

Building Notes.

AUCKLAND.

Last month the foundation stone of the new Y.W.C.A. was laid by Her Excellency the Countess of Liverpool. This building, which is to the designs of Messrs Hoggard and Prouse and W. H. Guamer, A.R.I.B.A., of Wellington and Auckland, is to cost complete with land, furnishings, etc., £22,000. It will have a three-storey frontage and five storeys in the rear. The difficulty of procuring steel has caused a great deal of delay, but that is now overcome.

The building itself will be of steel and ferro-concrete, and will contain, among other important features, a lecture hall, with seating capacity for 250. There will also be a cafeteria, where the girls will be able to obtain meals, while on the flat roof there will be a full-size tennis court.

The building will contain only the administrative offices, social and club rooms. The question of hostel accommodation was carefully considered by the board of directors, but it was decided that the better plan was to keep the two departments separate, so that the hostel in Park Avenue will still be maintained.

The lease of the vacant section of land in Quay Street, lying immediately to the rear of Edean's Buildings, has been purchased from the Devonport Steam Ferry Company by the Huddart-Parker and Company Proprietary, Ltd. The area in question is one of the Harbour Board leaseholds, and the late holders acquired the lease of it from the board when it was first offered. Huddart-Parker and Co. intend to erect on the section a four or five storeyed building, the plans for which will shortly be put in hand. A portion of the new building will be utilised by the company as offices, and the remainder will be let to tenants. It is understood that the lease has about forty years to run.

The new Children's Hospital which is progressing well, will, when completed be a two-storeyed building of brick. The brickwork itself is now practically completed, also all the reinforced concrete flooring and balconies, and the roof timbers are now being prepared for their slate covering. The external plastering has been finished, the colour of the walls being grey at the base and dark red in the upper portion. A considerable amount of carpentry work has also been done, and the hot-water radiators and other apparatus, as well as bathroom and lavatory fittings, have arrived from England.

As has been the case with many other buildings now in course of erection, the work of erection has been delayed on account of the difficulty of obtaining the steel for structural work, also the pressed facing bricks, but practically all the material has now come to hand, and further difficulty is not anticipated.

Though building operations in the city of Auckland are somewhat restricted at present, they are still extensive. During the past two years 3,023 permits have been issued the declared value of the buildings being £563,069.

CHRISTCHURCH.

The mayor, Mr. H. Holland at his installation address made reference to the condition of the building trade during the past year. He said that the war had not made a great difference to building operations in Christchurch, and that 285 building permits had been issued, representing buildings valued at £162,696, as compared with 307 permits for buildings, valued at £160,619, the previous year.

The question of more accommodation for the City Council's officials came up for discussion again last month when the extension of the present building was proposed. It appears that the question of whether the building should extend towards the river or sideways depends upon obtaining permission from the Government to build on its ground, which permission was refused last time it was applied for.

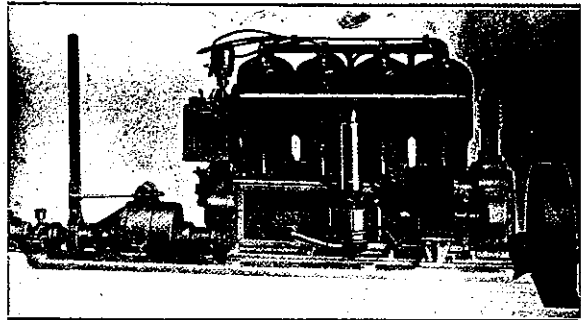
Some time ago this paper illustrated the winning designs in a competition inaugurated by the Christchurch Beautifying Association, and won by Messrs Hart and Reese of that city for an Improvement Scheme for the Cathedral Square. At a recent meeting of the above society the matter was drawn attention to, and the fact that nothing further had been done by the Tramways Board or the City Council who hold the winning designs for consideration.

The Christchurch Technical College is suffering from the same complaint as the Wellington i.e. lack of proper accommodation. The special committee appointed to consider the

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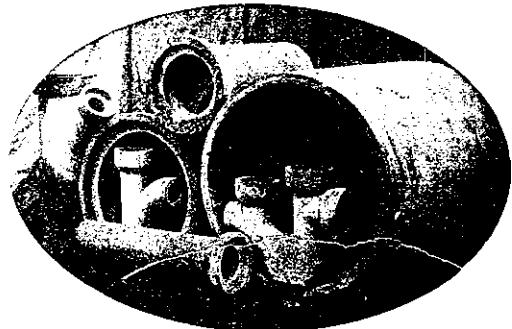
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