nihilo, Nihil Fit.—*continued.*]

ill-advised misnomer who is eking out a miserable pittance in some wretched part of the country, whilst its High Priests are themselves guilty of the very defalcations. It lays itself open to shameless retorts from its original promoters when its bye-laws respectfully ask them to comply with the demands which by their own asking Parliament has reluctantly granted.

Altogether the sorry state of affairs it has produced in the Transvaal should make any sensible person sceptical of approaching the legislators of the land with any idea of its ludicrous extension. On the admission of Mr. Delbridge himself there was no possible hope of getting the New Draft Bill, prepared through years of infinite labour and experience of the inoperativeness of the existing Act, through even a sympathetic House. Can there be any earthly reason why this mis-shapen and dumb offspring should continue to arrest the progress of Architecture in South Africa? The whole thing has become a ridiculous farce, which every sensible member, possessing a spark of humour, must realise after he leaves each sterile meeting of the Association.

In a young country such as ours, where Art is still in its swathling clothes, is it not absurd to endeavour to promote legislation which older and experienced communities realise to be impossible? We can no more hope to produce a nation of Architects or Art Lovers by legislation than we can hope to inculcate the song of the nightingale into our veld birds. In Architecture, as in Imperial France, Napoleon's dictum, to which Carlyle gave his blessing: "The tools to the man who can use them," must for ever remain an inexorable law.

THE RENAISSANCE.

The Architecture of Humanism: A Study in the History of Taste, by Geoffrey Scott (Constable and Co., Ltd.). 7/6 nett.

There is no subject so little understood by the average critic, and certainly no study so clouded by worn-out controversy, as the philosophy of architecture. The underlying reason for this is, perhaps, to be found in the fact that so little writing usually comes from the pen of the architect himself; no amateur, obscuring his ethics by sonorous prose as Ruskin did, can hope to discuss the theory of the art with that impressiveness and authenticity which is the concomitant of the actual executant.

There has recently been published a work on the product of those four centuries which formed the Renaissance, limited in this instance to its source in Italy, which will well repay architects by its careful reading.

The profound scholarship and elegant prose style is eminently calculated to attract the lay mind, and from this point of view may do incalculable good.

Mr. Geoffrey Scott, in withering and completely destructive terms, exposes the romantic fallacy which Ruskin, with all the fervour of a Hebrew prophet, spent his best years in expounding. It was his purpose to pour wrath upon "the absurdity of construction" during the Renaissance, and to endeavour to prove its "corrupt and moral nature." To-day, however, the sensible enjoy his fine, majestic language, and pay little heed to his technical criticism—especially when he blames.

The author makes havoc of the other three fallacies—"mechanical," "ethical" and "biological"—which, being less rooted in popular sentiment, are not nearly so dangerous.

Because the Renaissance did not happen to fit into the scheme of an orderly evolution, but was based on Taste and Scholarship, it was subjected to unctuous criticism by well-meaning old gentlemen, who extolled the mediæval craftsman, assumed to have carved his gargoyle for the glory of God as against the Renaissance "slave craftsman" who was supposed to have toiled joylessly and irreligiously at his work.

We shall look forward to the volume which Mr. Scott promises us in amplification of his argument. He pleads at the end for simple but sensitive perception of artistic values and the abandonment of over-theorising. Meanwhile, we shall remember with Goethe that "Classic is health; the Romantic is disease." J. M. S.

COMPETITIONS AND THE YOUNG MAN.

We have not so far seen any protest from the senior members of the Architectural Profession in S.A. regarding the unfair conditions relative to the competition for the proposed Bathing Pavilion at Muizenberg.

The conditions of this competition, which had the approval of the various architectural bodies, instance in Clause 26 (g):—That a design will be excluded from the competition "if the author is engaged upon the permanent or temporary staff of the Corporation of the City of Capetown, or that of the Public Works Department."

Now it is obvious that the City Council should exclude its own staff, for reasons which need no explanation; but can there be any valid reason why young architectural assistants in the employ of the P.W.D. or any other Department not directly connected with the City Council, should be penalised any more than assistants of private practitioners?

We ourselves are opposed to this method of obtaining architectural designs, for reasons which need not now be explained; but we are constantly hearing our seniors protesting that this is the only method whereby the talented youth of the country may be discovered, and therefore afford the method their zealous advocacy. It is to be presumed, therefore, that the P.W.D., which has on its staff a large body of young architectural draughtsmen, both temporary and permanent, is devoid of talent; but surely this should have received some zealous opposition from those practising members of the profession who were themselves once employed on the staff of that Department.

We have here, once again, the sanest evidence of the utter lack of interest which the venerable gentlemen who are always supplying us with pious platitudes about the necessity of helping the youth of the country display when occasion makes it possible for them to retain within their own compass any architectural plum at which the young Jack Horner may prospectively bite!

OBITUARY.

ERNEST WILMOTT.

Born 1871. Died June 12, 1916, at Bramleys, Little Kingshill, Great Missenden, Bucks.

Domestic Architecture in South Africa was the poorer for his going when Ernest Wilmott left this country in 1906. His residence here was a few brief years crammed with work, despite ill-health. Perhaps few South African architects can shew so much work of a general excellent level as Wilmott was able after his brief sojourn with us. He joined Mr Herbert Baker at Capetown immediately after the Boer War, in 1902, and came with him to Johannesburg later in that year.

Ernest Wilmott's first excursion into Art was whilst he was still at school, when he attended evening classes at the Taunton School of Art. After leaving school, he went for about a year to help an architect named Roberts, in Taunton. This did not appeal to him at all, Roberts being of the utilitarian type, with little eye for beauty. He then served with the Great Western Railway for some years as Civil Engineer, being placed in charge of a section of the Kingsbridge line. It was at Kingsbridge that Wilmott, or Sloper, as he will be more familiarly known on the Rand, first became really keen about Architecture, for it was here that he was commissioned to build several small houses for friends.

This work brought him into touch with G. F. Bodley, R.A., and he then served several years in the office of Bodley and Garner, working on many of the churches for which those masters are renowned. It was from this office that he came to join Mr Herbert Baker.

No description will convey the charm of Mr. Wilmott's work to those who do not know his houses, and nothing I could say would help those who do. The intimate and loving detail; the care in choice of material and site; the evident joy in the choice of single stones and their handling in porch, gable and chimney, is a lesson which young architects will do well to study.

By the courtesy of his late firm, there is published in this number of the journal, together with a list, several examples of his work at Johannesburg. To this should be added many important works on his return to England.

In 1911 Ernest Wilmott published a book on "English House Design," being a selection and brief analysis of some of the best achievements in English domestic architecture from the 16th to the 20th century. This delightful work, which came from the House of Batsford, will indicate far better than I possibly could Wilmott's taste, culture and scholarly choice of architectural heroes. Few men worked more for the joy and love of creation in a not always sympathetic community than this reticent exponent of all that was best in simple, gentlemanly, domestic architecture.

J. M. S.

Supplied by Messrs. Baker and Fleming:—

Works upon which Ernest Wilmott was principally engaged, and into which his own individuality entered to a considerable extent:

A number of houses erected at Parktown by the Braamfontein Estate Co. Ltd., immediately after the war.
S. George's Church, Parktown
House at Kensington for J. Brown, Esq.
House at Riviera for Douglas Pennant, Esq.
Bishop's Kop, for the present Lord Bishop of Pretoria.
House at Parktown for Richard Feetham, Esq.
House at Parktown for Howard Pim, Esq.
Government House, Pretoria.
Government Buildings, Bloemfontein.
Westminster Estate, O.F.S., for H.G. the Duke of Westminster.
Churches at Krugersdorp and Randfontein.
Houses at Pretoria for Judge Mason, Sir William Solomon, Sir James Rose-Innes, G. F. C. Dent, Esq.
Roedean School, Parktown.
House at Inanda for W. Wyberg, Esq.
His own house, "Endstead," at Parktown.

ANT. M. DE WITT.

Ant. M. De Witt can be remembered by many of us as one of the earliest and keenest private practitioners in Cape Town, dating from 1880. His outstanding ability and notoriously cheerful disposition (which he maintained to the end of his life), enabled him to build up an extensive practice, and many examples of his work in Cape Town and suburbs yet remain to perpetuate his memory. Keen in all matters affecting the standard of his profession, he threw his earlier activities and energy into co-operating with his brother architects in endeavouring as far back as 1884 to procure legislative protection for the practise of architecture in the form of "Registration," to which principle he was a firm adherent to the last. In the late eighties and early nineties, there was a considerable revival in building activity in Cape Town, more particularly in commercial premises, of which he received his full share on account of his well-known integrity, as also his bent for originality in construction and design suiting his particular era of practise. He was further a firm exponent of the full tariff of charges for professional services rendered, in which connection he established some interesting precedents in the annals of Law at Cape Town. He was particularly active in Municipal matters, more particularly at Wynberg, where he built for himself a commodious and well-known residence.

Being decided in his methods, and firm in his principles in upholding the integrity of his profession, one can easily comprehend that his later years were not that "bed of roses" which should have been his due. Later he transferred to the Transvaal, and about 1910 became employed in the Public Works Department at Pretoria, where he continued until 1914. Once again he shewed his patriotism for the profession by joining the ranks of the Association of Transvaal Architects, carrying into his work and the discussions of our body that cheery optimism and activity so characteristic of the man, which endeared him to all with whom he came into contact.

The following were his principal works:—Lennon's and Jagger's Buildings; International Hotel; Colonnade Buildings, Capetown; Victoria Cottage Hospital, Wynberg; Congregational Church, Paarl; School, Tulbagh.

He has a son trained in America to follow the same profession.

WALTER REID.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION AMONG ARCHITECTS.

On the 28th June, an open meeting of architects was held in Johannesburg under the auspices of the Association, to hear a paper on the above subject by Mr. W. J. Delbridge, A.R.I.B.A., President of the Cape Institute of Architects. Mr. E. H. Waugh, President of the Association, presided, and the Transvaal Institute of Architects was officially represented by its President, Mr. J. Waterson, and Mr. D. Ivor Lewis, Past President of the Society of Architects (Lond.), acted as official delegate for that body, and Mr. M. J. Harris, later in the evening on Mr. Lewis' departure, then performed the same function. There was a fair number of architects present.

At the outset Mr. Waugh asked the meeting to give Mr. Delbridge a hearty welcome as the delegate of the Cape Institute, and of the permanent Registration Committee sitting in that town.

Mr. Delbridge then read his paper, which he had considerately put into print for the benefit of his hearers.

His paper, which was a very lengthy one, sketched the history of the Registration movement from the days, when an effort was first made, over 30 years ago, to found an Architects' Society in Cape Town, and referred, in appreciative terms, to the workers of that day, most of whom had now passed into the Great Beyond, only one or two still surviving. He then proceeded to review the various efforts to forward the registration movement, both before and after the Boer War, and explained fully the schemes made since 1909 to push the work to a successful climax, by passing an Act through Parliament for the whole of South Africa. They had now, he contended, come to a place in their movement when circumstances required a more definitely constituted body than a Registration Committee, a body which would be able to act authoritatively for the whole profession, and to proceed, with certainty, to the goal which they had before them. He did not press for any definite constitution at present—details of which could be arranged at a later date—but he did urge the meeting to take a wide view of the matter and consider whether the present disconnected professional bodies could tackle this big work with the united energy which could be only found under a new institute formed specially for the purpose. He believed they were, at present, somewhat powerless to proceed further with success, and therefore pleaded with his audience to come to a decision to create an institute which could truly represent architecture in South Africa to Parliament.

Mr. Delbridge received a due meed of applause for his paper, and his very evident sincerity did much to secure for him the sympathy of his audience.

In order to facilitate mutual understanding the chairman announced that, before discussion took place, questions could be asked, and for nearly an hour, Mr. Delbridge was kept busy answering and explaining.

He stated that he was not pledged to federation, unification, or affiliation, but thought the first difficult, owing to varying constitutions, but believed, personally, that a new South African Institute could be formed to which existing bodies could affiliate, thereby enabling each to retain its own freedom and identity, simply committing to the new body certain broad questions, such as the great one of registration.

Considerable misconception was aroused in the minds of some speakers who were under the impression that the Cape Architects were endeavouring to pass a Provincial law for themselves, and leave out the other Provinces. To this impression Mr. Delbridge offered an unqualified denial. He reviewed the law societies' recent successful essay in professional legislation; the Cape Law Society had voluntary powers, whereas the other Provincial Law Societies had compulsory powers, so the Cape profession went to Parliament and obtained a Provincial Act; and so now all the law societies can join hands, and go to Parliament with a single voice when it suits them to do so. He also reviewed the unsuccessful Accountants' Bill.

Mr. Delbridge was very emphatic, that if the architectural profession went for an entirely new Act, they would meet with failure. The only hope was to extend the present Act, with considerable revision, as might be necessary. An entirely new Act would not meet with success, and in this they had had the very best advice, both in Parliament, and out of it. They could even have the Act amended, so that there could be an absolutely new preamble, at least, so they had been advised by professional experts in the matter.

The Cape Institute did not want to pass a Provincial Act only; they wanted to co-operate with the other Provinces in obtaining a Union Act, an extension of the present Transvaal Act to the Union, altered as they will, but retaining its present name, so that in effect they might even only retain the name and find most of the Act very different to the present one.

Mr. Delbridge stated that it would not be possible to legalise professional fees in any profession under the Roman Dutch Law; it was a question of payment according to services rendered, and it would not be practicable to obtain recognition of a tariff by Parliament.

In replying to certain queries in the minds of several gentlemen present, the visitor stated he had come to Johannesburg at the wish of his own Institute, and of the Registration Committee, of which he was a member, to lay the difficulties of the position before the Architects in this Province, and to make certain proposals, chief of which was that for a unification of the various Societies, by federation or affiliation, to a central Society. He had full powers to speak for the two bodies mentioned. He was not, as it were, representing just an outside Society, but as one of the Transvaal's own delegates—as well as the Cape's—sitting on a committee for registration on behalf of all the interested bodies. The meeting represented, as far as distance permitted, the united architects of South Africa, and it was in that broad sense they should regard themselves.

After further discussion, Mr. M. J. Harris moved, and Mr. D. M. Sinclair seconded, that:—

> "This meeting expresses its confidence in the Registration Committee recently appointed by the Association of Transvaal Architects and considers that the Registration Committee, appointed by the various centres, constitutes the proper body to act on behalf of the united profession in South Africa."

Mr. Harris explained that he referred to first, the four recently appointed by the Association of Transvaal Archi-



Designed by Mr. Ernest Wilmott. "BISHOPSKOP" (South Front), PARKTOWN. For the Lord Bishop of Pretoria.



Designed by Mr. Ernest Wilmott. DRAWING ROOM AT "BISHOPSKOP," PARKTOWN For the Lord Bishop of Pretoria.

tects, and secondly, to the Registration bodies appointed by the various centres; that is, the combined registration bodies, appointed by the various centres, constitute the proper body, to act on behalf of the united profession in South Africa.

Mr. Delbridge expressed his disappointment at the motion, and considered that professional organization did not begin and end with registration. After considerable discussion he moved that:—

> "This meeting affirms its sympathy with the proposal to preserve the identity of the existing South African Architectural Societies, for local purposes, but to affiliate the said Societies with a new organization, viz., the South African Institute of Architects, to deal with broader questions."

It was eventually agreed by the movers to bracket the two motions together, as, after explanation, it appeared that there was nothing antagonistic in them. After this, Mr. J. M. Solomon moved the following amendment:—

> "That this meeting of Transvaal Architects, recognising that the existing Provincial Registration Act is entirely premature, (a) decides to work for its repeal;
>
> (b), further, by the promotion of a voluntary association or institute of the Architects of the Union, pledges itself to secure educational facilities for the youth of South Africa desirous of becoming Architects, as being the best means of furthering the interests of Architecture."

Mr. Solomon urged the importance of education, and disapproved of compulsory qualification and registration, until proper opportunities for study were afforded to aspirants for the architectural profession. Practically nothing had been done in this direction, in spite of the promises of the promoters of the present Transvaal Act. Although an anti-registrationist, he would not oppose registration, if he thought the whole of the Architects were in favour of it, but not until proper schemes of education had been brought into being.

He read the following letter from Sir T. G. Jackson, on the Registration of Architects:—

"In reply to your request for my opinion on the subject of registration of architects, I can only say that I still hold the same opinion as of old, that the real object of the movement is to give the architect a sham respectability by means of a diploma. The protection of the public is a mere excuse to float it into favour. The public cannot be protected against bad architecture by any Act of Parliament whatever, and against bad building there are already safeguards enough—almost too many. What else are building Acts and by-laws created for? Is it likely that if a body of men were issued to the public duly stamped and hall-marked as architects, by-laws would no more be necessary? The whole movement seems in my humble judgement fictitious: I might almost say dishonest. The cry is that the doctor and the attorney have diplomas, and belong to a closed profession which gives them a monopoly. Why may we not have a diploma and a monopoly, too, and keep all the plums for ourselves. We are told to think of the dignity of the profession, for which, personally, I do not care a straw. Every man will have the dignity and status which he deserves, and he has no right to any more.

The motive underlying the movement is the advantage of the architect, not that of architecture, for which it would do nothing, unless, indeed, it does infinite harm by excluding genius, and preventing men rising from the ranks who might do great things.

Let us, for Heaven's sake, keep that liberty which I believe to be the heart of the position the English school holds, and I think deserves to hold, in European estimation, and which under State regulations and restrictions will assuredly wither and die."

Several members considered that steps had been taken to provide architectural classes, and the new Act also proposed definite sums for education, and while appreciating the frank expression of his views, they did not agree with them.

Mr. Solomon's amendment was taken first, four members voting for it, and seven against, and was declared not carried; on which the bracketted double motion of Messrs. Harris and Delbridge was put and carried, by twelve votes against three.

Thanks were given to Mr. Delbridge for all the trouble he had taken, and the meeting terminated at 11.30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,

Journal of the Association of Transvaal Architects,

P.O. Box 2266, Johannesburg.

Sir,

With your kind permission I should like to be allowed to correct a wrong impression which I evidently gave in my article on "Unity in the Profession," judging from the remarks in your last number by my friend Mr. Howden. It was far from my desire to introduce a pessimistic tone, and no one I think who really knows me, would call me a pessimist. I did try to bring into the article a little humour, in order to allay any super-sensitiveness on the part of a reader.

I quite agree with Mr. Howden about there being good in everyone—even the worst criminal. The perfect image of his Creator is but obscured by a departure from high standards, and I am sure Mr. Howden, on his side, will agree that such ethical departures to which I referred need condemning, because suffering is involved not only to another but to the perpetrator. These remarks apply also to the artistic side. The man who has much time, is occupied in correcting mistakes of the day before—and making fresh ones for the morrow.

I also beg to endorse what Mr. Howden says—though in other words, there are "diversities of gifts," yet at the same time no man is allowed to practise as a doctor because he possesses social qualities, unless he has taken the trouble to satisfy his examiners, nor is a business man permitted to hold himself out as a lawyer, unless he has adopted a similar course. But either of the two men may—at present—practise as an architect, and he who has spent time and money in the study of architecture is cut out. We cannot expect the public to discriminate—swank and material display often being accepted for knowledge.

Yours, etc.,

E. J. Wellman.

BUSINESS AS USUAL.

AN EARLY WAR SKETCH

By G. Granger Fleming.

Phil Brandren, A.R.I.B.A., lounged back on his office chair and yawned. He had in his hand a copy of the Journal and had been intently studying one of the plates. Interesting though it was, yet it did not keep a full blooded, able bodied and highly trained young man sufficiently employed. Phil held the Errington Gold Medal and had been on a continental tour before he started business some six months previously. He was sitting in the identical office that he had been articled in. His old employer was however dead, and he had made some arrangement with the widow whereby he could gather up the threads of the old business. But the war had come and nobody was keen about building.

"Good old Penham," he soliloquised, "what a time we used to have here. How the old man used to work and what a staff we had at times. And Mrs. Penham,—well she has turned up trumps and given me a chance. Hope that some day I may be able to do them a good turn." "Them" included Mrs. Penham and Violet, her daughter, who had been a frequent visitor at the office ever since she was a small girl with hair plaited in the good old stiff style. The thought of her sent Phil off into a pleasant day dream, from which he was aroused by the postman's knock.

"Hullo, Postie, I thought you had forgotten me altogether."

"Not quite, Sir, and things are picking up again. Inspector said to-day he hoped things would soon be adnormal."

"'Adnormal' is right. Let's hope so. Thanks," and Phil took the business-like letter.

Before he could quite grasp the contents the office door was again opened and his chum, Sam Cracken, A.R.I.B.A., burst in.

"Hullo, old man. Business as usual, eh? Anything stirring?"

"A minute ago I thought of putting up the shutters, but it looks as if my luck had turned. See this," and they both read over the communication.

"Dear Sir,

"We have been led to understand that you have taken over the practice of the late Frederick Penham, F.R.I.B.A., who two years ago erected our business premises. We shouud be glad to learn at your earliest convenience if this is so or not."

The writers were a well-known firm of manufacturers of hosiery and the works which had been erected were on the outskirts of one of the garden cities, and had been built with a view to large extensions.

"Good old Phil! Your luck's turned at last, old man. Don't forget me when you need an assistant," and Sam was genuinely glad of the turn things seemed to have taken for his old chum.

"Well, I'll write, and you call in in a day or two and we'll see if it's a big or little job. I'll stand you a good feed, Sam, if there's anything in it."

And the youngsters, for they were youngsters still in spite of their studies and attainments, smiled broadly at the prospect of a good tuck in.

Three days afterwards, Sam called again. Phil was sitting on his office stool. His feet this time were up on the desk and he was whistling. "Well, what's the news? Did they reply?" queried Sam.

"No, they didn't," and then at the sign of disappointment on Sam's face, Phil added, "but somebody else wrote on their behalf, so that's just as good, or" he added as Sam visibly brightened, "just as bad, according to how you may take it."

"Why, what's wrong, old man?"

"Here read this. A letter from their lawyers."

"Dear Sir:" it ran,

"We are instructed by our clients, Messrs. . . . . to say that they are informed that you are continuing the practice of the late Mr. Frederick Penham, F.R.I.B.A. In view of this and of the fact that there has been a serious subsidence in the chief factory, which subsidence experts whom we have consulted declare to be from bad construction for which your predecessor was clearly responsible, we hereby notify you that we hold you responsible and shall be glad to learn what steps you mean to take to put same right at your own expense."

There was silence in the office. Sam hardly dared to look up at his friend. However, when he did he found him smiling.

"Did you ever, my boy?" said Phil, "This is succeeding to a business with a vengeance. It's succeeding without success, notwithstanding the old proverb."

"Sorry old man," was all that Sam could say, "but what do you mean to do? You're not responsible."

"Not a bit of it, and don't mean to be either. I don't think it was the old man's fault at all. It certainly isn't mine. Oh, I've the programme all chalked out, so don't look so glum."

Sam brightened. "Well, what is it?"

"Item No. 1.," and Phil counted them off on his fingers, "We'll go and have a cup of tea."

"First rate idea," said Sam.

"Item No. 2. We come back here. Coats off, waistcoats off, collars off, shirt sleeves turned up. Two able-bodied men in two hours will pack all this little lot."

"Right oh!" said Sam.

"Item No. 3, at two o'clock to-night or rather to-morrow morning, small cart and large horse come. Moonlight flitting, as my Scotch grandmother would say."

"Wonderful scheme," laughed Sam, "but the destination?"

"Wait a little, my boy. Item No. 4. Exodus to No. 7, Mascot Garens, at present occupied by Sam Cracken, Esq., Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and future president thereof."

"Hold on, old boy, not so fast. It's just like your cheek, of which you always had a double dose. And you're very welcome, as you know. But that scenic painter who pays half rent of my office occupies seven-eighths of it, and there isn't room for an office boy, let alone you and all this stuff."

"Quietly, quietly, my boy," said Phil smilingly, "You have a splendid cellar, haven't you? Airy, dry——"

"But as dark as night," interjected Sam, "and no electric light in it. You could never work there, Phil."

"Don't mean to, my friend. Item No. 5 refers to me. Old Volunteer. Chance of Commission. Couldn't get away before. Dad objected. He now agrees. I signed on to-day. Off to the front to-mororw. What ho, my boy! How's that for 'BUSINESS AS USUAL'?"



Designed by Mr. Ernest Wilmott.

"TIMEWELL."

For Howard Pim, Esq



Designed by Mr. Ernest Wilmott. ENTRANCE PORCH AT "TIMEWELL," For Howard Pim, Esq.

REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL JOURNALS.

The most outstanding event in the Architectural world at Home since our last issue is the presentation of the Royal Gold Medal tp Sir Rowland Anderson, F.R.I.B.A., which is apparently the first time it has been presented to an Architect born in Scotland; that the recipient of the Royal Gold Medal should be a person of high repute goes without saying, but few people are aware of the importance of this honour and the high esteem with which it is held by the recipients themselves; when Mr. Collcutt was in South Africa he was interviewed by the several newspapers and on being requested to mention some of his important works he replied, "Leave my works out of the question, simply say I am a Royal Gold Medallist."

In Mr. Anderson's reply on receiving this honour he reminded his audience of the number of well-known and famous Architects who have hailed from Scotland, and it is interesting to note that such men as James Gibb, Colin Campbell, Adams Brothers, Norman Shaw, and many others of equal fame came to London from the North. Apropos of Adams Bros., an interesting life of these exceptional men has just been published in which they are credited as being the first to suggest the erection of the Thames Embankment, for the purpose of reclaiming the mud flats and rendering the river less inconveniently broad and shallow, which was at the time bitterly and resolutely opposed by the City Corporation. Though the Adams Bros. took up a line of extreme thought and treatment in their work tending to intricacy of flat detail and opposed to the followers of the later Renaissance they were nevertheless responsible for a great deal of good work, amongst which must be mentioned their influence in the planning of large Hall Residences of the Eighteenth Century, and the fact that Mr. Lutyens should have adopted this treatment as a basis for the planning of our new and beautiful Art Gallery should be of more than usual interest to Johannesburg Architects.

The Adams Bros. in their fame were in great demand and in their correspondence they particularly regretted that owing to the demand on their time for ordinary work they were prevented from doing much research work such as have made some of their contemporaries famous. What an opportunity must be offered to our men at Home now who have such ambitions, for although we are reminded that 25 per cent. of the Architectural profession volunteered before compulsion was introduced, which speaks volumes for the loyalty of the profession, it is nevertheless from the senior members of the profession we look for such work.

The Journals remind us that building is a luxury now and to erect any building a special licence must be obtained and such licences are only granted for works of an exceptional nature, and which are considered indispensible; under this heading must naturally come foremost such buildings as are required for military purposes, and it is interesting to note that the buildings recommended as most suitable for military purposes are those erected of concrete, built not in-situ but in blocks which are afterwards plastered on the outside; this system has evidently the advantages of cheapness, quick erection, cleanliness, and otherwise suitability for military camps, sheds, hangars, etc.; unfortunately no attempt has been made to treat these buildings architecturally and it suggests itself as a problem worthy of the consideration of the S.A. Architects to satisfactorily treat from an architectural point of view this new method of construction recommended, and for which in South Africa particularly there are in many ways great demands.

That the Architectural aspect of things generally is not being overlooked at Home is further exemplified by the holding of an exhibition of designs for War Memorials. No more opportune time could be found for educating the Public in this direction, as at the close of this war their name will be legion, and it will no doubt be seized as an opportunity for all the latent talent in England to devote their energies to this matter, and while the present century shews no indication of any particular style to hand down to future generations it is quite possible that such may be evolved from the demands for suitable and expressive interpretations of the feelings of the peoples of the world for those who have fallen in the greatest war of history.

It seems to be well established that the war will revolutionise the world in all trades, commerce, engineering, and matters of construction and destruction, and indirectly the Architectural Profession will not escape. One of the things likely to effect us is the adoption of the metric system, this system must be adopted if we are to keep in touch with other countries particularly in our trade, and it will be impossible to do so without adopting it in its entirety, which will include measurements of lands, buildings, etc. Many interesting articles have been written on this matter, the majority of them pointing out how easily we could transfer our methods of weights, measurements, and money, without any appreciable loss one way or the other to our existing system. It is pointed out that in weights the standard on the continent equals 2.2 lbs. so by eliminating .2 lbs. we come into line with metric weights; measurements which interest us more are even more easily adaptable, an English inch is equal to 25.4 millemetres and by making it 25 millemetres it would make the metre 40 metric inches, a chain is equal to 20.12 metres, by making it 20 metres it could still remain; and so it is with all lineal, superficial, and cubic measurements; in money it is suggested to retain the sovereign by sub-dividing it into 100 parts, retain the florin which would equal 100 parts, the shilling 50 parts, and the sixpence 25 parts, and introduce new nickle and copper coins for smaller amounts.

As this system has recently been recommended by our local schools committee now is an opportune time for us to fall into line, particularly as we have already a Roman Dutch system of measurement which may be more easily adaptable if used in conjunction with the metric system.

R.H.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF ARCHITECT AND QUANTITY SURVEYOR.

Those who have been trained in the older countries know that the relationship between the profession of the architect and the business of the measurer is a fixed one—that of chief and subordinate, and no one attempts to disturb such relationship.

In this Province, however, there is an attempt to alter the relative positions. There are two classes of Quantity Surveyors, those who come nearer the professional man and recognise their position, and those who from various causes and ways have assumed the business of the quantity surveyor through force of circumstances.

As a rule this latter class attach themselves to Builders and are really Builders Surveyors; they are easily recognised. Contact with Law Courts leads them to adopt legal phraseology. "I submit" being a common utterance with them, and referring to their occupation as "a profession," The Lord Chief Justice of England once laid it down that there are only three professions: Church, Law, and Army; these surveyors are, of course, at liberty to attach themselves privately to any of the three.

There is another class composed of architects who have included in their studies the business of measuring their work, with whom this article has nothing to do. Architects have little or nothing to learn from the Quantity Surveyors as to what they should include in their specifications as to the most suitable material for their designs, though they are always open to consider suggestions.

Since the Boer War, the Quantity Surveyors of both classes have formed themselves into a society, they are adopting an attitude unknown in the older countries—encroaching upon the province of the architect.

That all the members are in sympathy with such an attitude is not believed for a moment. Those who clearly understand the right relationship and the fitness of things do not connect themselves with those here referred to in such attitude.

Not long ago an effort was made by their society to confer with The Master Builders Association as to framing a new set of Conditions of Contract (between whom?), thereby assuming an untenable position.

When the Home Conditions were framed many years ago, those most concerned—The Royal Institute of British Architects, and The Master Builders' Association—sent representatives and arranged such conditions as were acceptable to the two bodies in the interests of the client.

Another attempt has been made by some members of the Transvaal Association of Architects, who are also members of the Quantity Surveyors Institute, to include in the Union Act, a chapter whereby the measuring men would become members of the former body. But why should it stop at Quantity of Surveyors, why not Clerks of Works, Foremen? Architecture covers most of the arts and sciences, to say nothing of the requirements of all classes of buildings, whilst quantity surveying is simply one branch—that of measuring.

Perhaps no better answer could be given to this attempt than the dignified silence observed by the Royal Institute, when the allied body at the Cape addressed a letter to them on the subject.

The Cape Institute has rightly refused to countenance any such amalgamation of Quantity Surveyors and Architects and will oppose all efforts in this direction.

As many Quantity Surveyors look upon themselves as independant of both Architects and Builders it seems curious that they should wish to attach themselves to the former; it may be to give the professional flavour which they would not derive from the Contractors Association.

It is unfortunate that this discordant note has been introduced, many make no effort to disguise their attitude towards Architects. For example, it is becoming increasingly common for the class of measuring man to seek out the Builder and offer to him his valuable services, and if the Builder has not the time, and desires to help another, readily hands his books and papers over to such applicant, whose first object is to see if the Bill of Quantities accord with his own particular system. As an instance, if he finds "mitres" of half an inch beading have not been noted he will immediately advise his "client" to put in an extra—if he does not do so without asking if the Contractor has allowed for such in pricing.

Builders as a rule are not troubled with sleeping sickness when pricing a bill, and if mitres are not mentioned specially he will for his own protection include them in his price. That is the common sense aspect of the question. There are of course other views.

This is only one of the many instances.

When the account is presented, an examination will reveal that the measuring man who has so obligingly assisted the Contractor has included his "fees" in the account for the Client to pay—in this case the Architect's and Builder's employer. This type of Quantity Surveyor sees nothing irregular in such proceeding in charging the Client for work that would in the ordinary course be done by the Contractor or his Clerks. Why it should stop at this gentleman's services does not seem clear. There is, of course, an ethical side of the subject, and were such an account to come before the Courts, a very nasty impression would be given and produce a severe rebuke, or worse. A Quantity Surveyor is only paid for such work when ordered by an Arbitrator. Whatever a Builder likes to do on his own account is his own affair.

There is certainly an opportunity for the better class Quantity Surveyor to improve the relationship between his own and the Architect's position in this country.

PROFESSIONAL.

TRANSVAAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Transvaal Institute of Architects was held at the Board Room, Winchester House, on Thursday, August 24th.

The Treasurer's report, presented by Mr. D. M. Sinclair, showed that the Institute continues to maintain a satisfactory financial position, and it was resolved that a sum of Fifteen Guineas be donated to the Governor-General's Fund.

The election of Honorary Officers and Council resulted as follows:—

HONORARY PRESIDENTS:

H.E. Viscount Buxton.
H.E. Viscount Gladstone.
Gen. the Hon. Louis Botha.
Sir Willem van Hulsteyn.

PRESIDENT:

John Waterson, F.R.I.B.A.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Walter Reid, F.R.I.B.A.
Frank Emley, F.R.I.B.A.

COUNCIL:

J. F. Beardwood, M.S.A.
G. G. Fleming, Licentiate, R.I.B.A.
R. Howden, M.S.A., M.V.I.A.
D. Ivor Lewis, M.S.A.
J. A. Moffat, M.S.A.
H. G. Veale, M.S.A.
W. J. de Zwaan.

HON. SECRETARY:

M. J. Harris, M.S.A.

HON. TREASURER:

D. M. Sinclair, M.S.A.

Mr. John Waterson, F.R.I.B.A., who has been re-elected as President for the third year in succession gave the following address:—

When at our last General Meeting you elected me as President, I accepted the office solely with the idea of assisting as far as I could in keeping the Institute alive, and carrying it on through the stagnant times which the War has brought about in our profession into the more prosperous conditions which we hoped would ensue with peace.

Since then conditions have not improved, the war is still with us, and I fear is likely to be for some time to come. So that whilst the immediate outlook remains pretty much as it was at our last meeting the record of the past year is mainly one of just carrying on.

During the period under review your Council has on one or two occasions been called upon to take action in the interests of the profession by supporting the claims of the general body of architects in connection with public works or works in which public money and interests are involved.

In the case of the Cape University it protested directly to the controlling body against the course adopted in the selection of professional assistance and also supported the Cape Institute in a similar protest. With what result is not yet known; the matter has been mainly entrusted to the Executive of the Cape Institute.

In the matter of the suggested Johannesburg University representations were made to the acting committee with the result that Mr. Waugh, who is already on the committee from the Town Office, will be regarded by the committee as the representative of the Architectural profession.

In each of these cases your Council took action in pursuance of the policy of promoting the interests of the whole profession.

In other directions some work has been done. The Association of Engineers called a meeting to consider measures for the promotion of South African Industries and Manufactures in view of the altered conditions likely to make themselves felt after the war. Members of other professional bodies were invited to attend. A Committee has been formed on which your Institute is represented but so far no further action has been taken towards furthering the objects for which the meeting was called.

In connection with the Registration Bill, Mr. Delbridge, President of the Cape Institute of Architects, read a paper at a joint meeting of the Association of Transvaal Architects, this Institute and Society of Architects (Lond.), on the subject of registration, and gave an interesting historical summary of the history of the movement from its inception to the present time. He formally proposed that the meeting as assembled should approve of the formation of a Central Body, on which all the different bodies throughout South Africa should be represented, for the consolidation and concentration of effort in the promotion of a Union Registration Bill. This the Meeting did, and it was understood that the representatives of each Body represented would report to the Individual Councils of their respective bodies for confirmation.

Representations were made to the Town Council on the subject of additions and amendments to the Building By-laws being passed without reference to outside professional views, although a promise had been made that any variations of by-laws would, before being submitted to the Council, be placed before us for suggestion, and criticism. In view of the rather autocratic manner in which by-laws have been modified and revised of late, this is a matter which should not be allowed to rest by the incoming Council.

It was decided by your Council that a circular letter should be issued to the Municipalities and other public bodies controlling the erection of buildings offering the advice and assistance of the Institute in the promotion and control of competitions in cases when it is decided to adopt that method of securing the benefit of a wider range of experience. The circular has not yet been issued, but is in course of drafting, and can be left to the incoming Council.

This I think completes the record or the year's work.

The Council has dealt with the matters above-mentioned, and minor questions which have come before it.

The Institute has been carried on and maintained as a controlling and advisory body as between its members and the public, which I think under the present circumstances may be fairly regarded as the limit of its duties.

ASSOCIATION NOTES.

The regular monthly meetings of the Association Council were held during June, July and August, at which the following matters were considered:—

CAPETOWN UNIVERSITY.

In consequence of certain correspondence which appeared in the *Cape Times* during June last, regarding proposed University buildings at Capetown, the Registrar of the South African College was approached by the Council of the Association of Transvaal Architects with a view to placing the work of design out to competition. It was pointed out that competitions conducted on broad lines and good conditions, has in the past resulted in close and compact planning with resulting economy and convenience, and instances of the successful results were quoted.

The Architects' sub-Committee of the Provisional Council of the University has undertaken to give serious consideration to the views expressed by this Council.

MASTER BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION.

Some dissatisfaction exists among members of the Master Builders' Association regarding the action of some non-members of that body who, it is alleged, employ coloured labour, adopt piece-work and do not pay the standard rates of pay, and it is probable that, at the request of the Master Builders' Association, a joint meeting of Architectural bodies will meet the Builders' Association at the near future.

JOHANNESBURG BUILDING BY-LAWS.

A Committee consisting of Messrs. D. I. Lewis, J. F. Beardwood, R. Howden, Walter Reid, D. M. Sinclair, and J. M. Solomon, has been formed for the purpose of considering the advisability of suggesting to the Johannesburg Municipal Council certain amendments to the local Building By-laws. Suggestions from members and others interested will be welcomed and considered by this Committee.

WAR CRISIS.

At a Council meeting held on the 18th July, 1916, the President expressed a wish that record might be made of the great achievement of Mr. McCubbin's son, of the Aviation Corps, as recently announced in the Press, in bringing down Immelman, the famous German airman, and that Mr. McCubbin was to be congratulated on his son's action. Mr. McCubbin briefly thanked the members, remarking that naturally he was very proud of his son's services to the Empire.

PRACTICE COMMITTEE.

The following proposal was recently considered and adopted:—

> "That this Council appoints a Practice Committee to consider all matters dealing with general practice of the profession, and principally to watch, as far as possible, all legal cases in our Courts, to report to the Council on all matters of general practice; such Committee to be composed of members of the Association, not necessarily on the Council, and to include, as far as possible, at least one member from the following centres:"

The representative members have not yet been decided upon, but the subject is to be considered at the September meeting.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

An application for registration has been recieved from Mr. G. Moerdijk of Johannesburg. As Mr. Moerdijk submitted proof that he had passed the examination for an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects, his name was entered on the register of the Association.

DRAFT ACT.

An address on Professional Organisation among Architects in the South African Union was given by Mr. W. J. Delbridge, A.R.I.B.A. (President of the Cape Institute of Architects), in the Board Room, Winchester House, Johannesburg, on the 28th of June, 1916. About 25 Architects attended the meeting, which was held under the auspices of this Association; the Transvaal Institute of Architects, and the local branch of the Society of Architects were represented.

After considerable discussion, the following propositions were put to the meeting in combined form:—

(a) Proposed by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Sinclair:

> "This meeting expresses its confidence in the Registration Committee recently appointed by the Association of Transvaal Architects, and considers that the Registration Committee appointed by the various centres, constitutes the proper body to act on behalf of the united profession in South Africa."

(b) Proposed by Mr. Delbridge, seconded by Mr. Beardwood:

> "That this meeting affirms its sympathy with the proposal to preserve the identity of the existing South African Architectural Societies for local purposes, but to affiliate the said Societies with a new organisation, namely, the South African Institute of Architects, to deal with broader questions."

Mr. Solomon submitted the following amendment, seconded by Mr. Rees-Poole:

> "That this meeting of Transvaal Architects, recognising that the existing Provisional Registration Act is entirely premature, (a) decides to work for its repeal; (b) further, by the promotion of a voluntary Association or Institute of Architects of the Union, pledges itself to secure educational facilities for the youth of South Africa desirous of becoming Architects, as being the best means of furthering the interests of Architecture."

The amendment was then put to the meeting and,

Declared 4 For.
7 Against.

The combined Proposition was then put to the meeting and,

Declared 12 For.
3 Against.



Designed by Mr. Ernest Wilmott. DRAWING ROOM AT "TIMEWELL," For Howard Pim, Esq



GATEWAY, "VERGENOEGT"

Faure, Cape Province.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Mr. Theophile Schaerer, former member of the Association Council, who left these shores some time ago has, for the time being, settled in London, and has married.

Mr. William Weightman, architectural student, Transvaal Technical College, who is with the 11th Regiment, S.A.I., in East Africa, has been honoured with the D.S.M. It is understood that his machine gun and another kept the position from being turned near Kondoa for about nine hours.

Mr. Charles Rosenthal, A.R.I.B.A., who was a fellow pupil of our President, and who practises in Sydney, Australia, greatly distinguished himself in Gallipoli when Colonel in charge of the 3rd Australian Field Artillery. He has lately received the C.B. (Military Div.), and adds another to the list of distinguished architect-soldiers.

Referring to the paragraph in the "Roll of Honour" in our last issue, we learn that Mr. Harry Clayton holds a commission in the South Notts Hussars, in the Volunteer detachment of which he had held a commission in his early days before coming to South Africa. At the outbreak of the War he was in France, but hurried home to rejoin his old regiment. He had the misfortune to sustain a broken collar bone, owing to a fall from his horse, but has now recovered and is again on active service.

Mr. Oakley Coltman, of the Architectural Office, T. E. Dept., Johannesburg, who proceeded to England last January and entered the officers' training corps, had the misfortune to break his leg shortly before having to enter for examination for his commission. In spite of his injury, he, with great spirit, hobbled his way some days afterwards to the examination room, and sat for all the papers. Mr. Coltman was a member of Mr. Gordon Leith's class in Johannesburg, and they have had the pleasure of meeting in London, Mr. Leith also having proceeded home for the purpose of joining the flag.

The Johannesburg University is gradually growing out of the embryonic stage, and definite study courses in medicine and arts are being evolved as a framework for constituting, with the School of Mines, a University College, soon to become a University. The hope of founding a school of medicine is very great, as the clinical material in and near Johannesburg is as great as can be found in any part of the world of equal population. There are over 5,000 beds devoted to the sick along the reef, some 700 or 800 of them being gathered in or around the central hospital in Johan-

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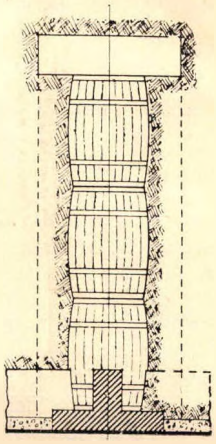
nesburg, and the Institute of Medical Research, Bacteriological Laboratory, Infectious Diseases Hospital and Women's Hospital, all closely grouped, present a combination of almost unique value. A site has been provisionally chosen for the College, just west of the tram line, where it passes over the hill beyond Braamfontein next the Cape Breweries, Old Pretoria Road. The view is magnificent, extending for 50 miles, and the position is very accessible.

The President of the South African Branch of the Society of Architects (London), Mr. Charles Dowsett, is still "Somewhere" in East Africa, being with the Veterinary Corps. Apparently the forces are continually on the move, as no news has been received from him lately. Before he left he promised a contribution to this journal regarding the architectural aspects of the great territory he is now helping to conquer, but possibly it has been "censored," as it has not yet reached the editor.

Since our last issue the Empire has sustained a serious blow in the loss of the great soldier and organizer, Lord Kitchener. Lord Kitchener was always a friend to architecture, and was an Hon. F.R.I.B.A. His great work in controlling and directing the lay-out of the new Khartoum in the Soudan will not be forgotten. As an engineer officer his practised eye was useful in the highest degree in such a work of civic design. The Field Marshal took the chair in 1910, at a meeting of the Town Planning Conference in London, when both Khartoum and Omduraman were discussed, and contributed an interesting address and showed how insalubrious "rabbit-warrens" were transformed into clean and decent towns

NEW USE FOR TAR BARRELS.

The sketch shews an ingenious method of using tar-barrels as casing or forms for concrete pillars in bad ground, as employed by Mr. Bertram R. Avery for a warehouse building in Newtown, Johannesburg. The barrels, the ends having been knocked out, are placed in the hole in the ground shewn by dotted lines, and after being filled with concrete were left, and the soil packed in around them. As the tar-barrels only cost 6d. each, it will be seen that the device was an economical one.



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Journal of the SA Architectural Institute

PUBLISHER:

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

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