

Logan & Caldwell Ltd. of Dunedin taking the form of two additional storeys and alterations to the interior to suit the requirements of the firm.

OTAGO.

The Dunedin City Council called for competitive designs for shelter conveniences and other buildings at St. Clair early this month. Mr. P. Y. Wales is Assessor.

Mr. Geo. Simpson, builder of this city, gave a paper before the Technological branch of the Otago Institute last month in which he dealt with various aspects of the war and its relation to the cost of building. "There will be a great boom in the building trade, not only here, but all over the world, after the war ceases" said the speaker. Mr. Simpson believes that people who are holding back in the expectation that building will be cheaper after the war are making a great mistake. His reason for so thinking is that the enormous amount of rebuilding required in such places as the North of France after the war will keep prices up. Then here we have largely stopped building during the past two years, and the same thing has happened in the Old Country, so that the moment the war stops there will be a vast amount of building work to be gone on with.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

New buildings are about to be erected in King Street, Palmerston North, for Messrs. Colliason & Cunningham Ltd. to drawings of Messrs. F. de J. Clere & Son, Reg. Architects.

WELLINGTON.

The question of a new building for the Technical School has again been raised at the Education Board's meeting last month. The Chairman, Mr. J. G. W. Aitken, said that if the Government did nothing in this direction the Board could not undertake the responsibility for technical education in Wellington. He further said that if the Government would go on with the construction of the building the City Council would give a donation of £10,000, and with a grant of £10,000 from the Government, a building could be erected which would satisfy the needs of Wellington for some time. Wellington had been very unfairly treated in regard to technical education in the past. Buildings had been erected in other smaller towns, as for instance, in Wanganui, which would almost satisfy the needs of Wellington. The Minister of Education (at a deputation meeting from the Board) was sympathetic to the movement, but could do nothing till the war was over—or at any rate till Mr. Massey and Sir Joseph Ward returned from England.

Experiments are being made by the Wellington Education Board with open-air class-rooms, and experience to date favours the extension of the scheme. Recently the board approved plans for an open-air class-room at Lansdowne School, near Masterton. The plans for this room embodied suggestions made as the result of experience at South Wellington. The dimensions of the room will be 30ft. by 24ft., with a full length corridor behind the room. The essential idea in the structure is that it can be opened to admit the free passage of air on three sides in fair weather, but that when the weather is too boisterous to permit of work being carried on under these conditions the room can be closed in. No provision is made, however, for artificial heating. One side of the room consists of French windows opening outwards, and the other two sides of horizontal sliding windows, all of which can be opened or shut at will. The one point to be emphasised concerning the use of these rooms is that both pupils and teachers must be warmly clad in cold weather. In Canada the rooms are used throughout the winter, and children are habituated to do without artificial heat even when snow is on the ground.

A letter was received from the Department, asking the Board to forward approved plans for types of school buildings. The chairman said that this was the letter that had roused the ire of the Auckland and Dunedin Boards.

Mr. Kebbell said that the Department might long ago have saved the boards hundreds of pounds by supplying plans prepared by the Department's own architect for schools of various sizes.

Later, in committee, the board decided to recommend the Education Department to call a conference of boards' architects, with a view of determining standard plans for schools to suit New Zealand conditions.

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