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1913

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

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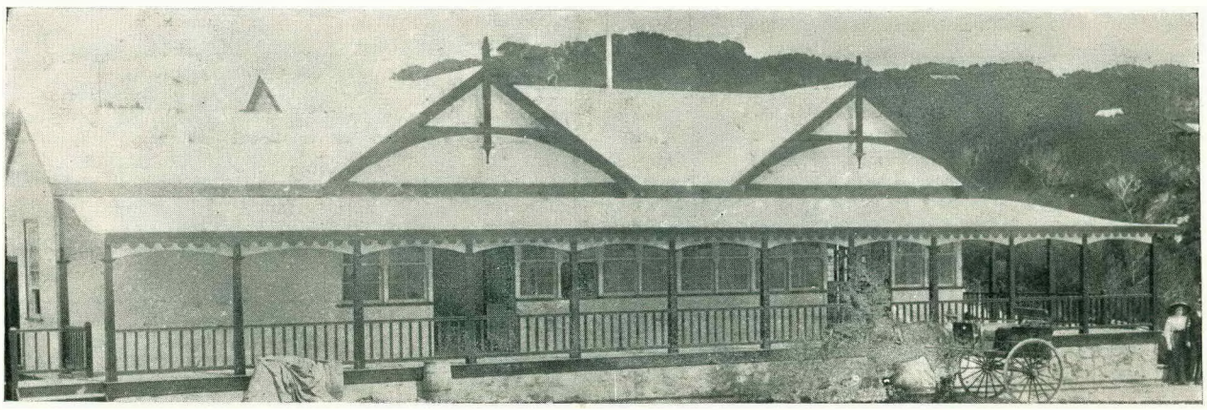
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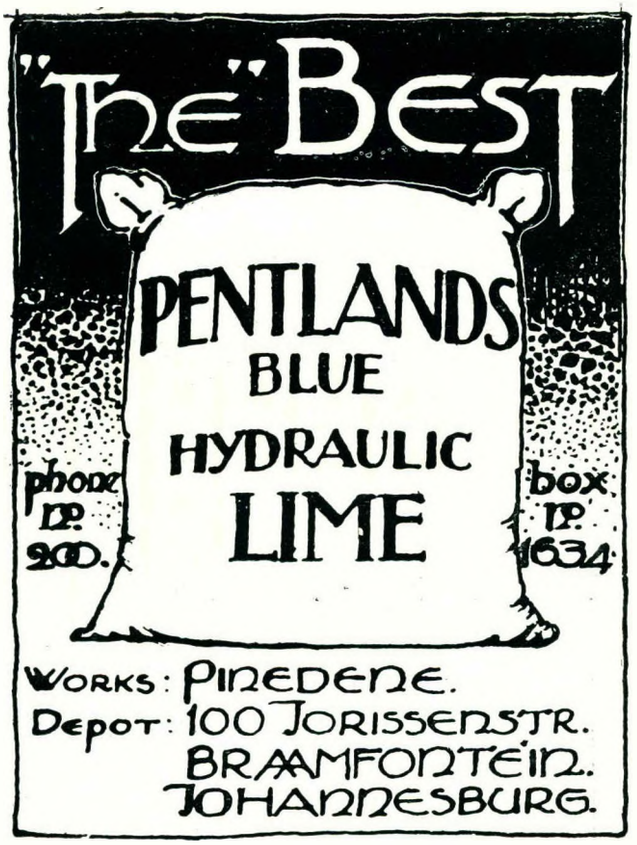
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VOLUME III. No. 4



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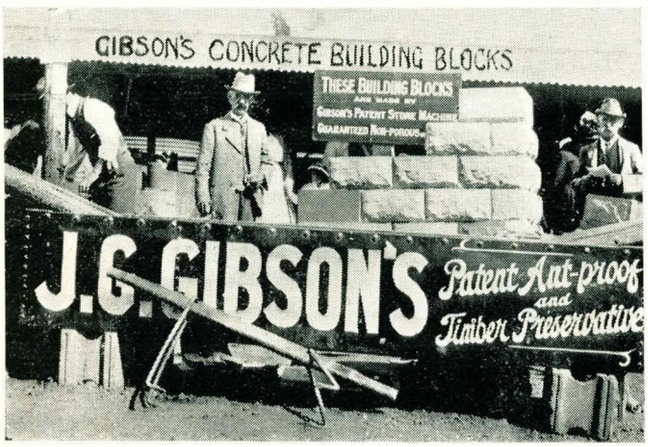
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VOL. III. No. 4.] SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1913. [10/6 PER ANNUM POST FREE.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Architects' Special Examination.

The Registrar of the Association of Transvaal Architects (Mr. Cecil Alder) informs us that at a special examination held at the School of Mines and Technology in June last, for the purpose of ascertaining what persons were qualified to apply for admission to the Association of Transvaal Architects, four gentlemen were examined, of whom two have been passed, namely, Messrs. W. H. Gibson and J. Feltness, both of Johannesburg.

University Honours.

Home university lists to hand recently contain the names of Gilbert and Norman Lucas, sons of Mr. William Lucas, member of Council of the Association of Transvaal Architects. The former has just completed his course as a Rhodes' scholar at Oxford, having during his residence there graduated in the Final Honours Schools in Chemistry, secured a place as an oarsman in his college (St. John's) first eight, and attained to the Presidency of the Oxford University Swimming Club. The latter, after two years' study at Edinburgh as a Natal Exhibitioner, has had conferred upon him the degree of M.A. of that university; and being also an oarsman, captains his 'Varsity's second crew.

"Angel of Peace."

The "Star" was remiss in not acknowledging indebtedness to Madame Marcella Dreyfus Baillon for the picture of the statue of the Angel of Peace destined to surmount the Rand Regiments Memorial in the Sachsenwald. At the base of the statuary may be seen the portrait of the artist engaged on the work. The sculptor is M. Naoum Aronson, a Russian by birth, who has made Paris his home. This statue is being cast in "bronze vert," or "bronze arcien," similar to certain sculpture found at Pompeii and at Herculaneum. It measures over eighteen feet in height, and when in position will form an admirable complement to the noble mass of architecture designed by Mr. Luytens and Mr. Baker.

Inspires Peace.

The effect of Aronson's angel is to inspire peace and a longing for lasting tranquility. The crown of oak and laurel betoken homage to the memory of departed heroes. The left hand of the figure clasps a sword—unfinished in the photograph—planted in the soil in sign of reconciliation. The artist has been at pains partly to conceal the globe in order to heighten the general effect of the whole monument, and great skill was necessary to obtain the desired poise. By means of the crown in the one hand and the sword in the other the difficulty was overcome. At the request of the Municipality a miniature of the combined work of Aronson, Luytens and Baker is to be placed in the Art Gallery, where it will stand near Aronson's magnificent marble group "Adolescence."

Registration Act.

The Society of Architects at Home seems to be kept particularly well informed upon the doings of the profession in South Africa. Its organ, "The Journal," every mail contains some reference to the profession in this country, and it has many times alluded to the Registration Act. In a recent issue it refers to the Bill, and calls attention to the fact that the titles "Architect" and "Quantity Surveyor" are to be protected, and unqualified persons may not recover fees, and that a schedule of charges and code of ethics is included in the Bill. This is really the essence of the Act, and we may say that the preparation of it for Parliamentary consideration is well advanced; in fact almost completed. Under these circumstances the general adoption of Registration in the Union of South Africa may be looked forward to at no distant date.

Official Architects.

A complaint seems to be made in India against the profession at Home to the effect that at the present time it is much exercised on the question of the entertainment of official architects. The subject was dealt with at length in the inaugural address of the President of the Society of Architects. An Indian paper says that there "where one is so much hedged in by

officialism, and has been for a lifetime accustomed to see the best work in the country performed by officials, the strong objection taken to official designing at Home strikes a somewhat jarring note. In the profession of architecture no one thought of coming out to this country, or making himself fit in the country, till Government established a department of official architects when, the lead having been given, a few unofficial architects dropped out of the firmament and may now occasionally be found illuminating the vandalism of our larger cities with their productions. The one thing in British India that has been laughed at is its official architecture, but that was only because it kept no official architects. Now that it does we feel sanguine it will be found that the time is not far when what has been said of its work in other directions will be said too of its official buildings. Nor are signs of this wanting."

TRANSVAAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The annual general meeting of members of the Transvaal Institute of Architects took place in the Board Room, Winchester House, Johannesburg, at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, the 5th of August last.

Besides the President, Mr. P. E. Treeby, M.S.A., there were present:—Messrs. Waterson, Stokes, Howden, Nicolay, Emley, Lewis, Harris, Reid, Veale, Sinclair and Alder.

The minutes of the last annual general meeting having been read, the balance sheet and usual financial statements presented by the Hon. Treasurer were considered and after discussion were approved.

Governor General's Residence

The matter of the competition for the Governor-General's residence at Capetown was discussed and it was generally felt that the Government should have approached this Institution prior to throwing open the competition in order that all members could have been advised of the conditions, etc. It was considered that Government had not given sufficient time to the competitors.

The retiring President then addressed the meeting, pointing out in the course of his remarks that the Institute had taken no distinctive active part in professional matters in consequence of the Association of Transvaal Architects giving the necessary work of architectural interest careful consideration.

The election of the President and Council for the year 1913-14 then took place and resulted in the following being appointed:—President, R. Howden; Vice-Presidents, F. V. Stokes and J. Waterson; Council, J. F. Beardwood, G. A. H. Dickson, G. G. Fleming, W. Reid, W. H. Stucke, P. E. Treeby, H. G. Veale; Hon. Sec., M. J. Harris; Hon. Treas., D. M. Sinclair.

Mr. Howden, on taking the chair, briefly thanked the members for the honour accorded him and stated that he considered the future policy of the Institution depended to a great extent on the amount of success which would attend the promotors of the proposed Union Bill for Registration.

The meeting then terminated.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRIES

So many enquiries are made personally at this office concerning many matters connected with the profession, that we now find it expedient and only possible to answer these through the medium of this journal. In future, therefore, members are requested to send their enquiries direct to the Editor of "The African Architect," P.O. Box 4651, Johannesburg.

"G. RAE."—Try Juta's, if unsuccessful we fear you will have to apply to the publishers.

"EXTRAS."—We would rather not express an opinion on so delicate a point. You should place the whole matter before your solicitor as it appears to us to be entirely a matter for litigation.

"CONCRETE."—The slabs should be composed of 4 of metal, 2 of clean sand and 1 of cement. These for dimensions submitted by you will resist all the load likely to be placed upon them in such a building.

"J. B."—Of no use to this Journal.

"FRANKNESS."—Regret we are unable to publish, the matter is altogether too personal.

"CURIOUS."—You evidently are. We do not know the weight of the Corner House and what is more, we are not spending many sleepless nights in any endeavours to ascertain for you. Try the Architects, Messrs. Leck, Emley and Dickson, Trust Buildings, Fox St. Just a moment, there is no necessity to mention our name if you approach the firm.

NEW YORK'S TALL BUILDINGS

A list of the tall buildings on Manhattan Island, the original portion of New York City, which has been prepared by the Superintendent of the Bureau of Buildings for the Borough of Manhattan, shows that the average height of the "skyscrapers" in the city, assuming that any building of ten storeys or over belongs to that class, is thirteen storeys. In the following list basements are included where the floor of the first storey is above street level and where there is an entrance into the basement from the street. Roof structures or penthouses, when actually occupied for housekeeper's dwellings or some purpose other than for housing lift machinery and stair exits, are considered as an additional storey. The list shows that the buildings include 1 of 55 storeys, 1 of 45, 1 of 41, 1 of 38, 3 of 33, 1 of 32, 1 of 31, 2 of 27, 4 of 26, 4 of 24, 3 of 23, 11 of 22, 15 of 21, 12 of 20, 13 of 19, 13 of 18, 31 of 17, 28 of 16, 27 of 15, 44 of 14, 389 of 13, 191 of 12, 181 of 11, and 179 of 10 storeys, or a total of 1,156. These figures form an interesting commentary on the progress made in the height of buildings in New York City during the last twenty-five years. In 1888 the plans for a nine-storey steel-frame structure were approved only after a long delay on the part of the municipal authorities, yet at the present time this particular building, which was the forerunner of the modern "skyscraper," is not classed among them!

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SPECIAL ARTICLES on general subjects of interest to the architectural profession, and photographs, are cordially invited from our readers. Where payment is expected this should be distinctly stated. Special care will be taken of MS., but the Editor will in no case guarantee its return.

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ARCHITECTS AND LITIGATION

THE case of Hoskings v. Colonial Mutual Life Assurance, reported in another column of this issue, is one that contains several points of concern to the members of the profession. Briefly summarised, the facts as disclosed by the evidence were that the late Mr. Hoskings (on behalf of whose widow the action was instituted) had been occupied for some years in preparing plans for the proposed Johannesburg premises of the defendant company. This work was done on the strength of repeated conferences with the company's representatives at Capetown and Johannesburg. It was part of the defence that these representatives were not authorised by the head office in Australia to incur any liability in this respect. In the absence of documentary evidence to the contrary the learned Judge felt justified in accepting the testimony of the South African representatives that Mr. Hoskings had undertaken the work with a full knowledge of these circumstances, and that, in fact the plans, etc., had been drawn "on speck." It is not, however, with that portion of the judgment that we are mainly concerned, although this, in itself, contains a warning as to the necessity for business-like procedure in dealing with registered companies. It is with the concluding remarks with which the learned Judge supplemented his finding that we feel it our duty to deal. His Lordship said that he had been asked to state what fees he would have allowed had the finding upon the facts been in favour of the plaintiff, and His Lordship indicated an amount totalling to about one-half of the scale customarily recognised in the profession. It would be absurd to maintain that the professional view on the subject of these fees was at all satisfactorily or fully represented in the evidence brought before the Court. One of the professional witnesses —an undoubtedly highly qualified Quantity Surveyor, holding an appointment under an eminent "artist architect"—stated that the Quantity Surveyors charged the Architect 1¼ per cent. commission, this including the duty of preparing both specification and quantities. We take this as an instance of the considerations which may have influenced the expressed opinion of the Court, but with every deference to the professional gentleman concerned, we cannot help saying that his experience as to the practice customary is actually out of the ordinary. In this country, as in England, there is no professional organisation to watch the interests of architects in such cases, and it may be that a precedent of far-reaching concern to architects has been laid down in the present case. We cannot go further into this matter beyond recommending our readers to familiarise themselves with the details of the case, and would seriously ask whether it is not advisable, that in drafting the Architects Act now in course of consideration, some provision should not be made for a Professional Defence or Vigilance Fund to protect the collective interests of Architects in cases such as this coming before the Courts.

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The CAPE INSTITUTE *of* ARCHITECTS

TWO INTERESTING PAPERS: CAPE IDEALS :: :: GARDEN DESIGN

The following are two interesting papers read at recent general meetings of the Cape Institute of Architects, and kindly forwarded to us by Mr. E. Austin Cooke, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:—

LOCAL BUILDING IDEALS

A wise visitor has said "The Cape Peninsula is Hellenic, its hinterland Hebraic," and between this zenith and nadir of natural manifestation do our conditions of environment in the Cape Province swing. We of the Peninsula may well be excused if we pride ourselves on the local setting. It is with building as allied to such a setting that I propose we should deal this afternoon, weighing our resources, our chances and our ideals, and gauging if possible our future. Our title, "Local Building Ideals," is no random one. Before we can properly formulate ideals we must weigh our resources; we must appreciate and not depreciate them. Before we can carry on our business, as designers, as master craftsmen, we must take stock. The fields wherein we may gather food for our ideals are as wide as the horizon about us, and I am optimist enough to believe they are white in token of a coming harvest. The roots of our artistic being spread far and wide. They spread in history, in nature, in our national life, and last but not least in ourselves.

History

In history we have little cause for congratulation despite much ill-directed enthusiasm towards local manifestations of the Flemish Renaissance. In sheltered nooks where blazing sunlight throws through trees dappled shadows on a whitened wall, our Cape Dutch architecture makes its minor appeal in the mass of homestead and the detail of "voorkamer" pergola, door, window and moulding; but we have nothing in the grand manner and nothing ravishing in its appeal to the sense of beauty, while anything great or awe-inspiring is beyond the pale of hope and of the limiting environment in which these homely conceptions were shaped. There is no frank acceptance of prevailing climatic conditions. The forms, transplanted from the grey light of Flanders, where they are now clothed in the mellow tones of ancient brick, revel in half tones and look strangely out of place. The glamour of many coats of whitewash, gaining with every generation fresh beauties of pale colouration as ammonia and sunlight are added, soon palls. The critical faculty is aroused, and we see how vain was the attempt to transplant the quaintnesses of the homely Northern land into the brightness of our Southern air. We look for strong shadows and find them not, for strong buildings in our fierce rains and wind and sun and it does not exist. We find instead, half tones, half doors, half windows, half shutters and half heartedness, for the work is the work of slaves. Yet there is much to learn from examples of the style of building under consideration by reason of the one concession their creators made to local circumstances, namely, their acceptance of local materials The elevations may be flat and tame and such as are suited to the tastes of our day; there may be a lack of windbreaks in the plan such as should from aesthetic and logical points of view be provided to meet our needs, but the human homely charm of indigenous growths and substances, welded into a whole that has caught romance from the hands of time, remains. Prizing at their true value such gifts from the gods of things as they have been, let us pass to our gifts from the gods of things as they are.

Dreadful Craftsmanship

I think it not too strong a criticism of our present attainments to say that having all things we have accomplished little or nothing. On every hand we seemed forced to see bad outlines, poor detail and unspeakably dreadful craftsmanship. If you and I say we have not thus sinned we make art and nature liars and the truth is not in us. Let each cry "Peccavi" and set his shoulder to the wheel of progress in our art. We all have our moments of enthusiasm with a power in them such as cultivated would nerve us to more strenuous effort. If the real, the actual, be bad, let us strive to make it better by contemplation of the ideal. Our natural environment is not dull. Why should our work be? Our sea fronts, hills and plains are fit scenes for the efforts of artists in a Periclean age. Our aspect is determined for us by summer winds from south and east, and winter blasts from north and west. Our prospect is

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infinite in its charm and variety. Our foundations are of the firmest. Our canopy is radiant with light and filled with heat. These are not colourless and indefinite conditions, and they demand definite treatment and unhesitating acceptance.

Laments

We have here rocks igneous and aqueous fitted for all uses. Do not regret York and Collyweston, but use Cape Point and Fish Hoek stone slabs for pavements and roofs. I know of a farm near by where a well-used stoep has been paved with such slabs for more than a century, and shows but few signs of wear. Do not lament Aberdeen and Peterhead, but go to the Kloof. If you want colour use the rough hillside rocks stained by iron into infinite variety.

Perhaps you do not know our wealth in the first of these classes. If not a visit to Cape Point will show you laminations as regular as the leaves of a book running into the cliffs for hundreds of feet, and stones that may be quarried and used for paving and slating.

We have abundance of clay suitable for bricks, the finer varieties of which can be made into tiles and pottery. It has been done. Kaolin in abundance will provide you with Keramics and china. Of mortar it is hardly necessary to speak. Some have said that the secret of our fine old flat roofs has passed from among men. This is not so. Go to Blaauwberg and you will finds roofs almost flat composed of the fine shell lime burned on the spot, which is used to cover blue stone slabs and found to produce a sound and water-tight roof. These were constructed within the last few years. Of lime in its most precious form, marble, it is true we have nothing. We shall probably not feel its lack very much. In vegetation we have reed, spear and palmetto grasses for thatching and occasionally upholstery uses, and if timber is lacking in our immediate locality there is plenty in the country waiting for industry and a market. A continuance of the Van der Stel tradition would have yielded us a large supply and our buildings might have been lined and finished in the most sumptuous and useful homegrown camphor wood as at "Vergelegen." It is not yet too late to forestall future needs in such a way. This is a suggestion concerning one kind of timber only—a dozen others are perhaps much easier to negotiate, and the results are sure.

Resources in Nature

Any attempt to reckon all our resources in nature must be futile. Our resources and the inspirations that may be derived from nature are endless. Let me, however, by contrast with a recent piece of professional history, suggest our wealth in this respect. Quite lately a brilliant but erratic architectural designer from overseas was asked to sketch for a handsome fee a gallery for a mining camp. Proceeding to the spot where it was proposed to erect the gallery, the artist evolved his ideas, and the designs were published in due course. The public and our profession did not understand or appreciate the work. The source of the plan ideas was easily discoverable in the plan of one of the stately homes of England. The elevational inspirations were more cunningly hidden. I knew and appreciated the work of the designer and the setting of the design. After prolonged study of the work I gave it up in despair until I met a mutual acquaintance, who assured me that the artist had returned to Europe in a state of hysteric delight with the grand outlines of the mining "dumps," which he described as "finer in outline than the Pyramids of Memphis." However this may be, it is certain that the artist in question originated a more than passable design which faithfully portrays a general impression of the combined outlines of headgear and the top and sides of a "dump." The artist in question is worthy for such a conception to rank with the minor poets. You and I would be worthy to rank with the major ones if, turning our attention to the glorious outlines of a bounteous nature manifested around us, we gave equally able interpretations of what our eyes had seen.

Corporate Life

Of our corporate life much might be said. Traditions linger among us, native, Oriental, and Occidental. All might be turned to account. The conditions of life are simple, and we should scorn fences as also building plots one hundred feet by fifty.

Lately we have had a fresh start, and though politics are out of place here we may at any rate hope that it is full of promise. If your roots are in the country and you are not a pioneer, your father probably was, or your forebears not long since were. They probably came out here looking for air, so build your houses as though you loved it and in memory that they did.

I have indicated a few ways in which we might gain power wherewith to meet the needs of our large and more or less simple life.

There are many more that might be indicated, and much more might be said, of the wealth that backs us. Are you capable of making the utmost use of such opportunities as we have? Am I? I submit, gentlemen, that we are not. I do not doubt that we have a profound knowledge of the orders and their application in design, and are ready to do battle in their honour. This is no place to begin war in full pomp and circumstance between "Orders" and "Crafts" (to state the common struggle in a simple way); but I submit for your consideration a personal idea, that the crafts under the circumstances I have endeavoured to outline in our history, resources and social setting are easy winners from the start. If the work of the present and the future is to be instinct with vitality, we shall have to forget that we possess many of the mental goods we now display with such poor results in our architectural shop windows. We have said that the old work was half-hearted because done by slaves. The free descendants of the slaves are with us. The measure of the craftsman's power to execute is the measure of all building success.

The Architect

The architect must therefore be what his title implies—the master craftsman—or his very existence is a menace to such success as is possible. Perchance our possibilities are small now, but through our efforts and our sympathy with co-operating craftsmen they may grow. We live in days when educational

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authorities with insight call aloud for vocational training. You and I want this vocational training badly; not the sort that teaches us the values of paper, pencil and detail, but that which imbues us with what Professor Lethaby has called "The spirit of the Architecture of adventure." All things are possible to us if we recognise that the path of progress becomes known to those who reason from the known to the unknown but not unknowable.

Mistaken Ideas

If our thoughts be grounded upon greed or gain, we have mistaken our vocation. Architecture is the worst paid of the professions, and any man who makes it a financial success would make a greater in other walks of life. If, however, we covet to do well in other and better ways, I venture to suggest that upon such or similar weighing of our resources, responsibilities and opportunities as I have here briefly and somewhat discursively outlined, we may fashion ideals and grow with their growth into a state much other and much better than that wherein we now find ourselves.

It is almost impossible to imagine anything worse than the present state of affairs. Let us make a detailed survey of a single feature common to all buildings and we will become convinced that this is so. Let us look at the roof. Every one of us will, I suppose, admit without hesitation or reservation that the timber contained in it is bad, and the way the material is framed up worse. In the majority of cases the roof covering is worse than either both as to material and labour. It is impossible to look upon temporary coverings, such as iron, shingles, and most of the patent light roofing materials on the market, with any degree of allowance. Though greatly in favour of thatch, I realise the dangers involved in its use. These can be to a great extent overcome, but the good thatchers are all dead. That is a difficulty we do not appear able to surmount. Lead is a very expensive roofing material and a very ugly one, owing to the fact that modern roofing lead has had all the silver extracted. Though used far too thin, which always causes trouble, it is usually well laid. The same remark applies to copper, saving that it is as beautiful as lead is ugly. Good blue slates are rare in Europe and have not been imported. Those imported are far too thin and are very badly laid. Stone slates have not as yet been used. If the colour is good, failure in this material is unlikely. We have the material in great abundance. A few good roofs of green Westmoreland slates have been seen. The tiles and the tiling seen on most roofs could hardly be worse.

Having a great interest in the craft of tiling, I have not the patience to discuss this further here and now.

Flat roofs of lime already referred to have gone out of fashion. They are well suited to this country. Flat roofs in cement are not.

Discussion Desirable

In the course of this paper I have been somewhat discursive, have drawn attention afresh to much that is self-evident, and have left other self-evident matters severely alone. I trust that the paper will fulfil the end for which it was designed, and if it is provocative of discussion it will not fail of the effect intended.

Permit me to quote in conclusion words which we might all remember concerning the relation of man and his ideas and ideals to nature:—

"With beat of systole and of Diastole
One grand great life throbs through earth's giant heart,
And mighty waves of single Being roll
From nerveless germ to man, for we are part
Of every rock and bird and beast and hill,
One with the things that prey on us, and one with what we kill."

GARDEN DESIGN

At a recent meeting of the Cape Institute of Architects, Mr. Hugh McQueen read a paper on 'Architectural Garden Design." He said: The title of my paper should really have read "Garden Design," but when asked by the secretary to give the title, I thought it would be better to add "Architectural," so as to make some distinction to Garden Design as it should be and as we see it around us so plentifully at the present day. I hope none of you have come here to listen to a discourse on the Architecture of the Garden, as some would take the title to mean, because I am afraid you will be disappointed. My effort this afternoon will be to try and awaken some interest in an essential of domestic and other architectural work that has been sadly neglected except by very few members of the profession. We cannot say with any great measure of truth that a revival in architecture has set in in this country, when we seem wilfully to ignore that most essential and important factor—the garden. I do not know whether I am peculiar, but it is certainly a fact that, after promising to read a paper before you on garden design, I have thought it the most difficult subject I could have chosen. Why it should be so is extraordinary, because I have taken a keen interest in garden design and given the subject much study. Whether my interest and study have been of no avail, I cannot say, but this I feel, that I am unfit to deal worthily with the subject, and yet since so little has been done in this direction, I feel I can come before you with some little confidence, and without any attempt at being dictatorial to those gentlemen whose views may possibly not quite agree with mine. But whatever their views may be, one looks in vain for any valuable material expression of them in most of the beautiful districts surrounding us.

The distinction I made at the beginning I thought necessary, because, when brought to book, I should most likely be told that the gardens around us in which I fail to see design, are of the informal type, which I should admit without the slightest hesitation. Heated controversies have been waged over the rival advantages of the formal and informal gardens. In other countries we must admit that the former hold the field at the present time, and let us hope will continue to do so. Can you tell me why, in the laying out of a garden, human thought and skill should be eschewed? In everything else the evidence of the

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skill of man is deemed to ennoble and beautify whatever he applies his energies to. Why not a garden? If it were possible to allow nature to go absolutely untouched, or to be in a position to abandon the struggle to make nature beautiful around the house, and move the house to where nature is beautiful, then there would be arguments in favour of the informal garden. Perhaps in the more Utopian times architects will be allowed to roam over the country and choose ideal sites where nature shall "call the tune and the melody be found in the prospect of blue hill or shimmering lake or mystery-haunted plain . . .", but we humbly represent that a long-suffering profession has to build on the site their clients provide. That being so, we face the position and make nature subordinate to the house.

About Sites

As to sites, much could be written. I do not know whether you are acquainted with Sir George Sitwell's book on the making of a garden. In it he says: "The house is to be vast and austere where the note is one of grandeur or ruggedness; sweet and low where nature is in a smiling mood; tall, in a level plain; rich with coupled shaft and sculptural friezes and cool colonnades, if it face a quiet prospect; great and dignified, in a country of mighty trees." That advice I think is for the architect who is of the landscape school, where he leaves nature alone and suits the design of his house to the surroundings. Still, in spite of all that is said, and as you have formal and informal even now, so they existed two thousand years ago, and will go on to the end of all time. Now we, as architects, would naturally treat the garden architecturally, and you cannot have architectural treatment in the naturalistic.

Nature is supposed to have straight lines. Of course the formal treatment can be overdone, and sometimes the rule which human authority establishes over a garden is too absolute Francis Bacon, living as he did at the time of the zenith of the formal garden, rebelled against certain of the far-fetched ideas that found favour with Elizabethan designers. Sometimes nature, on the other hand, has too much of her own way, and the garden becomes an untidy and poor copy of the woodland scenery which must be absolutely untouched or else it loses its perfection. I cannot agree with the person—I think it is R. L. Stevenson—who says that a true gardener must be lazy and allow nature to have her own way. The hand of the designer must be in evidence, unobstrusively directing the scene and guiding the leaf and foliage to its proper end. All this, of course, is flogging a dead horse. The result proves our contention. The most interesting examples, we must all admit, are those in which the greatest skill has been expended.

Although I have said that nature must be made subordinate to the house, I do not mean that we must ignore entirely the site. By carefully considering the natural advantages of the site we will be helped considerably in our task. Here I will give you the principle which Mr. J. D. Sedding says governs the best modern work: "The gardener's first duty in laying out the grounds is to study the site and not only that part of it upon which the house stands, but the whole site, its aspect, character, soil, contour, sectional lines, trees, etc. Commonsense, economy, nature, art, alike dictate this. There is an individual character to every plot of land as there is to every human face, and that man is unwise who, to suit preference for any given style of garden, or with a view to copying a design from another place, will ignore the characteristics of the site at his disposal." You cannot adopt a fashion, because no fashion is capable of general application, and to adhere to a set formula would be working against sound artistic principles.

All an Artist Could Wish For

In this country we have everything that an artist could wish for. We cannot slavishly copy the gardens of England, but the study of them is beyond doubt exceedingly helpful. The gardens of Italy would be more suitable if it was a question of copying, and it was from Italy that England learnt the art of gardening. In our efforts to revive the art of garden-making we ought to base our practise on what is best in ancient traditions, and to refer to well-established records for guidance as to what we would avoid. Nothing did more harm to garden-designing in England than the intrusion into the ranks of the garden-makers of ignorant and untrained men. Martin Brown, nicknamed Capability Brown, because he always said of every site he visited that it was a most capable one, was uncultured and uneducated. By interest he advanced from a kitchen gardener to be gardener at Hampton Court and Windsor, and on the strength of this appointment was able to pose as an authority on garden-designing in a new style. He, with others of the same standing, did an enormous amount of damage to the fine pleasure gardens of England. It is only comparatively quite recently that architects have taken up garden-designing seriously, and it can be safely said that much good has come by their so doing. In the laying out of the ground of any house, the whole must be planned with due regard for architectural effect. The same care must be given to every line, every mass, and every detail, as would be given to the design and construction of some good piece of architecture.

In Italy the gardens of the larger sort, unlike those of England, are placed on hills, much as the sites we have in this country. This at once gives the architect an opportunity of showing his skill in designing terraces, balustrades and steps. We find that the Italians introduced water wherever possible in their designs; indeed, the hydraulic engineer appears to have been almost as important a person to consult as the architect. He also worked in a sportive vein. Evelyn mentions his ingenious devices for playing practical jokes on the unsuspecting visitor. They, however, were placed at this disadvantage, that bowers were no part of the scheme and scarcely came in at all. Architectural features and evergreen trees were the principal factors in considering the effect to be produced. Large masses of flowers were not obtainable, and consequently we get beds of box with coloured earth to take their place. This was an expedient to get colour and variety which would easily be obtained in this country by flowers. In this we

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can take a lesson from the gardens of England. I do not know if there is another country where bowers play such an important part in the design of the garden as in England. The designers there placed themselves at a disadvantage by banishing the perennials from their gardens, their places being taken by tender budding plants which needed the protection of glass in winter, and made no display in the open until midsummer was past, after which time they provided flat surfaces of bright colour mostly in geometrical patterns for some three months before being finally removed from their beds and wintered under glass. A reaction set in, however, and the value of the beautiful hardy plants that required no glass protection during the winter months began to be recognised. So by slow degrees the old hardy plants resumed their rightful positions in the garden.

Hundreds of Varieties

In this country we have many hundreds of species and varieties at our disposal, and the question is not so much what to use, as what to dispense with. While on the subject of flowers, it would be as well to mention something about the flower garden. Flowers can be introduced almost anywhere, but to be seen to advantage one should suddenly come upon an opening in some cool and shady path and look upon the flower beds. It is surprises of this sort that go to make the garden a success. Of course we cannot have the same flowers all the year round nor one not always in the position to be of the same view as Francis Bacon, who wrote: "I do hold it in the Royal ordering of Gardens there ought to be gardens for all the months of the year in which things of beauty may be then in season." This is for a Prince's garden, but anyone may contrive an herbaceous border so arranged and planted that something like a perpetual spring is the result. One of the pleasantest ways of setting flowers is in a long border. To the appreciation of its full beauty, it should be seen end on and should be arranged to this end, and with advantage, of great length. Hampton Court along the east front will occur to those of you who know the place. There there is a border a quarter of a mile long and six feet wide. Lovely flowers at the edge mount to taller and gorgeous ones at the back. The effect is splendid, and there can be no finer sight than this glowing mass of colour set against the old weather-beaten wall of brick and stone. I have endeavoured to point out the fact that we, in this country, have as much at our command as both England and Italy, where such magnificent work has been done, and yet we do not appear to take advantage of what we have. When we study the gardens of England and see how she has learnt from other countries, how much more easily ought we to be able to develop the garden in this country! Indeed, with all the material at hand we are, I honestly believe, in a position to bring the art of garden-making to a level never before attained.

The Making of Good Gardens

Now, having compared the advantages we possess with those of other countries, let me just skim over the many different parts that go to the making of good gardens. The site I have already dealt with in a general way, and it is the site that will decide for you the manner of your garden. On a level one, the terraced garden is out of the question, whereas if the site be on an eminence, then the terrace will be at once decided upon. In a climate such as ours, especially during the hot summer months, there is always the craving for shade and for the sound and sight of water. I think water ought to play an important part in all gardens. The early settlers made much of the little water, even to the extent of wayside furrows and canals in the public streets. Shade can be introduced in many ways. There is the avenue, a most important factor in designing large gardens, and this can be treated in many ways. We have examples in this country, and, I think examples we are all proud of, which give the much-desired shade during the heat of the day. I am afraid we have not shown a true appreciation of the old magnificent avenues, or else everywhere we would have copied the earlier men and planted trees as they did. The author, Blondel, of the Theory and Practice of Gardening, which became the text-book of design in Europe for the first half of the eighteenth century, gives four fundamental maxims of the design of the garden: To correct excessive irregular surfaces of the ground; to prolong vistas as far as possible; to avoid showing the whole of the design at once; and to rely on grass and foliage for effect rather than on excessive use of sculpture. The last maxim is one we should always bear in mind when garden-making in this country.

Next in order, I should mention Arbours, Pergolas and Trellises. The former was introduced in England from some sunny clime, but, owing to the climate conditions, did not prove much of a success. They are usually constructed of wood with vine or other creeper plant trained over. The Pergola came from Italy, a sheltered walk or path named after some grape vine, and also the Trellis. All these ought to be used in this country, being parts of the garden which provide for comfort and shade.

Next we have terraces, balustrades and gate piers. The terrace is one of the most important features of the garden. The width of these are generally governed by the nature of the site. There are rules which govern the width, as you know, but usually the amount of surplus earth excavated from the foundation of the house decides this point. Still there is more chance of failure by putting a narrow terrace than a broad one.

Balustrades

Balustrades afford much display of design. Being afraid of boring you, I shall simply mention the straight plan balustrade and the curved. The latter is more common in Italy, but there is always the difficulty of working in the parapet; the two sides run on different lines. Balusters are commonly turned, and the spacing varies. In the classical examples they are spaced two-thirds the width, which perhaps may look too heavy. Other examples show intervals six to eight times the width. Pierced stone has been used in place of balusters with good effect, and I think concrete will play an important part if carefully treated and designed. Some of these can be designed to look very well, and would be less expensive. There

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are divers ways of treating the balustrade, such as open brickwork, circular tiles and even chimney pots. But if you cannot afford to do your work decently you had better leave it out altogether. You can be too clever in your economies and defeat your object.

Gate piers is a most interesting subject, and I cannot do better than to refer you to the examples in England, the study of which I am sure you will find most enjoyable. Canals, cascades, fountains and waterpieces—although this is perhaps getting out of the architect's sphere—do, I think, come into the designing of a garden, and I do not think a garden complete unless it has water in some form or another. Canals are usually necessary and, when treated properly, most beautiful effects can be obtained. Cascades are most difficult to treat, but do not attempt to be natural, because you will probably be disappointed with the result. Fountains, as far as the architectural part of them is concerned, should be designed by an architect. If figures are introduced, approach your sculptor and see that they are of the best. Waterpieces or ponds are a charming feature of the garden and, like everything else, can be treated in many ways.

PROMINENT ARCHITECT MARRIED

Harris—Cohen

The Doornfontein Synagogue was the scene on Sunday, the 24th August, of a wedding to which exceptional interest was attached. The bridegroom was Mr. Morrie Jacob Harris, one of the most prominent and popular Architects of Johannesburg, and eldest son of the Rev. Mark Louis Harris and Mrs. Harris. The bride was Miss May Cohen, eldest daughter of the late Hermann Cohen, formerly of Barberton and Lourenco Marques, and Mrs. Cohen, of Beit Street, Doornfontein.

The officiating Rabbi was the Rev. Mark L. Harris, who has just accepted a call to the Salisbury (Rhodesia) Hebrew Congregation. He is the pioneer Jewish minister of the Transvaal, having officiated at the laying of the foundation-stone of the first synagogue here in 1887. Since that time he has been identified with one or other of the various Jewish congregations of Johannesburg, and concluded his services here of over a quarter of a century by solemnising his son's nuptials.

Besides being President of the South African Branch of the Society of Architects (London), Mr. Harris is Examiner in Architecture at the Transvaal University College, Hon. Secretary to the Transvaal Institute of Architects, Member of Council, Association of Transvaal Architects. It will thus be noticed that Mr. Harris has the somewhat unique distinction of holding office of all three of the official organisations of Architects in the Transvaal, each of these organisations having its own sphere of work.

Mr. Harris is also Vice-Chairman of the City Improvements Committee of the Johannesburg Civic Association, Member of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, but is perhaps best known as President of the Jewish Guild, in which capacity he has just been unanimously re-elected for a seventh year of office.

ARCHITECT'S CASE

CLAIM FOR £960 11s.

MUTUAL ASSURANCE COMPANY SUED

In the Rand Division of the Supreme Court, Wednesday, August 6th, the hearing was continued in which Mr. A. Aiken is sueing the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Co., Ltd.—plaintiff being in his capacity as executor dative in the estate of the late Archer W. Hoskings, architect—for £960 11s. for the preparation of building plans, and an additional half per cent. on the lowest tender, £19,211, in respect of calling for tenders.

Mr. Stallard, K.C., and with him Mr. S. S. Taylor, appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. De Wet and with him Mr. Van Hoytema for the defendant company.

The plaintiff's case was closed, and application was made for absolution from the instance on the grounds: (1) that there was no proof that Mr. Hoskings was ever instructed to perform the work for which the claim was made; and (2) that even if he had received instructions which were alleged to have been given by Mr. Worrall, there was no authority for the latter to give those instructions on behalf of the defendants.

His Lordship indicated that the principle he followed was not to grant absolution if there was some evidence on which a jury could find for the plaintiff. The first point was mainly a question of evidence, and he was not justified in holding that there was no evidence on which a verdict might not be found for plaintiff on the question of instructions. On the second point, there was no evidence of any direct authority from the local board sanctioning the completion of the plans. There was no evidence that they were directly consulted by Worrall before he gave the instructions relied on by the plaintiff. The question depended on the position of Mr. Worrall. He was manager in South Africa. His Lordship found a difficulty in determining the basis of his appointment, but came to the conclusion that his position was that of superintendent of the local affairs of the society. *Prima facie*, therefore, Mr. Hoskings was entitled to assume that Mr. Worrall had the powers conferred by such a position. His Lordship held that it would be within the scope of his authority to go so far even as to obtain tenders. He was not satisfied, nor was it necessary to decide the point, that it was within his authority to give instructions for building. In these circumstances His Lordship refused the application for absolution.

Evidence for the defence was called to show that Mr. Hoskings had no authority to prepare the plans, bills of quantities and specifications to call for tenders.

Mr. Worrall, manager for the company for the Cape Province and South African superintendent, denied that he had at any time given the instructions alleged. Mr. Hoskings, on the other hand, had always been urging the question, and he was told that nothing could be done in the matter, unless the principal office board sanctioned it. Mr. Hoskings had declared that he was prepared to go to any amount of trouble, and to do any amount of work, the remuneration being less to him than the advertisement he would get from the building on that site. Mr. Hoskings went to

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Australia in 1906, and on his return he told witness that he had agreed with Mr. Pullar in Australia to prepare plans and go into the whole question. He further told witness that he did not look for any remuneration until the building was erected. The plans which he prepared were sent to Australia, but the principal office board refused to build, and witness acquainted him of that fact. Mr. Hoskings never made any claim for the plans submitted. Later Mr. Pullar came over from Australia, and Mr. Hoskings saw him and witness in Johannesburg. The question of a new building was again discussed, and Mr. Hoskings was clearly told that the matter rested with the principal office board. Mr. Pullar said he was in favour of a new building, and would recommend it, and witness and the Capetown board were also in favour of it. Mr. Pullar, however, impressed on Mr. Hoskings that he did not want him to go to any trouble, because of the attitude of the principal office board. Mr. Hoskings, however, remarked that what he had heard was "good enough for him," and he was prepared to take his chance. It was purely on that basis, and without any instructions, that he went on with the work.

JUDGMENT FOR DEFENDANTS

Mr. Justice Mason gave judgment in the Rand Division of the Supreme Court, recently, in the action brought by Mr. Alexander Aiken, executor dative in the estate of the late Mr. Archer William Hoskings, architect, against the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society, Ltd.

Sketch Plans

It was stated in plaintiff's declaration that in July, 1904, Mr. C. Worrall, manager for the defendants, instructed Mr. Hoskings to prepare sketch plans for a building which defendants proposed to erect on a stand at the corner of Loveday and Fox Streets, Johannesburg. He prepared the plans, and they were accepted by the defendants. Worrall and a certain Pullar instructed him to complete the sketch plans in June, 1911, and provide working plans, draw specifications and bills of quantities, and to call for tenders for the erection of the building. He carried out these instructions, and the lowest tender received was that of Mr. James Thompson, for the sum of £21,750. On September 27, at the request of Worrall, he made alterations in the plans so as to reduce the cost of the building. The builder also reduced his tender to £19,211. Defendants accepted the plans and specifications and bill of quantities. Worrall promised to pay to Hoskings the customary fees and charges of architects in Johannesburg for his services. It was averred that defendants had not erected the buildings and had repudiated the right of Hoskings to receive payment for the work done. Plaintiff claimed £960 11s., which was five per cent. of the total sum of £19,211.

An Admission

Defendants in their response admitted the preparation of sketch plans, but pleaded that Hoskings executed them gratis and without instruction in the hope of being ultimately employed as defendant's architect in case they elected to have a building. They admitted the receipt of certain plans from Hoskings which had been made in pursuance of an agreement made in Melbourne between Hoskings and Pullar—the latter acting on behalf of defendants, whereby Hoskings undertook at his own expense and risk to prepare the plans, obtain and furnish estimates, and do all incidental architectural work with a view to inducing defendants ultimately to erect a building on the stand. In consideration of this Pullar undertook on behalf of defendants to employ Hoskings as architect in the event of defendants ultimately accepting any plan or design so submitted and deciding to erect a building in accordance therewith. Defendants denied that they accepted any plan prepared by Hoskings.

Judgment

His Lordship, in dismissing the action with costs against the plaintiff, reviewed the evidence at some length. He indicated that Messrs. Worrall and Pullar quite thought at the interview which took place in June, 1911, that it was desirable to go on with the erection of the building, and probably they also imagined that power to act would be given at Capetown. But it was clear that Worrall and Pullar had no express authority from the head office, Melbourne, to do anything definite, and everybody would agree that it was quite clear that sanction had to come from that quarter. His Lordship therefore found for defendants with costs, the money in court to be returned to defendants, and Weiner and Worrall to get their expenses as witnesses.

UNION BUILDINGS

Such rapid progress has been made with the Union Buildings that already some of the Government Departments are moving into their new quarters. Begun a few months later than the comparatively diminutive proposition of the Law Courts at Capetown, it will be finished a few months earlier. The contractors made their start just before the date of Union, May 31, 1910, and will probably withdraw the last workman well within the period of three years and a half—considerably less than the time which they might have claimed. Such expedition is the more remarkable, seeing that not only has the work been delayed by strike and storm, but there have been a thousand or more alterations of the original plans. No doubt, the changes have related only to matters of detail, but one change made many more. Notwithstanding all these modifications, there will be no excess vote, the estimates will be kept strictly down to the original sum of £1,100,000 voted by Parliament. This news may carry some relief.

The stacks of plans which are to be viewed in the office of Mr. Simmerinck, the supervising Government engineer, give some idea of the brain-strain which must have been necessitated by the details of construction. Mr. Baker has been fortunate in having the Public Works Department to arrange the application of his ideas with the contractors and to check their work: it is a responsibility which usually oppresses the architect.

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Quantity Surveyors' Section.

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS

The Sixth Annual General Meeting

The sixth annual general meeting was held in the Municipal Council Chamber, Town Hall, Pretoria, on Saturday, 26th July, 1913.

Attendance

The following members were present: T. Moore (President), Everard White (Vice-President), J. W. Cowling (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer), Messrs. Adams, Hickman, McCubbin, Puntis and Stratton (Members of Council), and Messrs. Bell-John, Black, Cowin, Dakers, Deighton, Farrow, Foulds, Graham, Harrison, Holt, Hooke, Hustwick, Langton, Mac-Kenzie-Smith, Maunder, Prior, Warne, Waters, Wevill and J. Quail (Members). Messrs. Gibbs, Priestly, E. Quail, Shepherd and Tarring were represented by proxy.

Minutes

The minutes of the extraordinary general meeting held in Pretoria on the 15th March, 1913, were read and confirmed.

Council's Annual Report

This having been previously issued to members was taken as read.

Mr. Cowin complimented the Council on the work done during the year, and proposed that the appreciation of the Institute should be recorded, together with special thanks to the President for his gift of a book-case and books, as also for the remission of the office rent by him. This was seconded by Mr. Hickman and carried unanimously. Mr. W. Harrison notified that he was willing to donate to the Library the Transactions of the Surveyors' Institution for the past ten years. The report on the motion of Mr. Stratton, seconded by Mr. Harrison, was then adopted.

President's Address

"Fellow members of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors, I was very fortunate in following, as President of your Institute, one who has always devoted so much time and taken such keen interest in the Institute, and also in all matters pertaining to the profession of Quantity Surveying. I refer to Mr. H. A. Adams, Past President, and my thanks are due to him for the kindly support he has given me during my term of office. Further, I cannot speak too highly of the support given me by the Vice-President, Mr. White; the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Cowling; and the Councillors. The past year has been one of exceptional activity on the part of the Institute; the drafting of the Quantity Surveyors' Chapter for the Union Architects Act, the preparation and issue of the Standard System of Measurement, and important alterations and additions to the Bye-Laws have entailed numerous meetings, interviews and consultations, but the members of the Council have always willingly devoted their time to the work. The Council's report dealt in full with the year's work, but I would add a few supplementary remarks to that document. It is with a feeling of satisfaction I am able to state that your Institute has gradually been increasing in strength, until at the present time the membership numbers forty-three. At the time of the formation of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors, quantity surveying was, to all intents and purposes, unknown to the different Municipal bodies of this country. Now, I am glad to say, the Municipalities are beginning to recognise the advantages in having bills of quantities properly prepared by qualified surveyors. Although the Institute is still in its infancy, it has travelled far upon the road towards ultimate success; a good work has been brought to completion by the publication of the Standard System—in no other country is such a standard in force.

"With regard to the Quantity Surveyors' Chapter of the Union Architects Act, the thanks of the Institute are extended to Mr. H. G. Veale, Past-President of the Association of Transvaal Architects, for the sympathetic reception of your delegates and for the interest taken by him in the proceedings. In my opinion the time has arrived when the Institute should begin to consider the juniors and the advisability of enrolling them as either Associates or Students, with the right of attending meetings; by so doing they would get into touch with the senior members, and get a broader and firmer knowledge of their work in consequence of the greater opportunities for discussion with more experienced men.

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Mr. Everard White

Mr. Everard White, the newly elected President of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors (Incorporated 1903) was born in London in 1877, and educated at Maidenhead and Westminster. He was articled to the well-known firm of Messrs. S. H. Strudwick and Son, London.

Mr. White came to South Africa in 1902, and was in the office of Mr. William Black, architect, of Capetown. Afterwards he was with that well-known Quantity Surveyor, Mr. Babbs.

He has been for the past few years with Messrs. Hawke and McKinlay as Quantity Surveyor, being employed on the University, Queen Victoria Street, Capetown; the New Law Courts, Capetown; Bloemfontein Law Courts; and is now on the new Town Hall, Johannesburg.

"We have several new members amongst us, and I wish to extend them a very hearty welcome, more especially those new members who are also new to the country and fresh to the conditions of life and work in South Africa, both of which I trust will prove congenial.

In conclusion, I congratulate the members on the satisfactory state of the Institute, and rely upon their co-operation with and active support to the incoming President and Councillors in furthering with increased vigour the interests of quantity surveying throughout South Africa."

Statement of Accounts

The statement of accounts having been accepted, the Hon. Treasurer read his report as follows:—

"In submitting the statement of accounts, I am desirous of drawing your attention to the reduced amount of the cash balance as compared with the previous year.

"During the current year the expenditure has exceeded the revenue, which has been mainly caused by the greatly increased activities of the Institute, and I am glad to say that there does not appear to be any sign of reduction in these activities. Every endeavour has been made by the Council to keep the expenditure down, and in several cases expenses incurred have not been charged to the Institute.

"During the coming year the revenue will be increased, but the expenditure will, in my opinion, also increase, with the result that there will be a comparatively small balance to carry forward, and any unforeseen contingency could not be met.

"I strongly recommend that the Institute take this matter in hand, in order to obtain an increased income. A substantial cash balance should be maintained in order to meet any unforeseen contingencies that may occur."

The question of providing an increased income for the Institute was discussed, and Mr. Black suggested that the annual fee be increased by one guinea, and that the members meet the expenses of the annual banquet, and offered himself to donate the sum of five pounds towards that purpose.

Mr. White suggested that the members in private practice should pay a higher fee than the members in the public service. It was finally decided, on the motion of Mr. Adams seconded by Mr. Cowling, that the incoming Council appoint a Sub-Committee to consider the matter and report to the next general meeting, the name of Mr. Black and one other member to be added to the Committee.

Mr. Puntis moved the adoption of the report, and on the proposal of the President, seconded by Mr. Black, thanks were accorded to the Hon. Treasurer for the report.

Constitution and Allocation of Council

Notice of motion had been given by Mr. Adams as follows:—

"That the following addition be made to Rule 15 after the words 'six members,' 'Two coastal members being in addition appointed as honorary members with such powers as may be delegated to them by the Council.'"

Mr. Adams asked permission to alter the words "two honorary members" to "two honorary Vice-Presidents," and this was agreed to. The resolution in this form was seconded by Mr. McCubbin and carried, it being also agreed that these officers pay two guineas per annum, do not vote at Council meetings, also that nominations be accepted at the meeting for the election of these officers.

Fees for Quantity Surveying Work

This matter was generally discussed, and as a result the following resolution was, on the motion of the President, adopted:—

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"It shall be the duty of the Council where members are found to be tendering, quoting or offering for or supplying bills of quantities or preparing any quantity surveying work at a fee considered by such Council to be lower than a reasonable or fair offer or charge, to remonstrate with and to bring such pressure or influence to bear upon such member as shall assist or result in the offence being immediately discontinued, and in the event of the member ignoring the disapproval of the Council then the Council shall lay the facts before a general meeting, who shall decide whether the member has been guilty of unprofessional conduct."

Employment of Temporary Surveyors by the P.W.D.

This matter, which had been referred to the Council by the extraordinary general meeting of the 15th March, 1913, was considered at a Council meeting on April 25th, 1913, and the Council report:—

"That the Council after discussion of this matter agreed, in view of the conflicting interests involved, that it was inadvisable for the matter to be dealt with by the Institute."

A lengthy discussion followed, and it was resolved to accept the report, together with a new proposal made by Mr. Black—

"That it be an instruction to the incoming Council to consider the matter of the employment by the Government of further temporary surveyors, and to report to this Institute at a later date."

Election of Council

Messrs. Foulds and Deighton were appointed as scrutineers. Mr. Everard White was elected President on the motion of Mr. Stratton, seconded by the President. Mr. D. A. McCubbin was elected Vice-President on the motion of Mr. Cowling, seconded by Mr. Adams. Mr. J. W. Cowling was re-elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer on the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. McCubbin. The election of members for the Council resulted as follows: Mr. H. A. Adams, Mr. W. E. Puntis, Mr. T. Moore, Mr. N. T. Cowin, Mr. F. Hickman, Mr. J. Quail. Messrs. Babbs and Anderson were elected Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Emergency Meetings of Council

Notice of motion had been given by Mr. Cowling as follows:—

"An emergency meeting of the Council shall be called by the Hon. Secretary at the request of two members of the Council on giving twenty-four hours' notice to the members of the Council. The notice to be given in manner mutually convenient, and the length of same may be reduced in individual cases by mutual agreement among all the members of the Council.

"In no case at an emergency council meeting shall the quorum be less than four."

The motion was seconded by the President and carried.

Standard System of Measuring

The President expressed the hope, now that the system was in the hands of the members, they would do all they possibly could to carry out all work in accordance therewith.

It was decided, on the proposal of Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Cowin, that the book be copyrighted. It was also suggested that supplies of the book be handed to Messrs. Juta and Maskew Miller for the purpose of sale on commission. It was decided to leave these matters in the hands of the Council.

President

On the proposal of Mr. White, appreciation was expressed of the services rendered by Mr. T. Moore during his term of office as President. Mr. Moore then vacated the chair in favour of the incoming President, Mr. Everard White, who expressed thanks for his election.

The meeting then terminated.

S.A. INSTITUTE OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS

ANNUAL BANQUET

The second annual banquet of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors was held at the Grand Hotel, Pretoria, on Saturday, July 26th.

Mr. Thomas Moore, Past-President of the Institute, presided. Sir Thomas Watt, Minister for Public Works, was the principal guest. Members of the Architectural Association, Federation of Master Builders, the Public Works Department, the Municipality of Pretoria, and a large number of Quantity Surveyors with their guests made up a very representative gathering.

The Guests

The guests included in addition to the Minister for Public Works, Messrs. W. H. Stucke (President, Association Transvaal Architects), J. J. Kirkness (Senior Vice-President, Federation Master Builders S.A.), C. Murray (Secretary, P.W.D.), A. Johnston (Mayor of Pretoria), F. W. Jameson (Town Engineer, Pretoria), J. D. Robertson (Town Clerk, Pretoria), G. W. Herdman (Inspecting Engineer, P.W.D.), P. Eagle (Chief Government Architect), J. A. Macphail (P.W.D.), T. Douglas (President, Johannesburg Master Builders Association, J. Prentice (President, Pretoria Master Builders Association), Messrs. W. Hawke, W. N. McKinlay, R. Howden, H. G. Veale, Allen Wilson, E. M. Powers, S. Rees Poole, A. J. Marshall, W. J. Beall, J. S. Cleland, S. Whitmore, and W. Mollison, Architects; Messrs. Jas. Thompson, D. Mackie, T. Clarke, R. W. Kelly, W. Knuckey, W. Nottingham, and C. W. Giovanetti, Master Builders; Messrs. Everard White, H. A. Adams, F. Black, H. Bell-John, D. A. McCubbin, W. E. Puntis, A. Stratton, F. Hickman, W. M. Warne, W. Harrison, W. G. Thompson, W. Mackenzie Smith, N. T. Cowin, J. Quail, D. Dakers, R. J. Tarring, S. Waters, C. H. Deighton, F. B. Holt, E. Hustwick, J. F. Hooke, W. Langton, G. E. H. Graham, N. Foulds, J. A. Prior, A. E. Wevill, E. B. Farrow, H. N. Maunder, D. Watson, C. M. Mackenzie, J. A. Cowling, junr., and C. Morgan, Quantity Surveyors; and Messrs. Gerard Rissik, Captain W. E. Pownall, Captain J. S. Laing, F. Tulloch, T. C. Moore, W. R. Cranch, and J. W. Cowling (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors).

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Mr. Fincke served dinner in the satisfactory manner usual to the Grand Hotel, and during the evening Messrs. C. M. Mackenzie and W. R. Cranch contributed songs and humorous sketches, accompanied by Mr. W. Harrison, all of whose efforts were much appreciated.

The Late Mr. Sauer

After the loyal toasts had duly been honoured, the Chairman said:—

"I have a sad duty to perform. As you are aware, the Honourable J. W. Sauer passed away on Thursday last. Our country has lost one who had done good work and one we could ill afford to lose. In the name of the Institute I wish to express sympathy with the family and friends of the late Mr. Sauer."

Letters of Regret

The Chairman stated: Your Council are in receipt of many letters and telegrams expressing regret that the senders are unable to attend the banquet.

His Honour Johann Rissik (Administrator of the Transvaal) was unable to attend owing to pressure of business.

Mr. Kendal (President of the Cape Institute of Architects) expresses regret at being unable to attend and wishes the Institute every success.

Mr. Treeby (President of the Transvaal Institute of Architects), Mr. Harris (the President of the Society of Architects), Mr. Herbert Baker, Mr. Tippit (Chief Engineer for Railways and Harbours), Mr. Walter Reid, Mr. Burt Andrew (Town Engineer, Johannesburg), and Sir Johannes Van Boeschoten, all wrote saying how sorry they were for not being able to attend.

Whilst in Durban I saw Mr. Methven (President of the Natal Institute of Architects), and Mr. Turner (President of the National Federation of Master Builders). Both these gentlemen expressed regret at not being able to attend, but it was impossible for them to spare the time to visit Pretoria.

The Minister's Health

In proposing the toast of the Minister for Public Works, Sir Thomas Watt, the Chairman said that in the position of Minister for Public Works Sir Thomas had great administrative responsibilities. These responsibilities the members of the Institute would more fully understand when he mentioned that some seventy per cent. of the engineering and architectural work of the Union of South Africa was under the control of the Minister for Public Works. For the carrying out of the immense amount of work involved a number of quantity surveyors were of necessity in the Government service. All these quantity surveyors were members of the South African Institute. The Institute was under great obligation to these members who were also officials in the public services and who devoted much of their time and energy towards bringing the Institute to its present position. He trusted that the relations between the practising quantity surveyors and the quantity surveyors of the Government would continue as pleasantly in the future as in the past.

Sir Thomas' Reply

The toast was drunk with musical honours.

Sir Thomas, in replying, said he must first of all refer to the loss the country had sustained on the death of Mr. Sauer, a valued colleague and an able statesman. Mr. Sauer was loved by all with whom he came into contact. The speaker had known no man more fully devoted to the interests of South Africa than Mr. Sauer. He was sure that the sympathy of all present would go out to the relatives of the deceased statesman.

He spoke of the great responsibility that devolved upon Mr. Murray—(loud applause)—who was the speaker's mentor. He hoped that the Government was not as short lived as some said, as he would not like to sever his connection with Mr. Murray. He thought Cabinet crises existed only in the brilliant imagination of the Pressmen.

Sir Thomas proceeded to dwell on the importance of the work of the quantity surveyor. Nothing but good could come of a meeting between the members of the Public Service and the one who was for a time at least presiding over them. He welcomed those gentlemen who had just come from England to join the service, because he thought they had come to a country with a great future in front of it. There had been those who doubted whether Union would be a success, but there was no longer any doubt.

Sir Thomas, in conclusion, thanked those present for the hearty manner in which they had responded to his toast, and wished the Institute every success in the future.

The Architects

Mr. H. A. Adams, in proposing the toast of "The Architects of South Africa," said:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.—It is with great pleasure I rise to propose the toast of "South African Architects." Naturally we are exceedingly glad to see so many representatives of the architectural profession with us this evening, and we—representing a small section of that profession—are delighted to meet with you round the festive board. During the past twelve months we have—fortunately or unfortunately, I don't think anyone is quite sure which—been brought into rather close touch with the various societies representing the architectural profession in South Africa in the matter of the proposed South African Architects Act. As I have previously said, we are only a small section of the profession, but as such we thought we should have some little say in the proposed legislation, as we felt it was a matter vitally affecting us. In these days of social unrest everyone seems to have some part to play, and they want to play a very big tune, otherwise the state of Denmark is very wrong.

The architects, however, met us in every conceivable way, and I think we met the architects. The deliberations were naturally very lengthy, but the best feelings existed throughout. I think the Act as drafted is exceedingly fair to all parties.

You remember the tale of the fellow who went to a garden party where archery was being practised. He took the bow and sent the winged shaft at a rather peculiar angle, hitting the local curate. There

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was naturally great excitement, and asked where he had hit the curate, he said: "Well, somewhere near the centre; I should say midway between the reredos and the chancel." Well, with the compromise with the architects, I think we struck somewhere between the reredos and the chancel.

I am sure the Act when it becomes law, which I hope will be very soon, will prove fair to all and place the profession of architecture on a sound basis.

If I attempt to offer our worthy architects a little criticism I suppose I shall be accused of bad form, but as I know the worthy representatives present are all above criticism and will be able to pass it on to their less fortunate brethren when they meet to-morrow morning, I will proceed.

We Quantity Surveyors are practically the daughter branch of the profession, and we look up to Mother Architect for all that is good and best. Seldom are we disappointed, but one little item occurs to me which I am daring to ventilate; that is the duty of architect to client. I am afraid not enough thought is given to this, and although I do not wish to go into details this evening, I do think that all too frequently the client's position is of insufficient consequence. One item alone I will mention, and that is excesses on contracts. This must be a very serious position for any client, and I feel that all branches of the profession should pay much more attention to it.

The architectural profession is one of the most worthy of all professions, and I am proud to belong to a small section of it. But we must always endeavour to see it at its best, and all try in every way to help bring this about.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I wish the architectural profession all success, and trust it will grow to be a large and influential body in this country of ours.

Gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink to the health and prosperity of the architects of South Africa coupled with the name of Mr. Stucke.

The toast was loyally pledged amidst great enthusiasm.

Mr. W. H. Stucke, President, Association Transvaal Architects, in replying, said:—

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,—On behalf of my brother architects and myself I desire to thank you for the cordial manner in which you received this toast, so ably and generously proposed by Mr. Adams. I am sure it gives us great pleasure to meet the Quantity Surveyors this evening. I know that I am looking forward to enjoying myself as soon as I have finished these few words, though until then I am the victim of any but pleasurable feelings. But that is because I feel I shall never be able to do justice to the occasion and to the generous hospitality of our hosts.

It is really surprising when one considers how this small and select body of gentlemen—I refer of course to our hosts—arrived, and quietly but surely established themselves in our midst, they evidently must have fulfilled a long-felt want. We live in an age of progress. Not so long ago we jogged along in a state of semi-darkness, without many blessings that we now enjoy, such as associations and institutes of architects, federations of master builders, registration fees and strike committees, and the Government has even promised us a Riot Act. Truly we live in an enlightened age. All we now require is more work, but this seems to be more difficult to get than ever, and the nimble client more wary and elusive.

Seriously, gentlemen, we owe, and shall continue to owe, a great deal to the Quantity Surveyors. They carry out their work with an accuracy and precision which only the man trained in their own particular profession can hope to attain, and they relieve the architect from a huge responsibility and give him more opportunity to concentrate his attention on the many other duties that come within his sphere.

We desire that the art of building in this country should attain to, and be more maintained at a high standard of proficiency, both in the realm of the architect and in the province of the builder, and the work of the quantity surveyors will assist us both to maintain that ideal.

We hope soon to have the proposed Bill for the registration of the architects and quantity surveyors in the Union in a form satisfactory to all parties; so that it will be ready to bring before Parliament, and I venture to think the surveyors should be satisfied with the provisions therein relating to their chapter.



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Unfortunately it is probable that we shall have to promote a Bill to amend our present Transvaal Registration Act before we can start with the Union Registration Bill. A considerable expense must necessarily be incurred in promoting the latter, and to this we understand the surveyors are willing to contribute in a fair proportion, as also the Cape and Natal architects. We also are willing to advance our fair share, and we have plenty of funds in hand; but unfortunately it appears that under our present Act we cannot utilise those funds for such a purpose, and therefore it may be necessary for us to first promote through the Union Parliament a private Bill to enable us to subsequently devote a portion of our funds for the purpose of promoting the Union Act. (Applause.)

The Master Builders

Mr. F. D. Hickman, in proposing the toast of "The National Federation of Master Builders of South Africa," expressed on behalf of the members of his Institute their gratification in having so many prominent members of the Federation present. He continued as follows:—

Mr. Adams in proposing the toast of the 'Architects" referred to the activity of the Institute in connection with the Registration Act, but this was not our only sphere of activity—as most of those present are aware for the past two years the Institute has been working to formulate a standard system for the measurement of builders' work—this to-day is an accomplished fact. At the Congress of the Federation, held in March last, I am pleased to say the Master Builders approved this document, with the exception of one or two minor alterations which have since been revised.

I would like, with your permission, to explain a few of the more important objects of this standard system.

I think, gentlemen, you will agree with me that the average contract between the building owner and contractor is, generally speaking, in favour of the former—the onus of risk is thrown to a very large extent on the contractor. I am not going to argue whether this unfair, nor do I propose to hold up the contractors as a body of people who are very hardly done by; but I do say that if we fail to recognise the fact of these risks, then it is our bounden duty as surveyors to prepare our quantities with a view to minimising that risk to the greatest possible extent.

That, gentlemen, has been one of the principal objects of this system.

Again, the practice of contractors tendering for work far removed from their headquarters is steadily on the increase, and we feel that if it were possible to bring into use one system instead of the existing practice of each man following his own inclinations, that it would be of very great benefit to the contractor when tendering, and to the architect and surveyor when the accounts are to be adjusted.

It is obvious that such a system would tend to reduce the number of disputes and assist in the settlement of them.

This system of measurement then, gentlemen, has been duly agreed and is in the course of publication; considerable time and expense has been expended, and I gladly take the opportunity on behalf of the Institute in heartily thanking the Federation for their generous donation towards the expenses. But the greatest work of all remains to be done, and without that our previous efforts are wasted.

That, I need hardly say, is to obtain the co-operation of the Public Works Department, private architects and contractors, to see it brought into effect; and I trust to this end all those here this evening will extend their individual assistance so that with the exercise of a little tact and restraint from those concerned we may, in a short period see it generally adopted throughout the Union.

Gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink the toast of the National Federation of Master Builders coupled with the name of the Senior Vice-President, Mr. J. J. Kirkness.

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

Mr. J. J. Kirkness (Senior Vice-President of the Federation), in responding, mentioned first of all that in view of the facts that his President (Mr. Albert Turner, of Durban) was unable to be present, and that his own health at the moment was not all that could be desired, he would have preferred his old friend and colleague, Mr. Jas. Prentice, to act in

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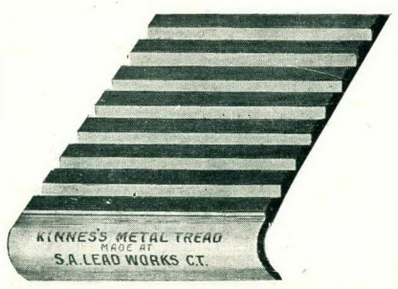
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his stead; however, they had prevailed upon him to accept the position, and he could fully assure the gathering that the members of the Federation fully appreciated the excellent work carried out in connection with the standard system by the members of the Institute. The Federation had formed a committee, which had spent considerable time in carefully considering the document. He could sincerely say they were greatly pleased with the result, and the surveyors could rest assured of receiving the whole-hearted support of the builders in endeavouring to obtain the result which Mr. Hickman had hoped would take effect. He had been a citizen of Pretoria for the past twenty-five years, and he could not help reflecting that the changes which had evolved in the quantity surveying profession were as great as those which had transformed a mere dorp into a large and beautiful city. (Applause.)

The Municipalities

Mr. Francis Black proposed the toast of "The Municipalities of South Africa," coupled with the name of Mr. Andrew Johnston, the Mayor of Pretoria. He would like, as a newcomer, to congratulate the Mayor on the progress of Pretoria.

Mr. A. Johnston, Mayor of Pretoria, thanked them heartily for the way they had honoured the toast. He emphasised the fact that it was to the benefit of the ratepayers that foreign capital was brought in to beautify the towns. He quoted figures to show that the stories that the Municipalities of South Africa were tottering into bankruptcy were groundless. The great difficulty to-day was to get good men with a sense of responsibility to stand as Councillors. He hoped they would attract some of the architects and the quantity surveyors. He spoke of the harmony that prevailed among the Municipalities of South Africa.

The President

Mr. H. Bell-John proposed the toast of "The President of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors, Mr. White." He referred to the formation of the Transvaal Institute of Quantity Surveyors in 1905, when there were fourteen members. There were croakers at that time, but the pessimism had proved to be unfounded.

The toast was drunk with musical honours.

Mr. Everard White thanked those present for the manner in which they had received his toast. In doing so he said:—

I must again thank the members of the Institute for the honour they have done me in electing me President for the forthcoming year. Especially in view of the negotiations still in progress in connection with the proposal to incorporate a chapter in the Architects Registration Act dealing with the control of quantity surveyors.

Whilst referring to this subject, I should like to say that it has never been the policy to make the profession of quantity surveyor a close preserve, and the one and only policy of the Institute has been to raise the standard of quantities throughout the country. A parallel case as regards allied professions is that of the surgeon and physician and attorney and conveyancer, and as long as the person taking out quantities is fully qualified, whether he also practises as an architect, or whether solely as a quantity surveyor, we can raise no objection.

On behalf of the Institute I should like to thank the members of the Transvaal Association who composed the sub-committee dealing with the inclusion of the surveyors, viz., Messrs. W. Reid, Howden and Stucke, also Mr. Veale, who was then President.

I would like to add a few more remarks to what Mr. Bell-John said in referring to the history of the Institute. The Institute, was founded in 1905, and was incorporated under the Transvaal Ordinance No. 56 of 1904, under the presidency of Captain Pownall, R.E., with Mr. I. Quail, Secretary, both of whom are present this evening; and I think these gentlemen can be congratulated on the work they inaugurated. (Applause.)

In 1908 the original Transvaal Institute became amalgamated with the various Provincial bodies, and was renamed the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors, from which date the Institute gradually began to take its place amongst other similar bodies.

I should like to refer to the work done by the Government to improve the standard of bills of quantities throughout the country. A few years ago it was impossible to obtain satisfactory tenders in country districts on a detailed bill of quantities, owing to the ignorance of country contractors. Their usual

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method of pricing a job was to look at the drawings and cube the building up at a value based on the experience of the individual tendering, with the result that if the building was in any way out of the common, or that the specification was for a higher class of work to what he was accustomed to, the poor contractor had to make, in many instances, the acquaintance of the Master of the High Court.

Since Union, the Government have issued quantities for all their work throughout the country districts, with the result that the contractors now demand not the documents purporting to be bills of quantities, but for properly detailed quantities guaranteed prepared in accordance with a recognised method, and incorporated as the basis of the contract.

I think we are greatly indebted to the Government for their work and the fact that the Government have realised the necessity for properly drawn up quantities must prove to the building public the advantages of same, and that quantities are a necessity in obtaining fair tenders. The effect of proper quantities can be summed up briefly as follows:—

First.—The builder only gets paid for what he executes.

Secondly.—The building owner only pays for what he gets.

In conclusion I should like to suggest the work that should receive the attention of the various Councils for the forthcoming year is—

(1) The final drafting of the Architects Registration Act in a manner satisfactory to all members of the professions interested.

(2) The preparation of a contract applicable to the whole Union, which will embrace the vexed question of a definition of provisional and prime cost prices.

And I think if these two objects are achieved the Councils of the various bodies represented here to-night may rest in peace.

The Guests

Mr. D. A. McCubbin proposed the toast of "The Guests." He said he found that most of the guests had been dealt with by other speakers. He went on to make a speech full of "pawky" humour. He referred to the presence of the Secretary for Public Works, Mr. Murray, and spoke of the sympathy that gentleman always had with the quantity surveyors.

Mr. J. Donald Robertson, Town Clerk of Pretoria, responded, telling some humorous personal experiences of architects and quantity surveyors. Mr. Chas. Murray, Secretary, Public Works Department, also suitably replied.

Mr. Jas. Thompson proposed the toast of "The Chairman," who suitably replied, and the proceedings terminated at midnight, with the National Anthem and Auld Lang Syne.

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS

The undermentioned gentlemen have recently been admitted to membership of the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors:—Mr. E. Austin Cooke, of Capetown; Mr. H. Rowe-Rowe, of Krugersdorp and Johannesburg; Mr. W. Mackenzie-Smith, of Johannesburg; and Messrs. Spencer Waters, J. A. Prior, E. B. Farrow, F. B. Holt, H. N. Marender and A. E. Wevill, of Pretoria.

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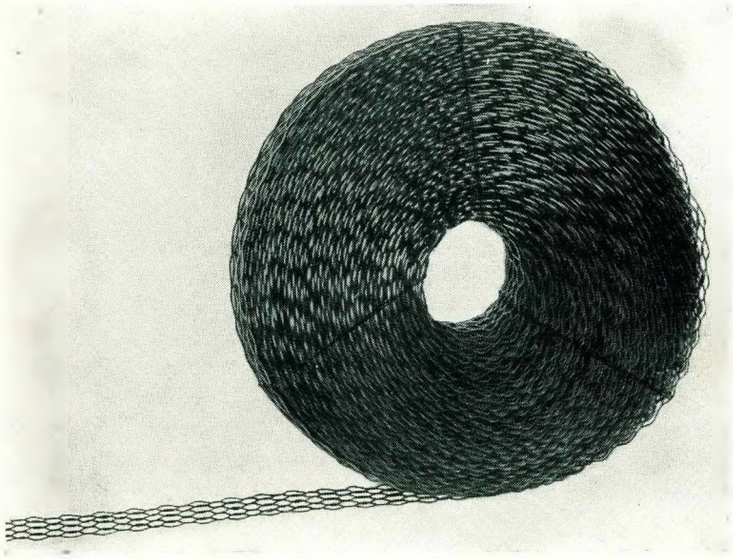
TRACTION PLANT: Two 10 H.P. Fowler Engines; 30 Trucks, various sizes from 6 to 10-ton capacity. Side and end-tipping trucks; 18in. gauge Track, 16lb. rails, points, and crossings; Turntables, etc.; Wood and Iron Buildings, various sizes. A large variety of miscellaneous Plant and Stores. To be seen and inspected at Pretoria. For further particulars apply to—

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A NEW BRICKWORK REINFORCEMENT

We have received sample and catalogue of a new brickwork reinforcement, which has been placed on the market under the registered trade name of "Exmet." The makers of this material are the



A coil of "Exmet."

Expanded Metal Company, Ltd., of West Hartlepool, who are represented in South Africa by Messrs. Jenkins and Co.

Any new material or device manufactured for use in building construction or engineering will, we know, be given consideration and prove of interest to architects and engineers alike.

We are giving our readers the following particulars of the construction and advantages of "Exmet" as put forward by the manufacturers.

Architects and engineers have for many years recognised that brick walls and brick structures can be materially strengthened by the use of a metal bond or reinforcement, embedded in the mortar between the courses of bricks at varying intervals. The most common method hitherto adopted for such reinforcement was the use of hoop iron, thick wire, etc. Most experts agreed, however, that what was required was a mesh material which could be obtained in long rolls. "Exmet" is therefore the article which complies with the latest ideas, and combines all the necessary requirements.

A large number of experiments have been carried out by the Expanded Metal Company at their works in West Hartlepool, which have just lately resulted in the production of a machine to manufacture expanded steel by an entirely new process. This machine has been patented in all the chief markets of the world.

"Exmet" being of meshwork formation, there are no loose or separate strands, the junction between the meshes being formed and remaining uncut in the process of manufacture. These strands or members are all rigidly connected, and have continuous fibres.

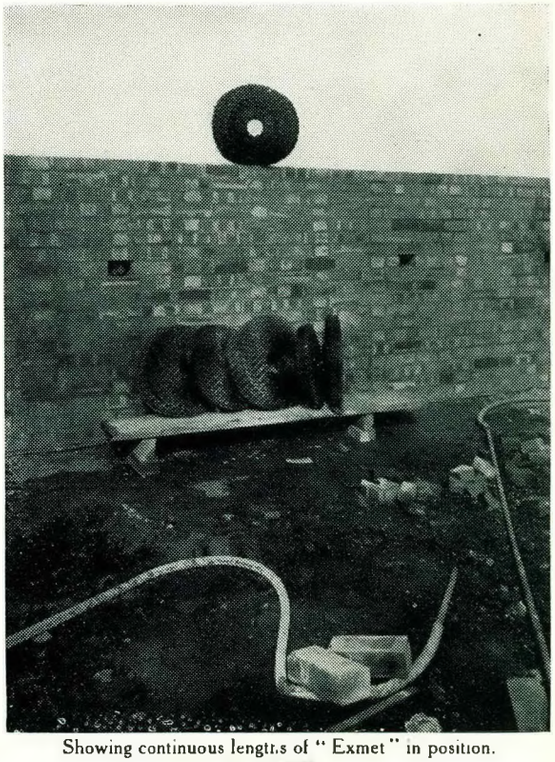
The standard length of a roll of this material is 270 feet, and the width is 2½ inches. It can be cut quite easily with a pair of hand shears, without the slightest chance of injuring the meshwork. Its ductility allows of its being bent to any angle, and curved to radius, either flat or on edge. It is therefore as easy to use "Exmet" in work of irregular shape as in straight work.

The material, after manufacture, is dipped in asphaltum paint before being despatched from the works.

One important feature of "Exmet," which struck us as being a good point, is that when uncoiled, it lies perfectly flat, and has no tendency to recoil. In using "springy" reinforcements it is often found that the tendency to recoil will disturb the brickwork as it is being laid.

Another advantage the makers claim as being of equal importance is that the overall depth, when laid flat, is appreciably less than the standard thickness of a brickwork joint, thus allowing of its being embedded completely in the mortar without increasing the thickness of the joints.

There is no possible chance of "Exmet" slipping when embedded in cement mortar, because its rigidly spaced diagonal meshwork formation gives it a mechanical bond, and complete anchorage throughout its length and width. It does not laminate the mortar, because its comparatively small reinforcing members become thoroughly incorporated with it.



Showing continuous lengths of "Exmet" in position.

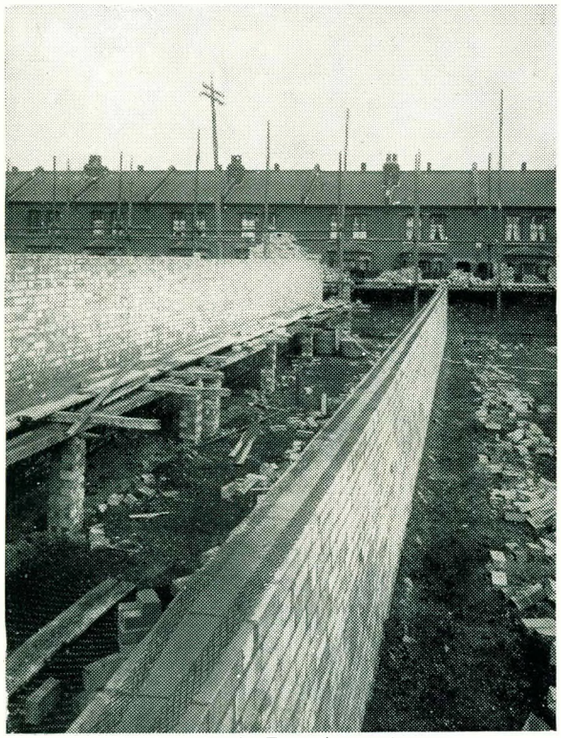
Moreover, while the brickwork is so effectively bound together with continuous lengths of reinforcement, each mesh encloses the mortar within it so that directly the yield point of the steel is reached, the mortar is brought into compression, thus adding materially to the effective value of the reinforcement. This effect is only obtainable with a meshwork reinforcement having rigidly connected diagonal members.

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We consider the catalogue a very valuable and useful book. There are no less than ten different tests illustrated by actual photographs and described therein, which cannot fail to impress upon users the value of "Exmet."



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"ILLUSTRATED CARPENTER AND BUILDER."

The Society of Architects, as is generally known, has for many years advocated the State registration of architects. Mr. C. McArthur Butler, the Society's able Secretary, speaking on the subject the other day, urged the multiplicity of the present-day architects's duties as an additional argument in favour of registration. "The modern architect," he said, "has in some measure to be a species of 'Admirable Crichton'—he has to be an artist first of all, and then a lawyer, a chemist, a surveyor, an engineer, a builder, a sanitary expert, and a variety of other things to meet the ever-increasing needs and developments of the hour." But surely no Registration Bill is going to require a man to be all those things before he comes on to the register. The standard will have to be kept comparatively low. "Admirable Crichtons" are never a numerous company.

CLAIMING £100

Henry William Neetman, an artisan of Pretoria West, is claiming £100 damages from James Prentice, of Messrs. Prentice and Mackie, Building Contractors, Pretoria. It is alleged by plaintiff that on July 22 he was thrown violently from his motor-cycle owing to a collision with a Ralli cart and horse which was being negligently driven by defendant. The cycle was wrecked, plaintiff's clothing damaged, and since the date of the accident he had been obliged to hire a bicycle at the rate of 2s. 6d. per day. The case has been set down for hearing on September 19.

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PUBLIC PLANS APPROVED BY MUNICIPALITIES

Eight municipalities in the Transvaal Province during the month of June approved plans having an estimated value of £129,270, as against £130,985 for the month of May, showing a decrease of £1,715.

LIGHT AND ILLUMINATION

"The Illuminating Engineer" in making a few general recommendations on lighting points out that the eye needs a steady light, that glare is to be avoided and that the aim of distribution of light should be even illumination. The following are suggested as some simple rules of good lighting:—

Don't Work in a Flickering Light.—An unsteady, flickering illumination is extremely trying to the eyes.

Don't Expose the Eyes to Unshaded Lights in the Direct Range of Vision.—Glare from brilliant unscreened sources of light is prejudicial to eyesight, and prevents you from getting the best results from the illumination provided. Lamps should preferably be placed fairly high up in a room out of the direct range of light. If local lights, low down and near to the eyes of the worker, are used, they should be covered by a suitable opaque shade. Do not read facing the light.

Don't Judge Illumination by the Brightness of the Lamps.—Do not think because a lamp looks glaring and brilliant that it is giving you a good light. It may be merely giving too much light in the wrong place. On the other hand, a well-shaded lamp may look dim because it is well shaded, and may still be giving a first-class light to work by.

Avoid Excessive Contrasts.—If you use a table lamp to provide a strong local illumination, do not leave the rest of the room in complete darkness. Provide a moderate general illumination.

Use the right type of Globe, Shade, or Reflector.—Some forms of globes and reflectors are intended to diffuse the light evenly in all directions; others concentrate the light mainly in one particular direction. See that you get the kind of shade which the local conditions demand. Avoid very shallow reflectors, such as only cover part of the lamp.

Make sure that the Illumination is Sufficient.—Proper illumination should be provided on the spot where work is actually carried on. 2-3 foot-candles is usually enough to read by. More is needed for special fine work, and when the materials to be illuminated are dark in colour and reflect little light. Rooms with dark walls and ceiling require a greater illumination than those in which the surroundings are light in tint.

Keep Lamps, Globes, and Reflectors Clean.—Accumulations of dirt on lamps, chimneys, globes, etc., absorb and waste a great deal of light.

Make sure that Lamps are in the Right Position.—When selecting the positions for sources of light, consider carefully what purpose they are to serve, and remember the motto, "Light on the object, not in the eye." See that the light comes from the best direction, and that it does not give rise to inconvenient shadows.

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ON DIT

That the rate of progress which is being made in the erection of the Johannesburg Town Hall is most satisfactory, and

* * * *

That the elevations to President and Market Streets are looking particularly well.

* * * *

That the Government should promote a competition for the proposed Park Station on the same lines as the competition for the Governor-General's residence in the Cape.

* * * *

That Architect Howden, as President of the T.I.A., would do well to arrange for the reading of papers on professional matters on the same lines as those initiated by Architect Veale when the latter was President.

* * * *

That the recent decision of the Court against the executors of the late Mr. A. W. Hoskings is of importance to the profession.

* * * *

That the custom of some local Estate Agents in employing unqualified and incapable draughtsmen is rapidly increasing, and

* * * *

That the puzzle is how to stop it.

DETAILS

The Johannesburg Trades Hall Society are about to commence the erection of their new building. The site is in Rissik Street, between Kerk and Jeppe Streets, and the building will take the form of shops on the ground floor with three floors of offices above. The Architects are Messrs. Aburrow and Treeby.

* * * *

Congratulations to Messrs. Feltners and Gibson, who were successful in passing the special architectural examination held in June last at the School of Mines, Johannesburg.

* * * *

Congratulations to Mr. M. J. Harris, M.S.A., on the occasion of his marriage.

ARCHITECTURE A NATIONAL ASSET

We (the "Journal of the Society of Architects") have always held the opinion that good architecture has not only an educational and artistic value, but also a practical and commercial one, and the Society's proceedings and the public press have contained from time to time references to the Society's proposal for the establishment of a Ministry of Fine Arts in this country.

It is exceedingly gratifying to find "The Builder" taking up the matter in earnest, and we would draw our members' attention to the leading articles in that Journal for July 11th and 18th, in the course of which it is stated that every modern country save England has its Ministry of Fine Arts, and when treated with sympathy, understanding, and munificence, Art expands and grows; while punishment for its starvation lies in the degradation of the people.

In the case of France the State, seeing large profits and much glory in Art, does all it can to develop it. A well-organized Ministry, with sufficient funds and ample powers, exists for the encouragement of Art of all kinds. Money is invested in the products of living artists, irrespective of nationality, which are exhibited all over the country. It nurtures the plastic arts, spending money on the purchase of statues, monuments, and fountains for the decoration of open spaces and memorials, it attracts competitors from all parts, and gives titles, diplomas, medals, and prizes to those who excel.

They have created flourishing industries which employ large numbers of people, and the French designers supply patterns for the best work done in various industries throughout the world.

On the other hand, in England the artist is ignored officially and does not figure in the councils of the State or at public functions, and to all intents and purposes his influence is nil. While foreign countries honour our artists, we do not make any attempt at reciprocity, an attitude which meets with condemnation.

The great preponderance that France has obtained in matters of taste is, says the writer of the article, the result of years of systematic and sustained effort.

Directing the affairs of the Ministry of Fine Arts in France is an Under-Secretary of State, aided by a permanent staff of men in the various departmental bureaus, all of whom have the training and qualifications for their post.

The cost and central administration is about £27,000 per annum, which covers the cost of eight special administration bureaus, comprising the services of architects and builders attached to the national palaces, theatres, and historic monuments, the teaching of Art, the State manufactories and preservation of State furniture, inspection, costs of all kinds, and special missions.

Sèvres shows a profit of £2,000 a year after providing free of charge large pieces for the furnishing of public buildings and diplomatic presents; it is also a school of ceramic art for students of all nations, a chemical laboratory, and a museum of beauty and interest where are preserved moulds of the best porcelain of all countries.

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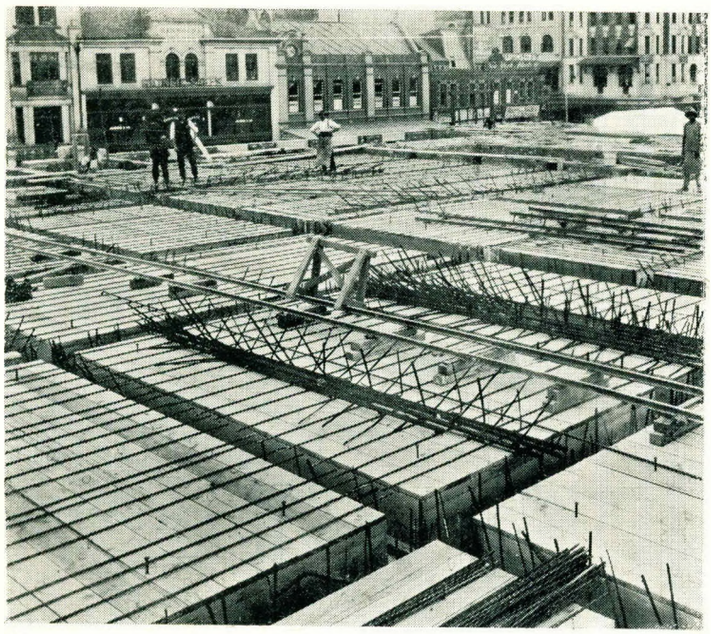
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At the Gobelins manufactory under the present director an innovation has been introduced, living artists of talent being commissioned to execute *motifs* for panels and screens, thus opening out a new source of profit and honour to modern painters, and developing the historic factories into schools of decorative art.

Another department deals with the upkeep of the national museums, which comprise the Louvre, Luxembourg, the Cluny, Versailles, and the Trianons, with the Palace and Museum of S. Germain and the Château of Maisons Laffitte, the total credit being £60,000 per annum, and out of this a sum is set apart for the purchase of works of art to embellish the museums, a sum which, augmented from other funds, is expected to reach about £40,000 a year.

These various Government grants in aid of art are supplemented by funds raised by many private societies, such as that entitled La Société Français des Amis des Arts, with some 400 members paying £4 a year; Les Amis du Louvre, with 3,000 members at 16s. a year; Les Amis du Luxembourg, which subscribes £1,000 a year; and les Amis de Versailles, £800 a year; and the Société Populaire des Beaux-Arts; and these societies buy works of living artists in the various exhibitions.

The upkeep of the historic monuments of the country costs in round figures £500,000 a year, and provides for the cost of the upkeep of historic buildings, and their preservation, and last, but not least, the cost of taking measures to preserve the amenities of the countryside from disfigurement.

As compared with similar French institutions our great museums are separately administered without correlation to a central authority, and are meagrely supported by the Government, there is no disposition to encourage the efforts of contemporary artists, as what money is spent on the acquisition of works of art is almost exclusively devoted to the purchase of old masterpieces in the acquisition of which this country is outdone by the better supported and financial institutions of America and of France, and the individual enterprise of American millionaires.

Considering the wealth of the country and the commercial importance of the systematic cultivation of art merely as a commercial asset, apart from its influence on the beauty and joy of life, the action of France in these matters is one which should be studied and made known to the public in order that such popular sentiment should be aroused as will make our authorities see that in the promotion of the interests of Art they are acting as the servants of the people they represent.

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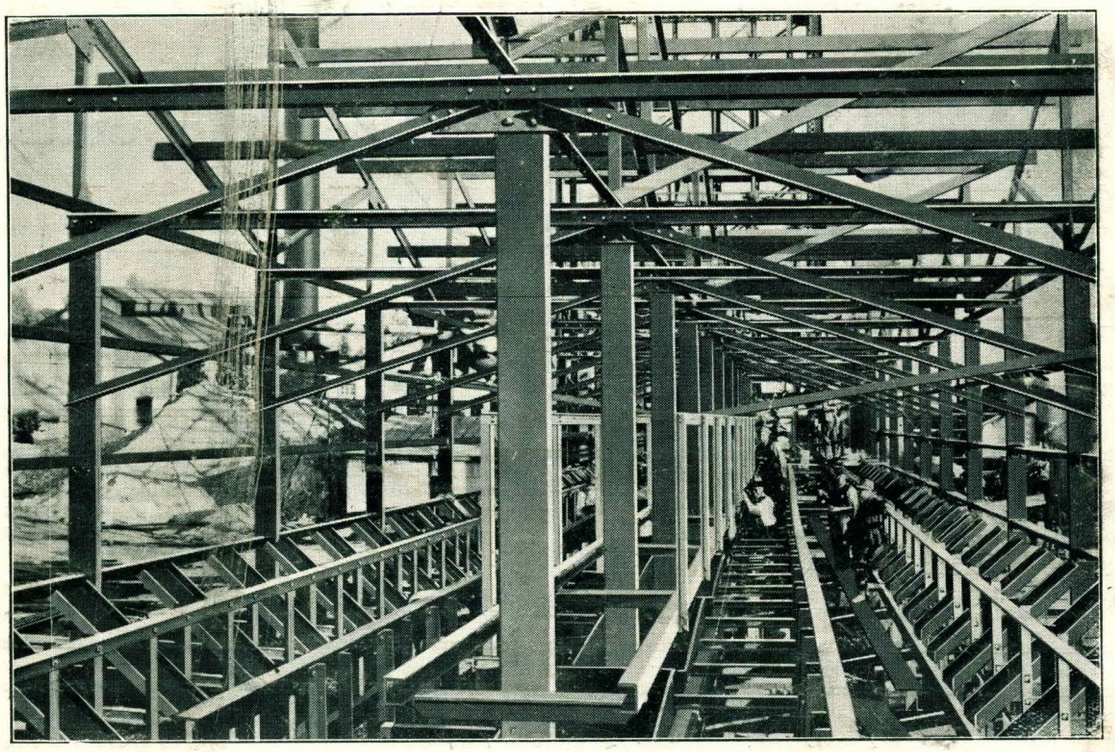
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