

has been accepted for the erection of the Paretai Co-operative Dairy Company's building at Paretai.

On July 18th Mr. Leslie D. Coombs, A.R.I.B.A., lectured before the Technological Branch of the Otago Institute on "The Architecture of the Renaissance," and on July 19th Mr. H. Mandeno read a paper before the Otago Branch, N.Z.I.A. on "Architectural Competitions." The paper was much appreciated and led to a lively discussion.

Mr. Vanes, of Messrs Salmon and Vanes, architects, anticipates having his plans ready this month so as to be able to call for tenders for the alterations and renovations of Trinity Methodist Church.

According to a reporter of the "Evening Star," Mr. Basil Hooper, the supervising architect for the new Anglican Cathedral says the work is progressing satisfactory. This is the biggest stone job going on in New Zealand at present, and the contractor Mr. W. McLellan is having a busy time. Oamaru stone is used mainly. The part being completed (about one third) will seat 1,000 people. The walls are up about 6 feet above the floor, but owing to the slope of the ground the floor at the Octagon front is well overhead.

The Dunedin "Star" understands that four promises have been made to subscribe to the fund now being raised for the completion of St. Margaret's Residential College building (Presbyterian) scheme—viz., one of £1000, two of £500, and one of £200.

WELLINGTON

At the Synod Annual Meeting which took place last month the question of a site for an Anglican Cathedral was brought up and a committee was appointed to report to next year's meeting on the question of the ultimate site for the cathedral, and the best method of dealing with the Taranaki Street property.

Mr. Shirlcliffe said that the object was to hurry on the construction of the cathedral if possible. At the present rate it did not look as if the cathedral would be started for the next 40 or 50 years. At present the trust was in a more or less moribund condition. As the two acres in Taranaki Street were deteriorating in value they were only earning one and a half to two per cent. He did not know if the site was bought for the purpose of erecting a cathedral thereon, and there was bound to be a divergence of opinion as to where the structure should be erected. That was the primary question which had to be considered. The taxation on the unimproved value was very heavy, and the rentals they could hope to get would be far too small. In the event of Synod deciding that the cathedral should be erected elsewhere, it would be wise to consider the sale of the property and the investment of the proceeds at at least 5 per cent. This would give a much better return than at present. He wished that the committee should be given full power to investigate the present or any proposed site. The cost would not be heavy, and it would be a small price to pay for having the project thoroughly considered.

Mr. T. F. Martin expressed the opinion that the committee should be given power to obtain the views of an architect on the subject.

This suggestion was agreed to and Mr. Shirlcliffe said that at the rate of progress Wellington had made during the last twenty years there would be no sites available in fifty years' time except at a prohibitive price. If the site was fixed there would be a better chance of obtaining big donations. He was quite satisfied that funds would come in as soon as a start was made.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Messrs. Swan & Swan have in hand the plans for a new private hotel. The new building, which will have a 70ft. frontage to Plimmer's Steps, is to be of three stories, with a concrete promenade roof. The ground floor will be taken up by a large lounge, billiard and smoking rooms, and a dining-room to seat 100 persons, with kitchen accommodation, etc., in addition. The first and second floors will contain forty-five bedrooms, with several bathrooms and two large sitting-rooms. A feature will be that provision for escape in the event of fire will be made in each of the upstairs rooms, thus obviating the necessity for occupants to flock to some central place of escape, as is so often the case. The new building promises to be a plain and substantial one, and work will be commenced almost immediately.

The foundations for the new officers' mess building at Featherston have been put down, on a site opposite the camp gates. The building will be very much larger than the present one, which has been found to be quite inadequate.

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