

### Typical Homes.

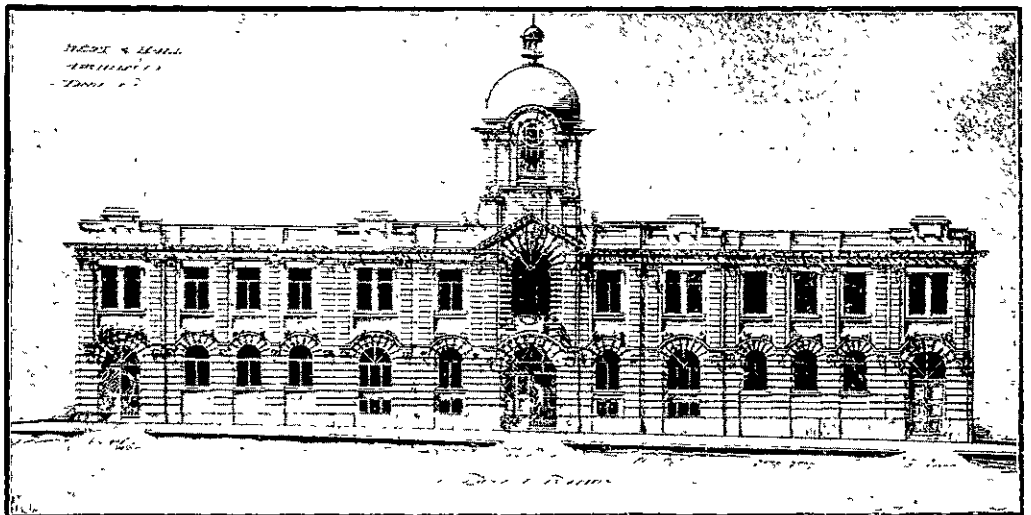
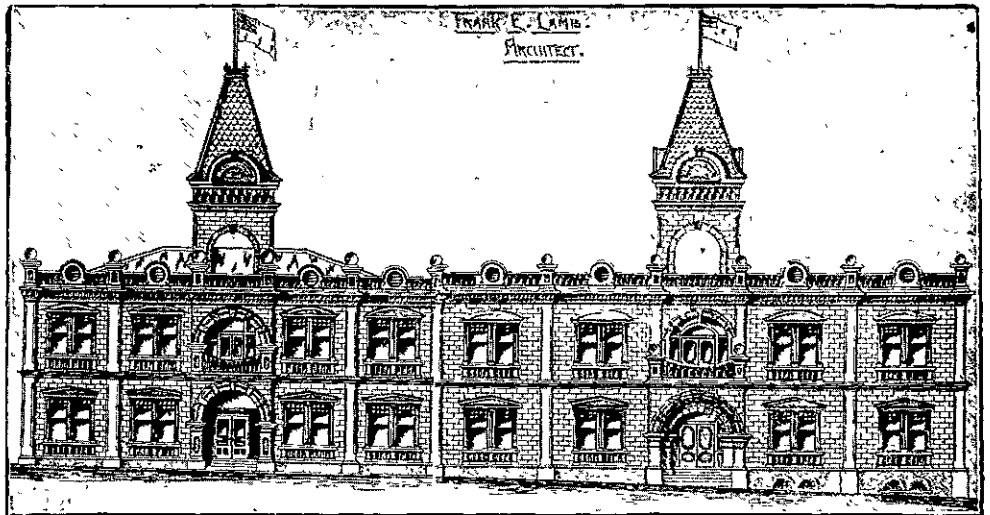
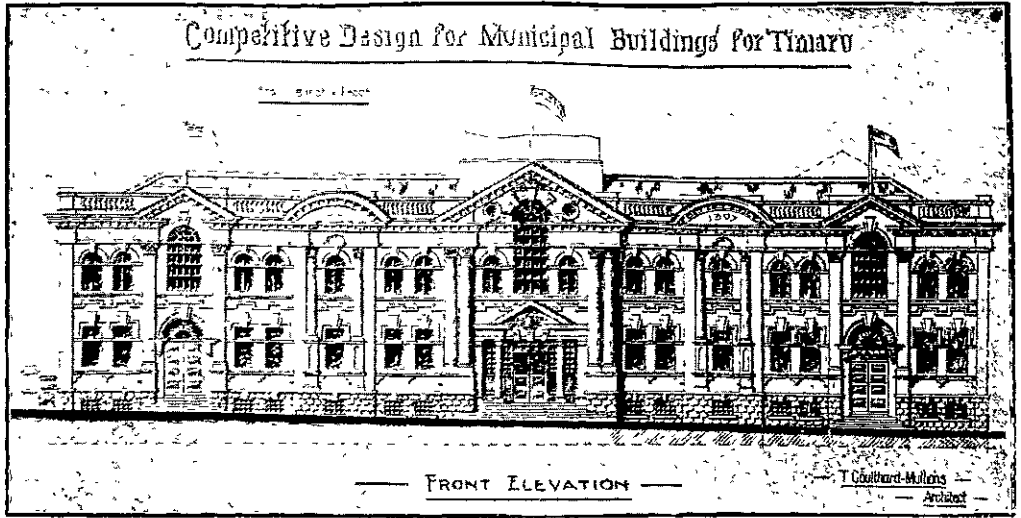
Just as Timaru is showing improvements in her civic buildings, so the residential portion of the community is establishing a claim to having some of the prettiest homes in Canterbury. The elevation and plan of Mr. McLaren's residence shown herewith will amply justify this opinion, as also will the elevation and plan of Mr. Gladstone Robinson's house. Both these residences were erected under the supervision of the architect, Mr. James S. Turnbull. (See page 341.)

### Odds and Ends.

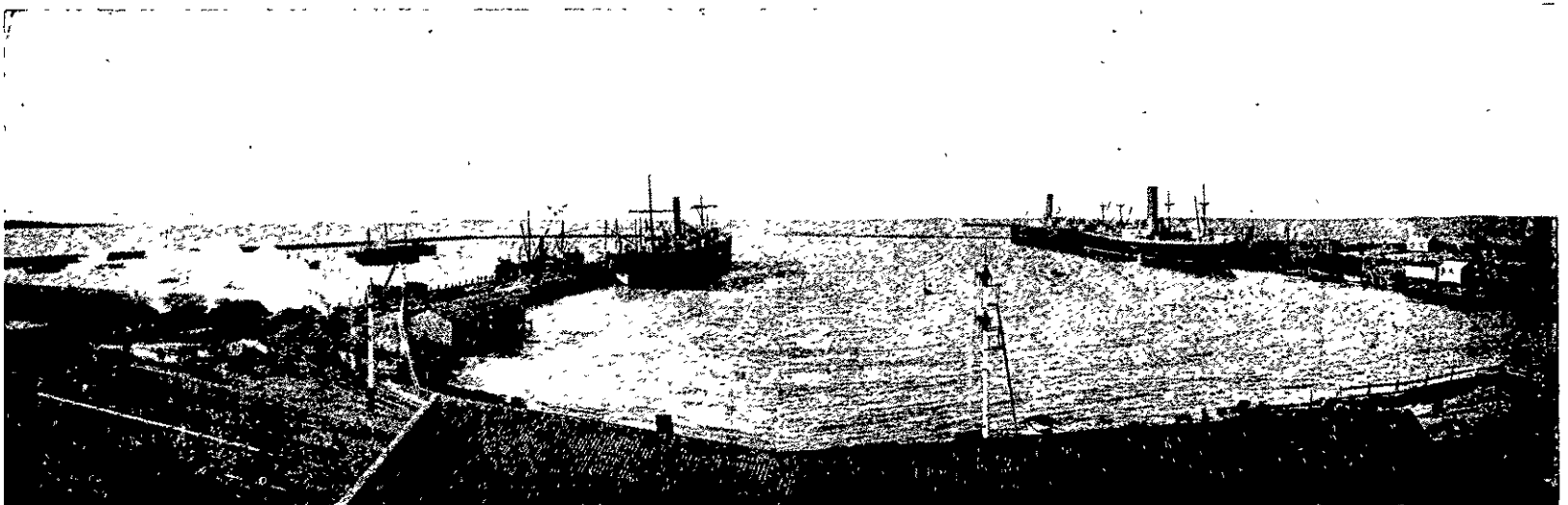
It has been for many years a hidden secret from builders how masons hundreds and thousands of years ago managed to make mortar which practically defied the ravages of time. In the ruins of old castles, churches, etc., one will frequently see an overhanging arch the other side of which has been battered down, perhaps by cannon balls years ago. This fragment seems to defy the laws of gravitation, owing to the excellent binding of the mortar. It is now stated that the Hungarian chemist, Brunn, has discovered the secret of this, having compounded a liquid chemical which renders certain kinds of matter proof against the effects of time. Professor Brunn asserts that it doubles the density of nearly every kind of stone and renders it waterproof. It imparts to all materials qualities which defy oxygen and rust.

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Some years ago M. Berthelot, the great French scientist, whose death occurred in March, made a remarkable speech at the banquet of the Syndical Chamber of Chemical Product Manufacturers, taking for his subject "The World in the Year 2000." Here is an extract:—When energy can be cheaply obtained, food can be made from carbon taken from carbonic acid, hydrogen taken from water, and nitrogen taken from the air. What work the vegetables have so far done science will soon be able to do better, and with far greater profusion and independently of seasons or evil microbes or insects. There will then be no passion to own land, beasts need not be bred for slaughter, man will be milder and more moral, and barren regions may be preferable to fertile as habitable places, because they will not be pestiferous from ages of manuring. The reign of chemistry will beautify the planet. There will under it be no need to disfigure it with geometrical works of the agriculturist, or with the grime of factories and chimneys. It will recover its verdure and flora. The earth, in fact, M. Berthelot added, "will be a vast pleasure garden, and the human race will live in peace and plenty."



TIMARU TOWN HALL—COMPETITIVE DESIGNS (THE UNSUCCESSFUL).



GENERAL VIEW OF TIMARU HARBOUR, 1907.