

SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS, INCLUDING THE CAPE, NATAL, ORANGE FREE STATE AND TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTES AND THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

CONTENTS FOR JUNE 1954

ANNUAL REPORTS:

THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS—THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

Address of the President-in-Chief, Mr. T. H. Louw ...	24
Report by the Registrar ...	25
Central Council Notes ...	28

THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

Board's Report, 1953—1954 ...	30
Presidential Address, Mr. Fred. C. Harris ...	32

THE CAPE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Twenty-seventh Annual Report, 1953—1954 ...	36
Presidential Address: Mr. C. H. N. Merrifield ...	38

THE NATAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Twenty-seventh Annual Report, 1953—1954 ...	41
Presidential Address, Mr. K. E. Gow ...	42

THE ORANGE FREE STATE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

President's Annual Report ...	44
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THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Twenty-seventh Annual Report, 1953—1954 ...	45
Presidential Address: Mr. B. S. Cooke ...	47

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6

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THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL SESSION FOR THE YEAR 1953/1954

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT-IN-CHIEF. Mr. T. H. LOUW

When faced with a task of this nature, one inevitably refers back to the addresses of previous Presidents-in-Chief and, in so doing, is impressed by their excellence and sincerity. In fact those addresses, co-ordinated, would be a valuable guide to practitioners, and more particularly to those responsible for the welfare of the professions, as to the things to strive for and the things to avoid.

Perhaps it is just as well that very few other than successive Presidents-in-Chief ever study those addresses seriously, and these chosen ones do so only if and when they are faced with the same formidable task of having to sum up, and suggest solutions to, the problems of the Building Industry in about three typewritten pages; problems which have been exercising the minds of many over long periods. A sense of frustration is experienced when it is realised what little advance towards the ideals set out in those addresses has been made in the space of one year.

I may be forgiven, therefore, if I turn my attention on this occasion to some of our achievements, or lack of achievements, since 1927, and analyse them against the real objects of our professions as I see them.

Taking firstly our Institute, big strides have undoubtedly been made in various directions, such as the training of Architects and Quantity Surveyors, procedural codes, administration of the professions and some other matters. But can we honestly say that we enjoy the respect of the general public more today than in 1927? Have our relations with other professions and walks of life really improved? Do we have a greater measure of trust, understanding and helpfulness mutually amongst our members?

Registration, involving control of either appellation or function, or both, can be no more than a means to an end. It would be worthless unless the registered are competent, highly-principled and publicly recognised as such. In fact, the nature of our professions is such that lack of these qualities in our members would have seriously damaging effects upon the public. The emphasis of registration should therefore

not be on protection against competition. Competence and trustworthiness of the registered, publicly recognised, would indirectly afford them far more effective protection.

All this does not mean there should not be registration, both of appellation and function. But registration should only be in the interests of the community, that is to say, to prevent the untrained, unqualified, incompetent or unreliable from holding themselves out to be capable, or from performing the functions of the registered, to the detriment of the community. In other words, registration should only be for the protection of the public and not for protection of the registered against competition.

The remedy lies in the hands of all our members and does not rest with this Council or the Provincial Committees and the Board. The work of these bodies in this direction is governed by the degree to which all members of the two professions fulfil these basic requirements. The public is certainly not slow to recognise qualities of competence and trustworthiness, but is equally quick to lose faith when experiencing the opposite.

Personally, I am inclined to the view that more and more of our members are beginning to realise the basic truth of this. They are discovering that the best and most consistent practices are founded on efficiency and reliability; that the highly-principled commands the respect of all in the end; and that even the doubtful client, who demands concessions, loses faith when those concessions are granted.

Coming to Architecture as such, I find myself as a Quantity Surveyor on extremely dangerous ground. Perhaps on this occasion I will be forgiven for venturing a few thoughts. Through the years I have been watching developments in Architecture in this country with interest and have, on occasion, come into conflict with some of its aspects.

Taking my cue from my predecessor, however, I think I am correct in stating that there is a distinct change for the better in the quality of Architecture in this country. We appear to have at last cut completely loose from tradition. A freshness and simplicity is

noticeable in many of our new buildings. I make bold to say that there are signs of a South African character to be observed about our later works, particularly since the second world war. There are, of course, also far too many of those other buildings still going up, but I think the public is beginning to appreciate the value of good architecture, particularly good planning.

The credit for this is probably mainly due to our Schools of Architecture, but some of the honours should go to the Institute, which assisted in no small way in the establishment of those Schools and still takes a keen and active interest in their welfare. In many other ways the Institute has assisted and is still assisting this development such as sponsoring competitions, making bursaries available to students, participating in scientific research, arranging "Summer Schools" and giving support to the *Architectural Record*.

In this I see the biggest achievement of our Institute since 1927, which is very satisfactory, for one of our major objects was, and is, good Architecture for South Africa. Perhaps more attention can profitably be given to scientific research with particular reference to the requirements in buildings. A clear conception of a problem is a first essential for good design.

In Quantity Surveying I cannot detect the same amount of progress since 1927. Perhaps the scope is more limited or the need for development smaller. Yet, I cannot help feeling that more could have been done to keep pace with developments and to eliminate shortcomings.

As long as our Western economic system lasts, builders will compete with each other for work on a cost basis, whatever form it takes. They are not going to sit back and watch the few obtain the bulk of the work, say by negotiation, without making an effort to procure some of it by offering better terms. This fact is the very backbone of the Building Industry and the surest guarantee to the building owner that he is getting the best value for his money.

The first and foremost duty of the Quantity Surveyor is therefore to provide a sound and workmanlike basis for this competition, a basis which at the same time lends itself to adjustment and efficiency in respect of progressive cost control and final settlement.

I am glad to say that at last the Chapter is attending to the long overdue revision of the Standard System. But this Institute can do more by giving attention to ways and means of eliminating bottlenecks and improving the effectiveness of Quantity Surveying.

Taking, lastly, the wider aspects of the Building Industry as a whole, can we really say that we have kept abreast of developments? I do not for a moment suggest that all developments are for the better, particularly overseas where the needs of the post-war years were such that special methods had to be adopted in order to cope with special circumstances. In this connection a warning is not out of place for the

need of careful investigation of any suggestions arising out of contractual and other procedures overseas. We should satisfy ourselves about the origin of, and reasons for, any changes before adopting them here. On the other hand, only good can come from a closer study of overseas methods.

But in many other respects we are lacking in our knowledge of developments in the Industry, such as new materials and their properties, new methods of construction, labour requirements, etc. We are, not giving enough attention to and playing our rightful role in bringing building regulations and other building legislation into line with modern practice and requirements. It is true that efforts in this direction are now being made by our Science Committee, and, on the Joint Council, with the Federation; but our professions should play a more important role in these matters—should, in fact, show the way.

This can only be achieved effectively if all our members make it their business to acquaint themselves thoroughly with developments in the Building Industry. The often heard opinion amongst ourselves that the building business is becoming just too complicated to master in all its aspects, will simply lead to the Architect and Quantity Surveyor taking second place. It is a case of the survival of the fittest.

In conclusion, I venture to refer to the tendency throughout the world today to subordinate everything to human rights, to make an idol of the *sanctus humanus*. This can only lead to the eventual destruction of mankind if not coupled with equal attention to human obligations. All men have obligations to their fellowmen and must submit to hardships and authority. Mankind can survive and the world experience real peace and happiness, only if a true balance is struck between these opposing creeds. Let us remember this in our work and service to our fellowmen.

REPORT BY THE REGISTRAR

This Summary of Activities, which is tending to become a personal report, is once again submitted in the hope that it will assist members of the Institute and Chapter to understand something of the work of their governing body.

1. MEMBERSHIP

The Institute's membership has been strengthened during the year by the registration of 85 Architects. The Transvaal Provincial Institute has gained 43 new members: the Cape, 26; Natal, 13; and the O.F.S., 3. Of the 85, 45 joined as Practising Members and 40 as Salaried. To those who are particularly concerned with Architectural Education, the following analysis will prove of interest. 49 obtained a Degree in Architecture; 19, a Diploma; 10, a Certificate; and 7 had an R.I.B.A. qualification.

The total number of Architects now on the Institute's Register is, in round figures, 1,235.

The Chapter has during the year maintained its comparative membership strength. 29 Quantity Surveyors were enrolled: 5 as Practising Members; 24 as Salaried. Of the 29, six obtained a Degree; 17, a Diploma; five, a Certificate; and one had the R.I.C.S. qualification. The total number of Quantity Surveyors on the Chapter's Roll is 385.

It would perhaps be appropriate to mention that during the year 37 South African graduates in Architecture applied for Associateship of the R.I.B.A. Of the 37, seven passed the recently instituted examination in Professional Practice and Practical Experience, now a compulsory requirement.

2. CLAUSE 3(c)

The continuously increasing membership of the Institute and Chapter compels two questions. Firstly, can the Union of South Africa absorb our existing membership and, in the immediate future, the students now being trained? And secondly, what proportion of the many new buildings which our expanding economy will require, will be designed by qualified Architects?

A new endeavour has recently been made by the Central Council in respect of Clause 3(c) *via* a Commission of Inquiry appointed by the Administrator of the Transvaal. A reasoned statement of case has been submitted and we await the opportunity to give verbal evidence.

Similar, although not identical, endeavours are being made in Natal. It would be poetic justice if Natal, which has suffered more than any other Province from the encroachment of unregistered persons, were the first to succeed in this direction.

Finally, with regard to "Clause 3(c)", it is known that we have the support of individual City and Town Engineers. A memorandum has been prepared, but not yet finalised, for submission to the organised body to which City and Town Engineers belong. It may be advisable to interview that body, to know where we stand, before we give evidence to the Commission on Local Government.

3. CITY ARCHITECTS

Representations have also been prepared, but not yet submitted, to the same Commission of Inquiry in regard to the advisability of appointing City Architects in the larger Local Authorities in South Africa.

Apropos of the comparative value to society of the Architect and the Engineer, I have recently come across a singularly challenging statement, publicly made by Sir Patrick Abercrombie:

"Architecture is higher indeed than Science or Engineering, for Science merely attempts to discover something that is already there, and Engineering only seeks to control our existing environment for material convenience, by means which quickly get out of date."

Whatever the result of our representations, we are in a position to submit a strong, reasoned case for the appointment of City Architects.

4. THE INSTITUTE'S OWN BUILDING

The suggestion that the Institute should consider having its own building was first made some twenty years ago. The author of that suggestion is not without hope that within say the next two years, your Professions will have their own headquarters. The decision taken last year to purchase a site on the north-western outskirts of what will now be Johannesburg's new Civic Centre, has fortunately proved a wise one.

As has several times been urged by one who may soon assume high office in the Central Council, the existence of the Institute's own building will do a great deal towards putting the Architectural Profession permanently, and dignifiedly, on the map. One has to add, of course, that it is a pity that it must be a map of Johannesburg. But on this point, is it inappropriate to say that there is only one R.I.B.A. Building and that some fifteen-thousand Architects outside of London look with pride to their Profession's own building?

5. CENTRAL COUNCIL FINANCES

Thoughts of the Institute's own building lead naturally to a consideration of the Central Council's financial position. Briefly, our capital resources have been increased by some £1,600 as a result of last year's working. Our total administrative expenditure almost exactly covered our total revenue from the Levy paid by the five Constituent Bodies. The surplus is accounted for by Registration and Enrolment Fees, R.I.B.A. Exemption Fees, and by sales of the Year Book, etc.

Our Building site, which is completely paid for, has cost just over £7,000. Our remaining realisable assets are, in round figures, over £4,000. That is, excluding the outstanding loan of £680 to the S.A. Architectural Record.

6. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Among the more important matters dealt with by the Board during the year is the item "New Schools of Architecture and Quantity Surveying". After two meetings in Johannesburg with your Board, preceded by a visit to Bloemfontein, arrangements were seemingly completed for the starting of a School at the University of the O.F.S. Then the ministerial axe fell. On expert advice the Minister of Education decided that he was unable to sanction the new School, for, as we understand, two reasons: the prevailing financial stringency; and that there is no national need for such a new School at the present time.

The position of students in the Eastern Province is very much affected by this ministerial decision, *vis-a-vis* Rhodes University. The unique and unfortunate position of Port Elizabeth was recognised to the extent that a special visit was recently paid to that centre, and to Grahamstown, by the Chairman of the Board of Education and the President-in-Chief.

Bracketed with this matter is the External Certificate Course of the University of Natal (known as "the Correspondence Course"). The difficulties ex-

perenced by students, especially at Port Elizabeth but also at Bloemfontein, were discussed personally with the Principal of the University of Natal at a meeting at which Prof. Connell was present.

During the year a recommendation was made by your Board approving the application of the School of Architecture of the University of Natal for recognition by the R.I.B.A.

7. ARCHITECTURAL SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Here three things should be stated. Firstly, that the National Building Research Institute and the South African Bureau of Standards are very appreciative indeed of the practical help rendered by South African Architects and Quantity Surveyors through our Science Committee. Secondly, that your Professions now have, and utilise, the opportunity of submitting considered views on what perhaps already are, or soon will be, officially recommended Model Building Regulations, Codes of Practice and Standard Specifications. And thirdly, keeping our members advised of matters of scientific development affecting the Building Industry.

8. THE SUMMER SCHOOL

This innovation, recommended by your Science Committee, has come to stay. In the two years of its existence, both sessions have been held in Johannesburg. Although there was a sprinkling of Architects and Quantity Surveyors from other parts of South Africa at those two sessions, the chief benefit was naturally derived by Transvaal members. This year the third session of the Summer School will be held at Cape Town in September, 1954.

9. COMPETITIONS ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE

The three Competitions organised by the Central Council during the year (that is, for non-European Houses, for the Institute's Seal, and for the Howden Prize) proved disappointing.

For the non-European Housing Competition, 122 members applied for the Conditions: 15 submitted designs. Seven students applied for the Conditions: one submitted a design. Nevertheless several of the designs submitted were adjudged to be very good schemes.

With regard to the Institute's Seal, 56 members applied for the Conditions: eight submitted designs. In this instance the Assessors were unable to recommend that an award be made: a matter which you will be asked to consider at this meeting. Two students applied for the Conditions: none submitted a design.

Lastly, in respect of the Howden Prize, 41 members and seven students applied for the Conditions: one member only, submitted an essay. No award has been made, but in this instance the matter may be regarded as still *sub judice*.

10. THE STAR MODEL HOUSE

The Housing Competition organised by The Star in association with the Transvaal Provincial Institute,

about which you all know, is in being. I have ascertained that 338 of our members have applied for the Conditions.

11. COMPETITIONS OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA

A point of gratifying interest is the regularity with which our Institute has been, and is being, asked to nominate the Assessor(s) for Competitions outside our borders. This progressive step, this confidence in our Institute, is directly traceable to the R.I.B.A.

12. THE BAKER SCHOLARSHIP

For the first time that I am aware of, a Competition for the Baker Scholarship has proved abortive. The Assessors were unable to recommend to the Trustees that the Scholarship be awarded to any of the competing candidates, despite the fact that the nature of the competitive examination was considerably simplified.

The Trustees will in the very near future submit a series of recommendations to the Central Council which will involve making an application to the Supreme Court for authority to relate the terms of the Trust Deed to modern needs and requirements. Perhaps I should add that the Trust Deed was drawn up in 1912, and that, since the death of Sir Herbert Baker in 1946, the Scholarship vests in perpetuity in the Central Council.

13. THE OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD

Three or four years ago, as a form of professional propaganda, the Central Council gave its blessing to the use of the official notice board. The motive was to let the public see for itself the wisdom and value of engaging a qualified Architect. One criticism, repeatedly made, is that some of the notice boards are inartistic, even crude pieces of individual advertising. It is felt that others are, as they were intended to be, dignified, but not attractive.

A suggestion that may be worthy of consideration is that a smaller notice board, of the same design and colour (which we have gone to the expense of copyrighting) be used, to contain the Institute's Seal, the name of the building owner, and, on the professional side, just this, "Designed by a Member of the Institute of S.A. Architects". If the public are impressed, no great effort will be required to ascertain the identity of the Architect.

14. MEDICAL AID FUND

Thanks to the persistent and praiseworthy efforts of Mr. John Cowin and Mr. George Quail, definite progress has been made. This important development should be brought to finality within the next few months. There may be administrative difficulties because we will be operating throughout South Africa; nevertheless the experiment is worth while making.

15. "S.A. ARCHITECTURAL RECORD"

It was known for some years that all was not well with the *Architectural Record*. In response to appeals made by the T.P.I., the Central Council and I think all the other Constituent Bodies assisted financially. In

the case of the Central Council an interest-free loan of £680 has been current for some three years.

The *Architectural Record*, although the property of the T.P.I., is designated the Official Journal of the Institute and Chapter. Despite this nomenclature, and the friendly financial transactions between the Central Council and the other Constituent Bodies with the T.P.I., the T.P.I. apparently felt it could not do other than act unilaterally in concluding its agreement with the Publisher. The details of that unusual agreement were only made known to the Central Council and to the other Constituent Bodies several months after it had become legally effective.

16. THE SCALE OF FEES IN RELATION TO THE LAW COURTS

You have all received a copy of the recent Appellate Division judgment in the case of *Sinclair vs. Herold*. A study of the judgement produces the following points of interest. (1) The Architects took the precaution of furnishing the client with a copy of the statutory scale of fees and specifically drawing his attention thereto; (2) the term "reasonable fee" or "reasonable remuneration" occurs at least five times in the Appellate Division judgment; (3) although this was another case in which partial services only were rendered, there was no reference whatever by the Appellate Division to the application of, or to the necessity for, a *quantum meruit* judgment; (4) the Appellate Division upheld the judgment of the Court below, that there was a tacit agreement by the client to pay the Architects their remuneration on the scale laid down in the Regulation, and that the Judge in the Court below was right in holding therefore that the Architects were entitled to the full amount of their claim.

17. PORT ELIZABETH AND EAST LONDON ARCHITECTS

You will recall the efforts made, so far unsuccessfully, by East London Architects for a measure of direct representation on the Central Council. For many years the O.F.S. Provincial Institute, with a smaller total membership, had, and was entitled to have, one member on the Central Council. The hope is expressed that Architects, as trained imaginative planners, will find a practical way to assist their East London confreres.

18. "DO'S AND DON'TS"

It is earnestly to be hoped that the Central Council will finalise this outstanding but very important matter. Members of the Institute and Chapter should not be in any doubt as to what they may and may not do. This point is emphasised because of the inquiries frequently addressed to me.

19. JOINT COUNCIL FOR THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

The Joint Council has proved itself, under the wise chairmanship of Mr. Erik Todd, to be as useful as it is a necessary forum for the discussion of problems

concerning the Institute-and-Chapter, and the Federation. As the result of two deputations from Nominated Sub-Contractors representing lift and reinforced concrete interests, a measure of relief was afforded to those bodies as complainants.

The Joint Council has begun to tackle, in earnest, that colossal problem, Building Costs. Although the initial discussions have been inevitably academic, some practical results may be confidently anticipated.

An agreed memorandum has been submitted to the Minister of Justice on his proposal to introduce a consolidated Arbitration Law for the four Provinces. This is the second occasion on which the Building Industry in South Africa has, with one voice, submitted representations to a Cabinet Minister. Unfortunately this cannot be said in regard to qualification of tenders, in respect of which the Institute and Chapter regrettably had to submit unilateral representations to the Director of Public Works.

There remains, under this heading, the revision of the Standard Form of Building Contract. The outstanding amendments required by the Builders, on the one hand, and by the Professions, on the other, should be brought to finality at a joint meeting to be held early in June, 1954.

20. FACTORY REGULATIONS

A deputation from the Central Council was received, sympathetically and helpfully, by the Secretary for Labour. As an earnest of his desire to assist, where difficulties which could be fairly be termed unreasonable, existed, he asked to be furnished with definite instances thereof. We await this information from our Constituent Bodies.

21. APPRECIATION

It is with grateful appreciation that I refer to the work of your President-in-Chief, Mr. Toby Louw, during his year of office, as to its value, quality and, I must add, irresistibly, as to its "quantity". In his devotion to duty, no President-in-Chief could rank more highly.

Similar appreciation must also be expressed to the members of your Executive Committee, and, invidious though it be to mention names, a special word of gratitude must be recorded in respect of Mr. John Cowin, closely followed by Mr. Colin Sinclair.

Lastly, I have pleasure in telling you of the help received during the year from Mr. Smith.

J. S. LEWIS,
Registrar.

CENTRAL COUNCIL NOTES

Mr. J. N. Cowin, A.R.I.B.A., M.I.A., of Johannesburg, was elected President-in-Chief and Chairman of the Executive Committee for the year 1954-1955; and Mr. W. A. Macdonald, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.A., Chief Government Architect, of Pretoria, was elected Vice-President-in-Chief.

S.A. ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, JUNE, 1954

Mr. J. N. Cowin, A.R.I.B.A., M.I.A.
President-in-Chief, 1954—1955

Photo: E. Robinson



The 1954 session of the "Summer School" will be held in Cape Town from September 20th/24th, 1954. Details of the programme, etc., will in due course be forwarded to all members of the Institute and Chapter.

There is every likelihood that, in the near future, the "qualification" of tenders, agreed to between the Institute and Chapter and the Federation, will be totally suspended.

The Central Council has decided, on expert advice, and after mature consideration, to start a Medical Aid Fund for all members of the Institute and Chapter, their employees, and dependants. A detailed circular will be addressed to members shortly.

The Central Council has agreed in principle on the necessity and advisability of erecting the Institute's own building in Johannesburg. Every member of the Institute and Chapter will be invited to state the maximum assistance he can contribute towards this end.

Representations have been made to the Transvaal Provincial Commission of Inquiry into Local Govern-

ment, in an endeavour to permit Local Authorities (as was the case in the 1920's) to promulgate a Building Bye-Law to the effect that all building plans must be prepared and signed by a Registered Architect.

As the result of much deliberation, the Central Council has agreed to obtain counsel's opinion on the use of titles in respect of professional partnerships.

The Central Council has for some time been concerned because of criticism of the undignified way in which some Notice Boards are displayed on buildings in the course of construction. The Central Council's motive in permitting the use of the Official Notice Board was that the public should be helped to appreciate the wisdom of engaging the services of a qualified architect. It was never intended that the opportunity thus afforded should be utilised for individual advertising.

The position of Salaried Members of the Institute and Chapter is again under consideration, as the result of an investigation by the R.I.B.A. and the consequent "Report of the Salaried and Official Architects' Committee."

THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

BOARD'S REPORT, 1953-1954

The following is your Board's report covering the 1953-1954 Session, during which period the Board comprised the under-mentioned members:—

Practising Members: Messrs. E. F. Allen; L. C. Austin; R. F. Bell; A. A. Bjorkman; J. W. S. Castleton; Fred. C. Harris; C. J. Leigh-Hunt; T. H. Louw; P. S. McDonald and G. P. Quail.

Salaried Members: Messrs. W. J. Clyde and J. B. Sutherland.

Office Bearers for the Year:

President	Mr. Fred C. Harris.
Senior Vice-President:	Mr. J. W. S. Castleton.
Junior Vice-President:	Mr. G. P. Quail.

BOARD MEETINGS

Ten meetings of the Board were held during the year under review, in respect of which the following is the attendance record:—

Mr. E. F. Allen	...	...	...	9
Mr. L. C. Austin	...	...	...	7
Mr. R. F. Bell	...	...	...	9
Mr. A. A. Bjorkman	...	...	...	9
Mr. J. W. S. Castleton	...	...	...	10
Mr. W. J. Clyde	...	...	...	9
Mr. Fred C. Harris	...	...	...	7
Mr. C. J. Leigh-Hunt	...	...	...	4
Mr. T. H. Louw	...	...	...	10
Mr. P. S. McDonald	...	...	...	4
Mr. G. P. Quail	...	...	...	10
Mr. J. B. Sutherland	...	...	...	9

Four Board meetings were convened as full meetings at which Coastal members were present.

Mention is again made of the benefit to the Board that coastal representation has proved to be, in that the Board has had more direct contact with centres distant from Johannesburg through personal communication with those areas.

MEMBERSHIP

Statutory Roll: The total membership of the Chapter, as at 31st January, 1954 is 369 classed as hereunder:—

Practising solely as Quantity Surveyors	197	(187)
Practising in dual capacity	11	(11)
Salaried	137	(130)
Retired	22	(25)
Honorary	2	(2)
	369	355

(Figures in brackets are those for January, 1953. 1954 totals include allowance for inter-grade transfers, less resignations and members who died during the year under review).

Enrolments: Since the publication of the previous report of the Board, twenty-four new members have been enrolled, plus one resumption of membership:—

As *Practising Members*: Mr. R. D. Peverett, Mr. M. Scott-Harward, Mr. C. R. Wallis, Mr. D. R. Lawson.

As *Salaried Members*: Mr. D. T. Harris, Mr. R. J. Thomson, Mr. D. J. Will, Mr. F. C. Carter, Mr. J. W. Rabie, Mr. M. H. Howell, Mr. D. Mittens, Mr. G. Bolus, Mr. K. J. Darge, Mr. C. J. Reid, Mr. D. E. Daugherty, Mr. A. B. West, Mr. W. A. C. Brink, Mr. R. W. J. Perry, Mr. E. Buchel, Mr. R. L. Hyams, Mr. B. J. Jooste, Mr. W. R. A. Clothier, Mr. A. G. Gloak, Mr. I. Y. S. Whytock.

Resumption of Membership (from Resignation): Mr. J. de L. Malan.

Transfers:

From *Salaried* to *Practising*: Mr. H. J. Kraayenbrink, Mr. R. F. Percival, Mr. W. F. Wallace, Mr. G. R. F. Campbell, Mr. G. Kemis-Betty, Mr. L. F. v. d. Walt, Mr. J. W. Boerstra, Mr. R. F. Stedman, Mr. G. R. G. Whiteing, Mr. F. P. Skead.

From *Practising* to *Salaried*: Mr. J. J. Pansegrow.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that the Board records the deaths during the year of the members named: Mr. A. T. Babbs, Mr. H. G. Labdon and Mr. G. A. Webster.

CHAPTER'S FINANCES

The Audited accounts for the calendar year 1953 (a copy of which is attached to this report), shows an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of £297 13s. 2d. which is £53 15s. 2d. less than the excess last year. The amount received by way of subscriptions during 1953 increased by £202 13s., rebates received from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors increased by £26 18s. 1d. and the extra revenue derived from dividends and interest on investments was £27 6s. 6d. making a total increase from all sources (including sundry sales), of £256 17s. 7d. The grant by the Chapter of an amount of £100 towards the Chapter's Benevolent Fund is the main reason for the excess of revenue over expenditure for 1953 being rather less than it was for the year 1952. The cost of general administration of the Chapter's affairs shows an increase of £76 18s. 1d. and, due to the increase in membership and members' subscriptions, the levy to Central Council and the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies assessment show proportionate increases.

Benevolent Fund: It had been felt for some considerable time by the Board that reserves in this account were extremely low, and with a view to improving the position it was agreed that a special effort should be made to increase the fund. As stated above, the Chapter donated a sum of £100. The President has

also addressed a personal appeal to all members for contributions and a good response is looked for.

Due to the grant received from the Chapter, donations received from members and additional income from other sources, the Balance Sheet shows the total cash resources of the fund to be £1,260 16s. 4d.

Education Endowment Fund: The capital of this fund now stands at £249 19s. 2d. the grant of £10 10s. made during 1953 being recovered by dividends and interest which accrued during the year.

The Board reminds members that this fund is available for the benefit of students who require financial assistance in the continuance or furtherance of their studies in Quantity Surveying.

Standard System of Measurement: During the year the Standard System of Measurement was reprinted, the cost of this has temporarily absorbed the greater portion of the surplus shown against this account last year. However, future sales of the document will gradually augment the account and in due course the amount expended will have been fully recovered. The Board wishes to draw the attention of members to the fact that these new copies are now available at a price of 6s. each.

General: The general state of the Chapter's finances is very sound and the position in respect of payment of subscriptions most satisfactory. From the Balance Sheet it will be seen that as at 31st December, 1953, the subscriptions outstanding amounted to £26 5s. but at the time of preparing this report the amount has been reduced to £5 5s.—an all time record. It is hoped that at the Annual General Meeting it will be possible to report that there are no outstandings for the first time in the history of the Chapter. The Board would like to express its appreciation to all members who have contributed by prompt payment towards this satisfactory state of affairs; it has considerably lightened the work of the Finance Committee and the Secretaries.

The work could be reduced even more if all members would make a point of paying their annual subscriptions during January or February, and certainly before the Annual General Meeting held in March of each year.

REGIONAL COMMITTEES

The Regional Committees functioned during the Session 1953—1954 under the direction of the following members:—

Cape Town: Mr. A. Wood (Chairman), Mr. R. H. Aitchison (Vice-Chairman), Mr. G. E. M. Anderson (Hon. Secretary), Mr. Fred C. Harris, Mr. W. B. James, Mr. W. H. Manning, Mr. C. A. Smith.

Natal: Mr. C. J. Leigh-Hunt (Chairman), Mr. H. R. Rorvik (Hon. Secretary), Mr. E. E. Sanders, Mr. J. W. Walters, Mr. N. L. Wiseman.

Orange Free State: Mr. P. J. Muller (Chairman), Mr. J. V. Strathern (Hon. Secretary), Mr. R. M.

Kennedy, Mr. W. H. Malan, Mr. A. Sacks, Mr. R. E. Schoombie.

Port Elizabeth: Mr. S. C. Warran (Chairman), Mr. A. V. Meaker (Hon. Secretary), Mr. R. J. Law, Mr. P. S. McDonald, Mr. R. F. Percival, Mr. N. S. Rodseth, Mr. C. G. Rowse.

The Board desires to record its appreciation of the valuable services carried out by these Committees and its thanks for their co-operation with the Board in its work during the year.

QUANTITY SURVEYING EDUCATION

A satisfactory number of students continue to register at the various Universities. Details of numbers for the year 1953 shown in each year of study are given

University	I	II	III	IV	V	Sub-Total	Total
Cape Town:							
Diploma ...	12	9	9	4	5	39	39
Natal:							
Degree ...	6	4	4	2	—	16	
Certificate ...	—	1	2	5	—	8	24
Pretoria:							
Degree ...	4	6	3	2	3	18	
Diploma ...	10	11	13	7	—	41	
M.Sc. (Q.S.) ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Occasional Student ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	61
Witwatersrand:							
Degree ...	9	5	—	—	6	20	
Diploma ...	10	9	14	7	—	40	60
							184

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS

During the year fourteen members applied through the Chapter for membership of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Unfortunately, in some instances applications could not be supported due to the fact that members did not hold a recognised University Qualification.

All University qualifications are now recognised for membership of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors except those of the Natal University (whose examining authority has been comparatively recently established), and it is proposed that application be made for recognition of the Natal qualifications in due course.

REVISION OF STANDARD SYSTEM OF MEASURING BUILDERS' WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA

As stated in the Financial report the Standard System was reprinted this year.

Work on the revision of the Standard System has now been intensified and the Standard System Subcommittee re-constituted under the Chairmanship of Mr. T. H. Louw with Mr. H. B. Kelfkens as Secretary. It is hoped that a complete draft of the revised Standard System will be ready by the end of the 1954/1955 Session.

STANDARD METHOD OF MEASUREMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING QUANTITIES (GREAT BRITAIN)

The Board approved of the use of the revised edition of this document. Supplies have been received from overseas and copies are now available at the Chapter's offices. The previous edition (with appendix) is therefore now obsolete.

FEES FOR PROVISIONAL BILLS OF QUANTITIES

At an Annual General Meeting the question of revising the scale of fees for Provisional Bills of Quantities was referred to the Board for consideration and action as deemed fit. After much deliberation the Board decided that, on the basis of the present basic fee of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, Provisional Bills of Quantities merited a fee of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The question arose, however, as to whether the revised fee should be introduced. It was felt that, in spite of the Annual General Meeting having referred this matter to the Board, the whole issue was of such importance that it should be the subject of a National referendum, all members of the Chapter being asked to vote either "for" or "against" the introduction of the revised fee. The referendum will take place almost immediately.

ANNOTATION OF BILLS OF QUANTITIES

This question was fully discussed at the Annual General Meeting held in March, 1953 and the President has prepared a memorandum on the subject which is being considered by Central Council.

REVISION OF STANDARD FORM OF CONTRACT

Negotiations are proceeding between Central Council and the Federation of Building Trades Employers for the further revision of the Standard Form of Contract and the Chapter is represented on the relevant committee.

JOINT PRACTICE COMMITTEE OF THE TRANSVAAL

During the year the Chapter undertook the Chairmanship and Secretarial work of this body which acts in an advisory capacity to the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects, the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors and the Witwatersrand and Pretoria Master Builders' and Allied Trades' Associations.

This committee considers matters and problems of common interest and amongst matters dealt with were:—

- (a) The virtual removal of all materials from the Qualification Agreement.
- (b) The fixing of the Quantity Rule as applied to Johannesburg at 3,000 super feet for houses and at £7,500 for general buildings, and where applied to Pretoria at 3,000 super feet for houses and £5,000 for general buildings.
- (c) The agreement to measure in detail the plumbing work for temporary workmen's latrines, where

these are required in the Johannesburg area, was re-affirmed.

- (d) The establishment of a Tenderers' Bureau with the approval of the Committee. This Bureau operates in Johannesburg and its purpose is to facilitate the obtaining of tenders from Sub-Contractors.

THE ASSOCIATED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Chapter has continued its membership of the Associated Societies and the Board has pleasure in recording its thanks to that body for the satisfactory and efficient manner in which the Chapter's Secretarial work has been carried out.

APPRECIATION

The Board wishes to express its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Office Bearers and by Members and Co-opted Members on Sub-Committees who have given their time unsparingly to the affairs and interest of the Profession.

Special thanks are due to the Board's three coastal members who have sacrificed their time and comfort in travelling considerable distances to attend meetings.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT. MR. FRED. C. HARRIS

The preparation of a presidential address is a task requiring the expenditure of considerable time and energy. When it has to be done for the second consecutive year it becomes considerably more difficult, and in my particular case this difficulty has been greatly increased by reason of the fact that I was called upon last September to deliver a lecture at the Institute's Summer School; a lecture which might well have served as an address to-day. In short, I have found the task extremely arduous and I have therefore turned my thoughts in another direction. Each year we invite the students from our universities to join us, and many of them very nobly and loyally come here year after year for what must often seem to be a somewhat dry afternoon, and I therefore propose to devote this address to them.

In doing this, I am not forgetting that their respective offices and universities are well able to deliver homilies on how they should become good quantity surveyors, and I do hope none of you will misinterpret my intentions. I am not presuming to supply something which I think is not at present supplied properly through the normal channels, but rather am I attempting to present it from a different angle of view. Our profession is a most unusual one and it is essential that those taking it up should know as much about it as possible as soon as they can. "Why is it unusual?" you may ask. Firstly, until recently it was a back-room profession which very seldom came to the direct notice of that very important person the man-in-the-street. We are now somewhat better

known thanks to publicity in general and to the official notice board in particular, although even now few people seem to be fully informed as to the exact nature of our work and the advantages of employing us. We are also a non-creative profession unless you can call a bill of quantities a creation—perhaps not a bad description of some bills which have been produced!

But I think that the chief peculiarity of our profession lies in our relationship with our client and with the other parties connected with this job of building. Have you ever given really serious thought to this aspect? Almost every other professional man works entirely for the person who employs and pays him to the exclusion of all others, and often to the disadvantage and discomfiture of others. But we, in addition to being one of the professional advisers of the building owner, also regard ourselves as one of the partners in the task of creating a building, our particular function being to use every effort in our power to see that there is fair play, from a financial standpoint, to all the parties to the contract and even to others outside the contract.

I would therefore like to crave the indulgence of my fellow practitioners and senior people present while I turn to the students and give them some of my own views of this profession which it is difficult to imagine anyone embracing of his own free will.

Let us follow the course of an imaginary building from start to finish. Quite often it begins by the prospective building owner telling you that he is contemplating rebuilding his present premises or that he is considering buying a certain site, but before pursuing the matter in any detail and even before incurring expenditure on sketch drawings he is wondering how much a new building might cost him if erected to the full extent permitted by the regulations or to a particular height. As students, you may not have met this position yet, but I would assure you it occurs with great frequency, and I personally regard it as one of the most important and most serious parts of our calling. No architect has yet been approached and you yourself cannot seek the advice of one. All the data you have to guide you is the size and location of a site and details of the particular by-laws and other regulations affecting the area. You may say that in such circumstances it is quite impossible to be anywhere near the mark, and all that one need do is to make a rough guess. Nothing could be further from the truth. On your report may rest a decision by the prospective owner as to whether a projected scheme should be launched or abandoned, and perhaps whether or not a large sum of money should be outlayed in buying the particular site concerned. Your job at this stage, therefore, is to make a very careful analysis of the possibilities of the site. You can compute the total square footage of building which is permissible or required, and from a knowledge of the business of the prospective owner

and perhaps discussions with him you can form a very good idea of the type of building which might be erected; the kind of construction and finishings, and some idea of the specialist installations. An overall cost per foot super or per foot cube is not good enough. You must analyse and cost every section of the scheme, and you must draw up your report in such a way that the prospective owner knows exactly what you are talking about.

But this is not all. Your client will want to know what return he is likely to get for his outlay and he will expect from you in some detail an estimate of the likely rentals and outgoings. All this is before a drawing has been prepared and the real job of quantities has started, and so the first thing which I want to impress upon you is that it is not sufficient just to study plain quantities and the subjects immediately connected with it. It is essential that you should keep yourself up to date concerning regulations governing building sites in your particular area; not that you should know their details by heart, but that you should know they do exist and where to find them. Do not confine your attentions only to the subjects of your syllabus but read and study matters relating to business organisation, investments and elementary economics. I assure you that all these and many others will stand you in good stead. And also may I urge you to study the subject of report writing. The R.I.C.S. includes that as one of the subjects in its examinations, and I wish we did here.

The next stage is the preparation of a more definite approximate estimate based on the architect's sketch plans. Again I would emphasize to you that a rough super area multiplied by so much per square foot is just not good enough. The building owner has now reached the stage when he is considering in more detail how big a building he can contemplate, and his decision depends on your integrity. To treat an estimate at this stage—or at any stage for that matter as a thing to be dealt with cursorily is grossly unfair and unworthy of our profession, and to inflate an estimate in order to cover yourself or to deflate one in order to prevent a job from being abandoned is frankly dishonest. And so, I beg of you to develop an analytical mind so that you see a plan not just as a complete whole but rather as a number of different sections, all of which bear relationships one to another which vary greatly from job to job.

The next stage is, of course, the preparation of the bills of quantities themselves. You will feel that there is not much I can tell you on this aspect for is not your whole study based upon it? That is so, but the preparation of the bills in actual practice is a far different thing from measuring, abstracting and billing in the university lecture room. Neither do you get a proper perspective of it during your first few years in an office when squaring and abstracting often seem like so much drudgery, and even the bits of measuring

and final account work you do during this period give no clue or insight into the work of supervision and guidance which is done at higher levels. There are all sorts of hazards to be met and handled. The first arises when you are asked how long it will take you to prepare the quantities for the job concerned, for whatever length of time you say you will find that the prospective building owner will hold up his hands in horror and tell you of the rent and interest he is losing during all this time. Only last month I was told by such a person that the time I had given must be halved, and that I must work overtime if necessary in order to do it. What are you to do in such cases? One's first reaction is to please the man and tell him it will be all right and that you'll be able to have the bill out by the time required. You know quite well that it won't be possible, but at least it will prevent his taking the job elsewhere, and in any case you'll be able to find plenty of excuses by telling him that the architect did not have his drawings ready in time. Don't do it. I again urge you to be completely frank. You know in any case that it is not possible to be definite concerning how long the preparation of a bill will take and therefore tell the owner the true position, give him an approximate time and say you will improve on it if you can—and mean it. But never use the architect's delays as an excuse. Often it is a most justifiable excuse, for we frequently have to endure far too many delays in waiting for architects' drawings or making adjustments to our measuring because of their alterations. I do feel, however, that we must not show the client any squabbling between our two professions.

Now consider the actual measuring, and here I wish to speak very firmly and very straight. Your final bills of quantities should reflect in absolute detail every single item which has been shown on the drawings or can reasonably be inferred therefrom. Please give up once and for all this expression of "taking something to cover". Making intelligent and careful provisional measurements in respect of an item which cannot be foreseen is one thing, but including in a bill some approximate measurements because of lack of time or want of will to do the thing properly is something entirely different. I know it is disheartening to think out carefully the solution of some problem of construction knowing full well that the architect will not eventually design it like that, if indeed he designs it at all, but our job is full of disheartening things relieved only by the satisfaction of knowing that one has done one's best.

Examination of the successful tenderer's priced bill, the preparation of the contract documents and the drawing up of monthly statements for certificates I need not dwell upon. Each demands proper care and attention.

We now come inevitably to variations and the final account, and I feel that this is a stage of our calling which should receive more thought than we often give

it. It is a stage which gives me personally a great deal of worry for it is one which ought not to exist, or at least only to a very small fraction of the extent usually found. Let us analyse the various kinds of variations which occur. Firstly, there are those caused by the building owner himself. It must be admitted that every person has the right occasionally to change his mind about a thing which is being made for him, but this is a right which should be exercised rarely and only with full knowledge of the consequences. From the very first the architect should impress on his client the absolute necessity of deciding everything beforehand and of deciding finally, and I think the quantity surveyor should also take a hand in this task of telling the building owner the many disadvantages of causing variations. Then there are those variations caused by the architect changing his mind. Happily there are many architects who think things out from the first and who thus create few variations, but alas there are also a great many who do not do so and who care little about creating alterations throughout the whole course of a job. There are even cases on record of architects who have prepared sets of drawings for the quantity surveyor to use for his measuring and then have started considering the building properly after the signing of the contract. Think of the unfairness of this to all parties; unfairness to the client in that he so often has to face additional costs which he did not order and cannot understand, together with additional quantity surveyor's fees for all the re-measuring entailed; unfairness to the quantity surveyor who has little heart in the original measuring knowing full well that it will never be built as measured and who also has to look forward to a really messy final account which will probably clog up one section of his office for months; and finally unfairness to the builder who never knows just where he is in the matter of ordering and organizing.

Another kind of variation is that caused by the quantity surveyor who measures items "to cover", or who measures "roughly", or who measures "full", in all cases making the adjustments at a later date. This is rank dishonesty, and I say that without qualification or equivocation. I repeat my earlier statement that the bill of quantities should represent accurately and exactly the proposed building insofar as the drawings and documents or other information will allow. A bill can be accurate only to the extent of the documents from which it has been prepared for we cannot measure something which has not been thought out, but we should at all times advise the architect, and if possible the building owner, of all cases where our bill through necessity falls short of being an exact mirror of the proposed building.

Lastly, there are the justifiable variations. It is natural that the architect or engineer may have to alter the depth of even type of foundations should the excavations disclose some unexpected ground. It is also quite clear that work on or adjoining an existing

building may prove, on being opened up, to be different from what was expected. These and many other similar cases are quite clearly definite variations, but even with these it is as well to explain their possibility to the building owner when the bill is being prepared or when the necessity for the alterations has arisen, for remember that he is a layman who will feel much happier about explanations made to him before extras are incurred rather than afterwards when the best explanations can sometimes savour a bit of trying to make excuses.

During the preparation of the variation account I would suggest that you use a great deal of discretion for it is a document which serves an entirely different purpose than the original bill of quantities and should therefore be viewed in a different light. The original bill is prepared so that a number of builders can price various items on the basis of description only for the work itself is merely projected. The bill subsequently becomes a contract document. A variation account on the other hand comprises measurements of work which has actually been executed and which need be identified by two persons only—the contractor and quantity surveyor. I do not intend detailing all the ways in which this difference can affect the methods of measuring and billing. Once you realise that the difference does exist and you fully consider the implications, you will soon appreciate the possibilities.

Having completed the final account, there follows its submission to the contractor and then a discussion of the contractor's claims; a discussion which can last from five minutes to five weeks, and here I want to sound a very special note of warning. More argument often takes place at this stage of a contract than at any other, and much bad feeling is often engendered. I regret to say that frequently it is due to the fault of the quantity surveyor's assistant who is handling the matter, or perhaps it is due to his employer who has not trained him properly in this aspect of our work. It is not a function of our job to attempt to make the cost of a building as low as possible. Whatever work a contractor has executed in terms of the contract he is entitled to be paid for, and to be paid at proper rates as laid down in the contract. It is as much our duty to see that he is paid fully as it is to see that he is not overpaid. It is essential that you are thoroughly impartial in these dealings, although this impartiality must of necessity be coupled with a special eye for the interests of the building owner, for this part of our work constitutes one of his greatest benefits in employing us. That statement does not mean that it is a false impartiality, but merely that we must not lose sight of the fact that the contractor has an advantage over the building owner in technical knowledge and in the opportunity to express his points of view and his claims, for the building owner is not even present when the account is discussed, and so we must make good his absence. I am not unmindful of the fact that there are a few contractors

who are far from honest in their handling of a final account, and others who, whilst not so deliberately untruthful, are always "looking for points". When you meet these folk you must stand up to them and be unmerciful in your exposure of their subterfuges and tell them exactly what you think of their methods. They will soon learn that you are a man not to be trifled with, and other contractors and contractors' organisations will thank you for your stand. You can be fair and firm at the same time, and if you are you will soon gain respect.

When the contractor has finally agreed and signed the final account, it is necessary to report to the building owner. In normal circumstances you will not submit to him a full copy of the account, because it will mean nothing to him. On the other hand he will not be satisfied merely with a final figure, so we must somewhere find a middle course. This might appear to be to submit a copy of the summary of the final account, for does this not set out each item of variation and the amount of addition or omission in each case. That is true, but I do not recommend its submission to the owner in that state, firstly because many of the headings and descriptions used will be technically phrased and will mean nothing to the owner. Put yourself in his place. He is a layman who possesses a brand new building (which has probably cost him more than he expected), and you are merely making confusion worse confounded by presenting him with a long summary containing such items as "Substitution of No. 5 type A4 windows in lieu of type B2". This means nothing to him whereas if you were to describe the item as "Increased size of windows to Lift Lobbies", he will immediately know what you are talking about. In addition to this I would also suggest that you go through the summary and balance out as far as possible all the very minor items which have no meaning to the layman. A man who has spent thousands of pounds on a building is not going to be interested in such items as "Increased width of flashing £2 1s. 5d." So put all these together and describe them as "Sundry Minor Variations" resulting in a nett saving or extra of a few pounds. Don't misunderstand me. I am not advocating wilful concealment of items. That is something I will never countenance. You will sooner or later meet this evil by being asked to hide such and such an extra by covering it up in the saving on foundations, or some similar request. Such a procedure is rank dishonesty and you should have nothing to do with it. When confronted with such a request, say that you would prefer not to submit a statement to the owner under the circumstances but that you will send it to the architect. If he likes to juggle with it in what you consider to be a doubtful manner it is no concern of yours, but don't put your signature to something of which you do not approve.

In addition to these usual functions of the quantity surveyor are other duties he sometimes performs and I

strongly recommend to you that when you have finished your examinations you do not immediately sit back and tell yourself with a self-satisfied air that you are now a qualified quantity surveyor and all is well. While you are still young enough to learn readily, I would urge you to read more deeply into many of the sidelines which were only touched on in your course. Arbitration is an example of one of the matters you may one day be called upon to handle and I suggest you study carefully the outlines of procedure and evidence and the law of the contract. Ignorance can easily land you into very unpleasant positions. Several other such subjects may come to your mind and you will find them for the most part to be extremely interesting as well as helpful.

Thus we have all too briefly picked out and discussed some points in the profession which you have chosen, and I have given you my views on them. I would not try to persuade you that these opinions of mine are the only ones and must be followed, but I do want you all to realise that quantity surveying is a profession which must not be taken for granted. There are more ways than one of looking at every section of it and at every problem and I exhort you to get as many views as possible, weigh them carefully and then follow whichever you really feel to be the best and soundest.

* * *

That is all I have to say to the students, but before concluding this address I would like to comment to the Chapter members on the honour which your Board paid me by electing me to the presidency for a second year. It was something which I had never for a moment contemplated, and I must admit that I agreed to accept it with a measure of hesitancy and with great humility. So ends the first experiment of electing a president from outside Johannesburg and Pretoria. The object of this experiment was obviously to attempt to embrace other centres more closely into the detailed labours of the Board. I feel it is not for me to comment on any measure of success which may have been achieved, but I would like to express my regret that during this past year I have not managed to visit any of the regional committees. You may remember that during my first year of office I visited Durban, Bloemfontein, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth. It would, I feel, be too much to expect a president to repeat all those during a second following year, but I

had hoped to include at least two of them. I have, however, been able to be present here in Johannesburg at seven out of the ten meetings of the Board which have been held during this year.

The election of a president who is resident away from headquarters does, however, have certain drawbacks, chief of which is the fact that during his absence from Johannesburg his normal duties must of necessity fall on someone else. In my own case the unfortunate stooge has been Mr. J. W. S. Castleton and I would like to express to him my personal appreciation of all he has done during the past two years, and also to thank him on your behalf. I count myself singularly fortunate in having had as senior vice-president someone so conscientious and efficient. The amount of work he has had to do can never be realised by the ordinary member. Thank you very much indeed Mr. Castleton.

May I also express my sincere appreciation to all the members of the Board. I do thank you for the work you have done and for the friendship you have given me. The last two years have been very busy ones for me but I have been more than repaid by having found so many real friends.

Lastly I must refer to the secretarial services provided by the A.S. & T.S. Unfortunately my period of office has seen two changes in the personal secretaries allocated to the Chapter, and this has not made for smooth running, especially after the quiet efficiency of Mr. McLaren. For the past few months, however, we have been cared for by Mr. M. Glanville, and I would like to thank him for the way in which he is carrying out his duties. We are fortunate in having him and I hope he will be with us for many years to come.

I would be failing in my duty if I did not make a final reference to Mr. Tobie Louw who was last year elected as our president-in-chief, and elected with acclamation. Many people give up a great deal of time to the affairs of the Chapter, but Mr. Louw has put his private practice into a very poor second place in the service, not just of the Chapter, but of the profession in general. Those who have not been fortunate enough to work with and under him can never fully realise all we owe to him. On behalf of the Chapter, Mr. Louw, please accept my congratulations on your high office and my very real thanks for everything you are doing for us all.

THE CAPE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Twenty-Seventh Annual Report, 1953-1954

MEMBERSHIP

The membership at the close of the year consisted of 254 Practising, 99 Salaried, 16 Absentee, and 22 Retired members, making a total of 391. The deaths are recorded, with deep regret, of the following members: H. T. Jones and W. N. McKinlay.

MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting and 14 Provincial Committee meetings, besides numerous sub-Committee meetings, were held during the year. At the first meeting of the Committee, Mr. C. H. N. Merrifield, Chairman of the Port Elizabeth Local

Committee, was co-opted to the Committee and elected as President, and Messrs. J. J. O. Orpen and H. A. P. Kent as Senior Vice-President and Junior Vice-President respectively, for the year under review.

The following is the record of members' attendances at Provincial Committee meetings, showing actual attendances and possible attendances:—

	Attended	Possible
E. D. Andrews	13	14
R. L. de Wet	13	14
R. E. G. Hope	8	10
H. A. P. Kent	7	7
O. Pryce Lewis	9	14
C. H. N. Merrifield	4	4
D. F. H. Naude	14	14
J. J. O. Orpen	14	14
H. L. Roberts	12	14
M. P. Taute	12	14
S. H. Todd	6	14

Note. —Mr. Merrifield is resident in Port Elizabeth, and on four occasions came to Cape Town to take the Chair at the Committee meetings. Mr. Kent was granted leave of absence for two periods. Mr. Hope resigned from the Committee in November, as he was taking up an appointment in Rhodesia.)

FINANCIAL

The audited accounts accompanying this Report show the financial position to be as follows:—

Revenue for the year exceeded expenditure by the sum of £388 9s. 0d.

The Balance Sheet shows that assets as at 31/12/53 exceed liabilities at the same date by the sum of £5,455 13s. 1d.

The aggregate gross revenue for the year under review amounted to £3,123 17s. 7d., as compared with £3,263 14s. 1d. in the previous year; the total expenditure, including Central Council levy, amounted to £2,735 8s. 7d., as compared with £2,463 0s. 1d. in the previous year. The surplus of income over expenditure, amounting to £388 9s. 0d., has been added to Capital Account, which now stands at £5,455 13s. 1d. It will be noted that an amount of £377 5s. 9d. appears on the liability side of the Balance Sheet in connection with Roof Trusses; this figure represents the excess of receipts from sales over the cost of publication. As soon as the remaining copies of the booklet have been sold the total amount to the credit of this account will be transferred to the Benevolent Fund.

CENTRAL COUNCIL

Two meetings of Central Council were held in Johannesburg, the first in April, 1953, with Mr. Hugo Naude in the Chair as President-in-Chief, the Cape Provincial Institute being represented by Mr. R. L. de Wet and Mr. A. L. Meiring as alternate to Mr. J. J. O. Orpen, who was unable to attend. The Port Elizabeth Local Committee was represented by Mr. C. H. N. Merrifield, President of the Cape Provincial Institute.

The second meeting was held in September and was attended by Messrs. J. J. O. Orpen and R. L. de Wet, representing the Cape Provincial Institute, and Mr. C. H. N. Merrifield from the Eastern Province.

At the September meeting, the second "Summer School" was held at the University of Witwatersrand. The "Summer School" was comparatively well attended, but, here again, there were only a couple of members from the Cape who were able to make the journey to the Transvaal for the purpose of attending the lectures. There is a possibility that the third "Summer School" might be held in November of this year at the Cape, and arrangements are at present in progress.

LOCAL COMMITTEES

Messrs. C. H. N. Merrifield and E. F. Vos were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, and Mr. W. Logan, Hon. Secretary of the Port Elizabeth Local Committee.

Messrs. R. D. Vos and S. E. Smale were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, and Mr. S. C. Lones, Secretary of the East London Committee.

THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The number of students attending the Architectural and Quantity Surveying courses at the University of Cape Town during 1953 was 360. Of these, Architectural Students numbered 321, with 52 in the First Year, 59 in the Second Year, 57 in the Third Year, and 153 in the Final Year. The Quantity Surveyors numbered 39, of which 12 were in the First Year, 9 in the Second Year, 9 in the Third Year and 9 in the Final Year. Forty-two Architectural students and 5 Quantity Surveying students qualified during the year.

C.P.I. PRIZES

The 1953 C.P.I. Prize for the student who distinguished himself in the final year at the University of Cape Town was awarded to Mr. W. A. Birrer.

The C.P.I. Second Year Prize was awarded to Mr. T. V. Tyler.

PRACTICE AND VIGILANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Practice and Vigilance Sub-Committee held nine meetings during the year, at which various aspects of professional practice were discussed and considered, including eight cases of alleged unprofessional conduct. Of these, the explanation of the member was accepted in four cases; two enquiries were of a technical nature, and in one instance the member was found guilty and cautioned. One case is still under consideration.

JOINT PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Two meetings of this Committee were held during the year, at which various aspects of the administration of building contracts were considered. When deemed necessary the members have been circularised by letter of any recommendations that have been made

by the Committee, resulting from the meetings of the Joint Practice Committee.

SUB-COMMITTEE

The most important Sub-Committee, other than the normal Standing Sub-Committees, that has functioned during the past year, has been that appointed to enquire into the question of delays in the passing of plans. As a result of the co-operation given to the Institute Committee by its members, several discussions have taken place with the City Engineer, whose co-operation has been such that an inter-departmental enquiry has been instituted, from which it is hoped that several of the bottlenecks at present found can be overcome. This enquiry is still proceeding.

GENERAL

The Committee wishes to thank the Secretary and his staff who have conducted the affairs of the Institute so satisfactorily during the past year.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT. Mr. C. H. N. MERRIFIELD

You will forgive me if at the outset of this review, I refer to an event which has made this a memorable year for the Port Elizabeth Local Committee and myself.

One of the first acts of your Committee after the last Annual General Meeting was to elect me as your President. Need I say how very much I appreciate this signal honour and the opportunity it has afforded me of renewing and strengthening the associations with my spiritual home grown somewhat tenuous after residence in the Eastern Province for twenty years.

The Port Elizabeth Local Committee and my colleagues in the Eastern Province, from whom I bring cordial greetings, would also wish me to convey to you their gratitude for the distinction you have conferred upon them by this generous gesture which has set a seal upon many years of cordial association with the Cape Institute and which we are proud to represent in the Eastern Province.

You will, of course, appreciate my residence so far from the home of the Cape Institute has meant that a great deal of the work which normally devolves upon the President has had to be shouldered by someone else in close touch with the Committee and the Secretary. This heavy task has devolved upon your Senior Vice-President, Mr. J. J. O. Orpen, who has readily accepted responsibilities which were properly mine and has nobly borne the heat and burden of the day with all the sacrifice of time and unremitting zeal this implies. For such a gracious act of self-immolation which was necessary to make my election possible, it is fitting that I should at this Meeting publicly acknowledge my deep appreciation and thanks to him for his great kindness and yeoman service during my term of office.

Two meetings of the Central Council were held in Johannesburg, the first in April attended by Mr. Naude who was then President-in-Chief and Mr. de Wet, and the second by Mr. Orpen and Mr. de Wet with myself as the representative of the Eastern Province.

One of the first matters to receive consideration at these meetings was a request from the East London Local Committee for direct representation on Central Council. Consideration of this request was deferred at the first meeting in April and it was not fully debated until the September meeting which was attended by a delegate from East London. It soon became clear that since the seats on Central Council are allocated on a basis of proportional representation, this request would not be granted and the question was remitted to the Cape for settlement as a domestic matter.

The Cape Institute in considering the matter mooted as a solution of a difficult problem, that the Eastern Province seat be shared between East London and Port Elizabeth on a proportional basis so that Port Elizabeth would represent the Eastern Province for two years and East London every third year, and the suggestion was passed to the Port Elizabeth Local Committee for consideration. May I ask you to bear with me when I say that this judgement of Solomon appealed as little to my Local Committee as did the precedent upon which it was based, to the original litigants! This, not because they did not appreciate East London's difficulty—they had two years previously with a lively interest in the welfare of the Institute in the Eastern Province endeavoured without any external stimulus, to evolve a "modus vivendi" with the East London Local Committee—but because they felt most strongly that the lack of continuity in representation would be a severe handicap to the foregoing Committee.

However, we have I believe found a workable solution and the Port Elizabeth Local Committee was authorized by the Annual General Meeting a few days ago to negotiate with East London with a view to sharing the Eastern Province representation on a basis pro rata to the respective membership with the proviso that Central Council agrees to the foregoing Local Committee sending an observer to represent it at Central Council Meetings with the right to participate in the proceedings but without the vote.

I am happy to be able to announce that this suggestion has been conveyed to the East London Local Committee at a meeting in East London by the Chairman of the Port Elizabeth Local Committee and it is hoped that their decision will be made known in time to place the matter on the agenda for the next Central Council meeting.

It seems to me that this problem is rather symptomatic of the development of the Institute and that the day is not far distant when Central Council will have to consider increasing the number of representatives

in order to adapt the machinery to a rapidly expanding membership in widely dispersed groups.

Central Council continues to be actively engaged in exploring ways and means of implementing Clause 3(c) by working through Local Authorities and Municipalities, which while slower than direct representation to the Legislature, is generally held to be the more satisfactory method of achieving our purpose—a greater measure of protection for our Profession. It is held by others that this line of approach is unprofitable since any such "back door" method is calculated to receive short shrift if it becomes clear for the reason that it would be declared *ultra vires* under the Local Government Ordinance of 1912, on the first occasion it was tested in the Courts, unless an Enabling Ordinance is first passed by the Provincial Government.

The need for the protection of the work of an Architect is one which is constantly before Central Council and they are continuing to work towards this end with exemplary determination and great tenacity, no possible line of approach is neglected and you may rest assured that while the progress may appear to be singularly slow it will not be denied you from any failure of your champions in this cause.

You are probably aware of the recent amendment to the regulations qualifying for Associateship R.I.B.A., and for Registration as an Architect in Great Britain whereby graduates otherwise qualified are required to write a Professional Practice examination after all other subjects of a recognised Final Examination have been passed and after twelve months of certified practical experience in an Architectural office or some other designated allied channel of experience.

Central Council is considering the adoption of this scheme as an amendment of the present regulations relating to qualifications for Membership of the South African Institute and I believe I am reflecting the opinion of my colleagues when I say it is hoped that in this matter we shall have the active support and co-operation of the Universities.

Will you pardon me if *a propos* this movement I use it as a text and expand the bare statement with some personal observations. It has been borne in upon me since I became your President that our system of training in Professional Practice and Experience is in urgent need of a thorough-going overhaul. My recollections of the pre-war period not only in the Eastern Province but here in Cape Town, albeit in a minor role, lead me to the opinion that there has been a quite remarkable incidence in the number of Arbitration Cases for which the Institute has had to nominate Arbitrators during the last few years and I go so far as to say that there has been a spate of disputes within the last three years. Now this deplorable circumstance can possibly be due either to a weakness in our system of training or to our failure to keep pace with the increasing complexity of our tasks as Architects in the administration of our

Contracts during a decade of almost frightful pressure when all kinds of expedients have had to be resorted to in the interests of speed, not to say indecent haste, and great difficulty in the inevitable adjustment necessary in the post war period. Possibly, this epidemic of Arbitration Cases may be due to a combination of these and other less obvious factors but I think we should take thought as to how we can meet and answer this challenge without delay. Let it be understood that I do not wish these observations to be taken as a piece of destructive criticism of my colleagues or of our system of Education—apparently this is a phenomenon which has been the cause for wholesome stocktaking in Great Britain, witness these new R.I.B.A. regulations and we must, I submit, give serious consideration to a matter which so vitally affects the prestige of our Profession in the eyes of those we serve.

At this juncture it will not be out of place to record our appreciation and thanks to those senior members of the Institute who have rallied to the oft made call and taken upon themselves the burden of acting as Arbitrators at the request of the Institute. Theirs is a thankless task and one which they would have been happy to forego had their sense of duty been less constant.

Perhaps the most exacting and important work of Central Council during the year has been the continued efforts to complete the revision of the Standard Form of Contract which, as you know, was published in 1952 in a partly revised form.

Your Committee and the other Constituent bodies have been faced with a formidable task in the work of sifting and weighing the very important and consequential proposals for revision remitted to them for consideration and comment by the Executive Committee. With a very proper appreciation of the important issues involved, there have been several exacting sessions of the Sub-Committees appointed to consider these proposals and full *seriatim* reports have been prepared in reply to the memoranda received.

At length it has been decided to form what has been dubbed an Autonomous Committee to work in conjunction with a similar body appointed by the National Federation to expedite the completion of this task. Your Committee has agreed to this suggestion from the Executive Committee and has appointed Mr. Douglas Andrews to directly represent this Institute at these meetings.

I venture to suggest that in this important matter we should not be unduly concerned with the time taken to accomplish what we have set out to do. I am not alone in feeling somewhat perturbed at the tendency to deal with the revision of this document piecemeal and the obvious danger of failing to consider it as a whole.

We must I think recollect our duty to those we are called to serve and not agree to drastic revision

without very carefully weighing the implications and seeking skilled legal opinion. We readily recognise the need for a revision of the existing document but we must proceed with great care lest we find our responsibilities of Administration made more onerous by authority weakened through the provisions of an instrument the precise implications of which have, through lack of legal guidance or misplaced optimism, been overlooked. I am not reflecting upon the ability of the experienced and skilled members of the Institute appointed to represent us on this Committee, but merely making a sincere plea for an unhurried approach to the task of revising a document which with all its imperfections has, in the main, stood the test of time with quite remarkable credit.

During the last two years there has been a steadily mounting feeling of intense dissatisfaction in the Institute with the operation of the Regulations under the Factory Act, the very wide discretionary powers vested in the officers administering the Regulations and the increasing and to many, unreasonable demands made upon the Building Owner and the Architect by some of the later revisions of the original regulations. This culminated recently in a deputation from the Executive interviewing the Secretary for Labour in Pretoria and as a result of this action, the Executive has asked all Constituent bodies to collect and collate from their members full details of the difficulties and anomalies which have come to their notice in their practices. You will be asked, if this has not already been done, to send such details to your Committee in order that the fullest use may be made of this opportunity to present a case which will demand serious attention. Elsewhere, I shall thank you on behalf of the Committee for your loyal response to another appeal. Will you also be equally zealous in your attention to this Circular and make known your suggestions and give details of particular cases where you have found sound reason for dissatisfaction with the Regulations. In this connection, I wish to acknowledge the valuable work done by Mr. Andrews in examining and collating the anomalies arising from the Regulations in various parts of the Country.

Turning to items of a more domestic interest, I must report briefly on the following work of the Sub-Committees during the year:—

Mr. Hugo Naude has been examining the second draft Townships Ordinance on behalf of the Institute and he has prepared a report on this document which is to be considered by the Sub-Committee appointed to deal with the matter. Unfortunately, the Sub-Committee has been rather depleted by the resignation of Mr. Hope and the absence overseas of Professor Thornton White who was co-opted, so that Mr. Naude's report will now have to be referred to the incoming Committee.

There have been only two Meetings of the Joint Practice Committee during the year. Any important

recommendations arising from these meetings to which the Institute has agreed, have been passed on to you by means of circulars.

The negotiations for the revision of the Agreement operating for carrying out Provincial work by private Architects, have been in the charge of a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. Naude, Orpen, Andrews, de Wet, Kent and Pryce-Lewis, a very representative committee in view of the importance of its work in attempting to obtain a revision of the existing agreement. A reply from the Administration covering a new draft of this document was received about two weeks ago and it will be considered by the incoming Committee at an early date.

During the year the Institute was asked to co-operate with the Cape Town Foreshore Board in connection with the Architectural Control of buildings to be erected on the Foreshore and to furnish recommendations for the implementing of Control. It was felt that the Institute's advice could be of great value to this Board and Mr. Hugo Naude and Mr. Kantorowich with Mr. O. Pryce-Lewis as alternate, were appointed to represent the Institute on the Technical Advisory Committee, which has already held six meetings.

Delays in the passing of plans by the City Council has engaged the active attention of your Committee in recent months and you were asked to advise it of specific instances of delays known to you in your offices. The response to this appeal was immediate and most encouraging; of course, the Committee was able to make good use of the ammunition you supplied. They are most grateful to you for your co-operation and assistance in this matter. Nothing is more depressing than the failure of an appeal of this nature to members of the Institute and nothing more heartening than a full and adequate response to the body of men whom you have elected to further your interests and who spend many hours of exacting work in the midst of the heavy demands of their offices and at the expense of well earned leisure.

Negotiations are still proceeding with the City Engineer and his department and I must here record our sincere thanks to the City Engineer for the efforts he and his officers are taking to improve matters and our appreciation of the ready co-operation they have extended to the Institute. You have also been asked to send the Committee intances of the payment of scrutiny fees for the re-submission of plans to the Local Authority and here again they thank you for the very useful information you have supplied in response to their circular.

There appears to be a certain amount of confusion in the minds of Members regarding the publication in the lay press of an Architect's name. We appreciate the fact that the point requires some clarification and perhaps this can be best accomplished by quoting an extract from the Central Council's Minutes which reflects the considered view of the Institute:

"That the publication of an Architect's name in respect of a building he had designed or was designing was permissible provided that such publication was not in any way associated with any form of commercial advertising."

This statement is, I think, clear enough to dispel any lingering doubts as to the intention of the regulations which have hitherto perhaps been somewhat obscure.

Arising from this matter, may I also issue a special request to our Members to be a little more circumspect in the use and placing of the official Institute Notice Boards. To illustrate the point, I give an instance of one member who caused a board to be erected on a National Road a considerable distance as the crow flies from the property on which the building was being erected!

You will have observed that the publication of the President's News Letter has been temporarily suspended and the alternative adopted of sending periodical circulars to our Members of any important items of interest or recommendations from the Committee. This has been done, I think, partly to smooth my passage through the Chair and partly as an experiment to ascertain whether the publication of a Bulletin as occasion arises may not be more satis-

factory and serve a better purpose than the necessarily more expansive news letter.

Here I will just mention the Practice and Vigilance Committee who have held nine meetings during the year, the occasions for which you will have gleaned from the circulated report.

* * *

Once again, it is the President's pleasant duty to extend to the Committee as a whole and to the individual Members who have undertaken special duties on Sub-Committees a word of appreciation and sincere thanks for their labours on your behalf and mine during this eventful year; also to those I have already mentioned who accepted nomination as Arbitrators when called upon.

Here again, I must add a personal word of thanks and appreciation to your Senior Vice-President who has been a tower of strength to the Committee and myself and has earned your warm commendation. Finally, to our Secretary Mr. McDowell who has so ably served the Committee and the Institute, we tender a cordial word of appreciation.

Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the Committee's report and the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

THE NATAL PROVINCE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Twenty-Seventh Annual Report, 1953-1954

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee regrets to report the death during 1953 of Mr. R. N. Jackson.

During the year under review twelve new members were admitted, seven joining the Practising Class and five the Salaried Class. Seven members from other Provincial Institutes transferred to the Practising Class; five from the Transvaal Provincial Institute, and two from the Cape Provincial Institute, and one Salaried member transferred to the latter Institute. Five Salaried members transferred to the Practising Class and one Practising member transferred to the Salaried Class. Two Absentee members returned to the Salaried Class.

The Membership as at 31st December, 1953, consisted of 109 Practising, 51 Salaried and 2 Absentee Members and 1 Retired Member, making a total of 163.

COMMITTEE

At the Annual General Meeting the following members were elected to the Provincial Committee:—

Messrs. R. C. C. Bennett, C. R. Fridjohn, K. E. Gow, L. C. Lambert, D. C. McDonald, F. W. Powers, J. C. Simpson, S. N. Tomkin, A. Woodrow.

Mr. G. H. Crickmay was co-opted to the Committee in order to represent the interests of our Pietermaritzburg members.

At the first meeting of the Committee, Mr. K. E. Gow was elected President and Mr. J. C. Simpson was elected Vice-President.

MEETINGS

The Provincial Committee met fourteen times and a record of attendances at these meetings is set out below:—

	No. of Meetings	Leave Granted	Attend- ances
R. C. C. Bennett	... 15	2	12
G. H. Crickmay	... 15	5	9
C. R. Fridjohn	... 15	6	9
K. E. Gow	... 15	—	15
L. C. Lambert	... 15	3	11
D. C. McDonald	... 15	3	12
F. W. Powers	... 15	2	13
J. C. Simpson	... 15	—	15
S. N. Tomkin	... 15	2	13
A. Woodrow	... 15	—	15

In addition to the above meetings, members of the Committee served on various Sub-Committees and the President will deal fully with these in his Report.

CENTRAL COUNCIL

At the Annual General Meeting of Central Council held on the 28th and 29th April, 1953, Mr. T. H. Louw was elected President-in-Chief and Mr. J. N. Cowin, Vice-President-in-Chief. Mr. Louw was also elected Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Mr. J. N. Cowin and Mr. Michael Waterhouse were elected as the Institute's representatives on the R.I.B.A. Council for the year 1953-1954.

Your President, Mr. Gow, and Mr. Tomkin were elected as your Provincial Institute's representatives on Central Council with Mr. Woodrow and Mr. Powers as their alternatives.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT. MR. K. E. GOW

I wish to pay tribute to a foundation member and past president of our Institute who has regretfully passed on during the last year. Mr. Reg Jackson trained with Messrs. Burnett Tait & Lorne the well known firm in London, returned to Natal in 1914, and practised for most of the time since then as a partner in the firm of Ing & Jackson in Durban. He gave to the profession a dignity and integrity which has so largely contributed to the standing all members of this Institute enjoy today.

I extend our sincere sympathy to his family—one of his sons will shortly become a member of our Institute.

After my year in office it seems that at last a President in his annual address can report that it has not been a very hard year—at least not personally so. There are two reasons for this.

The first is that the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects is most fortunate in having a wealth of experience amongst a comparatively young Committee—most of whom have in fact preceded me in my high office. It is the combined knowledge, willing co-operation and hard work of this Committee which has made my burden so light over the past twelve months, and to them I extend my thanks and appreciation.

Our Secretary, Mr. Morrison, although only an accountant, has become so much part of this Committee that it is often he who will lead the debate on a subject such as "The Redesign of Our Institute Seal"! For this specialised interest and support I wish to express particular thanks and gratitude.

The second reason for my good fortune is that this year, with no 50th Anniversary Celebrations, New Town Planning Scheme etc. your Committee has been able to deal with normal routine and business and so devote itself more often to consideration of issues of a more domestic nature. I hope this healthy state of affairs will continue in the coming year and

trust the new Committee may be freer still to devote its energies along these lines. That will largely depend on the call made by outside bodies, more and more of whom are realising the advantages of so doing and the fact that all good causes where applicable are well received and well served by your Institute.

For some time it has been the policy of the Committee to spread this work where possible among members, by asking them to serve on various Sub-Committees. This results in a better cross-sectional opinion on many subjects and the insight gained by the members concerned stands both themselves, and the Institute in good stead. I would like to thank all those members who have given much valuable time to this service.

Another general aspect which I would like to mention before proceeding with my detailed report is the rapid expansion of the profession in outlying areas of the Province. I have been fortunate in arranging during visits to meet officially members of the South Coast and Northern Districts and on Wednesday paid a belated visit to members in Pietermaritzburg, where a Sub-Committee has been formed which has done valuable work in respect of its own environs. As this present expansion develops in the future liaison with the Provincial Committee must be maintained so that the outlying members may benefit from the full ramifications of this Institute's experience and activity and feel that they really belong to the parent body.

I shall now report briefly on the year's progress but as I wish to leave time for discussion I cannot cover the full scope of work.

TOWN PLANNING AND CONTROL OF LAND USE

A technical Town Planning Sub-Committee now exists which is, in fact, the special board recommended by your previous Committee and discussed at the last Annual General Meeting. Since its inauguration this Committee has dealt with applications for non-conforming uses and has from time to time recommended modification to the present regulations which modifications have usually been adopted. Once again the Administration leans very heavily on this Institute and Mr. Tomkin our representative has been required to devote much time to this work, and the Durban Corporation officials on the Committee have expressed the view more than once that the town plan could not have functioned without it.

As yet no material development has taken place in respect of the City or other remaining areas.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS

An active Sub-Committee with a most difficult task has at last been able to reach some finality in this regard. Work has been divided into two phases—first the anomalies existing in and various interpretations of the existing bye-laws, and secondly the amendment of the complete bye-laws. In respect of

the former the Council has now approved suggested new bye-laws which are at present being considered for promulgation by the Administrator. The latter—a far bigger task has been undertaken by the Building Inspector and certain of the more contentious items are already under review by your Committee.

S.A. RECORD

This publication, which in fact belongs to the Transvaal Provincial Institute, is now being printed by a business manager in Cape Town, although still edited from the Transvaal. I think an improvement is noticeable and I hope that this continues in the future with more publication of work from this Province.

AWARD OF MERIT

Conditions have been drafted and carefully considered and it is hoped that an award may soon be made which will then be regularly given for the best all round completed building in Natal.

COMPETITIONS

Several competitions have been arranged through the Institute and the Committee wherever possible encourages this system so that more nearer home are likely to be held in the future.

PROVINCIAL WORK

Unfortunately, through enforced curtailment of capital expenditure by the Administration no further private commissions have been authorised this year.

DURBAN BUILDING ADVISORY BOARD

I make bold to say that of all the provinces the Natal profession enjoys the best relationship with the builders and it is largely brought about by this Advisory Board, from which many suggestions have come, to be adopted by the constituent bodies concerned, the Architects, the Quantity Surveyors and the Builders.

It was agreed unanimously to suspend qualifications of tenders on all materials except cement and labour where the contract price is less than £50,000.

The Board still recommends the limitation of provisional sums in all contracts, and that where they exist the procedure be adopted of advising the contractor where the selected articles may be obtained and at what price, thereafter leaving him free to negotiate at will for the supply thereof or equal approved at the same price.

A most important development which has taken place through the Advisory Board this year is the move to encourage better workmanship generally throughout the Building Industry. That the builders asked the professions to report on this subject is in itself a compliment and an indication of the goodwill existing on the Board. Already the Natal Technical College has commenced a foreman's course and plans are being made to lend impetus and incentive to the training of apprentices. Compulsory examinations, establishment of Trade Guilds, prizes etc., are envisaged

and any progress made in this direction will be most timely and welcome.

A closer relationship with our sister profession the Quantity Surveyors has been another outcome from this Board. This relationship, I know, has always been good at the social-level and now a Sub-Committee has been established to liaise at work level. Perhaps, for instance, they will discuss whether the Quantity Surveyors should charge for detailed architectural drawings supplied by their offices.

To return to more local affairs I mention the Social and Publicity Sub-Committee. The sporting matches amongst ourselves and other professions have obviously come to stay as also the Annual Banquet which was such a success last year and which will be repeated sometime next month.

So far the Institute has had little to do with the Durban Centenary. Unfortunately, we were asked too late to advise in respect of the town decorations but perhaps after the latest outcry we shall take part in and enjoy the celebrations taking place in Durban this year.

It was suggested that the Summer School be held concurrently with these festivities in Durban, but it is the Cape's privilege to run the School this year and it will be held at Cape Town sometime in October. There were no Natal visitors to the Summer School in Johannesburg this year and I would recommend to all of you the informative papers read, and the very pleasant boat trip from here round the coast to Cape Town.

Last year Mr. Bennett, the President, mentioned that the library had at last been started. We did not then anticipate moving the Board Room but since Mr. Morrison must move and has already waived his lease we have now given up our Board Room in Poynton's Chambers *protem*. New premises would be most conveniently situated adjacent to Mr. Morrison's new offices and should be such that they are worthy of use not only by Committees but also by members, and visitors from the other provinces and overseas. The library now complete, and the fanlight of our predecessor the Natal Institute of Architects kindly presented by the Dunlop Bros. can be utilized in the new premises.

Before closing I must make mention of the School of Architecture at the Natal University. In the short time since its inception the School has grown tremendously in student numbers, staff and accommodation. This year the exhibition was a great success and the students put on a most stimulating concert. This is great progress and the Institute hopes that recognition of the School by the Royal British Institute of Architects now under consideration will follow that already granted in South Africa. The Institute which jealously guards the reputation of its members is vitally interested in this School and I would like to suggest that there is a great opportunity of getting

together so that the students—our future members—may benefit at an early stage by an intimate appreciation of the ideals and ethics of the profession.

We on the Committee are particularly concerned just now with the ever increasing amount of architectural work being carried out by non-members of this Institute, which state of affairs can have far reaching effects on the profession. The Royal Institute are similarly concerned and extracts of a long report on this subject have recently been published in their Journal.

The Natal Provincial Institute has taken it up with Central Council, but I put it to you that each and every member of this Institute can influence this state of affairs far more quickly and far more effectively. The meticulous and proper conduct of our practices and our every day dealings with each other, our own assistants, the suppliers, contractors and building public must restore in this public their complete confidence in our profession. This confidence alone

can prevent the present position which if allowed to continue will undermine the status and privileges which we as architects now enjoy.

Gentlemen, I ask all of you to make use of the present quietening down or return to normal of the building programme to overhaul the present application of professional procedure. I address myself particularly to the younger practising members—I feel I can do this because I myself fall into this category—and I feel that there is much that can be improved in this respect. This is borne out by the fact that the practice Sub-Committee is kept continually busy considering alleged complaints by our own members. Although, however, this year has been free of any action in regard to unprofessional conduct. This is commendable and I sincerely hope it continues, but I ask you all to take it one step further—to show by example the usefulness of our profession and so give to it the full dignity which it well deserves and which certainly it is up to each one of us to preserve.

THE ORANGE FREE STATE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1953-54

It is indeed a pleasure and an honour for me to be able as President for the year 1953 to 1954 to present to you this report.

Membership during this past year has again shown a steady increase and I am happy to advise you that our membership has been increased by 7 new members, making a total of 57.

In contrast it is with regret that I must today inform you that Mr. F. W. Masey has, on advice of his doctor, had to withdraw from taking an active share in committee matters. No doubt you will all agree that Mr. Masey, who was a co-founder of this Institute has rendered very valuable service to it.

Throughout his life Mr. Masey has maintained a very high code of ethics and can be looked upon as the father of this Institute. I can, after having served on the Committee for 8 successive years, vouch for the active interest taken by Mr. Masey and his valuable contribution to the affairs and well being of this Institute.

The outgoing Committee has, however, loaded Mr. Masey with the onerous task of setting down on paper the history of this Institute. I am looking forward to receiving this completed document.

This year good progress was made to have a Small House Bureau instituted in Bloemfontein for use in the whole of the Orange Free State. Your outgoing Committee, unfortunately, could not finalise the details and the task of bringing the Small House Bureau into operation will rest with your new Committee.

The institution of a Small House Bureau will prove to be a valuable asset to the public and to the small

house owner who cannot afford the full services of an Architect. The sooner the Small House Bureau is instituted the better are the chances of having the City and Town Councils' support for the inclusion of Clause 3(c) in the Act.

Another matter about which your Committee was very active was the establishment of a School of Architecture in the Orange Free State. For four years now the various Committees of this Institute have attempted to get a Course in Architecture established. Their efforts met with reasonable success until this year when the Minister of Education informed the University that the projected School of Architecture was not to be.

Your Committee immediately sprang into action to have the matter reconsidered by the Minister and we are now again awaiting his decision.

It is my considered view that intending students should avail themselves of the University facilities at other centres until a definite course has been established here. In the meantime your Committee is attempting to come to some arrangements in Bloemfontein whereby Certificate students would get personal tuition and more attention than in the past.

I must, in passing, comment on the unselfish concerted efforts and initiative of your Committee to have the course established, the wonderful assistance offered by the University, especially the Rector, and the unflinching quick and attentive help by all members of Central Council's Board of Education.

It is with regret that it was discovered that the City Council of Bloemfontein had done away with the Aesthetics Sub-Committee. This happened without

prior notification to the Institute, and up to the present no such written notification from the City Council has been received. This matter was taken up with the City Council, but up to the present nothing further can be reported.

The township's Board of Management of Welkom has been persuaded by the Committee to hold a competition for the civic centre at Welkom. This was agreed to and I am happy to inform you that in the near future a competition will be held. The Assessors have been selected and will shortly be appointed. This progressive step will also afford the younger practitioners the opportunity of making their mark.

Gedurende die jaar is 'n dans gereel. Dit was 'n groot sukses en almal teenwoordig het die aand terdeë geniet. Dis net jammer dat ons nie die ondersteuning geniet het wat verwag is nie. As gevolg hiervan was die dans nie 'n finansiële sukses nie. Ons was gelukkig om die Hoof-President, mnr. Tobie Louw in ons midde te hê op die aand van die dans.

Daar was in die loop van die jaar een geval van onprofessionele gedrag wat nou nog onder die soekligg verkeer. Dit is jammer dat dit nodig was om so 'n ondersoek te moes instel.

Dit is interessant om te kan meld dat die Jaarboek nou ook deels in Afrikaans uitgegee word. Die Sertifikaatboek is vanaf die 8ste Maart 1954 beskikbaar in Afrikaans. Verder sal die Kontrakvorm ook in Afrikaans beskikbaar word sodra die nuwe kontrakvorm gefinaliseer is. Hierdie is 'n stap vooruit wat al lank op gewag word.

Gedurende Julie en later in 1953 het dit geblyk dat die boubedryf 'n resessie tegemoet sou gaan. Hierdie was gelukkig nie die geval nie, alhoewel statistieke bewys gelewer het dat die bou-aktiwiteite in die Unie heelwat ingekrimp is. Hierdie toestand word deur die professie verwelkom aangesien dit laer boupryse teweeg sou bring, gepaard met beter vakmanskap. Boukoste het wel gedaal as gevolg van vermindering in koste van materiaal, en 'n groter produksie van die vakman, alhoewel die daling baie klein was.

In die groter sentrums was die daling in boukoste heelwat meer merkbaar as by ons. Onder duidige bou- en konstruksiemetodes is daar egter min kans dat boukoste sal afneem in die nabye toekoms. Dit is egter noodsaaklik dat die boubedryf die koste-struktuur moet verlaag. Ons heil lê nie daarin dat ons minder lone moet gaan betaal nie, maar wel in beter bou-organisasie deur die houer en ook groter meganisering van die boubedryf. As voorbeeld noem ek hier die nuwe "Putzwerfer" wat in Duitsland ontwikkel is. Hiermee is dit moontlik om met vyf vakmanne gemiddeld veertien woonstelle van gemiddelde grootte op een dag te pleister. Dit is hierdie tipe van meganisering wat in elke vak nodig is om die boukoste te verminder.

Voorafvervaardiging in fabriek van bv. woonhuise is aan te beveel in sekere opsigte, maar lei tot meganisering van die boukuns tot so 'n mate dat die karakter en kuns van ware argitektoniese gehalte daaronder sal ly. Ons moet waak teen hierdie neiging en moet altyd die kuns in ons boubedryf beskerm en voorhou.

Wat ons Instituut betref kan ek opreg sê dat ons tevrede kan wees met die afgelope jaar. Die uit-tredende Komitee het goeie werk verrig en ek bedank die lede vir hulle hulp en samewerking wat my taak so vergemaklik het. Die uit-tredende Komitee het sekere wenke aan die hand gedoen wat die personeel betref en ek hoop dat hierdie wenke opgevolg sal word aangesien dit sal help om sake vlatter te kan laat verloop en meer tyd sal laat vir lede van die Komitee om konstruktiewe ontwikkelingswerk te kan doen.

Alvorens ek afsluit wil ek u almal bedank vir u teenwoordigheid hier vandag en veral dié lede uit die distrik wat vir moes reis om hier te kan wees. Ook bedank ek u dat u hierdie jaar die Voorsitterstoel aan my toevertrou het. Veral wil ek die Ere-Sekretaris, sy assistent, die Ere-Tesourier en veral ons hulpvaardige tikste bedank vir hulle onbaatsugtige diens.

Ek vertrou dat u die noenmaal sal geniet en dat die saamwees van groot waarde sal wees.

PAULUS VISSER, *President.*

THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Twentieth Annual Report, 1953-1954

MEMBERSHIP

It is with deepest regret that your Committee has to record the death of eight members of the Institute, namely Messrs. J. Archibald, G. V. Fripp, J. R. Gibbs, J. G. Hudson Holdgate, P. C. Thomson, W. B. Wilks, J. Woudstra and J. B. Wyers.

The membership of 590 as at 28th February, 1954 consisted of:— 359 Practising Members, 166 Salaried Members, 44 Retired Members, 10 Absentee Practising Members, 11 Absentee Salaried Members.

During the period under review 50 new Members were registered, 6 Members died, 5 Members resigned and 4 Members were transferred to other Provincial Institutes.

The 50 new Members were Mesdames M. M. Bader, T. Caplan, C. Liebson, D. M. B. Hodgson, M. R. Marcus, S. M. Patchitt and Messrs P. B. Arrowsmith, H. E. Blacher, P. R. G. de Beer, J. H. Bryant, E. Cassarkis, L. J. Charney, P. H. Cranko, M. P. Crosby, E. N. Finsen, C. A. Germond, M. Gluckman, G. J. L. Goetsch, A. d'A. M. Guedes, K. G. Harvey, J. Innes, H. Johnston, M. P. Kaplan, G. C. Kahn, A. J. de Kock,

G. H. Mackenzie, S. Margoles, I. R. McLennan, D. R. McLoughlin, G. Meyers, C. P. Menzies, R. D. Middleton, I. B. Murray, C. S. Neil, B. W. Feiser, J. F. Richards, B. A. T. Sandrock, H. A. Schneider, T. J. R. Scholtz, M. D. Silverman, J. M. Smart, H. J. Snyman, J. B. Steinberg, W. A. Swaan, G. D. Tabraham, P. C. Thomson, F. G. L. van der Walt, B. P. Wideman, A. L. van der Westhuizen, H. Whiteson.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

During the period under review 12 Meetings and one Special Meeting of your Committee have been held and the following is the record of Committee Members' attendances as indicated by the Attendance Register:—

	Ordinary Monthly Meetings	Special Meeting
Mr. B. S. Cooke (President) ...	12	1
Mr. M. L. Bryer ...	10	—
Mr. G. Candiotes ...	10	1
Mr. J. N. Cowin ...	10	1
Mr. W. E. Edleston ...	3	1
Mr. D. S. Haddon ...	10	1
Mr. N. L. Hanson ...	8	1
Mr. W. D. Howie ...	11	—
Mr. M. D. Ringrose ...	11	1
Mr. C. M. Sinclair ...	10	1
Mr. H. G. Summerley ...	10	—
Mr. C. E. Todd ...	8	1

Leave of absence was applied for and granted to Messrs. M. L. Bryer, G. Candiotes, J. N. Cowin, W. E. Edleston, N. L. Hanson, M. D. Ringrose, C. M. Sinclair, H. G. Summerley and C. E. Todd.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund shows an increase of £331 11s. 9d. and whilst this is perhaps considered satisfactory by some members, in order to put this Trust Fund on a secure footing, it is most necessary that the fund be substantially increased.

The Finance Committee completed the Amended Deed of Trust which has now been accepted and the Provincial Committee has agreed and supports the principle that the Trustees will deal with any assistance necessary to members. This new arrangement will ensure that only the Trustees will be aware of the details of assistance given to members, the Trustees being Mr. D. M. Burton (Chairman), Mr. B. S. Cooke and Mr. C. C. Irvine Smith.

The Provincial Committee wishes to thank all those members who contributed to the fund during the past year.

SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

There is very little to report under this item, as from the 1st November, 1952, the administration of this Magazine was placed in the hands of Messrs. Lawrence H. Tearle Ltd. The only activity in so far

as the Institute is concerned is the squaring off of this account, and as will be seen a loss of £255 4s. 6d. was sustained this year. However, this figure includes a reserve for bad debts and it is anticipated that the whole, or greater portion of this amount, will be recovered during 1954.

It must be recorded here that the action of the Natal Provincial Institute in constituting their Journal Liaison Committee, under the chairmanship of their present President has been and is greatly appreciated. The liaison has been effective and continuous. It has been of invaluable assistance to the Editors and it has brought forward work of good standard by the members of the N.P.I.A. which might have been overlooked.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Public Relations Committee had a very active year and amongst others the following matters were dealt with:—

Dinner and Award of Merit

A Dinner was held at the Langham Hotel on 28th April, 1953 when the Award of Merit was made to Messrs. Hanson, Tomkins & Finkelstein (now Fink). The Dinner was well attended and proved very successful.

Small House Service Bureau

The Small House Service Bureau continued to provide its services to the Pretoria and Boksburg Municipalities.

It was inactive in individual sales to members of the public, but it is the intention of the Public Relations Committee to try and obtain further material for the Bureau from *The Star* Competition for small houses and if successful approach will be made to Local Authorities to make use of the Bureau in a similar manner to Pretoria and Boksburg. Certain commercial organizations approached the Bureau for use of its material but were refused, and it was recommended to them to appoint practitioners to do the work.

'Star' Competition for Small Houses

As members no doubt will have seen *The Star* has organised a Competition open to members of the Institute of South African Architects, and members are urged to support this Competition.

Building Consultants

Following on discussions in Public Relations Committee, Central Council was approached with a view to obtaining support for the insistence on the employment of Registered Architects or suitably qualified Engineers in all large building projects in Local Authority Areas.

Publications Committee

As a result of experience gained during the publication of the Brochure for the Programme of Lectures on Home-Building, the Public Relations Committee recommended to the Provincial Committee the establishment of a Publications Committee. This recommendation has been accepted.

JOHANNESBURG BUILDING BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

This Committee has continued to deal with several important by-laws during the year. Members will be pleased to hear that the Johannesburg Municipality is introducing various sections of the Model Building By-Laws prepared by the Bureau of Standards into the Reef Uniform By-Laws. These will be taken one at a time so that members and the public can get used to the change.

The Committee continues to work harmoniously with the officials of the City Council and has had the pleasure of having some of the senior officials attending its meetings during the year.

TOWN PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Town Planning Advisory Committee has held only one meeting during the year. This should not indicate that the Committee has not been active, since the City Engineer has approached the Institute and asked that they take responsibility for the planning of the aesthetic control in the new Civic Centre. In addition to this item, the City Engineer has also asked that the Institute should advise him on the control of all City squares, main thoroughfares and approaches over the new bridges. Details are to be worked out, but, nevertheless, the Institute takes great pride in the fact that its constant endeavours in regard to the aesthetic control of the City have reached such an advanced stage and welcomes the approach by the City Engineer.

LIAISON COMMITTEE

This Committee continued its work on the suggested revision of the Agreement governing the employment of Private Architects by the Local Provincial Administration.

The Committee has now clarified its views and further attempts will be made to bring these views before the Administration to obtain the necessary modifications to the Agreement.

PRACTICE MATTERS

During the year the Provincial Committee acted as a Practice Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Haddon.

Amongst others the following matters were dealt with:—

- (a) People who, in the opinion of the Committee, held themselves out to be Architects by indirect means. This led to certain difficulties as Public Prosecutors are refusing to prosecute unless the strict letter of the Law has been transgressed. Central Council has been asked to raise the matter with the Attorney General.
- (b) Infringement of the copyright of the "Standard Notice Board" by non-members of the Institute.
- (c) Unauthorised modifications to the Standard Notice Board by members of the Institute.
- (d) Various disputes over fees.

- (e) Queries in regard to fees to be charged for appropriation drawings.

ADVISORY JOINT PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Two main subjects were dealt with by the Advisory Joint Practice Committee:—

1. The ruling of the Master Builders' Association to its own members in regard to tendering without quantities was revised as follows:
 - (a) The super footage of houses and outbuildings was raised from 2,500 to 3,000 square feet.
 - (b) The value of other buildings was raised from £5,000 to £7,500.
2. The establishment of a "Tenderers' Bureau" by the Master Builders' Association. This subject was a matter of lengthy negotiations between that Association, a Special Sub-Committee of your Institute, the Chapter of Quantity Surveyors and the Joint Practice Committee, as a result of which agreement was finally reached on the matter and members were notified by circular of the views of the Provincial Committee.

Last year the Chairmanship and Secretarial work of this Advisory Joint Practice Committee was the responsibility of the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors.

ELEVATION CONTROL COMMITTEES

Members are serving on these Committees for Boksburg, Germiston and Springs.

INSTITUTE OF S.W.A. ARCHITECTS

The Provincial Committee wishes to record its congratulations to this Institute on receiving statutory recognition and also wishes to congratulate two Transvaal Provincial Institute members on being appointed as Office Bearers of the Institute of S.W.A. Architects, namely: President—Mr. J. A. Johl; Vice-President—Mr. F. H. Dixon.

The Institute's Secretaries were again this year The Associated Scientific and Technical Societies and Mr. Tibbett, the Assistant Secretary served the Institute faithfully.

The Provincial Committee thanks all members who assisted in the past year's work and extends to the incoming Committee every wish for a successful year.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT. MR. B. S. COOKE

A Presidential address would seem to imply some form of summing up. This year's activities however, have been fully described in the Committees' Annual Report so I would like rather to make an attempt very briefly to review the present position of our profession in the Transvaal, and to try to see it broadly from a distance as though through the wrong end of a telescope.

I realise the ambitious nature of this task and tackle it with great trepidation, expecting some disagreement

with what I have to say. Let us then consider the Transvaal region, set on the highveld with its sparkling climate, inhabited by a vigorous people of great energy and drive.

A new region is developing industrially and commercially with robust vigour, unhampered by tradition but also unmellowed by it, and somewhat callow, like a youth.

In this setting there are some 600 members of our profession. In relation to the European population it is a large profession but in relation to the total population a very small one, there is one Architect to about 2,300 Europeans, compared with one to 2,900 in Great Britain and one to 7,500 in the U.S.A., but to the native population there is one to about 10,000.

It is a young profession in this country, of which only about one-sixth of its members have been registered for 25 years or longer, thus on average its members are young in years and characteristically energetic. Probably more than one half of the membership are locally trained, at our Universities with their high standards, and with their high standing among Architectural Schools. The scope of the profession in terms of the work being done and to be done is prodigious. Therefore, we can certainly say that the prospects are good and there is high promise of worthy results.

Now let us consider the "client", in other words the public. Predominantly they represent industry and commerce, at any rate in Johannesburg. I speak mainly of Johannesburg, considering it to be symptomatic of development in the Transvaal. The great bulk of the building is connected with economics, the serious business of money making, with rentals and returns being the impetus for the great drive. The Transvaal is no holiday or cultural resort, there is little time for that. Proportionately little building is for recreation or culture. Many clients have little need of cultural or aesthetic matters, except probably for advertisement or to compete with others in the same field. Only in the home are these matters of any importance and here the effort towards them on the part of the Client is considerable, but for the rest the Architect has to make the effort. He is, however, frequently opposed, or at best merely tolerated.

A public usually gets the architecture it deserves, and thus the client has very considerable responsibilities in this respect. Good work can be achieved by the architect only with the close co-operation and full understanding of the client, who must regard fine Architecture as a prime requisite.

In this respect the Public Relations Committee's work assumes great importance, in its enlightenment of the general public regarding the work of the Architect and the vital role he can play. For example, the great success of the "Adventure of Home Building" project last year indicates the possibilities of this

endeavour. By means of exhibitions, lectures, films, radio and publications, this Committee aims at the enlightenment of the public. Perhaps in the future not the "home builder" but "captains" of industry and commerce can next be approached, and there is the possibility of propaganda for town planning. The South African Academy, sadly, is not being held at present but ideas for future exhibitions have been mooted.

Then consideration should be given to those who should be our clients, I speak of the Non-Europeans. Discontent, crime and ill-health are largely caused by some of the appalling housing conditions which exist today. Housing is primarily an architectural problem and these ills can be solved by architectural means. The Institute has negotiated with the City Council, to make clear this fact and in effect, to offer its services in this important field. A competition has been held for the design of non-European houses. This was largely *pro deo* work and unfortunately, with their busy practices, not many architects were able to support it, but it was nevertheless of considerable value.

Another of our clients is the Provincial Administration. We are very fortunate in the Transvaal in the happy relations which are enjoyed between the Profession and the Administration and the degree of co-operation which pertains. Problems naturally occur from time to time and many are at present under consideration, these will be discussed by the Liaison Committee, composed of Provincial Administration and Institute representatives. Much however remains to be done in the field of research in planning and design.

There are many various other ways too numerous to mention in which the profession through the Institute, serves the community or official organizations in this Province. Much valuable work has been done by the Institute in co-operation with Municipalities in the revision of obsolete building by-laws. Another example is the Town planning Advisory Committee, which was constituted with the agreement of the Johannesburg City Council, to advise on matters of urban aesthetics. Until recently its terms of reference have been fairly narrow, limited to giving advice on matters referred to it and not itself being able to take the initiative in such matters. There are signs, however, that the position may shortly be changed, and the Committee was very pleased and proud when it was approached by the Johannesburg City Council, to advise on the urban aesthetics connected with the new Civic Centre and the bridge approaches. It is indeed gratifying that it has been given the responsibility of this important task and this augurs well for the future of this valuable committee.

* * *

Now a few comments about the building industry. I think a fact that is often lost sight of, is that the architect, quantity surveyor and builder in co-operation

with the client are all engaged in the same task, which is surely to produce noble and well built buildings. Only if this is realised and all co-operate in this spirit, can fine architecture arise. In the past ages of architecture, all three were often combined in the same persons. It is essential that all three work in harmony to the common aim. The differences between them are limited to the individual parts that each plays and these are understandable, but to obtain harmony and complete understanding, full consideration of each others' aims and problems is essential. The Joint Practice Committee exists as a forum for discussion between the three and good is bound to come and indeed has already come as the result of their representatives meeting round a table in conference. A clear understanding by builders of the aims of the architect and by the architect of the problems of the builder is absolutely essential. More frequent discussions on a less formal plane would probably do much to assist. The fact that all are aiming at good building applies in the case of the building artisan also. Pride of workmanship is one of the necessities. This pride is best cultivated in training. A high standard set during that period is remembered through life and there is always the tendency in later life to aim to equal or emulate that standard. Thus we can only deplore the apathy that one hears of, in artisan apprentices, in their attitude towards Technical College Training, and I sincerely hope that means may be found to prevent this.

* * *

Regarding new developments of architecture in this region, there is little doubt that these rely on an ever alert attitude to new materials and techniques, and the fulfilment by the building industry of the technical demands made on it by developments in design. In this respect the value of the work done by the Council of Industrial and Scientific Research and the National Building Research Institute cannot be over-estimated.

Then there is the relationship of architect-to-architect and the question of harmony with in the profession. The alleged lack of this and the alleged misdemeanours of architects, particularly regarding fees, is, I am sad to say, conspicuously referred to at annual general meetings. I have no wish to elaborate on it here. Suffice it to say that it is unthinkable that this Institute can set up a type of gestapo investigation, nor that it possibly can take any action on heresy without evidence. Nevertheless it is compelled under its own Act thoroughly to investigate any apparent breaches of the regulations brought to its notice.

This Committee need not hesitate to do its duty as and when these cases come before it. There is the other side of the picture which should be mentioned, for example those members who have sought advice in order to ensure meticulous adherence to ethical procedure, a fact which is most laudable. Adherence to that procedure can mean the loss of an important

commission, if the large majority of members do not also adhere to ethical procedure, this to a struggling practitioner can jeopardise the security of his whole practice, although the acceptance of such a commission could never be a solution to his problem.

During my term of office I have been privileged to make contact with other allied professions and have found many points of interest. For example in some Societies papers are regularly read by members. This we have not, as yet, achieved, in spite of efforts in the past. A strenuous effort was made about 1936 when an attempt was made to form an Architectural Club, both social and architectural. Unfortunately the scheme fell through, chiefly for lack of a suitable venue. I sincerely hope and believe, that when our own Institute building is erected on the site recently purchased in Braamfontein and the problem of venue is thus solved, this will result in closer co-operation between architects. The pooling of knowledge and experience among the profession, can be of inestimable value and I look forward keenly to that prospect.

Another point which has been brought home to me through contact with other professions, is the realisation of how well laid were the foundations of our own Institute, due to our forebears giving careful consideration to such matters as registration and protection of the name, of the Architect, these are still being sought by some other professions. The Institute is still pursuing the protection of the work of the Architect.

The importance of a strong and well supported Institute is great, as among other functions it forms the mouthpiece of the Profession in the Councils of the Country. I was struck by the difficulties experienced by some other professions. I was told that it was considered by one profession, that through its members seeking security in employment in commercial organisations, the profession had become subject to big business, and in fact had sold its birth-right. Another profession had become subject to bureaucracy, its work having become hamstrung by countless regulations and red tape. This seems to me a very salutary lesson, driving home the enormous importance of retaining a firmly independent spirit in our profession, so as to retain clearly its ideals and principles, thus avoiding these becoming clouded by side issues. A well supported Institute can do much to achieve this.

Now perhaps you will forgive me if I have the temerity, with due humility, to give a few personal impressions about the tangible results of the work of the profession in our region. I said at the outset that it is a young and vigorous profession and that the prospects are most promising. We might expect, for example, our cities and towns to be noble and splendid monuments to Western Civilisation in Africa, and that fine Architecture should arise. How far have we, in actuality, progressed on the road to providing here a dignified and graceful environment, as a setting for

the full and rich enjoyment of life? This is surely the basic aim of architects and town planners.

Onlookers see much, if not most of the game and the comments of enlightened and eminent visitors to the Transvaal are interesting. Mr. Maxwell Fry who came here a few years ago and did pay us some compliments, yet said of Johannesburg "this Caliban of a City". More recently Mr. Hope Bagenal while here spoke of the chaos and said it seemed as "if civilisation had hardly begun here". He urged architects to instil culture into the buccaneering spirit generally prevailing. We were fortunate last year in being given a comprehensive review by no less eminent a critic than Professor Pevsner. Perhaps we can take heart at least in the interest that he and the *Architectural Review*, took in our local architecture and so feel that it is definitely worthy of notice in the world of architecture. He speaks of a contribution made by Johannesburg to the whole of modern architecture in the Commonwealth. This is high praise indeed. He was however sharply critical on the lack of town planning and the need for native housing and some of his views are indeed revealing. He said for example "there is to be sure, no difficulty in the designing". This seems to me a very penetrating remark, not I am sure indicating our brilliance in overcoming these difficulties, but very expressive of a certain hastiness of design and an acceptance of the first solution that comes to hand, or of copybook clichés, factors that seem to characterize much of our work today. Our ragged skyline of lift towers and water tanks and the blatant backs of buildings, which form so large a part of the street scene, are a sidelight on this hastiness. Perhaps it is this very fact which imparts a certain lack of refinement, and superficial or transient quality to some of the work. The reasons are not far to find. There is a great deal of work to be done and clients are impatient for rents and returns and have very little or no idea of the work and time involved in the thorough designing of a building. Under this pressure exerted on the Architect, every device is employed to shorten the time between the first sketches and laying the first bricks, with all its attendant evils of hasty design and insufficient documentation, before starting building operations. One hears that this or that building was designed in a week or a fortnight. More's the pity, as this fact is soon forgotten, but the building may stand for generations. The resulting picture is of a large amount of building which does not know the ordering hand of the architect at all, another amount in which his touch is but slight and a third group which is given as much loving care as harassed architects are allowed the time to give it.

This is where a true understanding by the Building Public of the work and time involved, in the careful designing and documenting of a building, can be of great assistance. The realisation for example that in

America which is known for speed in building, the designing and planning operation is reckoned to take often as long as the construction programme, but the completeness of the documentation before building begins, shortens the building time.

Co-operation between Architects and a firm stand taken on this point would do much to solve many problems and the improved service given would enhance the reputation of the profession, and result in buildings of more enduring quality.

Sullivan, the great architect, writing in this vein quoted a French saying "time will not consecrate that in which she has been ignored".

So in conclusion, if we are to look forward to a time when our towns and cities will have some of the rare quality of those of older cultures; then perhaps on the part of the public a greater awareness of the responsibilities of their role as "city builders"; on the part of Architect the more deliberate care that he would be able to give and by the artisan a greater pride in the part he plays, would all assist towards this aim.

To take an analogy, thus we will ensure that if we are to have a mushroom development here it will really have the delectable quality and subtle flavour of the real thing.



Photo: Eli Weinberg

Mr. Colin M. Sinclair, President of the T.P.I.A. for 1954-55.

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