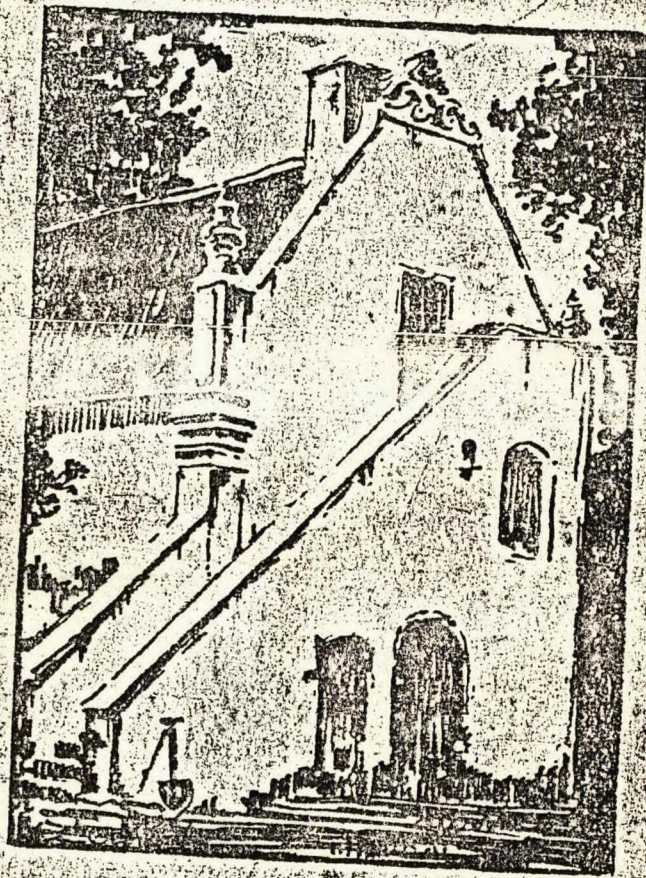


Country Life In South Africa

With which is incorporated "The African Architect"



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Vol. I

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THE HON. GENERAL J. C. SMUTS

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
<i>Our Frontispiece : Hon. General J. C. Smuts</i> - - -	5	<i>Rhodesian Buildings and the Central Court (Illustrated)</i>	28
<i>Foreword</i> - - - - -	6	<i>Architectural Notes : Association of Transvaal Architects</i>	33
<i>Country Notes</i> - - - - -	7	<i>Spirit of South Africanism : Annual Meeting of the National Society</i> - - - - -	34
<i>A Famous Sculptor : Auguste Rodin. (Illustrated)</i> -	15	<i>Kennel Notes</i> - - - - -	36
<i>Making Farmers : School of Agriculture and Experimental Farm, Potchefstroom (Illustrated)</i> - - -	18	<i>Furnishing : A Few Hints on Selecting Woodworkers</i> -	38
<i>Better Roads</i> - - - - -	22	<i>Poultry Notes</i> - - - - -	40
<i>The Greatest of all Our Needs</i> - - - - -	25	<i>Gardening</i> - - - - -	41

FOREWORD

By LADY PHILLIPS

THE Art of a Nation is an index to that Nation's character, and and, although our country is yet young, it has already had a peculiarly rich and original architecture. This impulse had, to some extent, become obscured, but of recent years a new and living spirit is to be seen arising. To those of us who work for the fostering of all that this new spirit means in the sweetening and unfolding of the best in the Nation's character, it is a sincere pleasure to welcome a journal which places before itself the ideals which COUNTRY LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA intends to strive for. In addition to the beautiful old buildings in the Western Province, South Africa has a flora which is one of the richest in the world, and which offers the greatest possibilities to the gardener. The arts of garden-making and architecture are closely related, and we have yet to learn that gardening does not consist only in the culture of plants and flowers. May this new journal fulfil its mission in bringing nearer to us some of the true joys of life !

FLORENCE PHILLIPS.

OUR FRONTISPIECE

OUR Frontispiece is a portrait of the Hon. General J. C. SMUTS, Minister of Defence and Acting Prime Minister during General Botha's absence in German South-West Africa.

* * * It is particularly requested that no permissions to photograph houses, gardens or live stock on behalf of COUNTRY LIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA be granted except when direct application is made from the offices of the paper. When such requests are received, the Editor would esteem the kindness of readers if they would forward the correspondence at once to him.

COUNTRY NOTES

EDITORIAL NOTICE

The Editor will be glad to consider any MSS., photographs or sketches submitted to him, but they should be accompanied by stamped addressed envelopes for return if unavailable. In case of loss or injury he cannot hold himself responsible for MSS., photographs or sketches and publication in COUNTRY LIFE IN S.A. can alone be taken as evidence of acceptance. The name and address of the owner should be placed on the back of all pictures and MSS.

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All communications on business matters should be addressed to THE BUSINESS MANAGER, "Country Life in South Africa," Box 4651, Johannesburg.

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A WOMAN'S SEASONABLE REFLECTIONS.

We're all at war throughout our life
Our whole world's work is but a strife
Against something we hate.
It may be ignorance or dust,
Or fell disease; but fight we must
From early dawn till late.

—Jane Taylor Ewen.

A MAN'S SEASONABLE REFLECTIONS.

I.

The world's at war,
Both near and far;
Then be it ours, my brother,
To bring as weapons for the strife,
High courage and content with life,
True faith in one another.

II.

With conscience clear,
We'll have no fear
In storms or cloudy weather,
When comes sweet peace on joyful wing,
Let all the angels gladly sing,
We'll praise the Lord together.

—Jane Taylor Ewen.

SEASIDE SEASONS

Notwithstanding the full times attendant on the war, and the remarkable rebellion, the people of the Rand have found their way to the Cape during the past months in exceptionally large numbers. Picturesque Capetown, with its lovely environments, furnishes a delightful change from the dust of Johannesburg, and its popularity will be further enhanced as time progresses.

The potentialities of Greater Capetown are certainly unrivalled in South Africa, and the facilities granted by the Railway Administration as well as by the Union-Castle Steamship Co. render to hundreds of people to-day a visit possible which was almost as improbable a few years ago as was a trip to the Old Country.

"SALT RIVER!"

This year we noticed visitors at Muizenberg and St. James from the Rand who had hitherto spent their "annual" at Durban, and who frankly expressed their astonishment at the manifold beauties of the Peninsula. It is peculiar how many of the inhabitants of Johannesburg and other inland places have only spent a few hours in Capetown on arrival in South Africa, either taking the train up-country within a few hours of stepping off the steamer, or travelling round the coast for other ports and destinations in the interior. Then began life in a new country, and perhaps years before a holiday was thought of. One Randite who stayed at St. James at Christmas-time, first saw Capetown 25 years ago. He came ashore to have a look round before proceeding to Natal, and the name "Salt River" attracted his attention. Which he visited! From present day aspects, this particular portion of the Peninsula lays no special claim to beauty, so that one can easily imagine our friend's disappointment a quarter of a century ago. He has since regularly spent his holiday in Durban, and this was his first trip to the Cape during all the years he has been in the country. Needless to say, he was charmed with his surroundings, and I have an idea that this visitor will find his way back.

RIVAL CLAIMANTS!

But we have never found that any seaside resort in South Africa seriously affects another from point of popularity. Durban provides unusual attractions on its Marine Parade, a more euphonious title than the "Back Beach," by which the ocean front was so familiarly known until the improvements were made. East London finds favour with its Buffalo and Nahoon River picnics, its canvas town on the Beach, and countless other attractions. Port Elizabeth, with Humewood, claims special attention, while the magnificent country behind the "Bay" provides a health-giving and delightful change. The Kowie, again, has adherents who would never dream of going anywhere else.

The rivalry between the coastal towns is indeed a welcome feature, and certain it is that they would be even more largely patronised during their particular seasons if made yet more accessible by way of cheap fares.

JOYFUL JO'BURG

We hear little nowadays of Johannesburg Civic Association, but have an idea that the prominent citizens connected with this body have meanwhile ceased their labours in popularising the Golden City as a holiday centre, and devote their efforts on behalf of the many organisations formed since the war to tend to the comforts of the boys at the front.

AND ITS ANNUAL SHOW

Nevertheless, Johannesburg's real season may be said to embrace Show Week. This popular annual event will take place as usual, and it promises this year to even outdo previous functions.

The value of the prizes amounts to the huge total of £6,185, and it is anticipated that competition this year will be keener than ever. It ought to be, in view of such encouragement, and notwithstanding even the troublous times we have recently passed through.

The following details give a fair idea of the programme mapped out for this year's show. A feature of the livestock classes this year are the classes provided for slaughter animals (cattle, sheep and pigs). The total prize money offered for these is £433 15s. In addition a valuable cup is offered for competition by Messrs. Franks and Beiss, and Sir Abe Bailey has also promised a cup for the best slaughter animal in the cattle classes. The classes for sheep, as will be observed, have been entirely revised since last year, and they are offering in prize money no less than £1,330, being £691 in excess of the amount offered last year.

In the cattle classes the prize money is £1,541, being an increase of £545 over last year. The Africander Stud Book Championships will this year be held at the Show. The usual sales of thoroughbred horses, pure-bred cattle, and other stock will take place on the Showgrounds during the last three days of the Show. In the poultry section a number of new classes have been added, and considerable improvements have been made in the Poultry Shed. The Society of Motor Traders have again decided to exhibit as a body, and indications at present point to last year's magnificent exhibition being surpassed this year, notwithstanding the times.

In the produce section the maize and potato classes in particular have been revised and augmented, and championship challenge cups are being offered this year for maize and for wheat. The prize money in this section has also been considerably increased.

The applications for space for the exhibition of machinery, implements, etc., have this year been unprecedented, and the Committee have at the last moment been compelled to undertake the

erection of additional shed accommodation. In home industries (women's section) the prize list has also been very carefully revised and considerably augmented, several entirely new and most attractive classes having been provided. Thanks to the munificence of Vice-President Jan Meyer, a handsome new tea kiosk is being erected, which will be run by the ladies of the Committee.

Additional interest is given to this year's Show on account of the fact that this is the first time that the embargo has been released enabling stock from Natal to be in competition and on exhibition.

"BUSINESS AS USUAL"

The approach of winter, says our Durban correspondent, is being lived with satisfaction by all residents of the Natal coast, for the summer has certainly been one of the most trying of recent years. Even the staunchest Durbanites, who were wont to take it almost as a personal affront if it were hinted that the climate of the port town at all seasons was not just as perfect as everything else there, have been heard to admit that it has been warm.

With the engagement of a first-class band from Home, and all the other arrangements for the gala season carried out on a scale quite up to former years, the Durban governing powers are setting a good example in optimism, and it is to be hoped their expectations of at least the normal number of June, July and August visitors will be realised. Many, indeed, anticipate that far from being any falling off there will be an increase, for it is argued that while some regular visitors will be finding times rather too hard to allow the usual holiday expenditure, many who would in ordinary circumstances have taken a European trip will content themselves with the pleasures to be found nearer home. Probably some of our male friends who have been regular yearly visitors will still be engaged on a pressing engagement in German South West Africa (that name will no doubt have disappeared by then), but those of them who have wives and kiddies are not likely to desire that the usual health-giving sojourn by the seaside be abandoned.

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CENTRAL WEST STREET, DURBAN, PRESENT DAY

APPROPOS

Our Johannesburg correspondent incidentally writes :—

The announcement that the Corporation of Durban has decided to import a band from England for the forthcoming season at this popular coast resort brings out the fact that there are no private bands in this country on the lines of the famous Besses o' the Barn, the Black Dyke, Clydebank, and similar English and Scottish organisations which are composed of working men who have taken up the study of music as a recreation. As all who have heard them know, these bands have attained an exceedingly high degree of proficiency, and their earnings from engagements in Great Britain and other parts of the world are very considerable. Although the conditions in this country are very different from those prevailing in England, it is perhaps surprising that with so many men from the North of the Old Country domiciled here, no such band has come into existence.

ARCADIA EX ALGOA

Says our Port Elizabeth correspondent :—The great majority of the people in South Africa are apt to regard Port Elizabeth as being simply a seaport city, with ever-increasing attractions on the beach. It is, of course, the nearest approach to Liverpool that colonists can have on this side, and in years gone by it has done remarkable work as one of the chief feeders of the Union. But Algoa has a remarkably fine back country. It is semi-circled with a series of picturesque spots where those tired of the everlasting ozone regularly migrate to have a real holiday. To this end, moreover, the Bayonian has railway lines which take him to the salubrious spot he has chosen, and the beauty spots are to be found either near or far, just as it suits the purse. Many of these rest spots have been known for numberless years past. Others have come into existence through the casual caller, who has experimented and found the land lovely to behold. Owners have not been slow in taking advantage of their opportunities, and accommodation has been prepared for steadily increasing numbers who on the annual furlough or health holiday select from the hundreds available. It stands to reason that the dweller at the seaside enjoys his sojourn in the country just as much as the up-country resident does at the coast.

SPENDING A HOLIDAY

Many a Randite, Kimberleyite and other inland dweller has been known to spend just half his holiday at the Beach and the other half at one of the many inland resorts, and has gone back doubly invigorated. Some, for instance, who are fond of the rod and line like the change

from deep sea fishing in the Bay to the gentle art of dicking the finny tribe in the rivers. They like themselves for the latter sport to the Zwartkops and the Gamtoos. There are other small rivers in the Eastern Province which also afford similar facilities, and there are hostelrys, farm-houses and other domiciles open to receive them. At these same resorts will be found—as it happens at the present moment—huge orchards wherein trees are simply laden with all kinds of luscious fruits. These are open to the caller or the guest, and there is a decided novelty in being able to select the ripe apple, peach or plum from the tree, as well as the satisfaction of having just as much as you want fresh. Why, the perfume of the orchard is in itself a temptation and a treat. Outside of that there is the picturesque surroundings. The jaded business man is so far removed from all that pertains to trade that he rests in one of the many natural nooks provided for a day or two. Then he tries one or two of the walks through leafy, shaded paths or roads, or along the banks of the stream, and he is ready to take up the rod, the gun or any other implement of sport, having completely forgotten that there is such a thing as business. That is the proper kind of holiday. A good many know how to take it, but how many don't!

Do you know that within a few miles of Port Elizabeth there are troops of wild elephants. They inhabit the Addo Bush, and even if there are at present no permits to shoot these monsters, it is possible, without penetrating the mysteries of that puzzling forest, to get within reach of them, and to watch the pleasant way they have of wrecking the fences of the farms in the neighbourhood. They play a part in the country life here which is quite interesting to the curious, and as the farmers are desirous of bringing their guns into play whenever the oft-asked permission is granted by Government, it may be that some grand sport will be available. In a subsequent letter some interesting incidents in the life of the Addo elephants may find space in COUNTRY LIFE IN S.A.

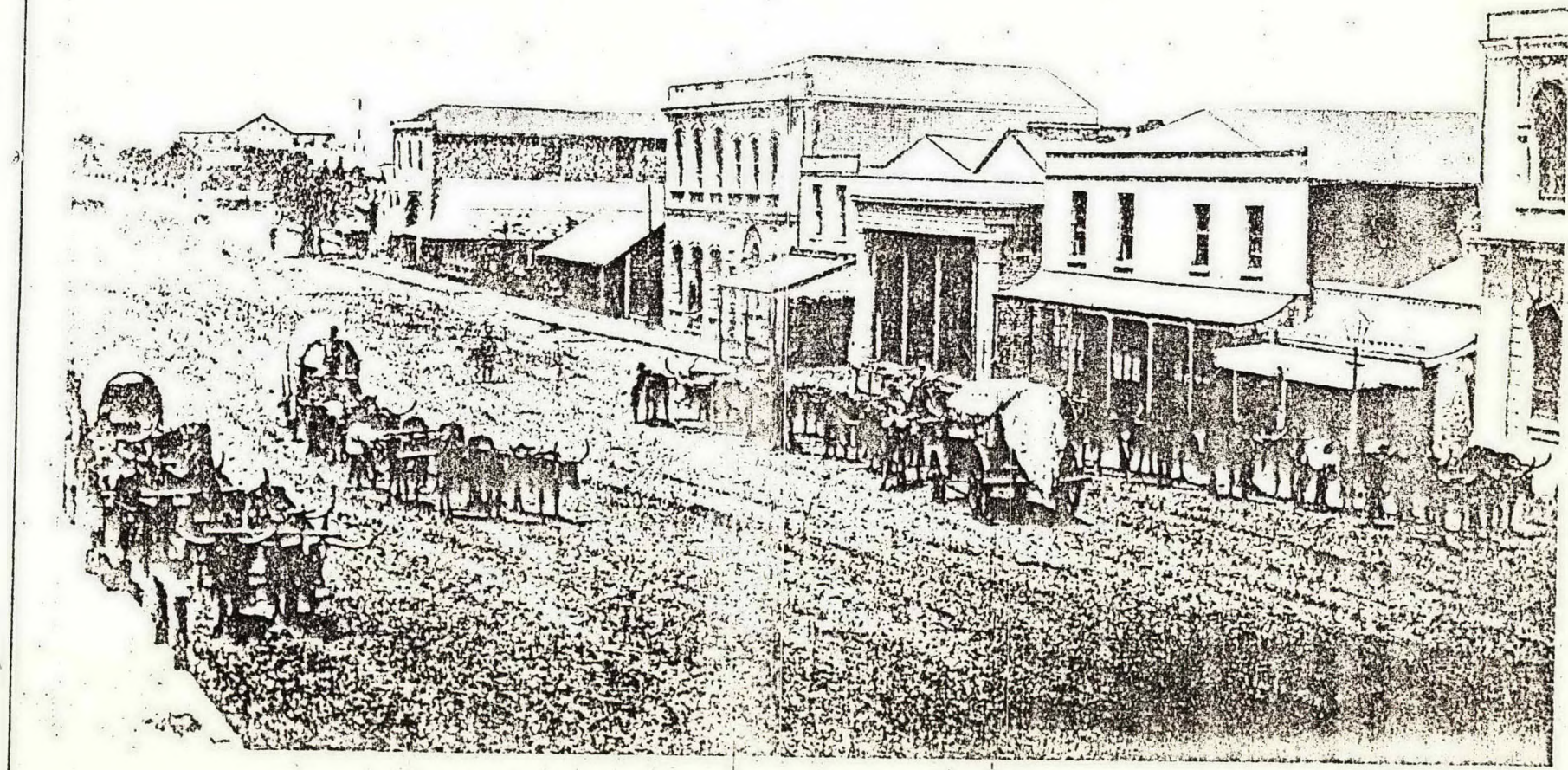
REVERTING TO DURBAN

We hear that the congestion of wool and maize at the Point is growing, but there are hopes that in a week or two arrangements will be made for the carriage of all such produce to England, and the enhanced prices ruling will fully compensate all concerned. The local Chamber of Commerce have been taking up, with the Railway authorities, the matter of the storage of maize at the Point. It was felt to be a hardship that the full charge should be made where the shed rent for maize has been incurred through the action of the authorities in requisitioning ships, and not through any fault of the exporters. The request

April, 1915.

11

Country Life in S.A.



CENTRAL WEST STREET, DURBAN, IN 1870 (seen from the west end of the street)

was that in such cases the charge should be entirely waived; but, no doubt with an eye to falling revenue, the Railway Department could not accede to this.

Another matter which is troubling all people in Durban, but more particularly business men, is the latest day of posting for the English mail. Up to the time of the rebellion and the suspension of the railway service on the Harrismith line, a fast train was run from Natal via Bloemfontein, which enabled Home letters to be posted here up to Wednesday evening. Then as the mail had to go via Johannesburg, the latest day of posting was altered to Tuesday, but although conditions are now normal on the Free State railways, Tuesday it still remains. The matter was pressed upon the members of the Railway Board and the General Manager, on the occasion of their visit to Durban, and a promise was given to take it into consideration, but now the intimation has been received that nothing can be done in the matter at present.

FURTHER DURBAN IMPROVEMENTS

A small sum of money is to be expended in making the exterior of the old Court House Buildings in West Street less of an eyesore. The unsightly buildings abutting almost on West Street and the Corporations Buildings have, however, been removed. These included the lavatory conveniences, lock-up cells, etc., and had always been somewhat of a blot on the amenities of the neighbourhood—from the point of view of the sense of smell as well as of sight—although fortunately their presence was to a certain extent hidden by the trees at that corner. In the meantime, the old C.I.D. quarters are being turned into a boarding house; let us hope the spooks of dead murderers who have undergone examination in one or other of the rooms will not seek to disturb decent people! More curious still, the old Circuit Court room now accommodates a church—the New Church of Christ, I think the denomination dubs itself—so that instead of sentences it is now sermons that are delivered there, and the judgments and convictions of the present are replaced by those of the future life. Then the old Borough and District Court—or Second Criminal Court, as it was officially designated—is now tenanted by the Yorkshire and Lancashire Association, and on Saturday nights the lads and lasses of the Counties of the Roses trip the light fantastic or listen with delight to musical programmes in the room wherein the Jim Fishes and Black Sophies, with here and there a degenerate white, of yore heard their dooms pronounced.

DURBAN CADETS

Viscount Brassey has been on a visit to Dur-

ban, and has, like most people who come here, a good word to say about Durban and its surroundings. As was to be expected from one who has such a love for the sea and all concerned with it, his lordship during his visit took special interest in the Sea Scouts, and the latter did not miss the opportunity of paying their tribute to the world's greatest yachtsman and ocean traveller. They paraded before the Marine Hotel, where Lord Brassey was residing, and after presenting their compliments, asked for the honour of an inspection, which his lordship readily granted, and, after the lads had been put their paces and each closely scrutinised, they had the intense satisfaction of hearing Lord Brassey say that of the thousands of scouts which it had been his pleasure to see, he had seen none smarter than these before him. Which goes some way to compensate for the disappointment of the South African Scout at the lack of opportunity which prevents him from playing the noble part which has fallen to the lot of the Motherland Scouts.

LOOK OUT FOR THE LOCUSTS

The news that swarms of locusts are making their appearance in certain parts of the country will be received with considerable concern by those who are likely to be affected by the ravages of these pests should they succeed in extending the field of their operations. When it is remembered that the Government is prepared to render every assistance to farmers and others to exterminate these voracious insects at any and every stage of their development, and that moreover no charge or expense is involved in the process, it is difficult to understand the apathy that is displayed by many agriculturists who have so much to lose by their depredations. Fortunately for the country generally, the narrow-minded and ultra-religious individual who regards any attempt to destroy this or any other pest as a sin is rapidly becoming as extinct as the Dodo. Failure to report disquieting signs to the proper officials may, in most cases, be attributed to slackness. For their own benefit, however, as much as for the good of the general community, country residents should immediately notify the Entomological Department at Pretoria regarding the presence and movements of swarms, so that the necessary steps may be taken without delay.

We suggest that Postmasters be authorised to dispatch telegrams conveying this important information free of charge.

ALSO THE CATERPILLARS

To the ravages of the locusts must now be added the damage done by the Pigweed Caterpillar, which has recently made its appearance in huge numbers in the Transvaal, including Jo-



CITY HALL, CAPE TOWN

Johannesburg and Pretoria, while certain parts of the Free State are reported to have suffered extensively from the same cause.

Although small, these insects apparently make up in energy what they lack in size, and it is astonishing what destruction they can accomplish in a short time. An eminent authority states that it is possible for one pair of moths to be the progenitors of 10,000,000 caterpillars! When one considers that there are millions of couples with this prospect before them, it is not surprising that caterpillars are to be found in goodly numbers. Fortunately, however, their existence is only brief, and this can be considerably curtailed by a solution of bran, sugar and Paris Green, which has proved to be very effectual in bringing their activities to an abrupt termination.

RAISING THE WIND

It is pretty evident that the expense of maintaining a large force in the field, in addition to a diminished revenue in several directions, is having its effect upon the Union finances. Rigid economy is the order of the day in every department, and all sorts of expedients are being resorted to to save expense and assist the exchequer. To their surprise and dismay, certain well-paid officials who are approaching the age limit have been notified that their retirement on pension is about to be effected, and expenses everywhere have been reduced to the irreducible minimum. Hitherto convictions under the Liquor Law have been invariably punished by a sentence of six months' imprisonment for each offence; but with the object evidently of increasing the revenue, discretionary powers have now been granted to Magistrates to offer the accused the option of a fine in certain cases.

This is no doubt an effective method of supplementing funds, as the sums the defendants are called upon to pay are usually fairly heavy; but this method, however welcome the cash may be to the National Exchequer, is hardly likely to check the evil, which is apt to be far-reaching in its effect.

SAVING THE WATER

This season, up to date, has approached something in the nature of a record as far as the rainfall is concerned, and it now remains to be seen if those responsible for the conservation of our water have taken proper advantage of the abundant supply at their disposal to make adequate provision for the dry months ahead. It is usually a case of either "a feast or a famine," with the odds in favour of the famine—an order of things that could be improved upon with advantage.

PEACE RUMOURS

Towards the latter end of last month rumours were current that negotiations for peace were proceeding between members of this Government and the Germans in the South West. The fact, however, that General Botha has now assumed command of operations indicates unmistakably that even if these reports had any foundation in fact, the discussion was abortive. This is much to be regretted, as the conclusion of a satisfactory peace would have avoided loss of life on both sides and released a number of our trained and hardened troops for service in other quarters.

At the same time, it is rather difficult to believe that the German authorities in Berlin would consent to the surrender of their South African territory without a struggle, in view of their desperate attempts to assure their public and the world at large that all goes well with their cause.

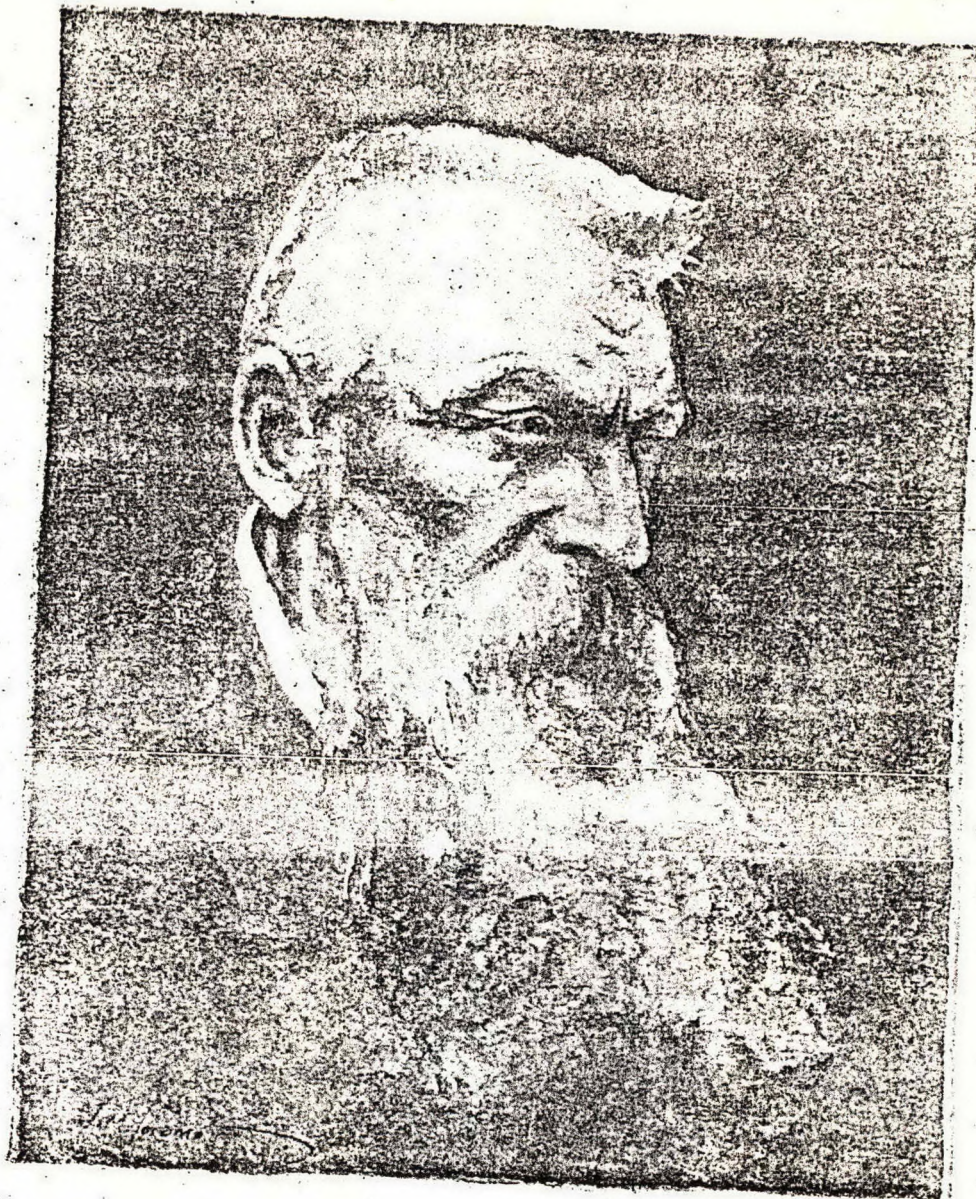
DISABLED SOLDIERS

The return from active service of members of the Defence Force who, through either wounds or disease, or both, are permanently prevented from following their ordinary occupation, has raised the important question of their future. It is obvious that some provision will have to be made for these men who have sacrificed themselves for the benefit of the general community, and who are consequently unable to provide for themselves.

The matter has already been taken up in Pretoria, but so far no official announcement of the Government's intentions in this direction appears to have been made. It is to be hoped that some method will be found without undue delay, whereby these men, who patriotically exposed themselves to risks which have unfortunately been realised, may be furnished with the necessities and comforts of life which they previously enjoyed.

THE PATENT LAW

Although several years have elapsed since the various South African States were consolidated into a Union for the benefit of the whole, each State continues to maintain its own Patent Office, with the result that inventors desiring to protect themselves throughout the country are compelled to go to the trouble and expense of registration in each Colony. One would have thought that the encouragement of enterprise and inventive talent, which, after all, represent progress in its most effective form, would have received every encouragement from those who seek to improve the welfare of the country. At present, however, difficulties which should not exist beset the path of the inventor in South Africa.



un autographe Aug. Rodin

AUGUSTE RODIN

Auguste Rodin—from a portrait by J. M. Solomon

"To few artists in their lifetime, is it given to experience such a decisive turning of the tide of public and official opinion as has been experienced by the sculptor Rodin. . . . We in South Africa may be justly proud in our possession of two of the most superb examples of Rodin's art, now in the Johannesburg Art Gallery, bestowed upon us by the discerning generosity of Sir Lionel and Lady Phillips."

By J. M. Solomon.



O few artists in their life-time is it given to experience such a decisive turning of the tide of public and official opinion as has been experienced by the sculptor Rodin. Born in Paris in 1840, Rodin, at the age of twenty-four, displayed his marked individuality by the controversy created over his work "The Man with the Broken Nose," which was rejected by the Salon.

Thirteen years later all Paris was discussing his first important work, "The Age of Bronze," which the general consensus of opinion decided that he had cast from life. To-day, full of years and honours, he is acclaimed the greatest living exponent of his art since Michael Angelo. Certainly no sculptor since the great days of the Renaissance has shown such ability in handling his medium, and no artist in any sphere since the Greeks—who worked for a different principle—has been able to admit into his work the extreme emotions or pursue and render through his technique the violent last that the flesh can enjoy or endure from the spirit in conflict or desire.

Carlyle has told us somewhere that the actual well seen is the ideal, and Rodin has founded his life work on this teaching sung by Keats in his:

"Beauty is truth, truth beauty
that is all

Ye know on earth, and all ye
need to know."

The sculptor has rendered it eternal in his "frozen music," and he almost alone—save perhaps his master, Barye, who, because he sculptured animals chiefly, encountered less hostility from traditional schools—has been able to hold fast an impassioned dream through his tireless search of form.

With what success the sculptor has accomplished this the world beholds in its comparison, say, of "Le Baiser" with the acclaimed "Laocöon."

Or, again, look upon the little bronze "Eve" in the Johannesburg Gallery and see the terrific despair in his presentment of the mother of humanity. In no age has sculptor produced such

magnitude of scale with so slender material. Rodin is not only artist; he is philosopher too, and often his figures convey some distinct psychic emotion. Listen to the sculptor's interpretation of his work: "I name my statues when they are finished," he says, "because the public demands it; but the name conveys little of their real meaning. Take, for example, the group in the Luxembourg called 'Le Baiser.' The meaning is far more profound, more elemental than these words imply. Love—the union of man and woman. I have simply written to translate this eternal truth. People tell me I create; that is not true. God alone creates, man but reveals. The greatest poet, the greatest musician has



"EVE"

Johannesburg Art Gallery

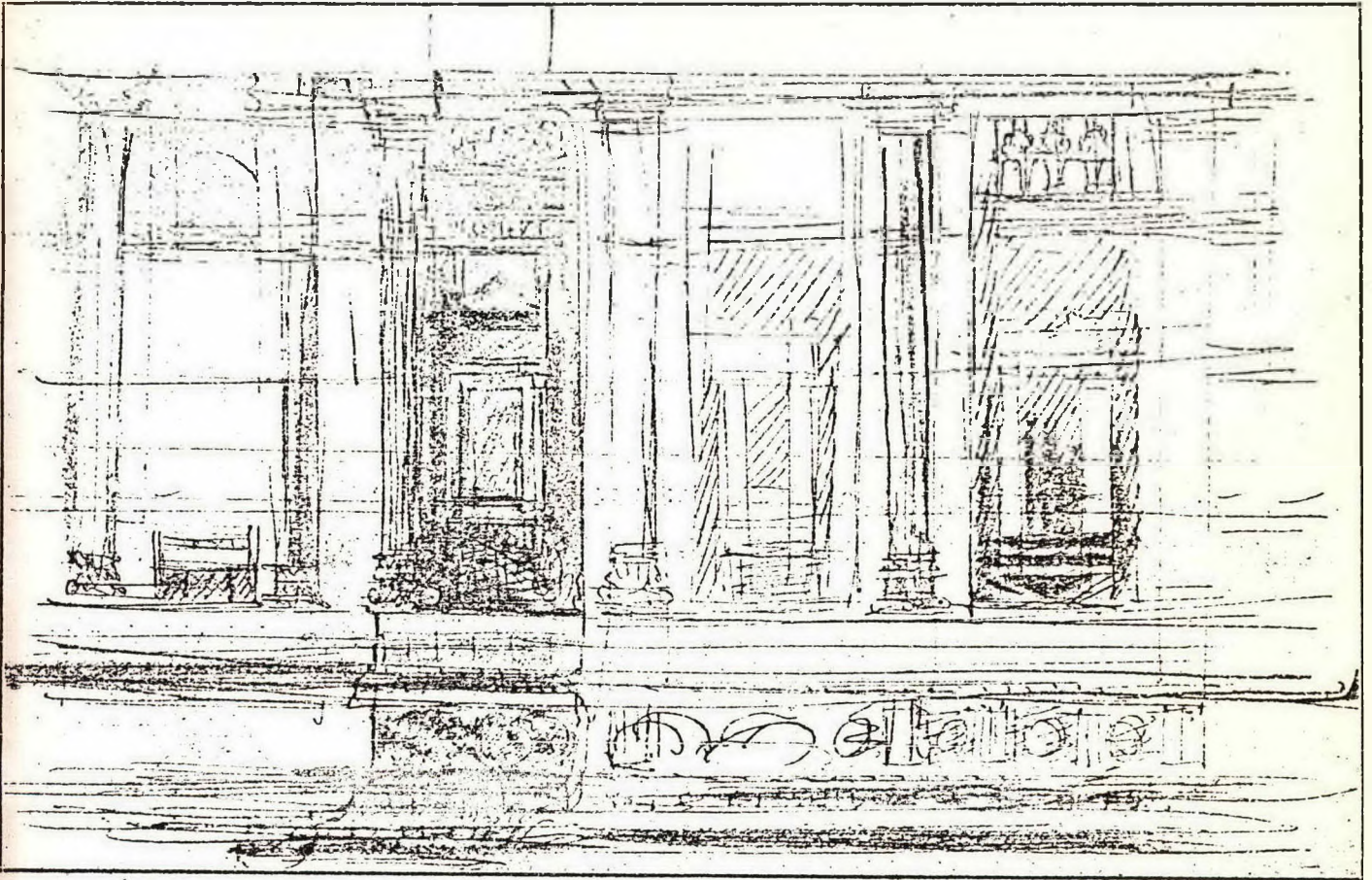
found his poetry, his music, in Nature.

"Our Gothic cathedrals, what are they but the faithful transcription of natural forms—the arching trees of the primeval forest, the birds and beasts and sea shells. The men who gave

us the Churches which are to-day the greatest glory of France were passionate lovers of Nature. I am convinced that this is true of all great art periods. My one effort is to re-present what I find in God's creation—above all in the

living soul of a vanished people, and the least of its fragments is the whole."

The winning charm and generosity of Rodin has recently bestowed upon England eighteen of his sculptures as an outward and visible sign



ARCHITECTURAL SKETCH

AUGUSTE RODIN

form of man, which is the highest, most perfect of architectural constructions."

Rodin has been said to be little in tune with Architecture. This fallacy must surely be exploded by his recent work "Le Cathedrals de France."

In that volume, from which one of his exquisite sketches appears herewith, he proves possession of a more profound understanding of grouping, of proportion, of the subtleness of the profiles of mouldings, than most architects of to-day, and his interpretation of a structure indicates his belief of a living art.

Of the Cathedral of Rheims, now so severely battered, he says, previous to its destruction by the Hun: "But as much as still remains intact retains all the life of the complete work, and has our soul in its keeping. It is amongst those fragments that we have our last resting-place. Thus the Parthenon defended Greece better than could her wisest statesmen. It still remains the

of the inward grace of comradeship between France and England in the present great struggle. We in South Africa may be justly proud in our possession of two of the most superb examples of Rodin's art, now in the Johannesburg Gallery, bestowed upon us by the discerning generosity of Sir Lionel and Lady Phillips.—J. M. Solomon.

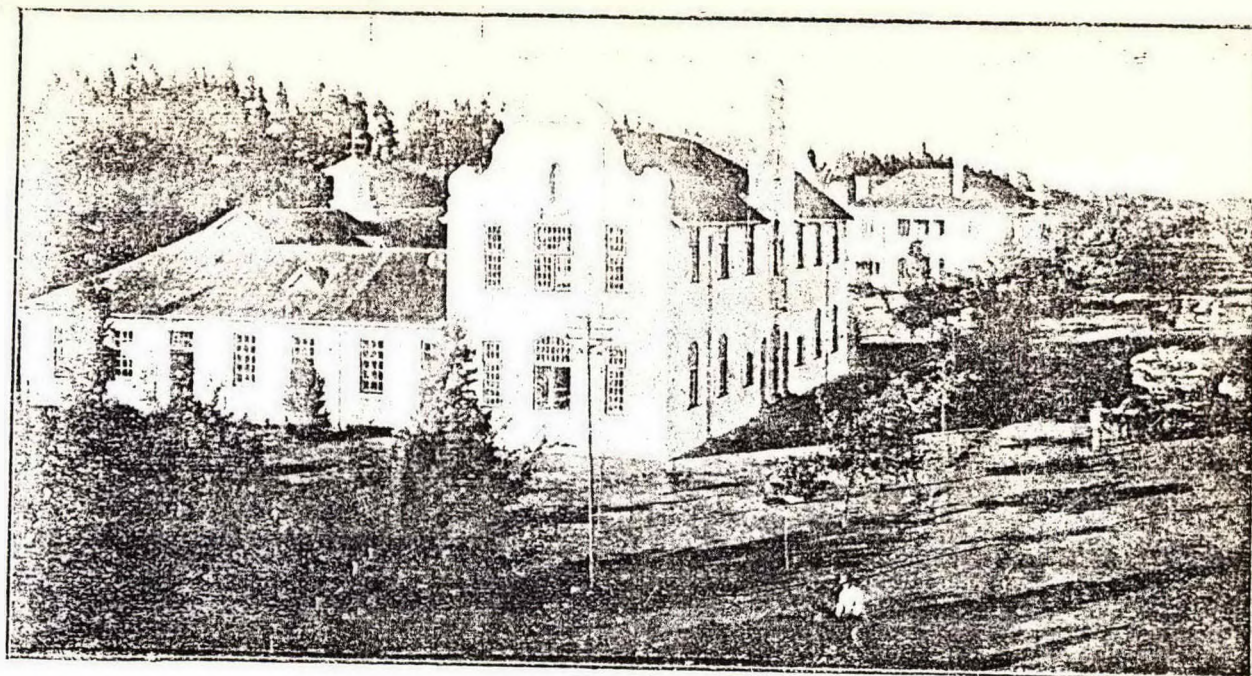
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SELBORNE HALL WITH HOSTEL IN BACKGROUND

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND EXPERIMENTAL FARM, POTCHEFSTROOM



THIS Institution was established by the late Transvaal Department of Agriculture, and the following particulars concerning the School and Farm, and the work which has been carried out since its inception, may be of interest to readers.

At the end of 1902, on the advice of Mr. F. B. Smith, then Agricultural Advisor to the High Commissioner (Lord Milner), steps were taken to establish an Experimental and Stud Farm, and in March, 1903, Mr. Alex. Holm was appointed General Manager. In pursuance of the policy originally laid down, an Agricultural School was also established in 1909, and Mr. Holm became the first Principal. (He now holds the post of Under-Secretary for Agricultural Education.) Seeing that eleven years ago there was nothing but bare veld where the Institution now stands, the rapid growth of trees is alone sufficient to indicate the great possibilities of development possessed by the country.

In the development of the farm, particular care and attention has been given to the laying out of the ground, the buildings and the farm, in order to provide for any possible requirements in the future, according as the development and the advancement of the agricultural industry of the country demand greater facilities for agricultural education, research and experimental work. To-day the Institution ranks as one of the most representative and most extensive of its kind in the country.

The School at Potchefstroom conducts correspondence with a large number of farmers and others seeking advice and information on all kinds of farming matters. It is visited annually by large numbers of farmers and other interested visitors, and it disposes of pure-bred stock and seeds to stock-breeders and farmers to the value of between £3,000 and £4,000.

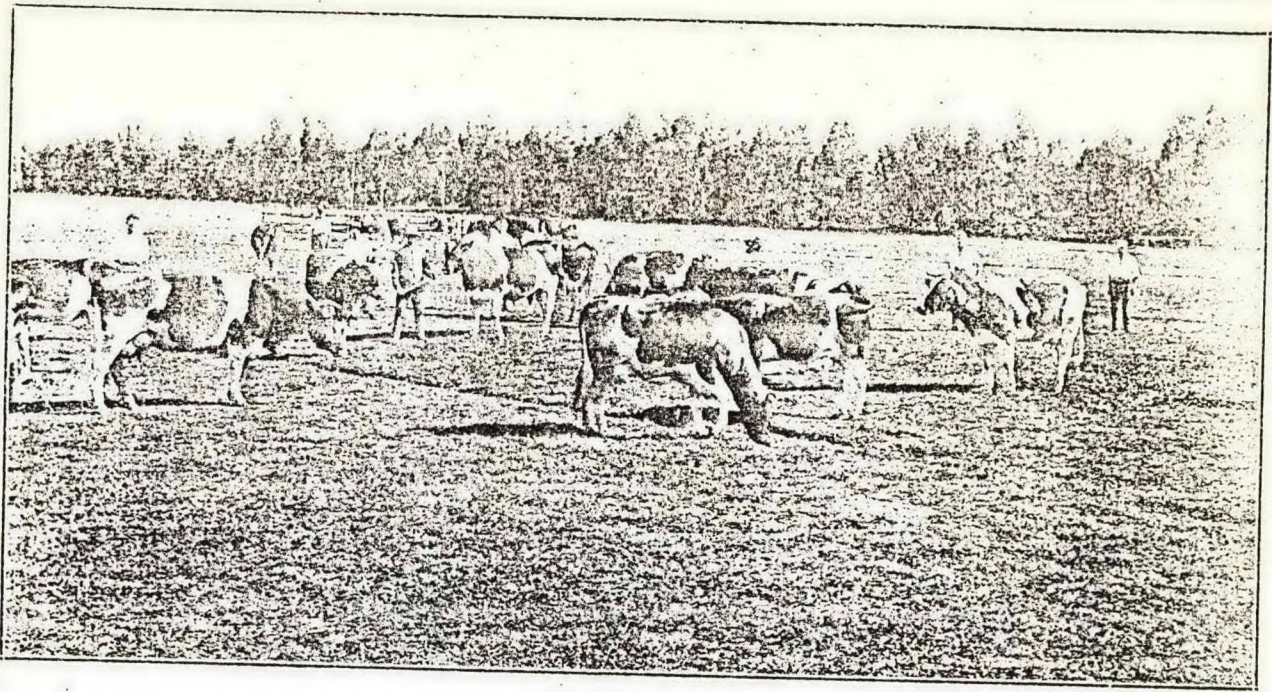
The Soil and Crops.

With the exception of about 50 acres of a stiff black clayey character, the soil on the farm consists of a brownish loam, from 9 to 12 inches deep, and very poor in natural fertility. With manuring and cultivation, the soil has, however, been brought to such a good state of fertility that it now grows heavy crops of all kinds.

The Autumn and Winter sown crops chiefly consist of Wheat, Oats, Rye and Barley; Summer crops consist of Maize, Manna, Linseed, Teff, Potatoes, Mangels, Peas and Beans, and several other kinds of crops mainly experimental. There are also fields of Lucerne and permanent pasture, consisting of a mixture of grasses and clovers, etc.

Experimental Work.

A large number of varieties of many kinds of farm crops are tested, to determine the best varieties for the country, and to grow these varieties on a sufficiently large scale to permit the crop of seed therefrom to be distributed to farmers throughout the Union. A large number of experiments are also conducted upon the manuring of different crops, plant feeding and so forth.



THE FRIES HERD

— Water is brought for irrigation purposes from the Mooi River, which is about six miles distant, by means of a canal.

There are a number of substantially constructed buildings on the Station, providing accommodation under cover for forty horses, 400 cattle and 150 pigs. The live stock kept is almost entirely pedigree stock, maintained for educational purposes, and for the improvement of the stock of the country.

The object of breeding pure-bred stock is to offer facilities for stock-breeders to obtain well-bred sires for the purpose of improving the stock of the country.

The following breeds of pure-bred stock are maintained on the farm:—

Horses:—Clydesdale, Percheron, Thoro'bred.

Cattle:—Fries, Ayrshire, Lincoln Red, Short-horn, Sussex, Hereford and Africander.

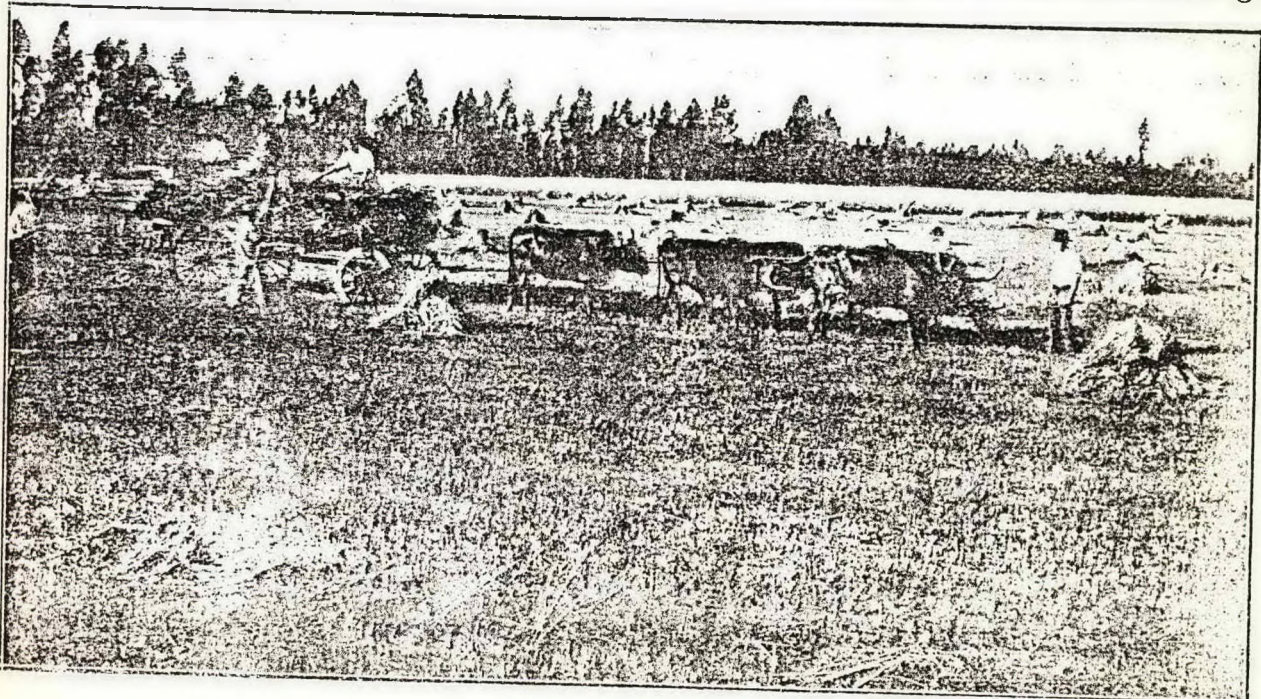
Sheep:—Merino and Persian.

Goats:—Angora.

Pigs:—Large Black and Berkshire.

Ostriches.

The Station is otherwise well provided with the usual farm buildings, and residences and quarters have been erected to accommodate the Staff. The Dutch style of architecture has been maintained throughout all the main buildings.



STUDENTS HARVESTING OATS

The School.

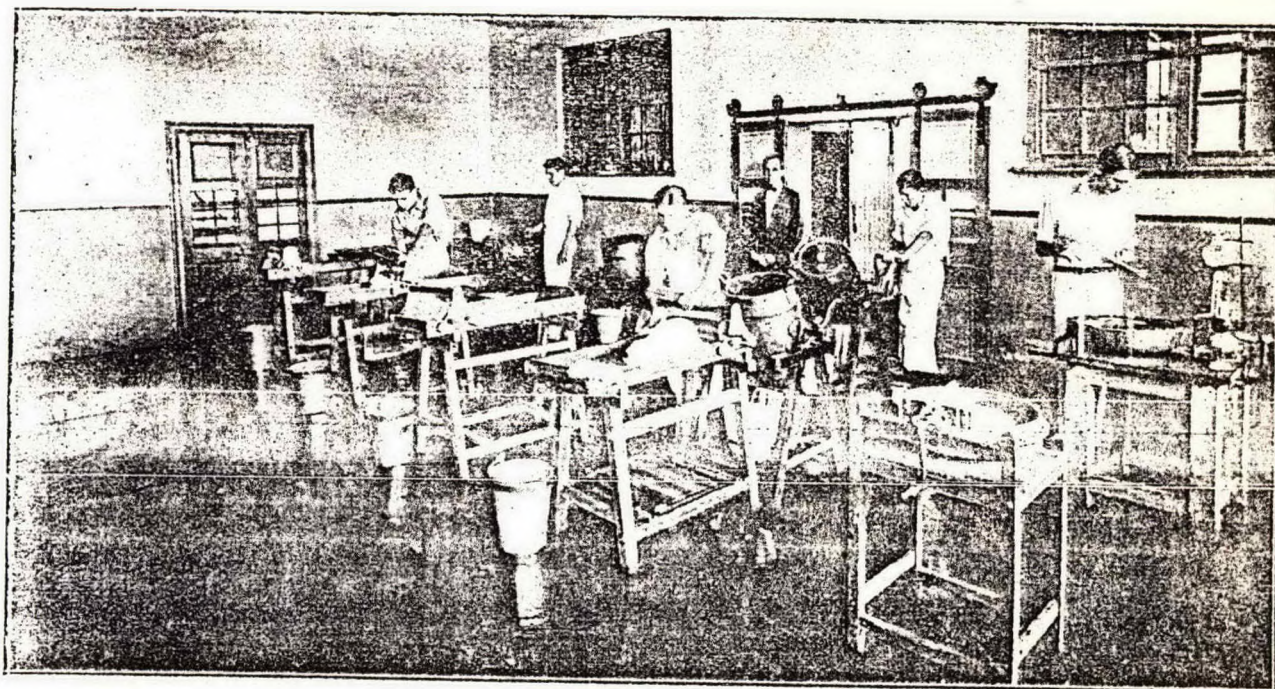
In regard to buildings specially connected with the School, one may draw attention to the Hostel, which provides accommodation for about 65 students and resident staff, and to the well-equipped educational block, consisting of the Lecture Theatre (with seating for 120 persons), Chemical Laboratory and Class Rooms. The educational block has fittingly been named "Selborne Hall" in recognition of the fact that Lord Selborne, when Governor of the Transvaal, showed great interest in the work by collecting about £3,000 from private donors as a contribution towards the cost of the building. Recent additions at a cost of about £5,000 have very greatly increased the capacity of the "Hall" for educational work.

A rather special feature of the Institution is the Poultry Section, which, in addition to providing excellent instruction in Poultry Husbandry for the students, breeds pure-bred utility stock for distribution to farmers and others, and provides settings of eggs.

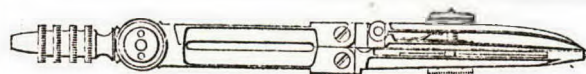
Students receive instruction in the following subjects:—

Animal Husbandry, Field Husbandry, Dairying, Poultry, Horticulture, Veterinary Science, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Botany, Agricultural Entomology and Agricultural Chemistry.

The practical work on the farm is made a special feature of the course, instruction being given in ordinary farm work, on crops, live stock, and in Carpentry, Blacksmithing, Mechanics, Harness-making, etc.



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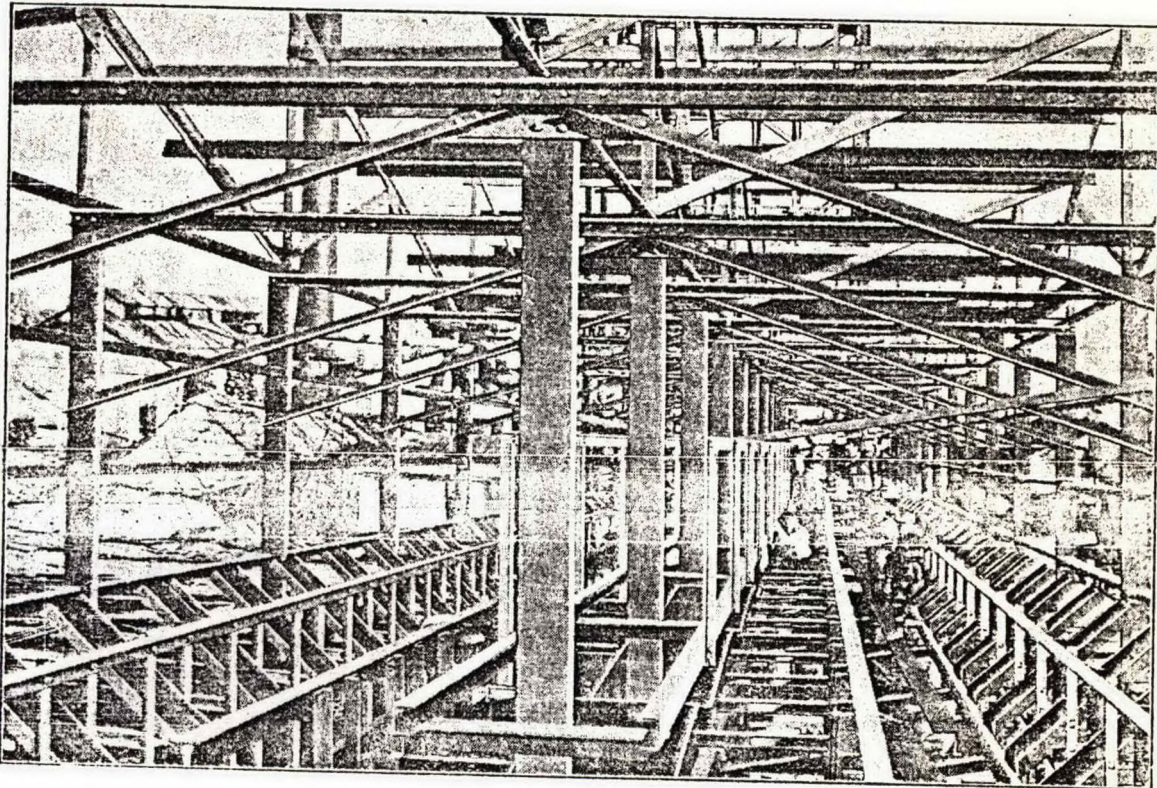
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Better Roads

[Road-making has been reduced to a fine art. The principal cities in South Africa which have promoted "seasons" for visitors must of necessity offer further attractions in the shape of respectable street thoroughfares, as well as good roads for motoring. An expert deals with the subject here in a very readable and interesting manner.—Editor.]



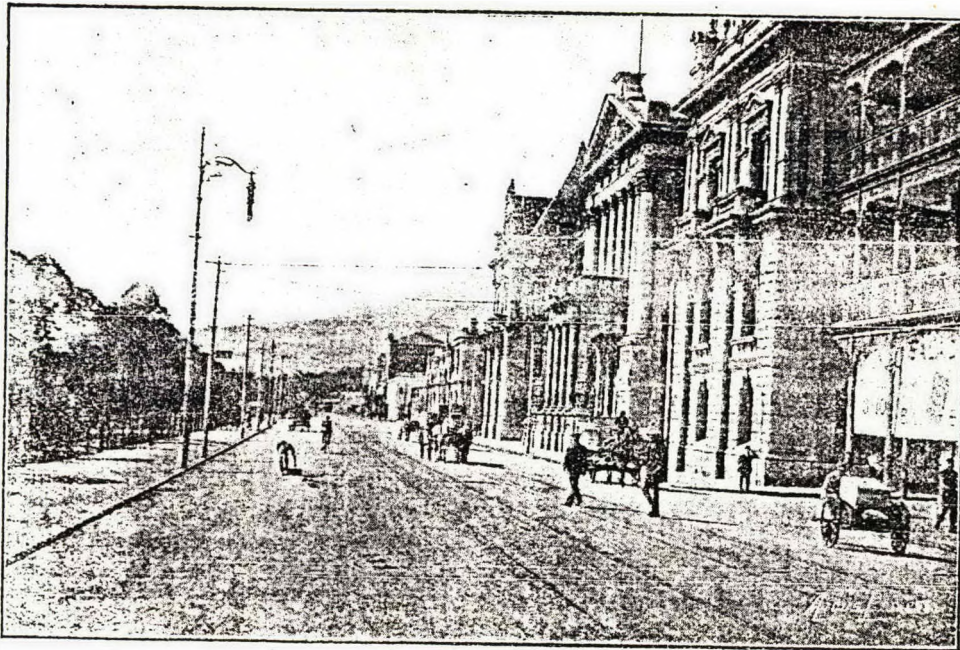
FROM the older centres of civilisation in Europe to the newly-developed countries of the world the "Good Roads" movement is spreading with a rapidity which is little short of astonishing, and South Africa is now also feeling the force of public opinion in this direction.

Not more than a decade ago a class of road was tolerated in the large towns, and in some cases in the cities, of European countries which to-day would not be considered a credit to a small village. The cause of this rapid progress

The road question resolves itself into two distinct phases:—(1) The construction of roads with new methods and materials; (2) The surface treatment of roads already constructed to obviate the dust nuisance.

It will be interesting to glance briefly at the methods which have been successfully employed in dealing with this two-fold question. Where roads have to encounter a large percentage of fast automobile traffic with a small percentage of horse vehicles, none of them of great weight, the question of foundation is of less importance than in the case of a road bearing heavy commercial vehicles or traction engines. In other words, the strength of the foundation must be proportional to the average weight of traffic.

For the wearing surface it is universally recognised that bitumen or asphalt are the ideal materials. Thousands of tons are being used in



COMPRESSED
ASPHALTE CARPET
DARLING STREET
CAPE TOWN

is necessarily complex, but among the chief factors are the improved engineering methods for road building, the new materials which have been developed, the modern machinery available for the work, and the new spirit amongst road engineers all over the world which is substituting standardised methods for the old "rule of thumb" processes which passed muster in days gone by. Over and above all these influences, it is indisputable that the advent of the motor-car has served to accelerate to an enormous extent the general improvement of roads which is observed everywhere. Furthermore, the recognition of the peril to health arising from the dust problem, a problem that appeals particularly to South Africans, has served to focus attention on the question of road dressings to act as a dust palliative.

Europe, the United States, Canada, South America, and to a smaller extent in the more important centres in South Africa where the road question is receiving the attention it deserves.

The application of these materials to road construction resolves itself again into two classes of work:—(1) Grouting or Penetration Method; (2) Asphalt Macadam or Mixing Method.

The first is suitable to a macadam road which is to be re-surfaced, the process being to scarify the road, remove the debris and re-lay the metal, which is first carefully screened and freed from dust, with the addition of as much new metal as is required. This is then rolled and a specially-prepared road bitumen is poured in hot in sufficient quantity to penetrate the interstices and cover the surface. The road is again rolled and a sealing or flush coat of bitumen is applied.

dressed with chippings or sand. In the second case the bitumen or asphalte is mixed beforehand with suitably graded mineral aggregate and applied as a plastic composition to the excavated road. The thickness of this composition, or carpet, as it is technically called, varies according to the traffic requirements.

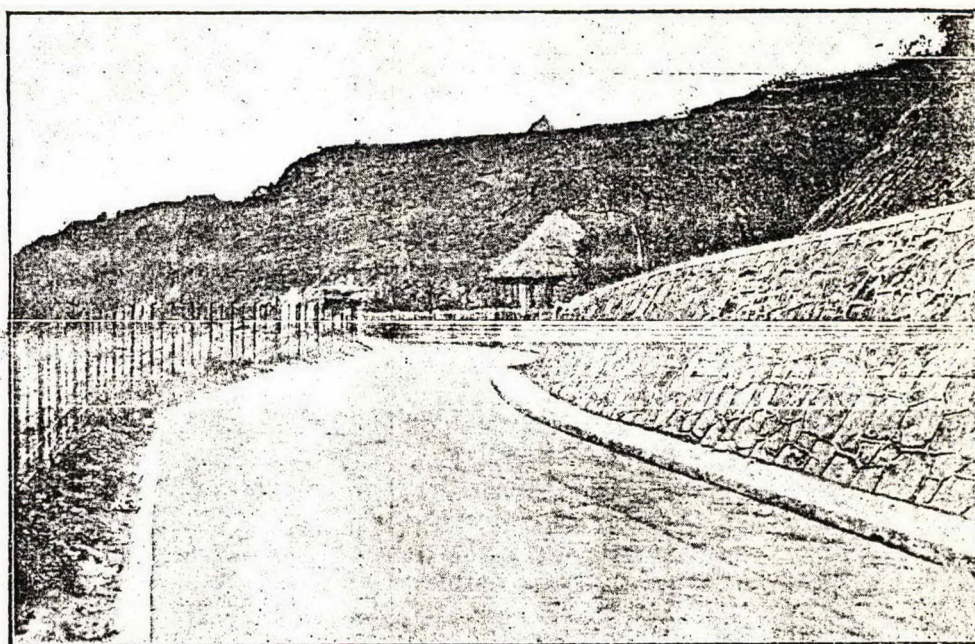
In the above variations the resultant road is waterproof, non-slippery, free from dust, and at the same time forms a good foothold for horse traffic, while its cheapness and durability is bound to commend itself to the financial conditions of this country.

The characteristics of bitumen are its remarkable toughness and cementing value. Its widespread use in the United States and Mexico, where climatic conditions similar to those ruling in this country are encountered, and in Canada, where severe frosts annually prevail for long periods, has tested its stability to an extent which

pings follows. The surface sets hard in a few hours, forming what is practically a plastic bituminous carpet on the surface of the road, which will last one, two, three or even more years, according to the traffic conditions, with but small attention. The great value of liquid bitumen for surface treatment is its efficiency as a dust preventative, and its wonderful wearing qualities as compared with tar.

In the case of city streets where exceptionally heavy traffic is encountered, such as in the main thoroughfares of London and other large cities, a more expensive and proportionately more durable material is justified, and there is no doubt that in some of the more important streets of our larger cities this class of paving will ultimately become necessary if the time for its employment has not already arrived. For such heavy traffic streets the method generally adop-

MASTIC
ASPHALTE CARPET
ON THE BEACH ROAD
LOURENCO MARQUES



is without parallel with other road-making materials. As all road engineers know, the superiority of a bitumen over tar products is its resistance to the softening effect of heat and to the cracking or crumbling which takes place under frost, due to the fact that it is a natural product, and has not been subjected to the destructive effects of distillation.

The question of surface dressing is of particular importance in South Africa for roads which do not justify the expense of the above methods of reconstruction, and in this connection road engineers are fortunate in having at their command liquid Mexican bitumens, which can be sprayed on roads at a very rapid rate, and at comparatively small cost. The modus operandi is as follows:—The road to be treated is first well swept. The hot liquid bitumen is then applied by means of a spraying machine, and a sprinkling of coarse gravel or granite chip-

ped is to build a concrete foundation on which a wearing carpet of asphalte is laid. This wearing carpet can be composed of either compressed powder asphalte—the only example of which in this country is to be found in Cape Town—or a mastic asphalte such as has been employed in Pritchard Street, Johannesburg, and on the Beach Road at Lourenco Marques.

For country roads carrying a light traffic there are other materials, and interesting experiments have lately been undertaken by the Transvaal Provincial Government on the Main Reef Road.

In fact, in this "Good Roads" movement all requirements are catered for, from the heaviest traffic streets to the country road with moderate and light traffic, and the construction of roads is now no longer a haphazard business, but one in which the expert who has studied its varying problems is entitled to the respect which he receives from the "Engineer who knows."

*The Greatest of all Our Needs



OUTH AFRICA has been styled "a land of aching spaces," and several other epithets to the same effect. The Belgian delegates, who have just visited this country, expressed themselves

as charmed with our climate and our scenery, surprised at our enormous possibilities, both agricultural and mineral, but as grieved at the absence of people. Every observant visitor says the same thing. And, alas, it is all too true! A glorious country of continual sunshine, 473,100 square miles in extent, with a population of but 1,300,000 whites, of which less than half are living in rural areas! Country Life in South Africa will never have a real fascination for South Africa's sons until the land is filled up with progressive agriculturists in all directions, as it is in parts of the Western and Eastern Provinces of the Cape. It is our obvious duty to bring this about, and to begin doing so at once, for every year the towns are attracting an increasing number of young men, few of whom can hope to be successful there. Home building is one of the greatest incentives to effort, and employment in town offers that possibility only to a small minority.

Dr. Wm. Macdonald says that "the future of South Africa is on the dry lands." Certainly ~~its future is on the land!~~ This short article is but one of many appeals for definite action to be taken to provide our young men with the hope of being able to obtain the land they want. It is the difficulty of obtaining land on easy terms that has driven many a promising young agriculturist into the town. Farming as a means of livelihood is becoming increasingly popular. Parents see the folly of letting their sons go into "blind alley" occupations. But a farming life under present conditions offers no definite promise of that ownership which is always the best incentive to effort. What we want to do is to persuade parents to send their boys as apprentices to progressive farmers for, say, four or five years, remembering that it is necessary to serve an apprenticeship to farming as it is to other professions. But there must be something definite to look forward to at the end of the period. And the best of all rewards for a time of strenuous work for another is the possibility that one can later become a worker for oneself. The small farm is a prime necessity of the country.

*"The Greatest of all Our Needs," which has been especially written for "Country Life in South Africa" should be read in conjunction with the article on the Experimental Farm at Potchefstroom. Mr. King, we need scarcely point out to our readers, is Secretary for the South African National Union, an organisation which has done and is still doing an immense amount of good for South Africa generally, and on whose work we propose to touch very frequently.—Editor.

The extent of the holding to be provided will depend upon the nature of the country in which it is situated, and the type of settler to whom it is designed to appeal. If we are considering the young man who can get capital to pay for such stock and implements as he needs to begin with, then the holding should not be less than 150 acres in all, i.e., 10 acres under irrigation, and the remainder for building, tree planting, and grazing. The total cost of the land, properly fenced, should not exceed £600. The payments in redemption of principle and interest, spread over twenty years, would mean about £50 per annum. Such small farms, for they would be that, would be large enough to give the owner scope for improving them in various ways, and enable him to use every part of the irrigable ground, which is the portion from which he would derive his chief income. 10 acres of orange trees or lucerne will support a family; intensive culture will give far better results.

Country Life in South Africa would have an additional charm were such settlements of prosperous young farmers dotted about all over the country. And there is no reason why they should not be.

Now what are the inducements to the young man to take up the occupation of farming? He must disabuse his mind of the fact that the life will be other than a hard one, for the first few years at any rate. But he will be his own master, in the best environment of all, a healthy outdoor life, and he will have the knowledge that all he does is for his greater comfort, and ultimate material gain, in the increased value of his property. There is no greater spur to energy than such a prospect! But a considerable period of training must be gone through before this stage can be reached. Undue haste in setting up for oneself is strongly to be deprecated, but with the knowledge before him that a substantial reward is to be obtained, no rightly constituted youth will mind a few years' hard work. It is the difficulty in giving him the assurance he wants that deters many from attempting to go on to the land. Of course land can be obtained, but not always of the character indicated, and seldom on easy terms of payment. The latter is as essential a part of the scheme as the former. Probably its provision would be best undertaken by Government, but it would also be a good investment for small land companies. Owners of suitable land, at present more or less unused, could undoubtedly make money by turning it into small farms as suggested. It is to be hoped that something in this direction will be done before long either by Government or by private enterprise. The right line of work is to provide small farms instead of the small holdings

that have been offered of late, which the owners look upon as something to sell later at a profit rather than as permanent homes. So far only one class of small holder has been catered for in the few schemes put forward.

If our young men can only get the land, they can have no better prospect than that of farming. South Africa is producing to-day but a tithe of what she could contribute to the agricultural output of the Empire. The question of food production is going to be one of the problems not only of the next decade but of the century. As population and industrialism increase so does the demand for food, and every part of the Empire will be compelled to contribute its share. Statesmen see that the progress of a country depends upon the development of its agricultural opera-

tions, for every producer of raw material gives employment to many others in the process of distribution. Commerce and industries advance according as agriculture advances, especially in these days when men demand a better quality of food and larger quantities of it. This is one reason why those countries which used to be large exporters are rapidly requiring for themselves the whole of their output.

With this in view, it is surely obvious that our greatest need is more homes on the land of this vast and productive country. And who have a greater right to these homes than those of South Africa's sons who have given evidence that they are likely to put the land to profitable use?—H. E. King.

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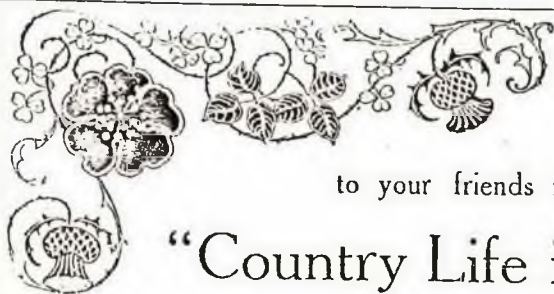
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THE illustrations accompanying these notes show certain build- of the design. Figs. 1, 2, and 3 atrium has been made a feature in which the central court or ings, lately erected in Rhodesia, show the plan, porch, and atrium respectively of the new Salisbury Club; Figs. 4, 5, and 6 new business premises in Salisbury. The outside of the latter building is finished a cream colour, the panels in the upper part being apricot. The external woodwork is painted bright green, the soffit panels of the eaves to the loggias are picked out in vermilion, and the coat of arms is rendered in heraldic colours and gilt. Figs. 7 and 8 are plans of some small houses lately erected to suit local conditions. Economical planning has enabled two houses to be built on one of the rather highly-priced stands in the town, yet a pleasing feature has been provided in the tiny hall or atrium (Fig. 9) in place of the customary passage through the house.

No claim to originality is made, for indeed the practice of building round a court was traditional in England until the imported Italian ideas of the Renaissance succeeded in temporarily submerging it—I say temporarily, being convinced that this type of plan is essentially sane, having fallen into neglect more from the modern craze to get as large a building on to as small a piece of land as

possible than from any organic defect or climatic disability. With the revival of common sense and with modern hygienic planning, the court-

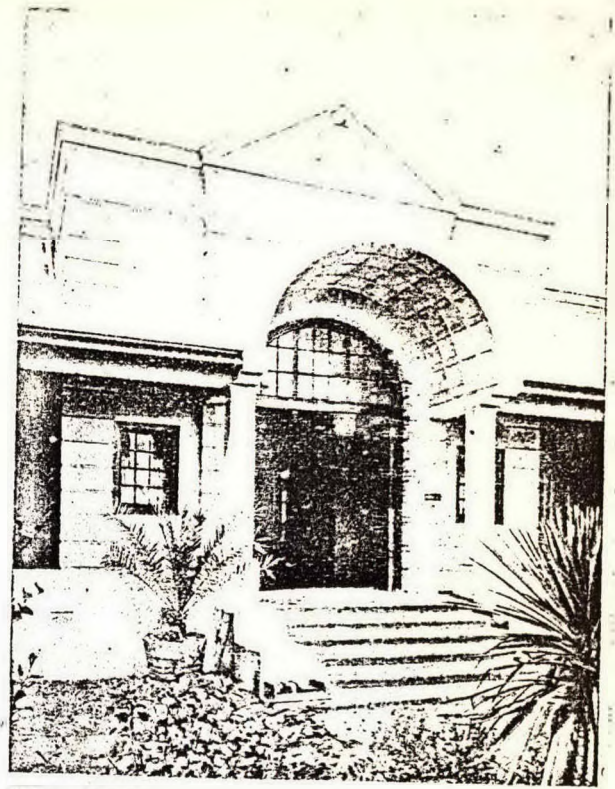


FIG. 2.—PORCH TO NEW SALISBURY CLUB, I.I. ODESIA THE LATE FRANCIS MASEY, F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT

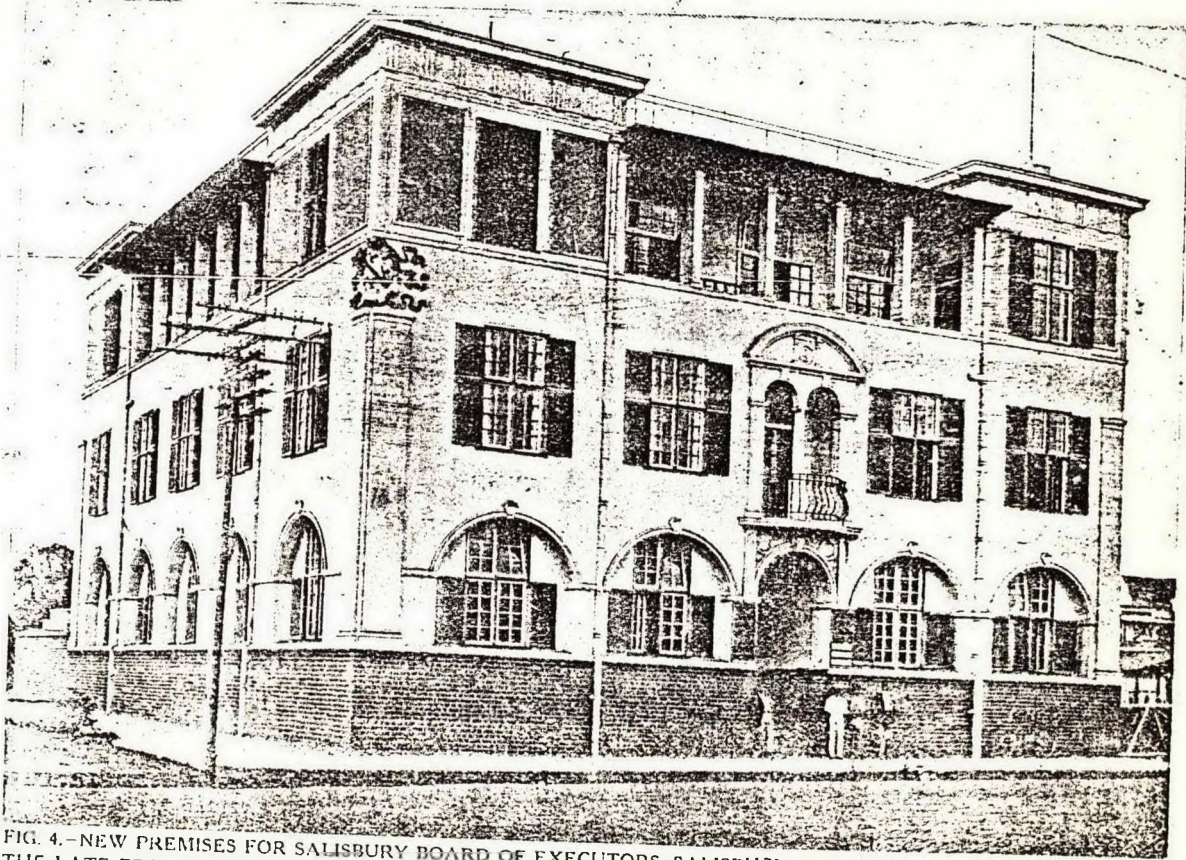


FIG. 4.—NEW PREMISES FOR SALISBURY BOARD OF EXECUTORS, SALISBURY RHODESIA THE LATE FRANCIS MASEY F.R.I.B.A., ARCHITECT

Journal of the SA Architectural Institute

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