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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

1933

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

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Volume Eighteen Number Four, April Nineteen Hundred and Thirty Three.



the metro theatre

grand foyer and promenade at entrance

the metro goldwyn mayer theatre johannesburg

This building has been erected for the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Corporation, of New York, on a site bounded by Bree, Hoek and Plein Streets, Johannesburg. The site was purchased after a visit from America by Colonel Scheiller, a director of the Corporation, and the design of the building was entrusted to Mr. Thomas Lamb, of New York, who has carried out numerous undertakings of a similar nature for this Corporation in different parts of the world. Colonel Scheiller was represented in this country by Mr. Carl Sonin, general manager for South Africa, and Mr. Lamb by a member of his staff, Mr. A. B. Boettcher, and the erection of the building was carried out by Mr. A. Bennett under the supervision of Mr. Boettcher and a local firm of architects, Messrs. Cowin, Powers & Ellis.

Mr. Moskowitz, who accompanied Colonel Scheiller, was responsible for the preliminary enquiries about local conditions governing materials, bye-laws, customs and building practice and, after gathering every particle of information from all sources he returned to New York fully equipped for his task of coaching the architect preparatory to the commencement of work on the plans, and the result achieved is an indication of his thorough grasp of his duties.

This building is unique in this country in many ways for the rapidity of construction, the scheme of ventilation, the electrical signs on the facades, the luxurious decorations and furnishings, and the thoroughness exemplified in every detail in connection with its design and construction leaving nothing unconsidered at the outset and thus any necessity for amplification, enabling the contractor and all concerned in its execution to map out a programme of work which could be strictly adhered to throughout and avoiding harassing delays.

On the arrival of Mr. Boettcher, from New York, with the completed plans and specifications, work was started immediately on the preparation of the Bills of Quantities, and these were required to be ready for issue to the Contractors in three weeks' time and, in spite of the intricate nature of the work, this feat was accomplished in due time and is to the credit of the local representatives of the architect.

The contract was signed for £79,600, exclusive of the ventilation, seating, organ, decoration and furnishing, and the time for completion was agreed at twelve months, but the building was actually completed and fully equipped and opened to the public within ten months of its commencement. Many prominent contractors stated that it would be quite impossible to execute the work in less than fifteen months but Mr. Bennett, who had experience of Cinema construction, was confident of his ability to keep up to his contract time, and even made such good progress by efficient organisation and close attention to every detail that two months was saved. All this was due, of course, largely to the fact that the scheme was well conceived and well worked out, and consequently there was scarcely anything that required reconsideration and amendment.

At the outset the drawings were entirely completed and all full-size details were available then, also plans of the water supply, fire service, vacuum cleaning service, electrical installation and ventilation scheme, and a clear and concise specification of every trade so that the quantity surveyor had everything before him and he was able to measure all the services and eliminate provisional sums for them in the Bills of Quantities. This is all as it should be, but how many of our practitioners here follow out this admirable example ?

The interior decoration, furnishing and seating were carried out by firms from New York, and their representatives on arrival here lost no time and were guided by carefully prepared sketches and plans which left no loophole for variations. Every article of furniture was numbered and its position in

the building corresponded to a similar number on a plan. The passion for thoroughness was carried to the extreme limit in dealing with an electrical log fire in the lounge ; the charred logs duly arrived from New York and also a small paper bag containinng a quantity of ash for the hearth ! !

The plan of the building is notable for the clever arrangement of the main entrance on the corner of the site and the use of the areas under the balcony for a lounge and retiring rooms.

There is a basement at the north and south ends of the site and housed there are the electrical transformers, heating apparatus, freezing plant for the ventilation scheme, vacuum cleaning plant, and organ blower, and large ducts traverse the ground under the orchestra floor in connection with the ventilation system.

The entrance is situated at the corner of Bree and Hoek Streets and opens into a grand foyer and promenade giving access to the orchestra floor containing seating accommodation for 1,600 persons. The remainder of the ground floor is occupied by shops on Bree and Plein Street frontages and a manager's room. A staircase at the side of the grand foyer gives access to the mezzanine promenade, a spacious apartment beautifully decorated and furnished, from which the balcony is reached and the lavatories for both sexes lead off. No attempt is made to separate the different class of patrons of the theatre and all parts of the house are accessible to each and every other part. This is the American practice and in a democratic age one cannot question it ; the patrons of the cheaper seats mingle with those in the stalls and the wearers of dress suits or khaki "slacks" are on the same footing in this building.

The balcony has seating accommodation for 1,100 persons and three entrances and four exits ; at the south end are placed the large fan room for the ventilation scheme also a large projector room, thirty-seven feet by thirteen feet, with battery, rewinding, rheostat and generator rooms and workshop adjoining.

Drinking fountains, supplied with iced water, are at hand in the lounges.

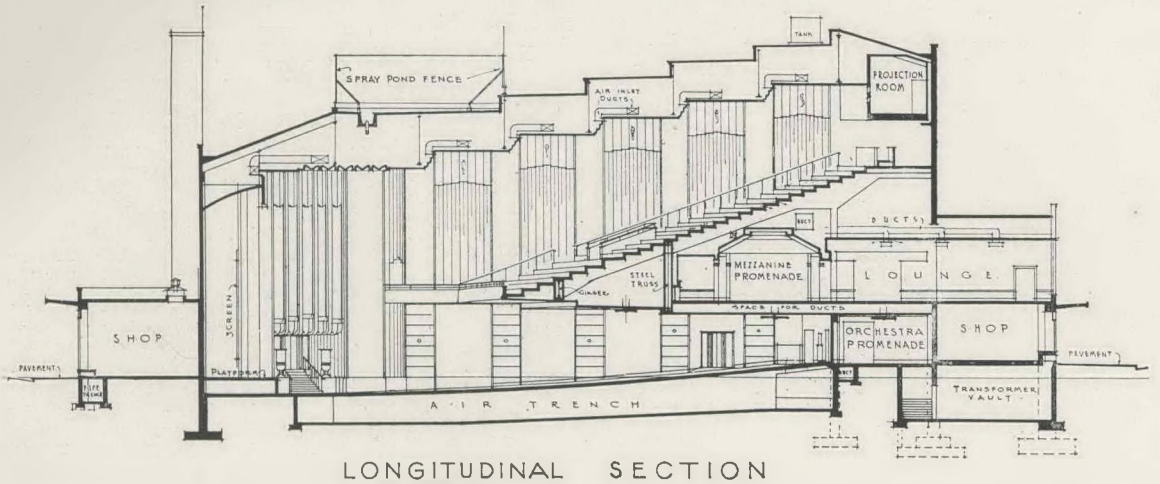


entrance at the corner of bree and hoek streets.

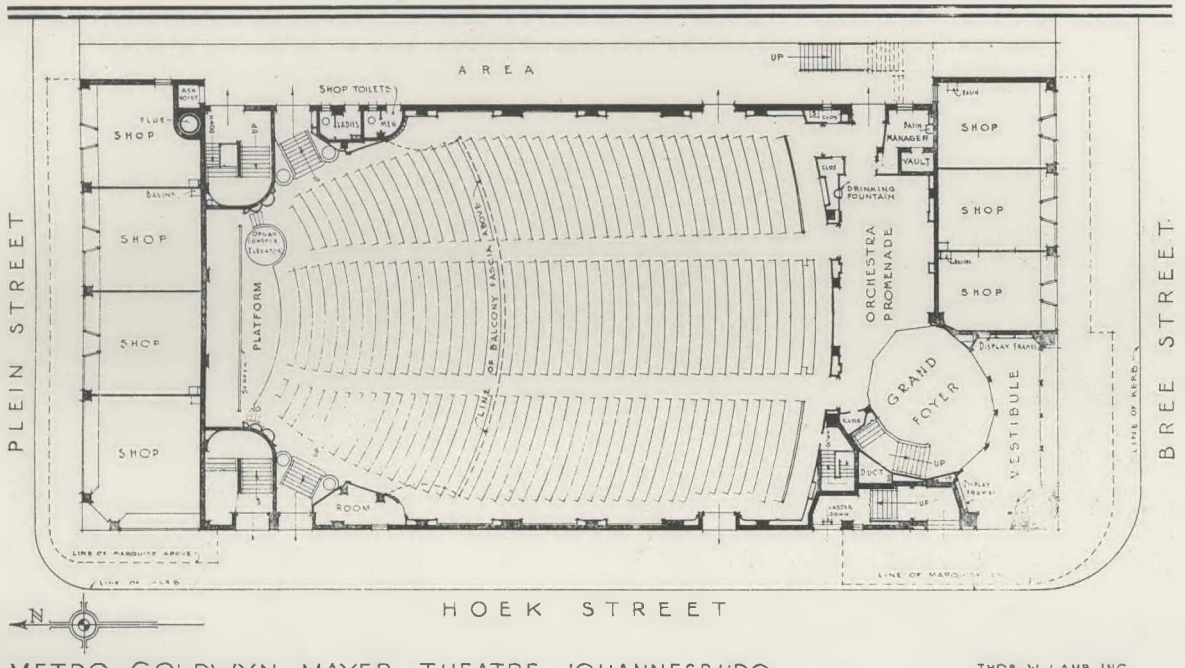
the metro theatre

mezzanine promenade





LONGITUDINAL SECTION



METRO · GOLDWYN · MAYER THEATRE JOHANNESBURG
PLAN OF ORCHESTRA

SCALE OF FEET

THOS W. LAMB INC
ARCHITECT NEW YORK
COWIN POWERS & ELLIS
SUPERVISING ARCHITECTS
JOHANNESBURG S. A.

the metro theatre

Special attention has been given to the retiring rooms and lavatories and these are fitted up in sumptuous style ; a special cosmetic room for ladies is provided and supplied with elaborate dressing tables and mirrors lighted by concealed lamps and the men have their own smoking room.

The system of ventilation was designed and executed by the Carrier Company, of New York, and it is entirely mechanical and no reliance whatever is placed on natural means by windows. It comprises briefly an intake of fresh air about the first floor level, a large fan to circulate the air through the ducts, water spray cooling and heating coils to reduce and increase the temperature of the air, and thermostats on all floors to regulate and control the temperature throughout. The air is admitted at the ceiling level in all cases through diffusers to avoid draughts and withdrawn through a mushroom type of fitting under the seats in the auditorium and gratings close to the floor elsewhere. The engineers guaranteed that the difference in the temperature at any part of the house would not exceed one degree.

Insulating material to prevent the transmission of sound has been placed around all air ducts likely to cause noise, also under the floors of all lavatories to confine the sound of running water, and around the fan room and other portions of the ventilation system, where a noise is likely to be created ; all machinery was placed on a cork bed to obviate vibration in the building.

Except for some fabric in panels on the walls of the orchestra floor no other provision is made for sound absorption throughout ; the architect claims that the design of the theatre is adapted to prevent echoes.

mezzanine promenade leading to retiring rooms



proscenium with organ chambers at sides





the metro theatre

a night scene showing the illuminated sign and marquise over the footpath.

The sign on the angle of the building over the entrance which is seven feet wide and fifty feet high, is a striking feature of the facade, and also the hood over the footpath at this point. Both sign and hood are lighted by hundreds of electric lamps nightly and the effect produced is dazzling and arresting, and reminiscent of some of the fantastic lighting in Broadway, New York. The cost of the electric current alone to illuminate this corner of the building is about £3,000 per annum.

Finally, a word about fire protection. No woodwork except for doors and stage platform was used and these were executed in teak. The ceilings are of fibrous plaster on metal lathing and secured to the concrete floors and balconies with steel bearers and hangers bolted to the concrete. All the members of the huge steel girders carrying the balcony were cased with metal lathing and plastered. The roof is of concrete covered with cork insulation and sheet asphalte. Fire hydrants at vantage points are an additional precaution against the spread of any fire that may occur.

We close the description of this building with a sincere appreciation of American methods of hustle and achievement and congratulate the promoters and all concerned in bringing this scheme to fruition and giving Johannesburg another building of outstanding merit.

Lastly, in spite of variations and extra work which were necessary to comply with the bye-laws, a saving of about £3,000 was made on the original contract sum ; another achievement !

The sub-contractors for various works were as follows :—Shop fronts, Messrs. F. Sage & Co. ; constructional steelwork, Messrs. Wade & Dorman ; steel reinforcement, Messrs. Joffe & Co. ; electrical installation, D. J. Wylie ; heating and ventilation, local representative, A. E. Barker ; plumbing, F. A. Sharman ; plastering, Messrs. Abery and Grobler ; roofing, Messrs. Hunt, Leuchars & Hepburn ; paving to footpaths, Hume Pipe Co. ; organ elevator, Messrs. Waygood Otis Co. ; steel staircases and balustrades, F. Gwilliam ; joinery, Messrs. Hillman & Co. ; tiling and marble, The Central Agencies and Import Co. and The European Marble Co. ; steel windows, Crittall Manufacturing Co. ; ironmongery, Yale & Towne and Messrs. Henwood & Co. ; organ installation, Wurlitzer by Messrs. Cooper, Gill & Tompkins ; electrical fittings, Westinghouse Co., The South African General Electric Co., and the British General Electric Co. ; sanitary fittings, W. R. Boustred, Ltd. ; Rapocrete Cement, Pretoria Portland Cement Co., Ltd.

symbolism in art • v. s. rees-poole

It gives me pleasure in having the opportunity of addressing you on the subject of "Symbolism in Art.' It is a subject which I consider architects should know a great deal about, for it is a fascinating story. It has a dramatic appeal and plays a considerable part in all the arts. In introducing the subject I would like to start with it in connection with the early Gothic monuments, those magnificent cathedrals of the middle ages.

A famous writer has said "that Gothic Architecture is a sort of Fairy Story in Stone."

The old builders worked wonder into them, they had the ability which children have to call up enchantment ; in the high vaults and glistening windows, peering figures, and heraldic signs and symbols there was magic.

This is true and quite understandable when you consider how fascinating and absorbing the work must have been and still is to devout and religious designers and craftsmen, who have the opportunity of working in this wonderful style, that is not bound by hard and fast rules. A style that requires an individualist of extreme artistic ability, knowledge and skill to succeed in interpreting the story that might be told. Gothic Architecture was inspired by nature and to understand nature a great deal of knowledge is required.

In the porches and screens were placed hundreds of statues, all parts of a connected scheme, really an encyclopaedia of nature, history and theology, all were parts of a marvellous drama, the ceremonial, the life of a people. In effect the buildings were inhabited.

I think it necessary to mention these facts, in order to realise what the motive was ; everything done had some particular meaning which was translated into some definite form, whatever that form took, therefore to thoroughly understand these buildings it is essential to be able to follow the object and aim of the builders.

Mythology, tradition and symbolism was presented and interpreted in many varying ways and the tales they had to tell were so well told that the beholder stands in amazement.

The concourse of Saints, for instance, which people and decorate the deep porches, gleaming from out the deep shadows are extraordinarily impressive.

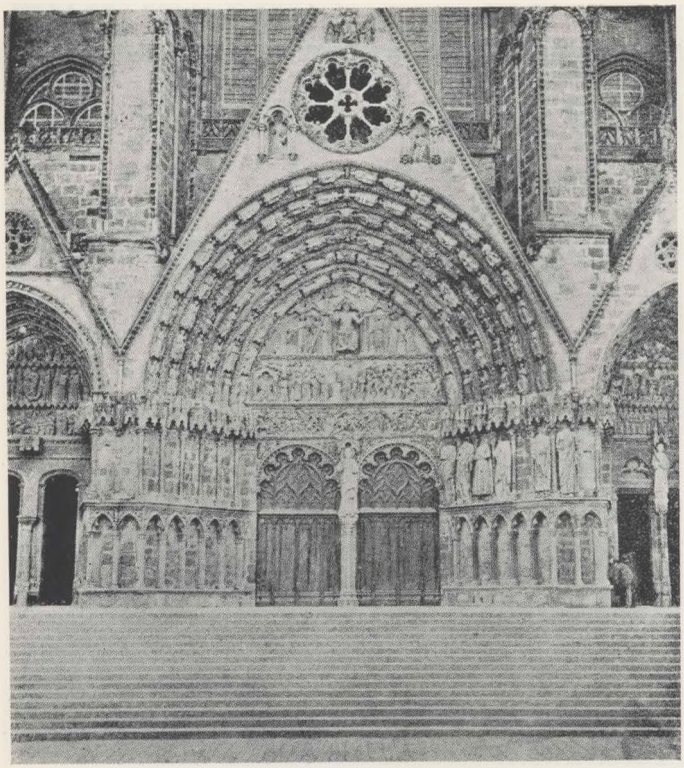
These sculptured stories are seen as living dramas, they are creations, and it is to be doubted, with all admiration for the stone, marble or bronze figures that are made to-day, whether the finest art can be produced with less imaginative emotion.

Symbolism.

An interesting example of symbolism which was used in certain ecclesiastic decorations is the Passion Flower, a biblical name given to this particular plant, of which the leaf symbolises the spear, the five anthers or bags containing the pollen, the five wounds ; the tendrils, the cords or whips ; the centre column, the pillar of the cross ; the stamens, the hammers ; the three styles, the three nails ; the fleshy threads within the flowers, the crown of thorns ; the calyx, the glory or halo ; the white tint, innocence ; the blue tint, heaven ; the flower keeps open for three days and symbolises the Ministry.

From this outstanding example may be gathered what romance and hidden meaning there is, and what subject matter may be obtained from something that appears quite insignificant. This important fact I would like to stress for it appertains to many things that we should be conscious of if we had more knowledge and understanding.

Another beautiful example is the queen of flowers, the Rose. It was employed very largely in various shapes and forms and is an emblem of silence ; it was for this reason



bourges cathedral

sculptured or modelled on ceilings of secret council chambers. As a piece of significant decoration it was placed over confessionals.

The Pine Cone was emblematic of the soul, and was used as a crowning feature ; it was also the traditional feature in the early Christian fountains.

The Lily, in Christian art is the emblem of chastity, innocence and purity.

The Horse is the emblem of courage and generosity ; the attribute of St. Martin ; St. Maurice and St. George all of whom are represented on horseback.

A Dog in mediaeval art symbolises fidelity, and was placed at the feet of women in monuments to symbolise affection and fidelity, as a lion was placed at the feet of men to signify courage.

The Eagle signified fortitude and was and is extensively used for lecterns in Churches ; it also represents the natural enemy of the serpent and the two testaments are the two outspread wings.

The employment of the Lions Head in fountains was a very ancient custom.

The Egyptians thus symbolised the inundation of the Nile, which happens when the sun enters into the astronomical sign of Leo.

Thereafter the Greeks and the Romans adopted the same device for their fountains, and gargoyles.

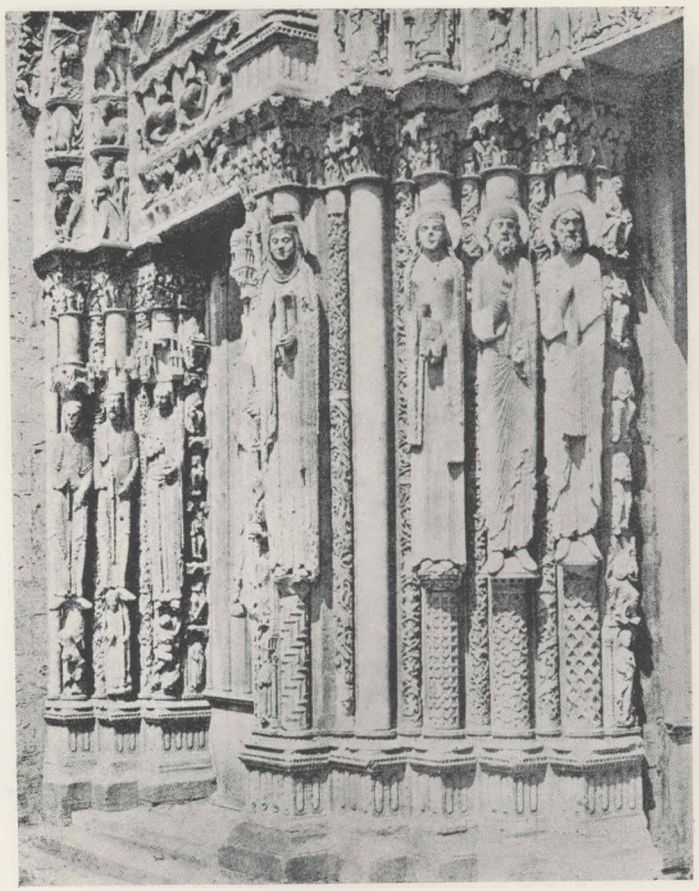
To show what an important part mythology played in history, take the Unicorn or Moniceros employed by James the First as one of the supporters of the Royal Arms of Scotland.

This animal has the legs of a buck, the tail of a lion, the head and body of a horse, and a single horn in the middle of the head.

In Christian Art this one horn signified the great doctrine that Christ is one with God.

The horn in heraldry is white at the base, black in the middle and red at the tip, with body white, head red and eyes blue. According to a belief once popular, the Unicorn by dipping its horn into liquid could detect whether or not it contained poison.

chartres cathedral



Great animosity existed between the Lion and the Unicorn and these beasts were always at war whenever they met ; the significance conveyed in this coat of arms is allegorical of the animosity which once existed between England and Scotland.

In Christian art the Dragon was symbolic of sin in general and paganism in particular.

From the dragon which was depicted as emitting flames from its mouth and nostrils originated the word dragoons; these dragoons used short muskets, which spouted out fire like the fabulous beasts so named. The head of a dragon was wrought on the muzzle of their muskets.

The Phoenix, a bird that was said to live a certain number of years, made a nest of spices, sang a melodious dirge, flapped its wings to set fire to the pyre, burnt itself to ashes, and then came forth with new life.

It is symbolic of a new life and is represented at the corners of the Delville Wood Memorial, Union Buildings, Pretoria.

Many more symbols might be mentioned, but it is a vast subject and would take up a considerable amount of time, so I propose to mention only several of the symbols of the better known Saints.

The symbol of St. John is represented by a cup with a winged serpent or dragon flying out of it in allusion to tradition of the priest of Diana, who challenged John to drain a cup of poison. John made the sign of the cross over the cup and Satan in the shape of a dragon flew from it. Without hesitation he then drank from the cup which proved to be quite innocuous.

St. Cecilia, playing on a harp or organ, is the patron saint of the blind, she being blind herself. She is also the patroness of musicians.

St. Peter, represented with a key, triple cross and a fish, also a cock, the patron saint of fishermen and fishmongers.

St. Paul, represented with a sword and a book, dressed as a Roman, patron saint of preachers and tent makers.

St. Martin, a Roman general on horseback, dividing his cloak with a beggar. He became a Christian and afterwards a bishop.

Last but not least is St. Thomas, patron saint of Architects', represented with a builders rule, a square or a dressed stone. Gondolfus, King of the Indies gave him a large sum of money to build a palace. Instead of doing this he spent the money on the poor and needy ; "thus erecting a superb monument in heaven."

Colours had great significance whether displayed in dress, background of pictures or statuary. Black, typifies grief, death ; blue, hope, love and divine works ; pale blue, peace, Christian prudence and love of good works ; gold, glory and power ; green, faith, gladness, immortality ; pale green, baptism ; grey, tribulation ; purple, justice, royalty ; red, martyrdom for faith, charity ; saffron, confessors ; silver, chastity and purity ; violet, penitence ; white, purity, temperance, innocence and faith.

Gems likewise have special significance and the amethyst represented humility ; diamonds, invulnerable faith ; gold, power ; and sapphire, hope.

I would like to point out that the art of symbols must be understood to be appreciated, whether it be architecture, painting or sculpture : without knowledge of the subject and the reason of representation "no joy will there be found."

In the great stream of art that flowed down the centuries, every age showed a different manifestation of energy, and old traditions are being new shaped by the need and experiment of the moment.

Mythological tales and symbols may not be considered of any importance by some people now-a-days, but they play a very important part in architecture, literature and the arts, and will continue to do so, for in the future are hid the possibilities of many schools of art and culture as true and as strong as those that are past.

MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of the Institute at the close of the year consisted of ninety-nine practising, forty-one salaried, four absentee and eight retired members, a total of one hundred and fifty-two members, as compared with one hundred and sixty in 1931.

It is with deep regret that your Committee has to record the demise of four of its members, Mr. Frey Cherry, Mr. D. E. Lloyd-Davies, Mr. H. S. Clarke, and Mr. F. E. Jeffrey.

MEETINGS.

One Annual General Meeting and sixteen Meetings of the Provincial Committee were held in the year under review, besides numerous sub-Committee Meetings.

Captain Elsworth, President of the Institute, was on leave of absence during the last few months of the year, his duties being carried out by Mr. Mansergh, Vice-President, and Mr. Hawke, Junior Vice-President.

FINANCIAL.

From the Income and Expenditure Account attached to this Report it will be seen that Revenue has exceeded Expenditure by the sum of £19 8s. 8d., which is a slight improvement upon the former year's showing. As compared with the 1931 statement there has been a fall in Revenue of £16 11s. 9d., made up in the following manner :—Subscriptions less by £27 10s. 5d., R.I.B.A. subscriptions refund by £38 10s., and interest by £2 18s. 5d. Against these reductions there is a gain of no less than £52 7s. 1d. in connection with the publication of the 1932-33 Kalendar. Upon the debit side of the account the total expenditure, when compared with that of 1931, is found to have decreased by £18 4s. 6d., none of these items showing fluctuations calling for any particular comment.

Your Committee feel that a nett gain of £19 8s. 8d. in a year of unparalleled depression is exceedingly satisfactory, particularly in view of the fall in subscriptions and the abandonment of the 1932 R.I.B.A. moieties. Fortunately these losses have been made good by the increased profit on the Kalendar. An analysis of the subscriptions account shows that out of a recoverable total of £637 5s. 7d., no less than £267 16s. 6d. has been credited to the Central Council by way of levy—equal to forty-two per cent.

We are confronted with the fact that had it not been for the revenue derived from the Kalendar this crushing taxation would have involved the Cape Institute in a serious financial crisis. The Balance Sheet discloses a balance of assets over liabilities amounting to £213 5s. 10d. As indicative of the serious manner in which our members have been affected by the depression, it will be noted that unpaid subscriptions as at 31st December amounted to £422 13s. 10d., which is £175 13s. more than the item stood at a year ago.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Only one meeting of the Central Council was held during the year. It took place in May, and the representatives who attended on behalf of the Cape Institute were Messrs. Elsworth and Mansergh. These gentlemen are heartily thanked for their services in this connection.

In your Committee's last Report reference was made to a proposal put before the Central Council by the Cape Institute that the regulations be so revised as to give full recognition to the Constituent bodies of the local autonomous rights to which they are entitled under the Act. The proposals have been circulated amongst the other Constituent bodies for their consideration and will presumably be dealt with at the next meeting of the Central Council.

It is claimed that individual incorporation of the Constituent bodies under the Act carries with it the right to manage their affairs in their own way, but the regulations as they stand seriously encroach upon this ideal and give greater powers to the Central Council than are consistent with the enjoyment of local autonomy. The Central Council in the exercise of these powers has undertaken a great deal of work that might well have been left to the Constituent bodies and, in doing so, much unnecessary expense has been incurred.

As stated earlier in this Report, only one meeting of the Council was held during the past year, consequently the bulk of its activities had to be delegated to and carried out by the Executive Committee, a body upon which several of the Institutes (including the Cape) are not directly represented. Territorial distances preclude the possibility of the representatives of the Constituent bodies coming together excepting at long intervals, and if for no other reason than this, it is impossible that the management of the Institute from one centre can succeed.

The financial and managerial problems can only be solved when the Central Council agrees to restrict its functions to registering and co-ordinating services, and allows the Constituent bodies the fullest measure of local autonomy consistent with the provisions of the Act.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

Mr. G. C. Lawrence, R.W.A., F.R.I.B.A., of Bristol, England, continues to function as the Cape Provincial Institute's representative on the Allied Societies' Conference.

Local members of the R.I.B.A., are notified that as from the year 1931 all rebates received from the R.I.B.A. shall be the property of the members in respect of whom they are granted, and shall be paid over to them or set off against their annual subscriptions to the Cape Provincial Institute.

This decision terminates a sacrifice that those of our members who are also members of the Royal Institute have made for many years past by willingly surrendering the rebates to the common fund of the Cape Institute, an action which has been very much appreciated.

Supplies of a very well-got-up architectural propaganda pamphlet entitled "The Adventure of Building" were recently acquired upon the suggestion of the R.I.B.A., and copies of these may be had, free of charge, from the Secretary.

Arising out of a suggestion made to the R.I.B.A. that any of the more prominent of its members happening to visit South Africa should be invited to meet the Cape Town members of the Cape Provincial Institute and to address them upon subjects of professional interest, the following letter was received :—

"I was very glad to get your letter of 17th June, with its interesting suggestion as regards prominent members of the R.I.B.A. who may be visiting South Africa. I feel sure that I should have no difficulty in arranging for addresses of this kind in the case of my leading members who may find themselves in Cape Town. I shall make a careful note of the suggestion and you may depend upon it that I shall do my best to carry it into effect."

LOCAL COMMITTEES.

The activities of the Port Elizabeth and East London Local Committees during the year call for no particular comment, excepting that the former body was instrumental in obtaining the conviction of a non-registered practitioner for an infringement of the Act.

JOINT PRACTICE COMMITTEE.

The Institute's representatives for the past year were Messrs. Delbridge and Elsworth, with Messrs. Fagg and Parker as their alternates.

Perhaps one of the most important matters that has engaged the attention of this Committee was the building trades wages dispute, which happily reached an amicable settlement. An informal Conference of the Joint Practice Committee and representatives of the Trades Unions took place on 4th July ; and probably for the first time on record the professional side of the industry was able to function in an intermediary capacity.

The Executive Committee of the Central Council is now proposing that a national Joint Practice Committee should be established.

THE 1932-33 KALENDAR.

Members would observe that the title of this publication has been changed from "Year Book" to "Kalendar." This is really a reversion to the old title which was in use up to and including the 1919-1920 issue.

The financial success of the current number of the Kalendar, despite the prevailing depression, is very gratifying indeed.

THE PORT ELIZABETH BUILDING COLLAPSE CASE.

A case of profound interest came before the Courts in the year under review ; it was the sequel to a most unfortunate accident that occured in Port Elizabeth on Christmas Eve, 1931, involving the loss of seven lives. It will be recalled that the architect, a member

of the Cape Institute, and the building contractor concerned in the demolition of a number of shops in the centre of the town were arraigned upon a charge of culpable homicide, it being alleged that they had, in their respective capacities, failed to exercise the care that would have been expected of them, with the result that the building came down and caused the disaster.

Exhaustive practical and theoretical investigations into the attendant circumstances made on behalf of the Cape Institute by Mr. H. J. Brownlee, F.R.I.B.A., led to the definite conclusion that the case was one for professional intervention ; and upon the facts being laid before the Executive Committee of the Central Council that body, concurring in this opinion, unhesitatingly decided that the Institute of South African Architects should become associated with the defence of the accused.

The outcome of the case, which finally came to trial before the Circuit Court at Port Elizabeth, presided over by a judge and two assessors, was that both defendants were found not guilty and discharged.

The witnesses for the defence, nominated by the Institute, were Messrs. W. S. Payne, A.R.I.B.A., President-in-Chief ; T. Moore, L.R.I.B.A., Immediate Past President-in-Chief ; E. M. Powers, A.R.I.B.A., Hon. Secretary, R.I.B.A., for South Africa ; F. Williamson, A.R.I.B.A., and H. J. Brownlee, F.R.I.B.A., and it is placed upon record that the services rendered to the Institute and to their colleagues by these gentlemen entitles them to the profound gratitude of the profession throughout the country.

Tribute must also be paid to the representatives of the Federation of Master Builders, whose technical evidence contributed in no small measure to the discharge of the accused.

It is a matter of congratulation that the professional reputation of a member has thus been completely vindicated, with, be it added, a decided gain in prestige to the Institute which so readily and successfully assisted him.

NEW CONDITIONS OF BUILDING CONTRACT.

The labours of the Drafting Committee, composed of members of the Central Council and of the Federation of Building Trades Employers, have resulted in the production of new Conditions of Contract, designed for use throughout the four Provinces. Your Committee has accepted the document upon the understanding that it is to be given a year's trial, this reservation being due to the fact that conditions in the Cape Province are in certain respects dissimilar to those obtaining elsewhere.

CITY OF CAPE TOWN BUILDING REGULATIONS.

During the latter part of the year under review the City authorities provided the Institute with an advance copy of the revised building regulations, at the same time inviting your Committee to formulate any comments and suggestions it had to offer regarding them. This was duly done and a number of meetings took place between the Regulations Committee and the Joint Practice Committee for the purpose of discussing the regulations in detail. These meetings resulted in many of the suggested amendments being adopted and others left over for further consideration. Your Committee has every reason to be satisfied with what has been achieved, and it records its appreciation of the patient and courteous manner with which the views of the building industry, practical and professional, were listened to by the representatives of the City Council.

Amongst the proposals advanced by the Joint Practice Committee were two of outstanding importance to local practitioners, these being :—

(1) Recognition in the regulations of the status of registered architects in regard to the submission of plans for approval.

(2) The formation of a Fine Arts Committee to co-operate with the City Council in giving effect to the provisions of Regulation No. 817 (b).

The Council kindly consented to receive and hear the views of a special deputation of representatives of the Institute in connection with these matters.

The deputation was led by Mr. C. P. Walgate, A.R.C.A., A.R.I.B.A., who presented the Institute's case in regard to item (1) in the following statement :—

" This deputation of the Cape Provincial Institute of Architects, in requesting the City Council to embody a provision in the new building regulations that will give effective

recognition to the status of registered architects, desires the following facts relating thereto to be given due consideration :—

(1) It is maintained as a reasonable proposition that the recognition given by the State to the architectural profession should be reflected in the City building regulations, and that only persons who are registered under the Architects Act No. 18 of 1927 should be permitted to submit plans for approval.
(2) The regulations stipulate (and rightly so) that the work of plumbers, drainlayers and electricians may only be performed by registered artisans, and it is claimed, in the case of architectural service, embracing, as it does, every detail of a structure, that similar restrictions are necessary and should be imposed.
(3) The deputation holds that in permitting the acceptance of plans prepared by non-registered practitioners, who at present are able to evade the spirit and intention of the Act by describing themselves as draughtsmen, designers, owners, etc., the Council is unwittingly encouraging the construction of a class of building that is an offence to the practical and aesthetical requirements of modern conditions ; and
(4) That the elimination of the non-registered practitioner would benefit the building owner and the City generally, greatly simplifying and lessening the work of the Council's technical staff to whom the approval of building plans is entrusted."

It should be explained in regard to the suggested formation of a Fine Arts Committee (item (2)) that the regulation quoted gives the Council power to withhold its approval to the erection of any building deemed to be objectionable by reason either of the nature of the building itself or the use to which it is to be put or its environment.

The representations made by the delegation created a favourable impression and the Council has undertaken to give the questions its serious consideration.

A MEMORANDUM REGARDING ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES.

"A memorandum regarding architectural services," of which the following is a copy, has been sent to the more important public bodies in the Cape Province :—

"The Cape Provincial Institute of Architects, one of the Constituent bodies of the Institute of South African Architects, incorporated under Act of Parliament, desire to direct the attention of Municipalities and other public bodies in the Cape Province to the advantages of engaging registered practising architects for new building work involving the expenditure of public funds.

"It is recognised throughout the world that the most satisfactory results, both aesthetical and economical, are achieved by utilising the wide range of experience available from a large body of qualified architects. South Africa affords ample testimony to the wisdom of following this course, there being many notable public buildings throughout the Union, the work of private practitioners, which are sources of civic and national pride by reason of their excellence.

"New building schemes embarked upon by the Cape and Transvaal Provincial Administrations are almost invariably entrusted to practising Architects.

"Architectural service can be varied to suit all classes and descriptions of buildings. Where minor works are concerned it is customary to engage an experienced practitioner selected by the clients, and for major works, such as town halls, public libraries, etc., the best results can be looked for by the promotion of architectural competitions. Such competitions, dependent upon the magnitude of the work contemplated, may be : (1) open to the whole of the profession, or (2) limited to certain competitors chosen by the promoters.

"The Institute claims that the public interest can best be served by the employment of private architectural practitioners in the manner herein indicated, and it suggests that full consideration be given to this memorandum by the authorities to whom it is addressed.

"Conditions governing the promotion and conduct of architectural competitions, as adopted by the Institute of South African Architects, and any other information that may be of assistance to local authorities can be obtained on application to the Secretary, The Cape Provincial Institute of Architects, St. George's House, St. George's Street, Cape Town."

TOWN PLANNING.

"The Town Planning Association of the Cape Province" has been established during the year, thanks mainly to the efforts of Mr. Cornish Bowden, late Surveyor-General of the Province. On the invitation of the Association two of our members were nominated to serve on its Council, viz., Mr. W. J. Delbridge. of Cape Town, and Mr. F. Owen Eaton, of Port Elizabeth, with Mr. H. J. Brownlee as alternate to the latter. That an institution of this nature is long overdue, is evidenced by the almost total absence of co-ordination in the general lay-out of townships within the area of the City of Cape Town and doubtless elsewhere in the Province. In the admirable preamble to the objects of the Association it is stated that "there is scarcely a town or village in the Province which is not suffering from some serious defect either in the original lay-out or in its subsequent extension or from the manner in which it has been developed and built upon," and its primary aim will be "to advance by every means in its power the teaching and study of town-planning and civic design and to interest and educate the public in their practical importance and the benefits to be derived from them." The new Institution has the Cape Institute's best wishes for a great and successful future.

LECTURES AND OTHER FUNCTIONS.

Local members had the privilege of hearing two most interesting lectures in the period under review. On 15th January, Mr. Garth Newbon Trace, D.F.C., F.R.G.S., lectured on "Aerial Survey : its methods and uses," and on 3rd August Mr. F. K. Kendall, F.R.I.B.A., entertained the members to a most enjoyable talk on "Gothic Architecture."

Advantage was taken of the latter occasion to present the Cape Province Institute 1931 bronze medal to Mr. W. G. Fagg, L.R.I.B.A., the successful competitor of that year. The presentation was made by Mr. Charlton, representing the "Cape Argus," the donors of the trophy.

On 18th January a large number of members visited the new Reserve Bank Buildings, St. George's Street, on the invitation of the Directors and of Mr. James Morris, L.R.I.B.A., architect of the works.

STANDARD FORM OF CERTIFICATE.

Your Committee has designed and made arrangements for the printing of a Standard Certificate form for the use of members. A reduced specimen of the form is attached to this Report.

C.P.I. BRONZE MEDAL.

The 1932 Cape Provincial Institute bronze medal has been awarded to Mr. James Morris, L.R.I.B.A., for his design of the new South African Reserve Bank Buildings, St. George's Street, Cape Town. Mr. Morris is heartily congratulated upon his success. The medal, it will be recalled, is awarded annually for the best example of architecture executed within the Cape Province, and is donated by the "Cape Argus."

THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE.

The number of students attending the architectural classes at the University of Cape Town was sixty-two, as compared with fifty-one in 1931. Of these fourteen were first year, fourteen second year, eleven third year, ten fourth year, and thirteen fifth year students.

Five students were successful in passing the third year and one student the fifth year examination, the prize-winners being :

Third year student (John Perry Prize) : E. R. Delbridge.

Fifth year student (A.B. & E. Prize) : E. D. Andrews.

Early in the year Mr. B. G. L. Mansergh, A.R.I.B.A., joined the staff as lecturer in succession to Mr. L. McConnell, deceased.

THE LIBRARY.

The library has been increased by three volumes, one by purchase, "Wren Society, Vol. IX.," and two by presentation, "Planning for Good Acoustics" and "The Building Stones of the Union of South Africa."

The "Architect, Builder and Engineer" Journal has been sent monthly to all members.

The library is housed for the present at the School of Art, Orange Street, and may be consulted on week-days between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

HONORARY AUDITOR.

Mr. B. G. L. Mansergh, the Honorary Auditor, is thanked for his services.

GENERAL.

Members are reminded that a Register of Architects seeking assistants and of assistants seeking employment is kept by the Secretary.

B. G. L. MANSERGH,
Vice-President.

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting of the Cape Provincial Institute of Architects held in the Argus Board Room, St. George's Street, Cape Town, on 15th March, 1933.

Present :–Messrs. J. Lonstein, C. P. Walgate, H. J. Brownlee, R. de Smidt, W. G. Fagg, E. G. Hart, B. Mansergh, W. J. Delbridge, James Morris, H. L. Roberts, R. F. R. Day, E. Austin Cooke, B. St. C. Lightfoot, C. Mitchell, Charles Merrifield and the Secretary.

The Vice-President, Mr. B. Mansergh, occupied the chair.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

Minutes of the Thirty-third Annual General Meeting held on 14th March, 1932, were read to the meeting, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman at this stage of the proceedings declared the ballot closed, and thereupon Messrs. Hart and Lightfoot were appointed scrutineers. The ballot papers having been verified and dealt with in terms of the regulations, the scrutineers retired to count the votes.

The Chairman in moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts said : "Gentlemen, before moving the adoption of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for last year, I wish to refer to that portion of the Report in which is recorded the passing of three of our members, and to ask you to rise to your feet in token of respect to their memory.

I am sorry that our President, Captain Elsworth, is not in occupation of the Chair, but he has been absent for some months in connection with a professional engagement in Natal.

Since we met in this room a year ago the country has passed through a period of almost unparalleled depression, and it may safely be said that none have suffered more than those connected with the building industry, which many of us know to our cost has approached a condition of almost complete stagnation. But happily there are indications that the worst is over, and as the outcome of recent political developments and currency changes, a return to better conditions is not far distant. I sincerely hope so.

I am glad to see Mr. Brownlee with us today. His services in connection with the unfortunate Port Elizabeth collapse case are not likely to be forgotten.

A letter has just come from the Chairman of the Port Elizabeth Local Committee, an extract of which I must read to you. He says :–

"At our last annual general meeting, which incidentally was our first meeting since the building collapse case, I was deputed to write to you and express my Committee's sincere appreciation of the invaluable assistance rendered by your Provincial Institute on behalf of one of our members, at the recent Supreme Court trial."

A very pleasing item of our programme for this afternoon is the presentation of the 1932 Cape Provincial Institute bronze medal, donated as you are aware, by the "Cape Argus," to Mr. James Morris, for his design of the New South African Reserve Bank Building. Will Mr. Morris allow me to add my personal congratulations to those conveyed to him by the Committee in its report.

It is not my intention to make any extensive review of the Committee's work during its year of office, but there are one or two matters of outstanding interest upon which further comment may not be out of place. Regarded as a whole I think it can be claimed that the report is a record of much work attempted, and a good deal accomplished, by your Committee on behalf of the profession.

Reference is made in the report to the relationship between the Cape Institute and the Central Council, and to the efforts that are being made by us to place matters on a better footing. I am of the opinion that most of the differences and difficulties that have arisen since the Registration Act came into operation, are the result of a defect in the regulations as drafted by the Inaugural Board. Judging from the regulations as we find them, the Board's conception of the relationship between the Central Council and the constituent bodies appears to have been that of a controlling establishment with subordinate branches in the four provinces—a conception inconsistent with the clear intention of the Act, which was not to extinguish the existing Institutes, but to perpetuate them upon a basis of incorporation. It might have been foreseen that any system of Central Control imposed upon bodies accustomed to manage their own affairs and, if I may say so, to

manage them successfully, was doomed to failure from the very start ; but unfortunately the Inaugural Board seems to have strained the powers and functions of the Central Council to an extent that seriously interfered with the autonomous rights the constituent bodies were entitled to enjoy under the Act. The Cape Institute pointed out these fundamental defects while the regulations were in course of preparation, but its representations were not acceptable to the Board, with the result that we now find ourselves fettered by a system which experience of the past five years has proved to be unworkable and very costly. We are endeavouring to remedy this state of affairs by asking for a revision of the regulations and we hope the Central Council when it meets to consider our proposals will appreciate that they are made with a single eye to the future well-being of the profession.

Members will learn with much interest the efforts that we are making with the Cape Town City Council to secure recognition of the status of registered architects, in connection with the submission of plans for approval. The encroachments that non-registered, and as a rule, incompetent persons have been able to make upon our work, are doing much harm to the profession, and a great disservice to the general Public.

Another matter of great importance to the profession was brought to the notice of the Central Council by your Committee some months ago. It is the absence from our Scale of Charges of anything in the nature of conditions under which an architect is employed, or any definition of the extent of his responsibilities towards his client. We consider that this state of affairs places the profession in a highly vulnerable position, and in consequence we have proposed that Regulation No. 97 should be amplified by the addition of an introductory statement setting forth conditions of engagement similar to those embodied in the R.I.B.A. tariff.

I must not omit to pay high tribute to the invaluable services rendered to the building industry in the past year by the Joint Practice Committee, a body composed of Master Builders, Quantity Surveyors and Architects.

The new Town Planning Association recently established in the Province meets a long-felt want, and I hope our members will give it their active support and encouragement.

I should like to refer to our 1932/33 Kalendar and to point out that it is due to the financial success of this publication that we have been able to make ends meet. To Mr. Delbridge, who for some years past has collaborated with our Secretary in the production of the Kalendar, we give our hearty thanks.

In conclusion, I desire to record the Institute's appreciation of the services rendered by Major Duncan, its Secretary, in the past year.

I now propose the adoption of the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1932, and to thank you for your attendance here to-day."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Walgate, who congratulated the Committee on the way in which they had carried on the business of the Institute in a particularly difficult year. He called attention to two items in the accounts, first the profit on the Year Book, which had saved the situation financially, and for which the Institute was indebted to Mr. Delbridge and Major Duncan ; and second, the heavy proportion of income paid by way of levy to the Central Council, which prevented the Institute carrying out several long-cherished schemes, such as a library and reading room for members, and a benevolent fund. With regard to the levy, Mr. Walgate said that he knew the Committee had done and was doing all it could to obtain a reduction and that no effort would be spared to bring the efforts to a satisfactory conclusion.

The adoption of the Reports and Accounts for 1932 upon being put to the meeting was carried without dissent.

The scrutineers at this stage of the proceedings reported the result of the ballot to the Chairman, who thereupon announced that the following members had been elected as the Provincial Committee for 1933/34 :—

R. F. R. Day, A.R.I.B.A. ; W. J. Delbridge, A.R.I.B.A. ; L. A. Elsworth, A.R.I.B.A. ; W. J. H. Gregory, A.R.I.B.A. ; W. Hawke, F.R.I.B.A. ; B. G. L. Mansergh, A.R.I.B.A. ; C. H. N. Merrifield, A.R.I.B.A. ; J. K. Parker, A.R.I.B.A. ; C. P. Walgate, A.R.I.B.A., A.R.C.A.

Mr. Walgate then asked leave to bring forward two motions. He said that the Inaugural Board in drawing up Regulations under the Act had given duties and powers to the Central Council which the Act itself did not foreshadow, and that in consequence not only was the cost of maintaining the Central Council unduly heavy, but the freedom of the constituent bodies was unreasonably restricted.

Both these difficulties were foreseen by this Institute in 1927 when the Regulations were being drafted and representations had been made to the Inaugural Board personally in Cape Town and by telegram to Johannesburg but without effect. Time had proved the correctness of the views then expressed, and the time appeared ripe for a revision of the regulations to bring them into line with the Act.

He moved :—(1) This meeting regards with great alarm the drain upon the financial resources of the Cape Provincial Institute resulting from the excessive levy imposed upon it by the Central Council ; and (2) The Committee of the Cape Provincial Institute has the unanimous support of this meeting in its endeavours to secure local autonomy for the Constituent Bodies.

The purpose of the resolutions being that the Committee in taking up these matters with the Central Council might have the support of the members assembled in General Meeting.

Mr. Delbridge in seconding the resolutions referred to the delegation that waited upon the City Council some months ago, and congratulated Mr. Walgate upon the masterly fashion in which he had stated the Institute's claim to official recognition in the new building regulations.

Upon being put to the meeting the resolutions were adopted without dissent.

Mr. Flather was then introduced to the meeting and on behalf of the "Cape Argus" presented the Cape Provincial Institute bronze medal to Mr. James Morris, the winner of the 1932 competition.

On the motion of Mr. Walgate seconded by Mr. Delbridge, Mr. R. F. R. Day was appointed honorary auditor for the ensuing year.

Mr. Roberts suggested that much greater interest would be taken in the annual prizes awarded to students if these were, in future, presented at the Annual General Meetings. The Chairman said the idea was a very good one and would be considered by the incoming Committee.

The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the scrutineers and to the Chairman.

the natal provincial institute

Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting of members held in the Institute's Room, No. 5, Poynton's Chambers, Smith Street, Durban, at 3.30 p.m., Friday 10th March, 1933.

Present :—Messrs. H. E. Chick, W. Paton, W. S. Payne, W. B Oxley, E. M. Powers, G. T. Hurst, Alan Woodrow, B. V. Bartholomew, L. A. Peyton, C. S. M. Taylor and the Secretary.

The President, Mr. H. E. Chick, occupied the Chair.

On the motion of the Chairman the notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

The Chairman welcomed the members present and declared the Sixth Annual General Meeting duly constituted.

The Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting held on the 11th March, 1932, having been circulated to all members were, on the motion of the Chairman, taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the year under review said : Gentlemen, the Annual Report, a copy of which has been circulated to all members, covers most of the Committee's activities during the past year, and I think we can congratulate ourselves upon the progress made and upon our financial position which remains sound.

In briefly reviewing the annual report for the past year the Chairman regretted the

indifference of some of the members as regards their annual subscription and that owing to the outstandings it had been found necessary for the Committee to draw on this Provincial Institute's investment account to provide for the annual levy payable to the Central Council.

In thanking the members for the honour of being their President for the past year, the Chairman expressed his thanks to the Committee for their loyal support during his term of office, and also expressed the Committee's thanks and appreciation of the efficient manner the secretary had carried out his duties. He said that although he had decided to retire from the Committee he would at all times be pleased to give his assistance if so required. Concluding his remarks the Chairman moved the adoption of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet which was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARCHITECTURAL MEDAL.

Arising out of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting "approving the principle of awarding annually a bronze medal for the best example of architecture within the Natal Province" it was resolved, on the motion of Col. Hurst, that this matter be again introduced for discussion at the next Annual General Meeting.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR.

Mr. J. E. Duff, F.S.A.A., was re-elected Auditor for the ensuing year.

ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE.

The ballot papers having been dealt with in terms of the regulations, the scrutineers retired to count the votes for the New Committee.

The result of the ballot was handed to the Chairman who thereupon announced the following nine members duly elected to the Provincial Committee for 1933-1934 :— Messrs. G. T. Hurst, B. V. Bartholomew, F. J. Ing, G. Le Sueur, W. B. Oxley, W. S. Payne, E. M. Powers, W. Paton (Practising Members), and C. S. M. Taylor (Salaried Member).

CENTRAL COUNCIL FINANCES.

As the result of a discussion, regarding the position of the Central Council finances, the meeting commented upon the attitude adopted by the Cape Provincial Institute in connection with its obligations towards providing for the annual levy payable to the Institute, it was resolved that it be a recommendation to the incoming Committee to consider the question of forwarding a letter of protest to the Central Council in connection with this matter.

PROPOSED DONATIONS.

A proposal that a donation be voted to the "Howden Scholarship" fund and also a sum be voted to the local architectural classes was sympathetically received, and after some discussion it was resolved that the incoming Committee give this matter its attention.

OVERCROWDING OF ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS.

Some discussion took place with regard to the overcrowding of architectural pupils and students. It was felt that some control be exercised in this respect.

The Chairman advised the meeting that this matter among others had already been referred to the Central Council for attention and would be dealt with at the next Central Council meeting to take place early in April.

CORPORATION DEPARTMENTAL WORK.

The question of Departmental architectural work undertaken by the Durban Corporation was commented upon and the meeting expressed the opinion that the town would be the gainer if new works constructed out of public funds were given out to practising architects or alternatively made the subject of competition.

It was urged that the incoming Committee use its best endeavours to induce the Town Council to give serious consideration to this matter.

MEETING CLOSED.

On the Chairman declaring the business of the meeting completed a hearty vote of thanks was accorded him for his successful term of office.

COMMITTEE 1933-1934.

Messrs. Wallace Paton (President), G. Le Sueur (Vice-President), W. S. Payne, E. M. Powers, W. B. Oxley, F. J. Ing, G. T. Hurst, B. V. Bartholomew and C. S. M. Taylor. Representative on Central Council : Mr. E. M. Powers. Alternate on Central Council : Mr. Wallace Paton.

o.f.s. provincial institute

president's report to annual meeting 7th march 1933.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in welcoming you here to the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the O.F.S. Provincial Institute of Architects and to report as follows for the year ended 31st December, 1932.

Our membership rose in 1932 by the inclusion of Mr. H. R. Eddy, Mr. Gordon Leith and Mr. T. Moore, but we lost Mr. J. E. Fitt, who moved to Germiston.

For 1933 I regret we lose Mr. Leith and Mr. Norman Harvey, but Mr. J. F. Corbitt, of Ladybrand has transferred to this Province and I am pleased to say Mr. J. Willoughby-Williams has signified his intention to be fully registered in this Province.

During the year Mr. Cartwright, who had also acted as Hon. Secretary resigned from the Committee and Mr. Norman Harvey was elected in his stead, but after two meetings we had to congratulate Mr. Harvey on his promotion and transfer to Pretoria.

Miss O. Mosley undertook the duties of Hon. Secretary in the month of August and has carried on in a thorough and capable manner.

Your Committee has, among other activities, been concerned with :— (a) work done without remuneration ; (b) Conditions of Contract ; (c) local autonomy of constituent bodies ; (d) Architects Conditions of Engagement ; (e) Central Council finances ; (f) outstanding accounts ; (g) the question of a S.A. Booklet on the lines of the English one entitled " The Adventure of Building " to be placed before the building public showing them the advisability and economy of employing professional architects in their building projects. Such a booklet may still be published by the Central Council, the English one having had a surprisingly large circulation in Great Britain.

I desire to tender my thanks to the Vice-President, Committee and Hon. Secretary for their help and services to the Institute during the last twelve months.

I would again draw members attention to their Committee's request (in accordance with the Regulations) that all drawings issued from their offices—no matter how insignificant the work–should bear the name of the responsible individual or firm concerned.

It is also up to every member to maintain the regulation rate of professional charges, departure from same—unless signified to the Secretary—constitutes an act of unprofessional conduct.

I would urge upon all members not to omit putting the protective clauses of the old building contract agreement into all their future specifications and bills of quantities.

The Revenue and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet have been circulated to all members.

The Gross Assets of £70 13s. 0d. include £26 0s. 0d. still owing, but this amount is being steadily reduced.

Our net cash balance of £36 13s. 0d. is partly in the Bloemfontein Board of Executors, but all the more recent deposits are with the Savings Department of the Standard Bank.

Our thanks are due to the Public Works Department that our members were afforded an opportunity of meeting Mr. J. S. Cleland, and congratulating him on his appointment as Union Secretary of Public Works. We were afterwards conducted over the New National Hospital by Mr. W. W. Tonkin and the local staff of the Department of Public Works assisted by Mr. R. Norburn, of Pretoria, and spent two hours of crowded interest in studying the building and its comprehensive appointments.

O.F.S. TOWN PLANNING ASSOCIATION.

The Provisional Secretary had to relinquish this post last June. The financial stringency the Province has faced in the last twelve months and the lack of an organising Secretary with the necessary spare time to devote to this movement has made the definite formation of this Association impracticable for the moment, but it is hoped the coming year will see easier times and the right man coming forward.

ANNUAL DINNER.

In previous years we had the pleasure of entertaining Presidents-in-chief in the persons of Mr. R. Howden and Mr. W. Hawke–the last occasion was, if possible, even more successful —Mr. Moore, President-in-Chief was accompanied by Lt.-Col. W. E. Puntis, member of Central Council and Mr. J. S. Lewis, the Registrar. Our local visitors were his Wor. the Mayor ; Adv. E. de Beer ; Mr. R. A. Gregorowski, Provincial Secretary ; Mr. S. Fawcett Peck, Town Clerk ; Mr. B. P. Jones, President Bloemfontein Master Builders ; and Mr. W. S. Lunn, City Engineer. His Hon. the Administrator was unfortunately unable to be present.

After the dinner and toasts were finished there was held the usual hour and a half talk on professional topics which has always been a feature of these occasions. The words of Mr. Moore, Col. Puntis and the Registrar receiving careful attention.

I am pleased to be able to state our cordial relationship with Central Council has been maintained.

Since the foundation of the Institute of S.A. Architects this Province (no matter whether its full subscriptions had been received or not) has paid full levy according to its membership roll to the Central Council. We are fully paid up now and as levies become due they will be promptly met.

CLAUSE 3.

We are all aware that to avoid the complete waste of the money and ten years of hard work this clause was omitted from the final draft of our Act and it is often remarked that for our trouble there is little or no benefit to present day architects of either class, this, however, is hardly correct. Public recognition of the advisability of employing the professional architect is slowly spreading.

In the salaried class the employment of youths unable later to fully qualify or who would be debarred from applying for examination or registration has entirely ceased.

That we are still unsatisfied (that we have still this clause to work for, and the fact that no one Province or Unit could possibly achieve the passing of this measure) is one of the greatest reasons why Central Council should be loyally and faithfully supported. Only by our united efforts in recognising and strengthening the S.A. Institute to the utmost of our power in order that all S.A. shall come to recognise it as the one voice of our profession, can the end which we desire be brought nearer.

THE YEAR BOOK.

This publication with its list of names and addresses of building materials specialists is becoming of increasing value. The last issue gives a description of the general activities of Central Council since its inception in order that members may see the many problems dealt with on their behalf.

BUILDING CONTRACT AGREEMENT.

This document having been finally agreed to by the Provincial Institutes and the Chapter through their delegates, and ratified by the Committee (Executive) and the Federation of Master Builders is now the standing agreement throughout S.A. Copies may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, price one shilling each.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

These remain as printed in the regulations although it is an open secret that any cases of difficulty will receive careful and sympathetic consideration. We must agree that the levy to Central Council remains at its present figure until all subscriptions to the cost of the Parliamentary Bill have been repaid. The Cape and O.F.S. have received preferential repayment and are thus in honour bound to see the remaining creditors recouped without delay.

Whether the total combined amount of levy and Provincial subscription can be reduced it is hard to say ; if it were reduced twenty per cent. that would, vulgarly speaking, represent per member less than half a whisky and soda per week, and until the Bill Account is paid off any possible reduction can only be by Provincial Institutes reducing their own local expenditure.

The "Architectural Record" is now issued monthly to all members who must gratefully acknowledge the hard work of all concerned in its production. I would ask members to send "copy" to the Editors. Topical notes and current news of professional interest will all assist.

In my report of last year I stated that I trusted the end of that year would be brighter than its beginning and there are signs that it was so.

The year 1932 has probably been the most disastrous year to the architectural and quantity surveying professions in the last quarter of a century. Money has left the country in millions sterling, new money under a thirty per cent disability failed to enter. In Cape Town building operations fell fifty per cent., in Durban, September, October and November, 1931, showed over a quarter of a million to be spent in buildings and in May, June and July, 1932, only sixty-six thousand. The expected revival will unhappily affect this Province least of all, if we cannot produce and sell, we cannot develop.

The coastal belt is producing and Johannesburg is sending out its record output, with us in the Midlands, however, in addition to the depression, the last year's drought has reduced production to vanishing point. It is my earnest hope that this situation may swiftly cease and prosperity again find its way into town and country.

It remains for me now to thank all the members of the Institute for the confidence they have placed in me during the eleven years I have served as their Hon. Secretary, and the last three years in which I have been President ; these years have been a deep abiding pleasure to me. It is quite time that another should have the honour of steering the O.F.S. Institute along its path of progress and I wish him a prosperous time and one as full of interest as that I have enjoyed.

Office Bearers and Committee for the year 1933-1934 are :–President, H. A. C. Wallace, F.S.I. ; Vice-President H. Fyvie, A.R.I.B.A. ; Committee, H. A. C. Wallace, F.S.I., H. G. E. de la Cornillere, H. Fyvie, A.R.I.B.A., Fredk. W. Masey, L.R.I.B.A., W. W. Tonkin, L.R.I.B.A. ; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, W. W. Tonkin, L.R.I.B.A., 16, National Mutual Buildings, Maitland Street, Bloemfontein.

the chapter of south african quantity surveyors.

Minutes of Sixth Annual General Meeting held in the McFadyen Hall, Vermeulen Street, Pretoria, on Saturday, March 11th, 1933, at 10 a.m.

Present :—Professor H. Bell-John, President, in the Chair; and Messrs. C. L. F. Borckenhagen, W. J. Clyde, N. T. Cowin, John A. Cowling, J. W. Cowling, E. B. Farrow, F. B. Holt, G. E. Howgrave-Graham, Henry A. Hustwick, D. J. Laing, Arthur Leitch, J. Lockwood Hall, C. B. Lugg, Dudley S. Mann, Gerard Moerdyk, T. Moore, N. N. Moore, R. J. C. Prentice, Lt.-Col. W. E. Puntis, Messrs. Harry C. Spencer, A. W. Springthorpe, W. M. Warne, and J. S. Lewis, Secretary.

Students :–Messrs. H. F. E. Banks, C. R. Cornell, F. A. Longworth, and G. B. McIntosh.

The notice convening the meeting was, on the suggestion of the President, taken as read.

Those present signed the attendance register.

The Secretary conveyed to the meeting apologies for absence, and best wishes for a successful meeting, from Messrs. A. T. Babbs, C. H. Deighton, N. Foulds, E. J. Hamlin, R. Howden, J. McEnanem, L. Martin and W. G. Thompson.

The Secretary reported that the Board had but recently learned, with deep regret, of the death of Mr. J. L. Bowman, M.C.Q.S., of Cape Town. On the suggestion of the President, all present rose as a mark of respectful sympathy.

It was agreed, on the proposition of Mr. T. Moore, seconded by Mr. N. T. Cowin, that the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting be taken as read and that they be confirmed.

Matters Arising Therefrom.—Mr. T. Moore pointed out that the recommendation of the last Annual General Meeting, i.e., that the Board should consider the question of increasing the personnel of the Board, had been duly given effect to, in that the new Board would consist of twelve members.

Mr. T. Moore also pointed out that the books, formerly in the Chapter's "Library," suitably inscribed, had been duly presented to the University of Pretoria.

Mr. D. J. Laing asked what had been done re the suggestion put forward by Col. Puntis, that rules should be framed for the conduct of all meetings held within the Institute.

Col. Puntis replied that no decision had yet been made, and that the matter would be considered by the Central Council at its next meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The President's Report for 1932-1933, duly circulated to members, was, at the instance of the President, taken as read. The President invited comments or discussion thereon.

Part Time Training in Quantity Surveying.—Mr. N. T. Cowin said he wished to raise the question of the training of students and to ask what steps the Board was taking to ensure that those entering the profession obtain a sound practical knowledge of their work. For instance, he had reason to believe that Diplomas in Quantity Surveying had been obtained by three students who held clerical positions in the Government service, as the result of spare-time study. These young men were now, to all intents and purposes, stamped as fully-fledged Quantity Surveyors, but what practical experience in Quantity Surveying had they had ? Moreover, if it were possible for a clerk in an office to obtain the Diploma in Quantity Surveying, without doing any technical work at all, he (Mr. Cowin) wished to know why a young man in Johannesburg, working in the office of his father, a tennis-court contractor, was not permitted to take the Diploma Course, "because he was not in suitable employment." In his view, concluded Mr. Cowin, the Diploma should not be granted to a student unless he had had two or three years' experience in the office of an Architect or Quantity Surveyor.

Col. Puntis said he felt that Mr. Cowin had misconstrued the position. There was nothing in law to prevent any person, no matter what his occupation was, from taking a Diploma Course in any professional subjects. The crux of the matter, however, was that no student could become enrolled as a Quantity Surveyor unless he complied with the practice qualification laid down in the Act. In the case of the tennis-court contractor's son, quoted by Mr. Cowin, the position was that the Board could not recognise the time served with a tennis-court contractor as complying with the practice qualification required by the Act.

The Secretary detailed to the meeting the specific cases dealt with from time to time by the Board, all of which had been duly published in the Board's minutes (vide Vol. I., pages eighty-four, ninety-six, one hundred, one hundred and thirty-one). The position, briefly, was that no person could be enrolled as a member of the Chapter unless he satisfied the Board that he had had four year's practical training in Quantity Surveying in addition to one year's professional experience, in that the Central Council had decided that part-time study for Diplomas would not be recognised for the purpose of enrolment unless the student taking such part-time course was contemporaneously in the office of a Quantity Surveyor.

Architectural Students and Lectures on Quantity Surveying.—As a result of the discussion Mr. Arthur Leitch pointed out that Diploma Students in Architecture (University of the Witwatersrand) were obliged to take a course in Quantity Surveying : did that mean that if the architectural students passed in such Quantity Surveying Course, and at the same time had five years' experience in the office of an Architect–Quantity Surveyor, that such student was thereby entitled to be enrolled as a Quantity Surveyor ?

The President replied that "Diploma" Students in Architecture, in their fourth year, attended several lectures in Quantity Surveying subjects, the objects being that architectural students should have an elementary knowledge of Quantity Surveying. Clearly architectural students could not, by virtue of attending a few lectures on "Specifications, Quantities and Estimates," thereby qualify as Quantity Surveyors.

Mr. Lockwood Hall expressed the view that Architects should of necessity have a certain knowledge of Quantities, Specifications and Estimates ; it was all to the good that they should gain that knowledge, whether by examination or otherwise.

Mr. Arthur Leitch pointed out he was not referring to Architects, but to architectural students, who were obliged in the course of their studies to attend lectures on Quantity Surveying, the wisdom of which he questioned.

Mr. D. J. Laing said, as the matter now seemed to be one concerning the training of Architects, it was not one which should be dealt with by the Chapter—with which view Mr. Moerdyk associated himself.

Mr. Arthur Leitch said he wished to draw attention to Section 11(3) of the Act : "Provided that in no case shall any member not in practice on his own behalf or in partnership be entitled to vote upon any matter, bye-law or resolution affecting or tending to affect professional practice."

Mr. T. Moore pointed out that Section 11 (3) of the Act did not relate to the Chapter.

The President said the matter raised by Mr. Leitch was educational rather than one of professional practice.

On the proposition of Mr. T. Moore, seconded by Mr. C. L. F. Borckenhagen, it was agreed to accord a vote of thanks to the President for his report, and to publish it in the next issue of the Year Book.

BOARD'S REPORT.

Mr. Moerdyk proposed, and Mr. Lockwood Hall seconded, that the Board's Report be taken as read and adopted.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM.

Central Council.—Mr. T. Moore said that, as one of the Board's representatives on the Central Council, he wished to report that the relationship between the Chapter and the Central Council continued as amicably as in former years ; as instances of which he mentioned that Col. Puntis had been unanimously elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Central Council, and he (Mr. Moore) had been elected Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee on Education and Examinations. The importance of the work and the activities of the Central Council was clearly demonstrated in the summary of those activities published in the Year Book, a careful study of which would react to the benefit of all the members concerned and the Constituent Bodies to which they belonegd.

Mr. Moore paid tribute to the excellence of the services rendered, on behalf of the Chapter, by Mr. A. T. Babbs in his capacity as a member of the Central Council.

Deceased Members.—On the suggestion of Mr. Moore, the Annual General Meeting indicated its sympathy with the relatives of three members of the Chapter who died during the year under review, all present rising in silence.

"South African Architectural Record."—Mr. Moore stated that he had discussed this matter with Mr. Allen Wilson, a member of the Transvaal Provincial Committee, and was given to understand that the "Record" would be supplied free of charge to every member of the Institute and the Chapter, and not only to Practising Members.

Chapter's Benevolent Fund.—Mr. D. J. Laing said he wished heartily to congratulate the Board on having created a Benevolent Fund during the year under review. He hoped that the Chapter's financial position would warrant the Board in allocating to the Benevolent Fund annually the "moieties" receivable from the Chartered Surveyors' Institution.

In reply to Mr. N. T. Cowin, the Secretary stated that an application for assistance had been made by one member of the Chapter.

Port Elizabeth Building Collapse Case.—Mr. J. W. Cowling referred to the excellent work done by Mr. T. Moore in assisting in arranging for the defence of the accused member, the result of which was his acquittal. (Applause.)

Afrikaans Translation of "Standard System."—Mr. G. Moerdyk, referring to the task which he, with the help of Mr. Borckenhagen, had undertaken, referred to the difficulties experienced by them, in the actual work of translation, in dealing with non-academic terms. He therefore wished to issue an appeal to members of the Chapter for the loan of dictionaries or glossaries of non-academic building terms, or other technical works on building which would be likely to assist. Illustrating the translators' problem if the purely literal meaning of a word were taken, Mr. Moerdyk occasioned much laughter by quoting Professor Max Drennan on the changes that have taken place in the meaning of words: viz., the word "idiot" originally meant "a man who does not take part in politics !"

The Board's Report was adopted unanimously.

ADOPTION OF BALANCE SHEET AND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

Mr. E. B. Farrow proposed, and Mr. C. L. F. Borckenhagen seconded, the adoption of the Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenditure Account.

"Standard System."—Mr. Moore drew attention to the improvement in the position of the "Standard System Account," in that, save for an amount of £26 15s. 9d., the cost of reprinting was now covered, whereas there were four hundred and forty-five copies still on hand.

The Secretary added that since January 1st, 1933, forty-nine further copies of the "Standard System" had been sold, the proceeds being £17.

New "Conditions of Contract."—It was agreed, on the suggestion of Mr. D. J. Laing, to publish in these minutes that copies of the new "Conditions of Contract" should be purchased from the Secretary of the Chapter, so that the Chapter might benefit by the profit thus obtained.

Position of 1933 Subscriptions.—The Secretary reported that fifty members of the Chapter had thus far paid their 1933 subscriptions : viz., twenty-nine practising members, twenty salaried members, one retired member.

On the proposition of Mr. Laing, seconded by Mr. Cowin, the meeting passed a hearty vote of thanks to those members, and the Secretary, who had during the year assisted the financial position of the Chapter by their donations.

The Balance Sheet and Accounts were adopted unanimously.

DECLARATION OF BOARD FOR 1933-1934.

The President announced that, as no additional nominations had been received, the following members would constitute the Board for 1933-1934 :—

Practising Solely as Quantity Surveyors :
- A. T. Babbs.
- H. Bell-John.
- C. L. F. Borckenhagen.
- J. W. Cowling.
- D. J. Laing.
- J. E. McEnanem.
- T. Moore.

Practising in Dual Capacity :
- R. Howden.
- G. Moerdyk.

Salaried Quantity Surveyors :
- E. J. Hamlin.
- R. J. C. Prentice.
- W. E. Puntis.

Mr. E. B. Farrow said it was a matter for congratulation that a "Coalition" Board had been elected this year, with which view Mr. Cowin and Mr. Laing associated themselves.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 1933.

It was agreed, on the proposition of Mr. D. J. Laing seconded by Mr. T. Moore, that Messrs. Alex. Aiken and Carter be reappointed auditors to the Chapter and that the fixing of their remuneration be left to the Board.

VOTES OF THANKS.

To the Outgoing Board.—On the proposition of Mr. N. T. Cowin, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the members of the outgoing Board for their work during the year. Mr. Cowin said he knew, from actual experience, the very great amount of work performed by the Board on behalf of the Chapter.

To the President.—Mr. T. Moore, proposing a vote of thanks to the President, referred with pleasure to the fact that it was Professor Bell-John who was the founder of a professional association of Quantity Surveyors in South Africa ; the interest taken by their President in Quantity Surveying was just as keen during his term as President as it had been thirty years ago.

The vote of thanks was passed with acclamation.

The President, in thanking the meeting for their appreciation of his efforts, referred to the thorough way in which the Board dealt with matters requiring its attention. He had had a very happy year as President, thanks to the co-operation of the other members of the Board.

To the Secretary.—Mr. G. Moerdyk said that as Presidents come and go, and as Boards come and go, he wished to propose a vote of thanks to their Secretary, who was the one continuous element in the "fabric" of the Board. He felt that the duties of members of the Board would involve much greater work and sacrifice were it not for the ideal type of Secretary they had.

The vote of thanks was passed with acclamation.

To Mr. T. Moore.—The meeting, on the proposition of Col. Puntis, passed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. T. Moore for the generous use of his office for the holding of meetings of the Board.

To the University of Pretoria.—It was agreed, on the proposition of Mr. D. J. Laing, that a hearty vote of thanks be passed to the University of Pretoria for the use of the hall for this Annual General Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Student Prize Winners.—The meeting, at the instance of Mr. T. Moore, placed on record its congratulations to the following student prize-winners :—

Gold Medal, Mr. R. J. Law.
2nd Year Book Prize, Mr. A. R. D. McIntosh.
1st Year Book Prize, Mr. L. D. de le Cour.

Chartered Surveyors' Institution Examinations.—The Secretary referred to serious difficulty experienced recently because of the fact that two candidates for the Chartered Surveyors' Institution Examinations sent their applications direct to London, and not through the Chapter. It was the Chapter which, on behalf of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution, arranged for the invigilation of South African Candidates ; and in the case of the two candidates referred to, neither the Chapter nor the University arranging for the invigilation had any information as to the identity of the candidates to be examined. Fortunately the difficulty had been cleared up.

It was agreed that it be a recommendation to members of the Chapter, through these minutes, to see to it that students in their offices taking the examinations of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution send their applications only through the Chapter.

Mr. R. Howden.—The meeting, at the instance of Mr. Moore, recorded its sympathy with Mr. R. Howden that he was prevented, by illness, from attending the meeting and its sincere wish that he be speedily restored to health.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 a.m.

professional notes and news.

central council notices.

New Registrations.

Since January 1st, 1933, four registrations as Architects, and one enrolment as a Quantity Surveyor, have been effected, viz., A. C. Johnston (Capetown), Practising Member ; C. M. F. Mitchell (Capetown), Practising Member ; M. B. Torstenson (Capetown), Practising Member ; and H. W. Reid (Johannesburg), Salaried Member.

New Enrolment.

H. F. E. Banks (Pretoria) has been enrolled a Salaried Member of the Chapter.

Professional Licences.

Towards the end of 1932 representations were made by the Central Council to the Hon. the Minister of Finance, submitting that, in view of the serious loss of work affecting Architects and Quantity Surveyors throughout South Africa, a substantial reduction should be made in the amount of the annual licence payable. The Minister of Finance replied that, before he could take any steps in the matter, the assent of the respective Provincial Administrations was required. The Central Council's representations have been duly conveyed to the four Provincial Administrators, whose replies are now awaited.

Are Licences Provincial or Union?

As the result of inquiries made by the Central Council, the following official statement has been issued by the Receiver of Revenue, Johannesburg :

"Professional licences, though nominally provincial in that the revenue derived from them go to the funds of the Provincial authorities, are nevertheless in terms of Section 3(2) read with Section 4(b) of the Licences Consolidation Act No. 32 of 1925, with one proviso, of full force and effect throughout the Union ; so that any person licenced to practise in one province may according to the exigencies of his profession, practise indefinitely in any other province, providing that he has no office or place of business in that province."

Architectural Competition, New Town Hall' Benoni.

The Central Council is in a position to announce that a competition for designs for a proposed New Town Hall for the Municipality of Benoni, will be held shortly.

Mr. Robert Howden, F.R.I.B.A., has been appointed Assessor for the competition. Further details will in due course be submitted to Members of the Institute.

Meeting of the Central Council.

A meeting of the full Council was held at Johannesburg on April 27th, 28th, 29th, 1933.

It is not possible at this stage to refer in detail to several important matters which have been under consideration by the Central Council, which are still sub judice. Among the items under consideration by the Central Council are the "Conditions of Engagement" (as between the Architect and his Client), and the adoption of a standard form of Progress Certificate for Architects in South Africa.

The Institute of South African Architects.

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL, 1933/4.

President-in-Chief :
Fredk. W. Masey, L.R.I.B.A.

Vice-President-in-Chief :
F. Williamson, A.R.I.B.A.

Cape Provincial Institute :
B. G. L. Mansergh.
C. P. Walgate.
Alternates :
W. Hawke.
J. K. Parker.

Natal Provincial Institute :
W. S. Payne.
Alternate :
E. M. Powers.

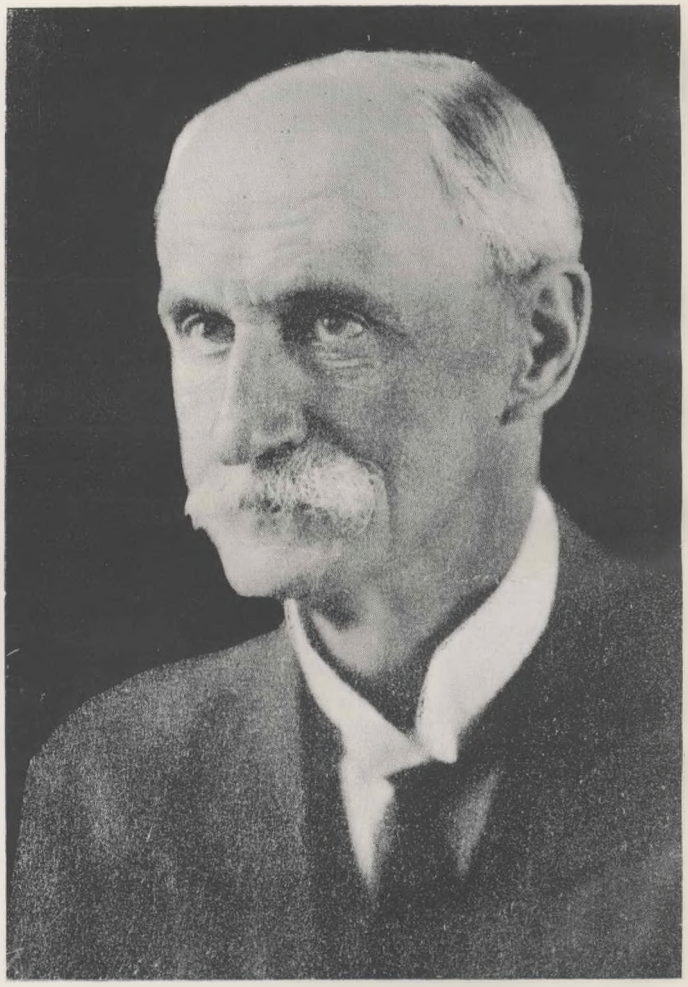
O.F.S. Provincial Institute :–
Fredk. W. Masey.
Alternate :
H. Fyvie.

Transvaal Provincial Institute :
A. Stanley Furner.
G. E. Gordon Leith.
R. Howden.
F. Williamson.
Alternates :
C. C. Deuchar.
Allen Wilson.
V. S. Rees-Poole.
W. G. McIntosh.

Chapter of S.A. Quantity Surveyors :
A. T. Babbs.
T. Moore.
Alternates :
H. G. Labdon.
R. J. C. Prentice.

Government Nominees :
J. S. Cleland.
Lt.-Col. W. E. Puntis.
Alternates :
F. D. Strong.
W. M. Warne.

J. S. LEWIS,
Registrar.



The late Walter Reid, F.R.I.B.A.

Architects and others learnt with a shock on 30th March of the death, the day before, of Walter Reid. He was one of the pioneer architects of Johannesburg, and was universally known and respected. The number of architects and builders present at his funeral was a striking tribute to the esteem in which he was held.

Mr. Reid was one who never spared himself in striving for the advancement of his profession. He was a Trustee of the Benevolent Fund from its establishment in 1914 to his death ; he was the first President of the Association of Transvaal Architects (1909), and was again President in 1910 and 1915, and he was a member of the first Council under the Architects' and Quantity Surveyors' Private Act, an Act for which he had laboured wholeheartedly.

Probably the best known of his works is the Polana Hotel at Lourenco Marques, a building that has been universally admired ; other well-known buildings include "Shell House," the Medical School (won in competition and not yet completed), the Palladium Theatre and Moseley Building. He also designed innumerable houses, the latest being "Ridge Heights," for Mr. H. Hillman, now nearing completion, in which he had the assistance of Mr. K. E. F. Gardiner.

Mr. Reid leaves a widow, a grown up son and daughter and six grand children. His eldest son, Cyril, who was a member of the Association of Transvaal Architects, died in August, 1927. In addition innumerable people who constantly benefited by his kindness are left to mourn him.

At Mr. Reid's own request his business is being carried on and his name retained by Messrs. K. E. F. Gardiner and A. R. Martin.

The entrance to the Metro Theatre, Johannesburg's newest Cinema, is yet another example of Sage Craftsmanship.

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