

the city boundary. Another concrete work the Council have in hand is the paving of Quay Street.

The new Presbyterian church, which is being erected at the corner of Mount Eden Road and Windmill Road, is expected to be ready for opening shortly. The structure itself, which is of ferro-concrete, with a tiled roof, is already complete, and good progress is being made with the internal fittings. The church will be capable of seating about 300 persons.

It was decided at a recent meeting of the Auckland College Council to appoint two lecturers in architecture at the University, one to take the mechanical and the other the artistic side of the subject.

The erection of the Epsom Girls' Grammar School has now been completed. The building, erected to relieve the congestion at the Girls' Grammar School, in Howe Street, contains four class rooms, a well-equipped laboratory, and cloak-room. Adjoining the main building are the staff quarters, containing the teachers' rooms and two class rooms.

The erection of No. 4 unit of the Tokanui Mental Hospital, near Kihikihi, is now going forward, the foundations being completed. The Tokanui Mental Hospital scheme provides for extra accommodation being built as need arises, and No. 4 unit will provide for about fifty patients. Each unit is self-contained, while the central building provides a common dining-room. Owing to the scarcity of local carpenters, several have gone from Auckland to carry on the work, which is expected to take about nine months.

A proposed city by-law, which provided that no new building should be occupied until a certificate is obtained from the city engineer, gave rise to some discussion at a recent meeting of the City Council. Mr. G. Baildon said that builders and owners were subject already to inspections, not only by the architects, but also by building, scaffolding, sanitary and labour inspectors, and he thought the proposed additional regulation was carrying matters to an unnecessary length. Mr. P. McElwain characterised the proposal as "most absurd." It was agreed to delete the clause.

The timber industry along the Main Trunk is reported to be slackening down somewhat, says the Auckland "Star." The conscription of men has reduced the number of builders very considerably, and the scarcity of tradesmen, combined

with the heavy increases in building material, has had the effect in causing moneyed men to slow down in the building of houses for speculative purposes. The mills have been very active during the past year owing to erection of new freezing works, and big extensions to others, including Taihape and Feilding. The only new works in course of erection now are those being constructed at Kakariki, near Marton, for the Wellington Meat Export Company. Under the circumstances, therefore, a reduced output is forecasted.

#### CHRISTCHURCH.

During December the following permits were issued:—Central Ward (inner) 3, value £2750; (outer) 3, value £1950; St. Albans 13, value £5300; Linwood 3, value £1350; Sydenham 5, value £2250; Richmond 4, value £900. Total 31 permits, value £14,500.

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