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To Our Advertisers:—All copy for advertising matter must be in our hands by the 10th of the month preceding publication, otherwise no responsibility with regard to insertion will be undertaken.

The Editor will at all times be glad to receive Illustrated Articles on subjects of interest for consideration, provided the articles are short and to the point, and the facts authentic.

Should subscribers continue to receive copies of this journal after expiry of current year, it will be accepted as an intimation that they are desirous of subscribing for a further period of twelve months.

In case of change of address, or irregularity of this paper's delivery, subscribers should send immediate notice.

Publisher's Announcements.

Our 64th Competition.

We offer a prize of £1 ls. for the design adjudged to be the best for

A Six-Roomed House

with ground and first floor to be built on a flat suburban section with 150 feet frontage to a road running along its southern side. The materials to be used for outside walls to any of the following:—Entirely brick; Brick covered with plaster or finished in any suitable manner; Brick plastered (rough or smooth) with quoins or facings of brick; Concrete plastered or finished in any other suitable manner; Concrete and brick combined. Hanging tiles or slates may be used in the gables or elsewhere. Partitions to be shown 6 inches thick. Roof to be covered with tiles or slates. The rooms, etc., to be approximately of the areas given below. Heights of ground floor to be 10 feet for main rooms, for first floor they are not to be less than 9 feet over half their area.

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Mr. F. de J. Clere, F.R.I.B.A., of Wellington, has kindly set this subject.

Designs must be sent in finished as above, under a non-de-plume addressed to "Progress," 8 Farish Street, Wellington, and marked clearly "Sixty-fourth Competition" on outside with a covering letter giving competitor's name, and address of employer. Designs to be sent in by July 21st.

Our 65th Competition.

We offer a prize of £1 ls. 0d. (together with an additional prize of £1 ls. 0d. kindly donated by the judge), and a second prize of 10s. 6d. for the design adjudged to be the best for a

City Office Block.

It is proposed to erect a block of shops and offices on a section 120 ft. deep by 30 ft. frontage (centre to centre of party walls) with a frontage to a main street and back street. The site is bound by two party walls, two storeys high, 14 ft. and 12 ft. respectively, with 18 ft. and 14 ft. brickwork. The adjoining buildings being old it must be assumed that the foundations will not carry the additional loadings; and further, as it is not possible to treat with the adjoining owners, the party-walls cannot be removed, but permission is given to cut into the party walls to the centre line at intervals.

The site is on reclaimed land 20 ft. deep to the rock and high water 5 ft. from the street line, the nature of the borings indicates that digging to foundation bases may be resorted to.

Requirements.—Shops facing each street with separate lav accommodation, 4 upper floors in series of offices with lav accommodation on each floor. Direct natural lighting and ventilation must be given to each office. The site being limited in width, the owner requires full use made between the party walls.

Drawings required.—Details of construction of foundations to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch scale. Details of storing, etc., as requisite to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch scale. Plans of ground and first floor together with longitudinal and cross sections to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch scale.

Mr. B. C. Chilwell, A.R.I.B.A. of Auckland, has kindly set this subject and will adjudicate.

Designs must be sent in finished as above, under a non-de-plume addressed to "Progress," 8 Farish Street, Wellington, and marked clearly "Sixty-fifth Competition" on outside with a covering letter giving competitor's name, and address of employer. Designs to be sent in by Sept. 21st.

Conditions of "Progress" Competitions

The Editor reserves the right of publishing any or all the designs submitted, and while every care will be taken of drawings, no responsibility is accepted should any loss or damage be sustained. Those desiring their designs returned must send postage to cover cost of same. No award will be made unless at least three designs are sent in for any one competition. Unless otherwise stated drawings are to be in black and white only.

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"N.Z. Building Progress" is posted each month through the G.P.O. at Wellington. If any subscriber should not get his copy, another will be sent him if we are notified in good time. The paper is supplied from year to year only, and if subscribers continue to receive the paper after expiry of the current year, we shall accept it as an intimation of their desire to continue for another twelve months. We undertake to supply the paper for such further term. Notice of discontinuance must be sent to the Manager, 8, Farish Street, Wellington in writing, as no Agent has authority to receive notice of discontinuance on our behalf. The subscription is 8/6 per annum. A discount of 1/- will be allowed off this amount if subscription is paid in advance.

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WELLINGTON, AUCKLAND, CHRISTCHURCH, AND DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND, JULY, 1918.

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Editorial Comment

Australian Town-Planning Conference.

New Zealand is to be represented at the second Australian Town Planning congress opening at Brisbane on July 31st, by Mr. S. Hurst Seager, of Christchurch, whose visit to Australia is the outcome of the strong desire of New Zealand town planners that the Dominion should not lag in this important movement. All the States of Australia recognise the value of town planning, and the various governments actively assist in ensuring the success of these valuable conferences. This year's gathering is being organised by the Queensland Government, in conjunction with the other State governments, and the New Zealand Government is playing a modest part in subsidising the expenses of our delegate, and forwarding a small exhibit from the Labour Department illustrative of the workers' dwellings provided with State assistance. Before Mr. Seager left Wellington, he was given a heartening send-off by a crowded gathering at the offices of the Greater Wellington Town Wellington and Ratepayers' Association, the Institute of Architects, and the Engineers' and Surveyors' Institute. The guest read a paper on the Hon. G. W. Russell's Town Planning Bill which will be dealt with at the Brisbane conference. Mr. Seager while expressing the indebtedness of town planners to the Minister for putting into print what might be called the skeleton of a measure, did not hesitate to criticise it, and asked for the opinions of those present. There was a good discussion, but as it was impossible to cover the subject in an afternoon, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Ferguson, chairman of the National Efficiency Board, that the organisations represented at the meeting should elect a committee of two members from each, to make suggestions regarding the Bill, for consideration upon Mr. Seager's return, when he will report on the Australian conference. Thus a good expression of opinion on the Bill, from authoritative quarters, will be forthcoming, and it will be greatly to the benefit of the measure.

The Building Slump.

A report was recently cabled from Sydney showing that there had been a slump last year in building operations. It was subsequently questioned by a well known builder, who made a comparison in expenditure, but the fact remains, that if proper allowance is made for the increased cost of building, there has been a slump in building activities in New South Wales, and the same unfortunate position prevails in New Zealand. The mainstay of building in normal times is the provision of dwellings. There are fortunate people who can provide themselves with new houses, regardless of the commercial side of the proposition. These owners have gone on, to a limited extent, in spite of the disadvantages occasioned by the war, but building dwellings as a commercial proposition is quite out of the question in New Zealand to-day, though the demand for dwellings in such centres as Wellington is absolutely unsatisfied. If private enterprise cannot do it, the State or the municipality must come into the business, for dwellings are a necessity, and the lack of them at reasonable rents constitutes a serious handicap to industrial concerns employing large bodies of labour. We are emphatically of opinion that the municipalities of New Zealand have here an opening for their enterprise which will bring enormous benefit to the people. They have ample power to undertake housing schemes, but it is spread over several statutes, and requires some research to discover the full powers. By turning up various amendments of the Municipal Corporations Act, and the Housing Act, it will be found that municipalities have power to borrow for the purpose of providing houses for their residents. These can be built either as simple renting propositions, or for sale on time payments. Auckland a year or so ago, decided to go in for some such scheme, and advertised for competitive plans, which were submitted. We understand that the architects were able to submit plans for good dwellings, of nice appearance, which were capable of being built at a reasonable cost, and could therefore be let at low rentals, and bought by the workingman tenants under an easy system of payments.

The War or the Ratepayer

Possibly the war is the cause of delay in carrying out this excellent scheme, but it is more than likely that the veto of the big ratepayer was responsible, for this influence is exercised most mysteriously in some of our cities. In Wellington, for instance, there is a Greater Wellington Town Planning and Municipal Association. It takes an interest in town planning, but its constitution is such that if a comprehensive municipal housing scheme came forward, the last body to give it official support would be this Association, which is first a ratepayers' protection league, and after that—a long way after we are afraid—a Town Planning Association. The leading spirits in this association are opposed to a betterment clause in any Town Planning Act. They are opposed to raising loans without the sanction of the ratepayers, who can be guaranteed to block any important money-spending scheme which is calculated to interfere with private profits from houses. Private enterprise has

given up the task of building rented dwellings, but the ratepayers of Wellington would have to be carried off their feet with campaigning before they would sanction a loan for municipal dwellings. So a state of stagnation prevails, though the need in Wellington is urgent. Wellingtonians are accustomed to see in every issue of their daily papers advertisements offering a bonus—sometimes as much as £10—to persons who will secure for the anxious advertiser a house to live in. The system is so ingrained that recently someone wrote to the press protesting against house-owners adopting it, by demanding a bonus for themselves before they would let their houses.

A Joint Responsibility

Municipal and State housebuilding is a well recognised responsibility in England, and is being taken up at present with renewed vigour. The necessity of properly housing the hundreds of thousands of war workers has been largely responsible for the revival of the housing question, and it is so general that all classes of workers will benefit. We can depend on the numerous housing and town planning associations in the Old Country to take full advantage of the tide of public opinion which is helping them so wonderfully, and we can only hope that a similar movement will arise here, as a result of the serious famine in houses in some parts of New Zealand, notably in Wellington. It is reported to be bad all over the North Island, so much so that railway workers, who are liable to be transferred when promoted, often refuse promotion if it means moving from the South to the North Island. We would like to give some facts showing what is being done in England at the moment. Bristol Council have adopted the scheme for building 2,000 houses in five garden suburbs, and have instructed the Committee to report on the probable cost of 8,000 additional houses. It is evident that the National Ministry is thoroughly alive to the situation and is closely co-operating with municipalities in a great public duty. The President of the Local Government Board, the Rt. Hon. W. Hayes Fisher recently announced that replies to recent official circulars indicated the probable need of 300,000 houses. He was able to announce that 900 local authorities had intimated their willingness to provide more than 150,000 houses. Those authorities added that something, but not much, might be expected from private enterprise. Mr. Hayes Fisher indicated that there was to be a kind of partnership in this matter between local authorities and the Government. The Treasury had agreed to find 75 per cent. of the estimated deficit, leaving 25 per cent. to be borne by the ratepayers—in any case not more than a penny rate. The local authorities had been informed that the Department would expect that there should not be more than 12 houses to every acre in an urban district, and not more than 8 in a rural district. We hope that the English example will stimulate New Zealand townplanners to a vigorous housing campaign. It has such a direct practical bearing on the people's welfare that the campaign would at once become popular. And popularity for an idea is the open sesame to the attention of New Zealand politicians.

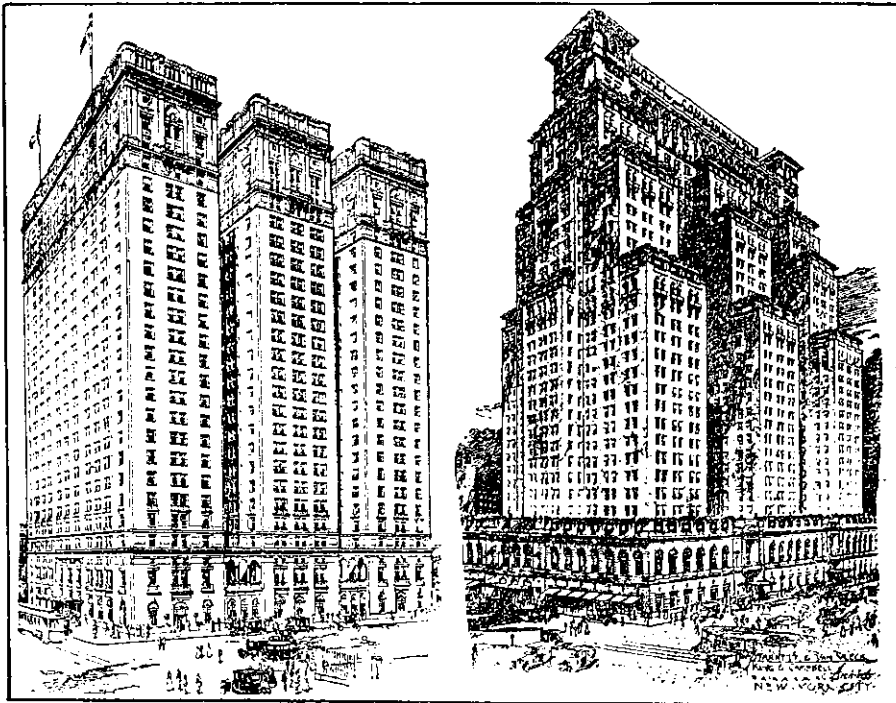
ARCHITECTURE and BUILDING

Effect of Bye-laws on Architecture

The very marked effect of bye-laws on the character of architecture, is well brought out by two perspective sketches for a New York hotel, showing the results of the new regulations recently passed on the recommendations of the Heights of Buildings Commission of New York. The bye-law under which the stepped treatment shown in the second illustration has been devised, limits the height of the build-

The Proposed Solar Salt Works at Christchurch

It is a bad look-out for the prospective industries in New Zealand when such a commodity as salt is ruled out by the Attorney General as being not an essential industry. Not long ago we published some details of a proposed salt works at New Brighton near Christchurch, and the project is now ready to be proceeded with. Application was of course, neces-



The effect of bye-laws on architecture is forcibly shown in the above. The drawing on the left shows the original plan of the Hotel Commonwealth, New York, and the one on the right the Hotel re-planned to meet the new Building Regulations.

ing, in the district where it was proposed to erect this hotel, to twice that of the street at the street line. The height of the building, however, may be increased beyond this by setting back the upper portion so as not to project beyond a line drawn from the centre of the street and passing through the limited height at the street line. It will be seen that the ordinance for limiting the height of such a building has actually the effect of apparently increasing it, at the same time tending very much less to block up the street, and also to provide the building itself with more light and air. The skyscraper is evidently by no means to be banished from New York under these new regulations.

sary to the government for permission to spend the necessary money, but apparently the industry is not to be established in New Zealand just yet, as the Attorney General has vetoed it as not being an essential industry.

We would be the last to say that money that should be noted for war purposes, should be used in any other way, but it seems to us that this country has now an opportunity that it may never have again of developing its own resources, and that the price of salt at the present time ought to be sufficient to encourage the Government to give permission to such industries as this one.

According to a correspondent in the *Christchurch Press*, salt is quoted at £16 to £20 a ton against the pre-war price of £3. The correspondent pertinently remarks:—"Is it wise of the Government in these abnormal times to force the producers to pay at least four times the intrinsic value of such a necessity as salt? At least 30 per cent. of the present price can be charged to freight. I would not like to suggest how much to war profits, so why should the Government wet-blanket a local industry which would eliminate both. Take two necessary items to the consumer, hoots and bacon, each now at nearly double pre-war retail prices. Four years ago 7d. worth of salt cured a hide, it now takes 4s. worth. It used to take 1s. value of salt to cure a bacon pig, now it requires about 3s. worth."

Alleged Slander

Auckland Architect's Action

The protracted slander action between Benjamin C. Chilwell, A.R.I.B.A., and Richard Webster reached a further stage at the Supreme Court on July 8th, when Mr. Justice Cooper heard argument on a motion by Mr. Haddow, for the plaintiff, to have the statement of claim amended. The action was first tried last August, before a judge and jury of twelve, the plaintiff claiming £500 in respect of each of three alleged slanders connected with the contract for the Grand Picture Theatre, the plaintiff being the architect and the defendant the clerk of works. The jury found for the defendant in respect to two of the alleged statements, and awarded the plaintiff one farthing damages in respect to the third. In February a new trial was ordered in respect of one cause of action, and Mr. Haddow moved in chambers last week to have the statement of claim amended to reduce the damages claimed from £500 to £49, stating that the object was to deprive the defendant of the right to a jury. At the hearing of the motion in banco his Honor commented on Mr. Haddow's frankness, and after hearing argument reserved his decision on the question whether the amendment was permissible. He also advised the parties to come to a settlement. Mr. Ostler appeared for the defendant.

An Hospital Architect

New Government Appointment Probable

The Hon. Mr. Russell, minister in charge of hospitals announced in Auckland recently that an inspector of hospitals would be appointed to look after the practical side of the management of hospitals in New Zealand, and also that a departmental architect would be appointed with a view to economising by means of centralising them under one head. The Minister stated that quite recently several thousands of pounds came before the department for work done by individual boards.

Town Planning

The Brisbane Conference

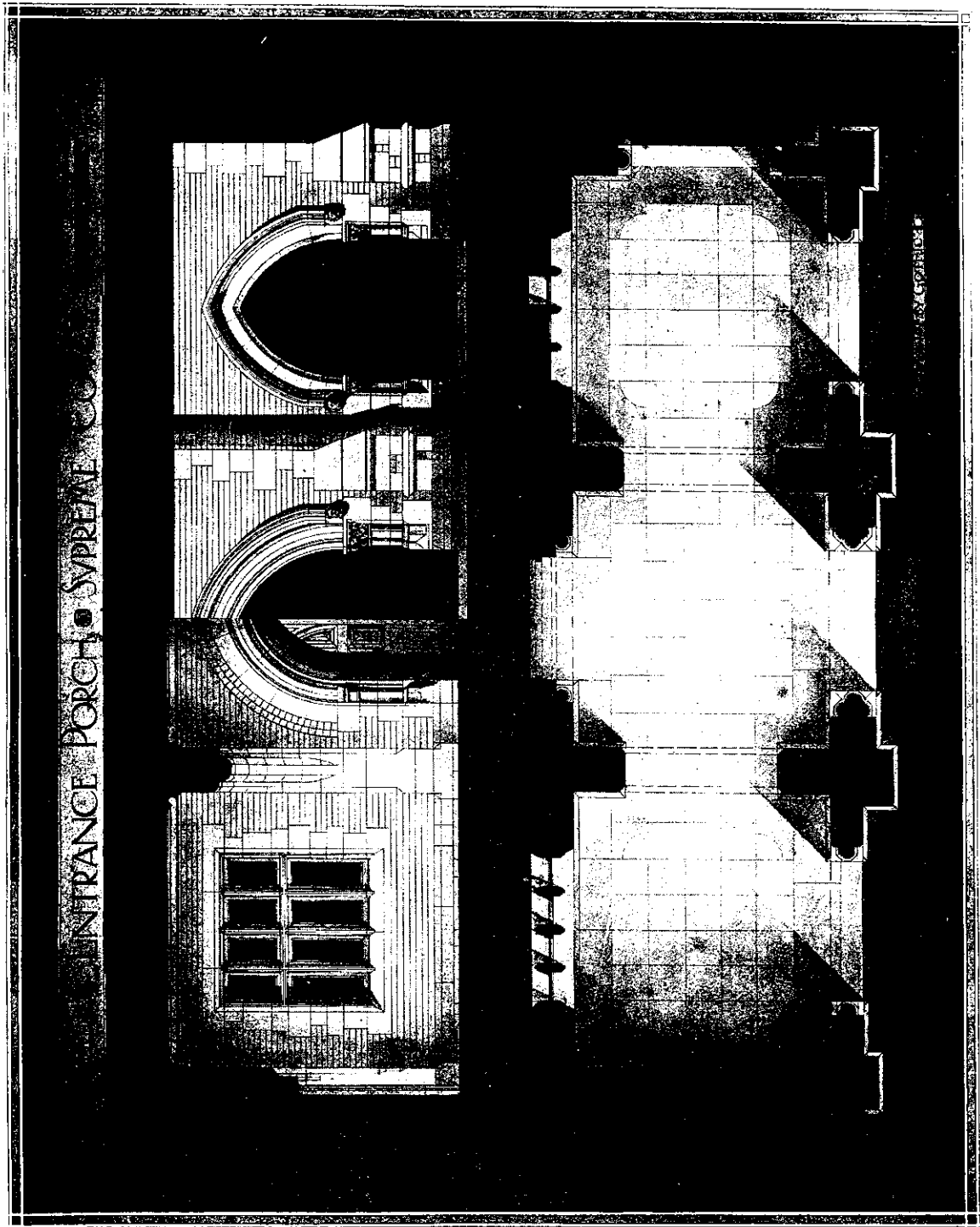
New Zealand is to be represented at the forthcoming conference in Brisbane by Mr. S. Hurst Seager, F.R.I.B.A., of Christchurch.

It will be remembered that in our last month's issue we reported the Hon. Mr. Russell's reply to a Wellington deputation from the Town Planning Association at which the Minister promised a small subsidy. The Wellington executive got into communication with the Town Planning Associations in different parts of the Dominion, and the Christchurch Beautifying Association, and these associations made contributions towards the expenses of the delegate. It was estimated that the total expenses would be £50, and the Minister promised to subsidise the amount raised by the associations pound for pound up to £25. Mr. S. Hurst Seager, of this city, was chosen as delegate by the Town Planning Associations, and will attend the conference. He was to have been the New Zealand delegate at the first Australian Town Planning Conference, held in Adelaide last year, but was unable to attend, as the Australian shipping strike was on at the time.

The Conference begins on July 31st, and will finish on August 6th.

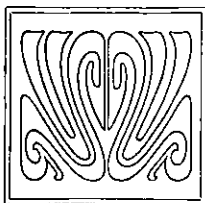
Mr. Hurst Seager wrote to the Minister urging that New Zealand should make an exhibit at the conference of workers' homes, the work done in connection with scenery preservation, the work of the Tourist Department, and also models of some of the public buildings of the Dominion. Mr. Hurst Seager pointed out to the Minister the opportunity afforded by the conference to bring New Zealand's attractions prominently before the large number of delegates representing all the Australian States who will be present; and has offered to superintend the arrangement of the exhibit. He also suggested that the Minister might arrange to forward about fifty copies of the Dominion's Town Planning Act, and, if thought fit, he could arrange for a discussion of the Act, as the discussion of its provisions would prove of great value. Mr. Hurst Seager is looking forward to the opportunity which will be afforded at the conference to discuss matters connected with the establishment of village settlements for returned soldiers—a subject to which he has given considerable thought and attention, some details of which have been published in these pages.

The Wellington City Council have received a letter from the Queensland Home Secretary's Department requesting the council to send views. The town clerk, (Mr. J. R. Palmer), is having prepared a series of views of different places in the city which may be found of interest to those attending the conference and visitors to the exhibition. Among the photographic views are those of Day's Bay, (ten years ago and now), Oriental Bay (before and after the erection of the retaining wall), Courtenay Place, the Motor Dam at the Wainui waterworks, and general views of the city at different periods of its existence. The photographs will each be 23 inches by 17 inches, and should later on be a valuable addition to the city's photographic data.



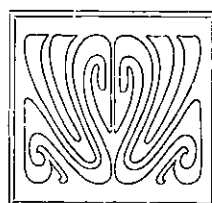
AUCKLAND ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Measured Drawing (1st Mention). By Nigel Walnutt.



AMIENS NEXT!

Will It Go the Way of Reims?



As the ravaging horde nears Amiens, now within big-gun range, we remember Reims. When Amiens falls, we think of Ypres. If the Germans press westward of the land which has already felt their heavy hand, what new impoverishment awaits the world? Has not France suffered enough? "The smoking ruins that these barbarians have left behind them will be for France and Belgium an eternal remembrance," says Mr. Francis Hoffkine Snow, in "Arts and Decoration" (New York). This writer

ual impotence of dishonoured Germany." Mr. Snow writes:

"From the day of the criminal invasion of Belgium by Germany, and the savage destruction of Tervuerne, Malines, Louvain, Ypres, and Arras, the Germans (name execrable for all eternity, like the name of Nero, Judas, Attila, and other blood-guilty monsters of the past) have systematically applied



THE CATHEDRAL AT REIMS

now within range of the Huns' big guns, and may be made the object of German spite, if the city itself holds out against assaults

attempts to find some consolation even in the state of this despoiled country. Fair as were these sections of western Europe before, "they lacked the glorious and imposing ruins of the past; the Parthenons and Pastums; the Trajan forums." Now that they have them even at such a fearful cost, Mr. Snow would have France and Belgium "preserve them proudly, those treasure-symbols of an incredibly ferocious scourge." He feels that it would be sacrilege to touch those piles of crumbling stone, for "they are lamps eternally aflame," proclaiming "the undying splendour of Latin civilization; the spirit-



REIMS' WOUNDS GLORIFIED

An etching by Louis Orr, which shows that even the crumbling shell of Reims Cathedral may be amenable to art.

their cannon to the essential ruthlessness of warfare. Implacable has been their method, approved by their sinister Emperor and by all the hypocritically fervent and servile band whose self-styled designation as the 'Ninety-three Intellectuals' is an insult to Intellectuality. Denouncing the modern idealistic conception of the knightly elements of war as mere theoretic sophism, they have with shameless cynicism removed the mask and revealed to us the grinning face of the naked Brute beneath who wears the

spiked and brazen helmet of the Teuton horde. . . .

"In no more flagrant way could the brutishness of the German military machine be demonstrated than by a study of its method of operation in the destruction of the art heritage of its adversaries. Hatred of human for human may be understood; if in the scarlet light of the Hymn of Hate, deplored. But a hatred that takes as its object the shimmering loveliness of art is the hatred of a gorilla for all that humans hold divine.

"Mr. Whitney Warren, of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, after a dolorous pilgrimage through the martyred towns of Belgium and northern France, has shown irrefutably (his statements have been confirmed both by General Foch and by General Haig) that the destruction of Ypres was useless from any military point of view. The city had absolutely no strategic importance. The vast residential district was wrecked and gutted; the marvellous Halle des Drapiers, one of the treasures of Flemish-Gothic art, a sublime monument in its proportions and its artistic and historic memories, is now a ruin; the Ypres cathedral, so noble and majestic, is nothing but a shell; the museum, filled with priceless relics of the past, will delight the heart of the antiquarian and the naively admiring populace no more.

"Arras was left by the Germans a black and writhing skeleton. They occupied it but for four days, and destroyed it systematically as they departed. The charming place, which dates back to the time of the Spanish occupation, the town-hall with its beautiful belfry, are what the Germans themselves in their barbarous Teuton Latin, would call "kaput." The work of generations, whose inspiration was love, and which was guarded reverently from the vicissitude of time, was in a few short hours wantonly annihilated."

Mr. Snow passes in swift review that chain of small villages nestled in Argonne, La Meurthe, Aisne, and the Vosges which became "the victims of a mere geographical misfortune; the Germans, driven behind them, destroyed them—merely en passant." Continuing:

"France is of a sufficient area; she can endure her affliction. But poor little Belgium—what has she left?

"In the first days of August, 1914, she passed through her supreme moment, her superbly agonising passion. In those few days she went through all the gamut of human emotion; she loved, hated, cried, desired, sang, wept, and suffered intensely. . . .

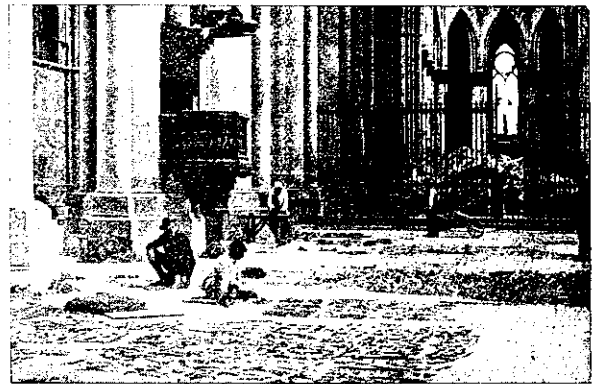
"Ah, her destroyed towns, her ravaged plains, her whole land turned into a battle-field!

"One loves France as one loves one's own country, but Belgium leaves her ineffaceable imprint upon the spirit. Through all those peaceful little Belgian towns I have fared afoot. Often, footsore and weary, I have come into them at twilight, in which the stagnant waters of the gray canals took on deep, enigmatic tints and ambiguous shadows. The physiognomy of towns always holds a fascination to the psychological traveller, but Belgian towns make a soul appeal.

"Massacre, pillage, and incendiarism have swept over these peaceful little towns and hamlets like a blight and stripped them bare. Liège opened up all the old classical roads to the Teuton rage; the route of the Meuse and the Sambre; the most difficult ways of the Ardennes. . . .

"Visé lies broken. Ypres, seared and misshapen, has passed through the fire; her cathedral is the haunted house of a black tragedy. Loo has lost her ancient and beloved church. Dixmude may dream no more in the close of her venerable cloister. Nieuport will never worship more in the town-cathedral; her mourning citizens will never pass again across the old, old bridge. Termonde, like a vestal virgin, weeps at her defilement. . . . And Louvain. . . .

"Louvain. . . the little country's seat of learning. . . . Louvain, the world's ideal study-place, with its mild climate, its spacious garden-parks, its solitary promenades for quiet scholars, its silent streets, made for deep, abstract meditations—*nasquam studietur quietius*, wrote Erasmus. . . .



THE CATHEDRAL AT REIMS

Piecing together the window fragments of the precious glass of the thirteenth century salvaged from the debris, in the hope of restoring some of the beauty of the shell-torn windows

"All the superb collections of Louvain have been given to the flames. A fleshless skeleton she stands. Her old Flemish tapestry has been consumed to ashes; her cathedral is a tottering pile; her University is a shapeless mass of calcinated brick and stone.

"No utterance of the whole measureless catastrophe could be more poignantly pathetic than the simple statement of the old librarian of Louvain: "I have seen the ruins of Louvain; I have watched slowly consuming the treasures accumulated by centuries of fruitful toil and patient research."

"The German crime of crimes will always remain the Reims cathedral," cries Mr. Snow, and it is this which makes us tremble for Amiens. He says of Reims:

"Sublime and sinister it stands, a gibbet on which the German Henker has hung the soul of France.

"Shell-torn and set in flames, its roof has disappeared. Its statues have fallen. Its rosaces are black and empty eyes. Its transepts, choirs, apsis, and framework are burned; the iron is warped and twisted. Some shreds of its priceless sculpture are

still clinging to their ruined home, but the smiles of the stone virgins and winged angels; the meditations of grave, bearded apostles; the grimaces of Gothic gargoyles grotesquely contorted, now hang over dark and fathomless abysses. . . .

"The statues. . . . "So many grave and solemn statues. . . . To me they have always seemed to live with their own life. A still, mysterious life, this; the life of centuries. Are they mere insensate simulacra, those strange figures, those guards of honour, standing in quadruple, quintuple, decuple rows? Like beings resuscitated, they stand erect above the tombs of those in whose semblance they have been fashioned. Like spectres of stone they stand and gaze eternally. And in their stony eyes is some deep religious intensity; and on their stony lips I hear a whispering. . . . "We wait. . . . we wait. . . . The Event. . . . Who are ye that have so dared encroach upon our solitude? . . . Are we no more the silent guardians of the night? Who has robbed us of our darknesses? . . . And what have ye done with those of us whose place is vacant now? . . . But we who are left, we watch and wait for some Event. . . . and our stony eyes will see it: our stony ears will hear the triumphant song of our avenger. . . ."

"They know, those silent, waiting statues of stone. . . . Like the sagittary of Reims and the guardians of shadow aligned under the ogives of the porticos around the smiling Virgin, so to will the monstrous dream of Germany, conceived in a delirium of megalomania, be given to the flames. These 'blond beasts' have aimed not merely to destroy a people, but a civilization. Their barbaric malevolence has been complete. They have overturned the pillars of the temples; they have thrown down the holy images; they have committed the holy books to pagan fires; they have defiled the vestal virgins; they have razed the fertile plains; they have consumed the homes to ashes; they have poisoned the wells; they have driven off the cattle; and dragged old men and women, yea, even young children, away with into a state of Babylonian captivity. They have brought back upon a peaceful and progressive world the black, tragic times of Darius, of Xerxes, of Nebuchadnezzar. . . ."

"France and Belgium bleed from many wounds, and the recent flaming denial by the French of the obstinately repeated German charge that the Reims cathedral is being used for military purposes recalls one of them. . . . A sacred wound, this, like the awesome stigmata of the saints of the Légende Dorée or the cruel mutilations of the Martyrology. Heroically France and Belgium, twin sisters of Tragedy, endure the anachronistic warfare waged by the Teutonic barbarian.

"It is only when they speak of their wrecked towns and villages, of their ruined cathedrals, of their burned townhalls and museums that they lose their stern composure and weep the tears of bitterness irreparable. . . . In this project, at least, Germany has been but too successful: she wished to stab the French and Belgians to the heart, and she accomplished utterly her purpose. And the whole world will remember it; and Germany herself will never be allowed to forget it."

Johns v. Webster

Auckland Builder's Case

A motion by the defendants in the case of Messrs. Johns and Sons (Mr. Haddow), builders, against J. D. Webster and H. C. Tonks (Mr. Ostler), proprietors of the Grand Theatre, asking the Court to review the registrar's award of £416 8s. 6d., for costs, was heard at the Supreme Court, in Chambers, on July 9th, by Mr. Justice Cooper. Decision was reserved. Decision in respect to the original claim was given some time ago, the amount of £363 15s. 9d. being awarded to the plaintiffs, the costs to be taxed by the registrar. The costs awarded by the registrar amounted to £416 8s. 6d., in addition to which defendants were ordered to pay four-fifths of the referee's fee of about £90.

When the motion before the Court has been settled the protracted litigation between the owners and builders of the Grand Theatre will be concluded. When the action was first taken judgment was obtained by the plaintiffs by default, with costs, the amount involved totalling £492 5s. 3d. On defendants' application the case was reopened and a defence entered. After a lengthy hearing plaintiffs obtained judgment for £363 and costs, a total of over £850.

Our 64th Competition

A design has been received under the non-deplume "Wattle," but no covering letter has been received. Will the competitor send this information in to conform to the conditions, otherwise the drawing will be disqualified?

Personal

Mr. J. B. Mason, who has occupied the position of resident engineer to the Otago Harbour Board for many years, and who latterly has acted as the board's consulting engineer, has given six months' notice, as from July 1st, of his intention to terminate his engagement with the board. It is understood that Mr. Mason has received a five years lucrative engagement with a North Island public body, and the fact that he has no extended security of his position with the board has been one of the determining influences which has resulted in his decision to leave Dunedin, the city of his birth. As Mr. Mason's private work in Dunedin has assumed considerable proportions, he will maintain an office there.

"The fair defendant will be acquitted, of course?"

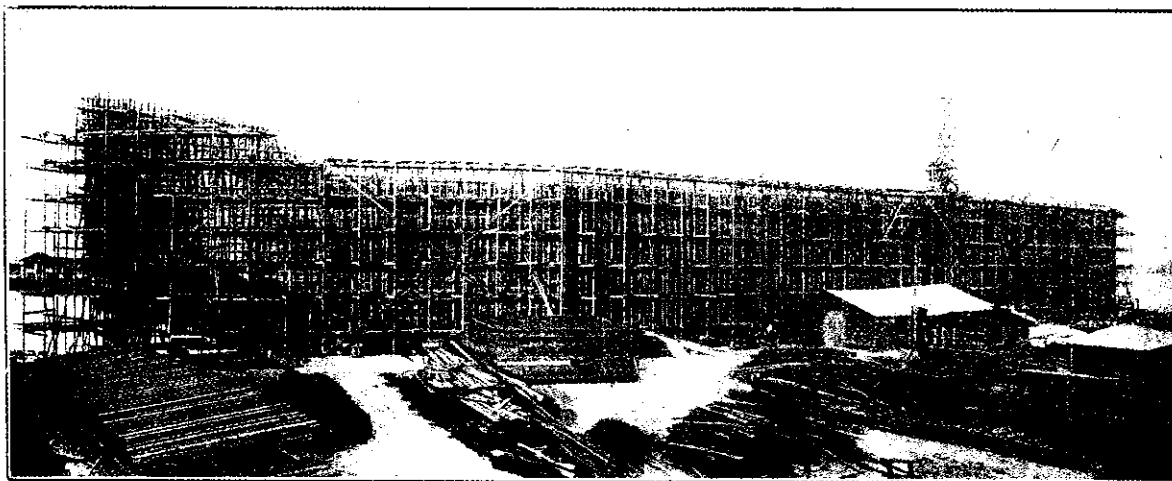
"I expect so," replied the prosecuting attorney. "As soon as she mounted the witness-stand and smiled at the jury, nine out of the twelve began to fumble with their neckties and slick down their hair."—"Birmingham Age-Herald."

THE CONCRETE SHIP.

Some Details of Recent Ships Built

The suggestion that the use of concrete in the building of ships may aid in solving the shipping problems of the Allies, lends interest to a compilation

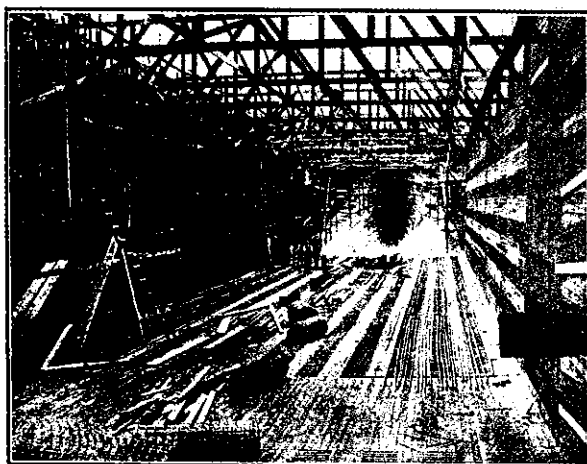
than a dozen leading countries, and that the United States is the larger producer of the materials used in this new form of shipbuilding. The type of ves-



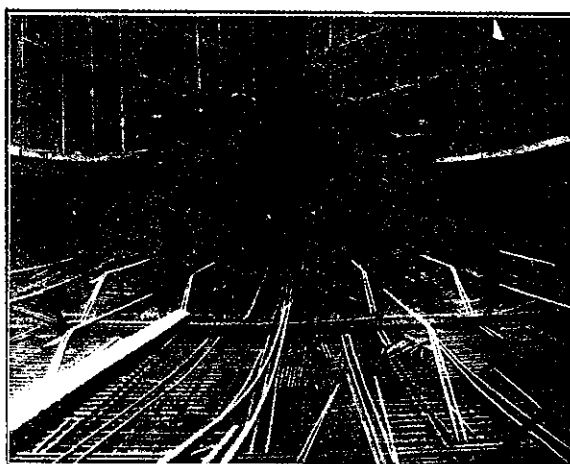
No, this is not a big building, but a general view of the 5000-ton Concrete Ship "Faith." The scaffolding required 400,000 ft. of timber

by the National City Bank of New York regarding the cement and concrete industries of United States of America, and of the world, and the progress made thus far in the building of concrete vessels there and

sels now being constructed from concrete ranges from the barge and floating dock up to the ocean steamer of several thousand ton capacity, and from the indications of the experiments thus far made,



Starting to lay the bottom steel of the big Concrete Ship



Steel Reinforcement of Prow in place

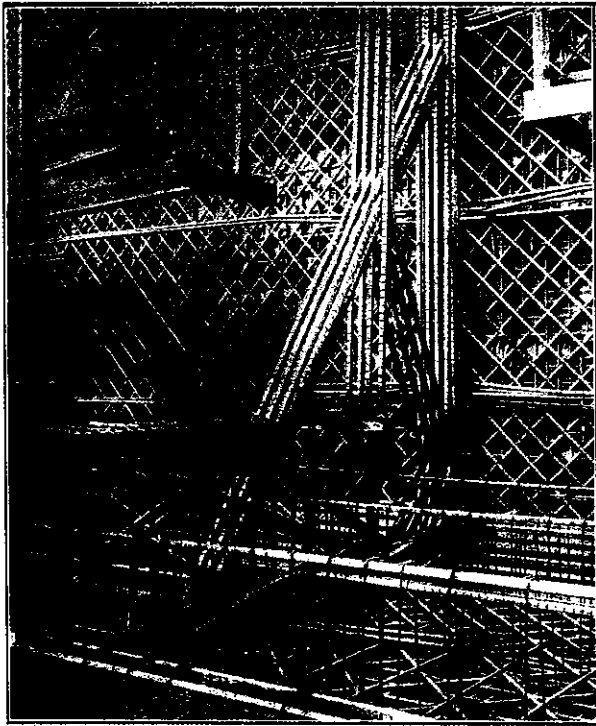
elsewhere. The statement issued by the bank shows that concrete made from Portland cement is now being used in the construction of vessels in more

the day is not far distant when the concrete ship will become a sturdy rival of both wooden and steel vessels.

Concrete made from Portland or other hydraulic cement, re-inforced with steel, is the chief material of which these ships are built. The keel and ribs of the vessel are of steel and quantities of wire mesh

which was subject to a very severe test under the stormy trail trip.

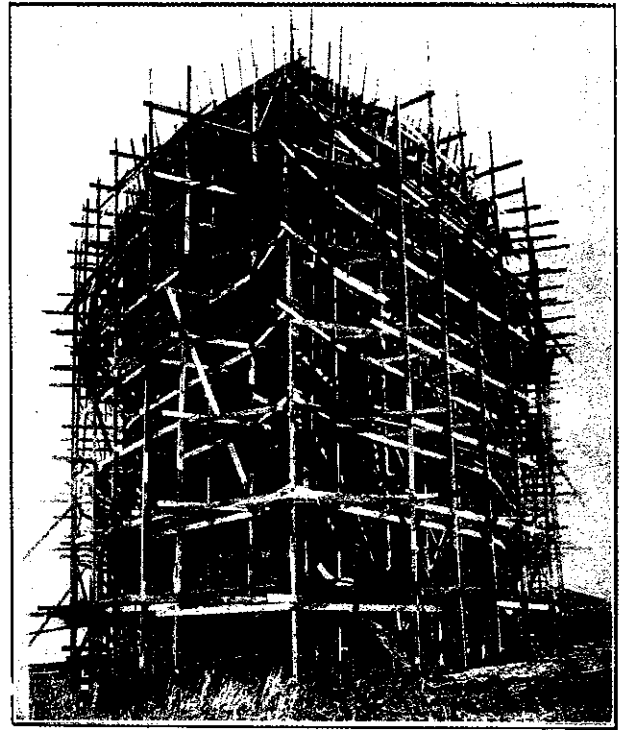
What was especially noticeable was the absence of vibration, which was felt to a very much less



Steel Reinforcement in One of the Strong Frames

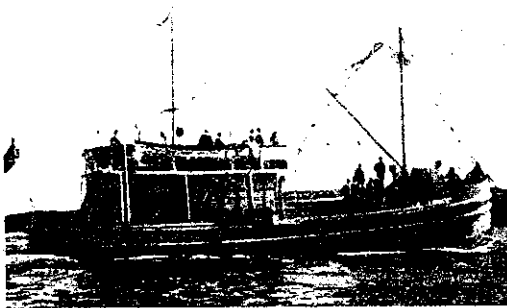
are used in re-enforcing the concrete which fills the spaces between the steel ribs. This combination of concrete and steel has given to this type of work the title of "ferro-concrete" and re-enforced concrete.

The first power driven ferro-concrete vessel, awaited with interest in shipping circles, was com-



Prow View of Ship Gives Idea of Vessel Size

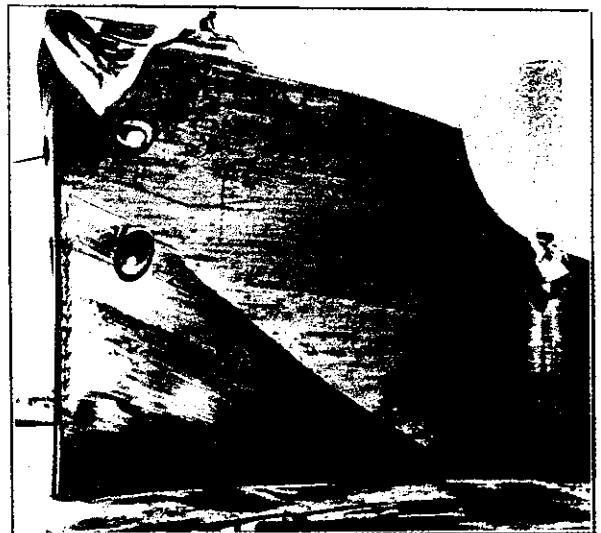
degree than in the case with a steel vessel of similar dimensions. Forward in the fore-castle it was impos-



This little Concrete Motor Boat, the "Namsenfjord," was built in Norway

pleted a short time ago at the A/S Fougner's Ferro-Concrete Shipyard at Moss, Norway.

The trials were entirely successful. The marine director, head engineer and others of the shipping department who were present, one and all praised the seagoing qualities of this new type of vessel,



The Concrete Ship "Faith" that was successfully launched on March 14th this year

sible to say whether the engine was running or not, an ideal condition for passenger vessels.

As will be seen from the illustration the motor coaster Namsenfjord has the ordinary lines of a vessel of this class. Its length is 84 feet, beam 20 feet and depth of hold 11.6 feet. The cargo carrying capacity is 300 tons.

The engine driving the vessel is an 80 h.p. Bolinder heavy oil marine engine, which gives a speed of $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots. A 5 h.p. motor winch is installed on deck for loading and discharging purposes.

In the making of this vessel the entire hull, deck and all coamings were cast in one piece. The interior arrangements are similar to those used in vessels of this size and class. The forecabin is fitted for a crew of four.

Since the above was launched, a vessel, "The Faith," with a displacement of 5,000 tons has been launched at Redwood City, California on March 14th this year.

This date is likely to stand as a turning point in shipbuilding methods, and be the means of ending the World War.

The "Faith"—built by private enterprise entirely—is the work of the San Francisco Shipbuilding Co. She is 336 feet long, 44 feet 6 inches beam, and 30 feet deep. The displacement is 7,900 tons loaded, the burden about 5,000 tons, and the draught as launched about 8 feet. The designs were by McDonald and Kahn, of San Francisco.

The "Faith" was towed to the Union Iron Works to be fitted with 1,760 h.p. engines. The ship has passed the first test and the big question is: can we afford to wait for her trial at sea before speeding construction of the 54 duplicates that her builders say they can complete in eighteen months?

Leslie Conyn and his associates have started work that should become the work of the Nation, through its Shipping Board. It was more than a venture.

Mr. Willis Polk, the architect, says in the "San Francisco Chronicle": In simple language, and in words of one syllable, so that he who runs may read, or those that sit still may comprehend—a match will float, a tack will sink; hence, the primitive wooden ship, hence the marvel of the iron ship—now the incomprehensible stone ship! The "Faith," a concrete ship, releases the wood and steel industries to more urgent uses; it is an omen and a token of world democracy greater than the submarine has been a menace—it is history repeating itself—it is bad news for the Kaiser.

Architects' Doings

Mr. Gerald Jones of Auckland who left New Zealand about two years ago to serve his country returned invalided, and is now in the South Island preparatory to taking up his practice again. He is now a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

* * * *

Mr. Leslie D. Coombs, A.R.I.B.A., of Dunedin, has been passed for military service. Mr. Williams of Messrs. Clere and Williams of Wellington is also going into camp shortly.

Mr. Cecil Trevithick, A.R.I.B.A., of the firm of Chilwell and Trevithick of Auckland, who is on active service, has recently had nine days special leave in order to reproduce 28 sketches he had made in his spare time and which had been brought under the notice of Head Quarters, and then to General Richardson. He was subsequently sent to the O.C. of New Zealand Base Records to reproduce as stated. The sketches are intended for reproduction in the Diary of New Zealanders doings in the Great War.

* * * *

Mr. Theodore B. Jacobsen, architect of Auckland, formerly of Wellington, has brought before the authorities an idea of his in connection with projectiles, for which he has taken out a patent. This the inventor claims will carry a longer distance with greater velocity and accuracy than any projectile now in use propelled by the same quantity of explosive. It is hoped that the trial will prove not only what the patentee claims, but that the invention will produce a higher range, flatter trajectory and harder hitting. Mr. Jacobsen recently patented an invention by means of which the periscope now used by submarines can be dispensed with. It is understood in regard to the latter invention that it was forestalled by the Germans. A great deal of time has been devoted by Mr. Jacobsen, who is a New Zealander, to these and other applications of science to warfare.

Concerning Ferro-Concrete Construction in Sydney

By Ernest A. Scott, in "Architecture."

As the old "City of Sydney Improvement Act" has been to a certain extent amended, allowing buildings to be erected of materials other than brick and stone, and the standard of efficiency rightly calculated by strength, not thickness. The responsibility now rests with the architects to decide whether they are wise in departing from the old form of construction, and if so, what new form they will advise their clients to adopt.

We naturally turn to the steel frame and reinforced concrete structures where buildings of a larger size are under consideration. The latter is generally spoken of as the coming system. Why, I can't understand, as it is not so in America, where the steel frame predominates. In any case, reinforced concrete will enter to a great extent into the construction of either type of building. It is, therefore, the duty of architects to make themselves thoroughly conversant with this difficult subject, and not to be forced to rely on the advice of others in the composition of the concrete and the placing of the reinforcement, for it must be borne in mind that the architect is solely responsible for any error through want of knowledge or supervision.

In Sydney we are badly supplied with suitable materials for the best concrete. Our Sydney sand is too fine and not sharp, and the supply of good sharp sand, should reinforced concrete become general, will be inadequate and expensive. Further, the

supply of good clean cinders or coke breeze free from sulphur or acid, which are detrimental to the steel or lead, would be below the requirements, and this material is very important, as it has been proved to be the best aggregate for fire resisting purposes if fairly coarse and free from fine dust and ashes, or live coal with finer cinders or sand of just sufficient quantity to fill the voids, but it is, of course, inferior in strength to blue stone, granite, broken brick, etc.

Up to the present there has not been a great amount of reinforced concrete work done in Sydney, but there have been several failures of a more or less serious nature; in fact, there are very few reinforced floors in Sydney where some of the slabs have not cracked. The trouble rests either with the material or the architect, and this cause should be discovered and cured, as the result is unsightly.

Waterproofing is another matter that needs consideration as to whether it is better applied in mixing or by after application.

On the whole, I prefer the steel frame for the following reasons:

Quickness of construction, greater facility for supervision and detection of faults even after erection, smaller area of the supporting piers and depth of beams, including the necessary fire-proofing concrete, greater ease in the removal and re-use after the building has served its purpose.

On the other hand, the reinforced structure will be the cheaper, at least, until our steel industries have been more developed, but the reasons stated above will, I think, fully compensate for the higher price.

It is at present difficult to determine what effect either system will have on the architectural appearance of Sydney. In the case of the more expensive structures, very little difference will be noticed, as the architectural ornament will be applied, and not built in as heretofore. But as regards the lesser expensive blocks, I anticipate a flattened appearance, and this will be more noticeable in the still cheaper and warehouse class, which, added to the absence of colour other than cement, will be generally detrimental to the portions of the city where they predominate. But, on the other hand, we may expect in the better class of buildings the use of terra cotta, and more attention to the colour effects than has been given up to the present, and this would be a decided improvement to our streets.

The whole question is full of interest and difficulties to be overcome, and after obtaining the long wanted relief from the old conditions, there is little doubt that the architects will rise to the occasion and make good.

Reducing Fire Risks

Some Experts Opinions

When asked as to what was the best way to erect a big fire-resisting city building Superintendent Webb, of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Sydney, pointed to the new Commercial Travellers' Club house, at the corner of Moore and Castlereagh streets, remarking: "That place is as nearly fire-resisting as it would be possible to require of anyone starting to

build. The plans were submitted to the city architect, and he asked me to look them over, and there was really only one thing I had to ask—that was that the doors from the stairways on to each floor should be made of fire-resisting material and self-closing." There is so much stone and metal used in the construction of this building that the risk of fire is reduced to a minimum, and by adopting the suggestion of Superintendent Webb in reference to the doors from the stairways, even if a fire occurred in any flat there is every reason to believe that it could easily be confined to that flat. One point about this building which should certainly characterise all big city structures is that the space between the ceiling of a room and the floor above is filled in with solid pug. The open spaces between the rafters in most buildings constitute a grave danger in connection with the outbreak of fire, and instances have been known wherein flames have swiftly travelled along them for 36 ft. without showing up in the meantime, and then bursting fiercely forth in some apartment that distance away from the seat of the fire. Another consideration in regard to fire-resisting buildings is the flat roof. The old sloping roof has always been a grave danger in the matter of swiftly carrying fire from building to building, to say nothing of the way it inevitably hampers the operations of the firemen. So that the city building of the future should be of stone, brick, or concrete, with protected steel joists, solid ceilings, flat roof, and fire-resisting doors isolating each floor. And it should for further safety's sake be fitted with automatic alarms and sprinklers, and have on its roof a tank holding at least 10,000 gallons of water to meet the emergency of the accidental failure of the city supply. Built and fitted on these lines, the chance of serious loss by fire in such a building should become practically a negligible quantity.

Mr. F. W. Fitzgerald, consulting engineer to the Society of State and Municipal Building Commissioners, New York, in a recent interview went more into detail in regard to the interior of fire-resisting buildings. "I would avoid woods in the finished floors and trimming of a building," he stated. "Marbles and metals are infinitely better, and if these be too expensive then I would use cement and plaster and colour. All stairways and elevators should be closed and have fire-proof, self-closing doors at every storey. The greatest care should be taken with our windows. Wire glass, and metal sash only should be used, for fire travels widely by way of the window route. Forty-four per cent. of all our fire losses are directly attributable to the lack of proper window protection. Fire originates in one building, but cannot be held there, and is communicated to all the buildings in the neighbourhood. Eighty per cent. of all the damage done in buildings in which fire does not originate is due to insufficient window protection; and over 90 per cent. of San Francisco's terrific loss can be attributed to this cause, for fire there originated in only a very few buildings. The contents of city buildings also deserve attention. What sense is there in filling a room up with modern furniture, particularly in offices and commercial buildings? Lighter, safer, more handsome, and infinitely better furniture is made of steel."

THE SUMMIT TRACK.—II.

By ROBERT LAING, Christchurch

(Continued from June issue.)

In the first part of this article, which appeared in last month's issue, the trip from the Lyttelton Lighthouse to Dyer's Pass was described. Beyond this the track is only formed for five or six miles, that is to Cooper's Knobs. Thence, however, there is a surveyed line passing over the highest hills of the peninsula at or near their summits. (Mt. Herbert 3,050 ft., Mt. Fitzgerald somewhat lower, and Mt. Sinclair 2,800 ft.). Then it drops down to the Pigeon Bay saddle, where it meets the well made Akaroa Summit Road. I shall deal with the various sections separately. The first from Dyer's Pass to Kennedy's Bush is the most popular portion of the whole route, the remaining part is known only to a few of the sturdiest walkers, though it affords some of the finest views of the peninsula.

After leaving the Rest House at Dyer's Pass we continue still westward over the crests of the hills a distance of some two or three miles to the Kennedy's Bush House. Built from a chocolate coloured stone found in the immediate neighbourhood, its red-roof and brown walls contrast admirably with the green foliage around it. It is intended as a place where people may go to stay for a week end or a few day's rest. There is a glorious outlook over the plains to the great western mountains. All the peaks from Mt. Peel to Mt. Torlesse are readily visible, and on very clear days hills very much farther to the south may be seen, as well as some of the higher summits in the neighbourhood of Mt. Cook. Such a wide view can only be paralleled in a few parts of the world; but still more extensive panoramas present themselves from many parts of the Summit Road near Cashmere Hills. Thence one may often see at least one hundred and fifty miles of mountain range—Tapuaenuka, the giant peak of the Inland Kaikouras, like the morning or evening star, lights up occasionally at sunset or sunrise, while at the opposite end of the view may be seen away to the south and west of Four Peaks, more remote ranges out towards Lake Tekapo. These I have hitherto been unable to identify satisfactorily. Tapuaenuka (9,400 ft.) is the highest peak commonly visible. On a clear frosty morning, when the foothills are snow-clad, almost to their bases, the view is finest. But here let me guard against a common error. It is not the Southern Alps we are looking at, though occasionally some of the peaks of the Main Divide may be seen; but at the mountains of the terminal faces of the westward spurs of the Southern Alps.

Beyond Kennedy's Bush the track goes on for another three miles to Cooper's Knobs. From the summit of these great rocks one sees most clearly the ridged rim of the old Lyttelton volcano. At one time the Lyttelton Hills were probably twice their present height, now there is only the dissected stump of the old volcanic cone—to the geologist a prehistoric relic of intense interest, but to the

public only steep tussock clad slopes. Here behind Governor's Bay the track ends; but survey pegs and an occasional flag mark its route to the next stopping place, the Kaituna Hut. This is some seven miles further on. There is a steep descent to Gebbie's Pass, then a tortuous route along the low ridges that form the watershed between the head of the bay and Gebbies Valley. This area is so deeply dissected by eastern and western valleys that overlap at their inner ends, that it would be easy here to miss the line of the track. From the southern side of the pass, by a steady ascent, partly by old grass covered tracks the road runs up towards the Kaituna Hut, passing close under the great volcanic dykes—the largest in the whole system of hills. These huge rocky walls with their transverse pillars, seem like gigantic cyclopean ruins rather than natural formations. Not far beyond them the Kaituna hut, as yet unfinished, but comfortable enough for those accustomed to camping. Thence to the Hill-top Hotel above Duvauchelles on Akaroa Harbour, the traveller must find his own way, over the summit of Castle Rock (Mt. Herbert Peak) and Mt. Herbert. Then he will pick up the old Purau-line, the main route sixty years ago from Lyttelton to Akaroa, at one time running through nothing but dense totaramatai forest of which nothing now is left. Somewhere here stood the giant totara tree, whose grandeur so impressed Bishop Selwyn, that he spent some hours carving on it a verse from the Psalms to the glory of God and in praise of the tree.

From the top of Mt. Sinclair one of the finest views of the peninsula is obtained. Many years ago in a somewhat 'purple passage,' I endeavoured to describe it, and the effusion may be worth quoting. Fortunately perhaps I have been unable after search to find my old description, and so will only outline here in more restrained terms, some of the features visible. At one's feet spread out like a blue pocket handkerchief lies Pigeon Bay. Away to the south are the huge caldera walls of Akaroa Harbour, showing here and there a patch of the waters—behind is the long and at one time densely bushed Little River Valley. Like a great moat round a castle wall glimpses of the ocean appear beyond the high cliffs of the eastern capes; and away in the distance shimmer like the Delectable Mountains, the snow clad Kaikouras.

An easy descent from Mt. Sinclair brings us down to the Main Akaroa Road at the Hill Top Hotel. Here the Summit Road joins the arterial road system of the peninsula, and here too for the present my description ends.

But I cannot leave this short account without a word upon another aspect of the matter. We owe this magnificent hill road almost entirely to the energies of Mr. H. G. Ell, M.P. He has planned and carried out the work in the face of immense obstacles and difficulties with the assistance of the meagre financial support from the public and the government. The undertaking is still far from complete and urgently in need of further assistance, for the maintenance of what has already been done, let

alone for further development. Only a few realise what the Summit Road will mean to Christchurch. The dreary plains with their uninteresting vegetation are provided with an outlet to a region full to the highest degree of scenic, geological and botanical interest, and providing sharp exercise and change of mental outlook for those who like Bunyan's Pilgrim will turn their backs on the life of the city.

Auckland Cement Industry

Amalgamation Completed

The amalgamation reported some time ago between the three Auckland cement companies is now completed, and a new company has been formed to be known as Wilsons (N.Z.) Portland Cement Co. Ltd.

The capital of the new concern is £600,000, in 600,000 shares of £1 each, which will be allotted to shareholders in the old companies as follows:—Dominion Portland Cement Company, Ltd., 285,000; Wilsons Portland Cement Company, 220,000; New Zealand Portland Cement Company, 95,000.

Mr. George Elliot, who was chairman of directors of the Wilsons Portland Cement Company, Ltd., has been appointed chairman of directors of the new company. Other members of the directorate are: Messrs. J. W. Ellis, R. E. Williams, and John Wilson, late directors of the Wilsons Company; Mr. Charles Rhodes, late chairman of directors, and Messrs. A. B. Robertson and T. Simson, late directors of the New Zealand Company; Mr. A. K. Williams, late chairman of directors, and Messrs. E. Gerrard and George Winstone, sen., late directors of the Dominion Company.

Interviewed recently, Mr. Elliot stated that in the meantime the new company is running the Dominion Company's plant at Portland, Whangarei, and the plant at Warkworth. The existence of a contract entered into by the Dominion Company to supply Whangarei with electric light, apart from other reasons, practically forced the company to work the plant at Portland. It was possible that the plant at Warkworth might be closed down so far as the manufacture of cement was concerned, although it might still be used to manufacture hydraulic lime. Referring to the circumstances which brought about the amalgamation, Mr. Elliot said it had been felt for some considerable time that the cost of running three separate plants by different companies to manufacture a quantity of cement which could be turned out by one mill, was not to the advantage of the industry as a whole. It was a fact that during the past year, owing to competition and war conditions, a considerable amount of money had been lost by certain of the companies. During the last 12 months especially, a large quantity of cement had been sold at a price much below that which it had cost to manufacture. The amalgamation of the companies had resulted in fixing the prices at the

pre-war figure, plus the actual increase in the cost of bags, coal, and freight, which amounted to £1 a ton. The directors of the company were well known business men, who would have nothing to do with any attempt to exploit the public, and the price fixed was eminently fair, in view of the increased cost of production as the result of war conditions.

Timber Yard Workers' Dispute

Early this month the Arbitration Court sat in Christchurch, and the Timber Yard Workers' Dispute came up for hearing.

At a sitting of the Conciliation Court, an agreement had been arrived at between the parties concerned, the rates of pay being fixed as follows:—First-class machinists 1s. 6d. per hour, second class machinists 1s. 4d. per hour; other workers at machines over the age of 21, not included in the above definitions, 1s. 3d. per hour; first sawer 1s. 6d. per hour, other sawers 1s. 4d. per hour, tailors out (over 21 years) 1s. 3d. per hour; for all timber and coal yards, head yardmen £3 5s. per week, ordermen £3 per week, all other adult workers 1s. 3d. per hour, casual labourers 1s. 3½d. per hour, sawyers in coal yards 1s. 4d. per hour.

The Union representatives now asked for an increase of 10 per cent. as a war bonus on the above rates, and this was strongly opposed by the employers.

After lengthy discussion the Court reserved its decision.

House Property in Christchurch

The market for good house property in Christchurch and suburbs, especially for small residences, is decidedly brisk. Speculative building, owing to the cost of materials, has ceased to a great extent, and owners who are willing to sell can secure their price, if it is not based on a false idea of values, with no difficulty. Up-to-date houses to let are practically unprocurable, and people are buying because they cannot rent. The "gospel of fresh air" has become a factor in the property market. Many people who have been living in single storey bungalows now want two storey houses, with sleeping balconies, which years ago they would not have looked at twice. The calling-up to the Second Division, which was expected in some quarters to cause a number of houses to be thrown on the market, is not believed by competent agents to be likely to have any such effect.

All correspondents agree that General Foch is a difficult man to interview, his usual greeting being: "Good morning. It's a fine day. Goodbye."

* * * *

Uncensored Points: It is disloyal to give the enemy points—unless they are bayonet-points.—"Boston Transcript."

Comparative Rents

A comparison of the average weekly rent of houses in various parts of the Dominion, contained in the Government monthly abstract of statistics, shows that Wellington is the most expensive city in the Dominion in this respect. For instance, 24s. is demanded there for houses of six rooms, as against 17s. 8d. in Auckland, 17s. 7d. in Dunedin, and 17s. 3d. in Christchurch. For a house of six rooms in Taihape 20s. is asked, and for the average rent of houses of all sizes this town is the most expensive of any outside the four centres. In Gisborne the average for a house of the same size is 18s. 6d., in Hamilton 21s. 1d., Whangarei 14s. 8d., and Rotorua 18s. 8d. The lowest average rent in any town in the table is paid at Waihi, where 10s. is the average for a house of six rooms, and houses from three to seven rooms may be obtained at from 4s. 7d. to 14s. The average rent paid in the Dominion for a six roomed house is 18s. 6d.

The War is Working Changes

Here is Ian Hay's idea put into the mouth of one of his characters in "Carrying On":—

"Yes, we are all in it now; and those of us who come out of it are going to find this old island of ours a wonderfully changed place to live in."

"How? Why?" inquired Bobby. . . .

"Well," said Wagstaffe, "We are all going to understand one another a great deal better after this war."

"Who? Labour and Capital, and so on?"

"'Labour and Capital' is a meaningless and misleading expression, Bobby. For instance, our men regard people like you and me as capitalists; the ordinary brigade major regards us as labourers, and pretty common labourers at that. It is all a question of degree. But what I mean is this. You can't call your employer a tyrant and an extortioner after he has shared his rations with you, and never spared himself over your welfare and comfort through weary months of trench warfare; neither, when you have experienced a working-man's courage and cheerfulness and reliability in the day of battle, can you turn round and call him a loafer and an agitator in time of peace—can you? That is just what the Bandar Log* overlook when they jabber about the dreadful industrial upheaval that is coming with peace. Most of all have they overlooked the fact that with the coming of peace this country will be invaded by several million of the wisest men that she has ever produced—the New British Army. That army will consist of men who have spent three years in getting rid of mutual misapprehensions and assimilating one another's point of view—men who went out to the war ignorant and intolerant and insular, and are coming back wise to all the things that really matter. They will flood this old country, and they will make short work of the agitator, and the alarmist, and the profiteer, and all the nasty

creatures that merely make a noise instead of doing something, and who crab the work of the Army and Navy—more especially the Navy—because there isn't a circus victory of some kind in the paper every morning. Yes, Bobby, when our boys get back, and begin to ask the Bandar Log what they did in the Great War—well, it's going to be a rotten season for Bandar Log generally!"

Building Notes.

AUCKLAND.

A meeting was held last month for the purpose of furthering a proposal to build a new King's College on the site purchased about a year ago at Otahuhu. The chairman Dr. A. W. Averill said that the present lease would expire shortly, and the question to be considered was whether the school should be given up or a new building erected. The amount required would be £50,000, and of that £14,000 was already subscribed.

The new Children's Hospital was opened early this month by Her Excellency the Countess of Liverpool. The new hospital, which was designed by the Hospital Board's architect, Mr. G. W. Allsop, is said to rank as the largest and most up-to-date of its kind in the Dominion. It is a two-storey brick building, with external finishing of grey plaster at the base, and dark red in the upper walls. With smooth green lawn in front, wide balconies built out at either end, it presents a very fine appearance, and commands a splendid view in three directions, over the city, across the harbour, and out over the Domain towards Remuera. Above a handsome front entrance, will later on be erected statues of Nurse Cavell, a soldier and a sailor, these forming part of the scheme of furnishing undertaken by the Auckland Vaudeville Employees' Association.

The interior arrangements are thoroughly up-to-date in every particular, and nothing has been left undone which could add to the comfort of the patients or minimise the work of administration. There are four large wards, two on each floor, and also ten smaller ones for observation and isolation cases. In all, there will be accommodation for 70 children, although the number could readily be increased to 100, as there is ample room for extra cases. The balconies have been fitted with sliding windows, by means of which they can be converted into warm, closed-in playrooms on cold winter days.

There are two kitchens, one to each floor, these being connected by a lift, also bathrooms in each ward, and specially-fitted treatment rooms, where the children will have their dressings, bandages, etc., changed, and other work done which is usually accomplished at much inconvenience in the main ward. The building will be heated throughout by hot-water radiators.

A special feature of the new hospital will be the handsome furnishings and fittings. There are tiled dadoes throughout the building, while the floors of the bathrooms and treatment rooms are of the same material. The floors of the wards are hardwood. The whole building has been designed with the object of attaining the maximum of light and air. Between the smaller rooms, there are glass partitions, so that a view can be obtained of the whole length of the ward.

The furnishings of the hospital was undertaken by the Auckland Vaudeville Employees' Association as a memorial to the doctors, nurses, and men who have fallen in the war, a total sum of £3,154 having been raised. The furniture has all been designed with a view to the special needs of children, and the tiny chairs, tables, settees, etc., not only enhance the general appearance of the wards, but will be a source of much pleasure to the small inmates.

According to original plans, the basement of the building was to have been used for pathological purposes, but it has now been decided to temporarily utilise it as accommodation for the nurses. Cubicles have been fitted, and there are at present a number of nurses in occupation.

Mr. Selwyn Goldsboro' called for tenders for new brick premises for Messrs. R. W. Hellaby at Green Lane last month.

Messrs. Chilwell and Trevithick, A.R.I.B.A., called for tenders for a house in wood at Epsom.

Messrs. May and Morran called for tenders for extensions to Mr. H. Butcher's furnishing warehouse, Karangahape road.

Messrs. Hoggard and Prouse and W. H. Gunner, A.R.I.B.A., called for tenders for a house at Remuera.

*Some who are readers of Kipling know that Bandar Log are the monkey people in the jungle for ever holding endless discussions and never doing anything.

The Education Board's architect, Mr. W. J. Farrell, called for tenders for additions to school at Maungawhero, also for the erection of a school building in wood at Aranga, and additions to school at Ruawai.

The Public Works Department called for tenders for the supply of Hardwood timber.

Reporting as to the mode of heating the soldiers' annexe of the Auckland Hospital, Mr. J. H. Anderson, consulting engineer to the Public Health Department, has recommended that a radiation system be adopted, utilising steam direct from the hospital boiler. The approximate cost of the installation of the system is estimated at between £700 and £750. The Hospital Board resolved that the work be proceeded with immediately.

CHRISTCHURCH.

The plans which have been approved by the Minister in charge of Hospitals (Hon. G. W. Russell) for the new morgue for Christchurch, are being completed at present with the view of tenders being called for at an early date. The building, which is to be erected on the site in the hospital grounds previously occupied by a similar building, is estimated to cost £2,500, one-third of which amount is to be found by the City Council and two-thirds by the Hospital Board. The plans make provision for a mortuary containing twelve benches; it will be tiled with white tiles for a distance of six feet from the floor, which will be of ordinary red tiles. There is to be a room for the reception of cases which have died from infectious diseases and another room for the reception of bodies of per-



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sions who have been drowned and which have not been recovered for some days; a disinfecting bath will be provided in this room. There will be also rooms in which post mortem examinations can be made, and also an instrument room. Accommodation will also be provided in the shape of a waiting room for relatives visiting the morgue.

The committee of the Board of Governors of Canterbury College reported at a recent meeting that they had set up a joint committee to consider and report upon the laying out and planting of the site, the locality of the buildings, etc., of the property lately purchased for the Boys' High School at Riccarton, and having offered prizes of the value of £3 3s. and £1 1s. for competitive plans by the architectural students of the School of Engineering, for plotting and laying out the grounds, situation of the buildings, etc. The report was adopted.

The foundation stone of the new school at Sydenham was laid at the end of last month.

Mr. J. Jamieson, chairman of the Building Committee of the Education Board, gave some details of the proposed new school which, when completed, would provide 16 up-to-date classrooms, as well as offices. The first portion of the building to be completed would consist of four classrooms. There would be two on the ground floor 24 x 22 ft., and 26 x 25 ft., with headteacher's room, cloakrooms, and corridor, and upstairs two classrooms 34 x 23 ft. and 26 x 26 ft., with library and museum. The contractor was Mr. H. Hinkey, and the contract price for the whole building was £3,369, the heating costing an additional £320.

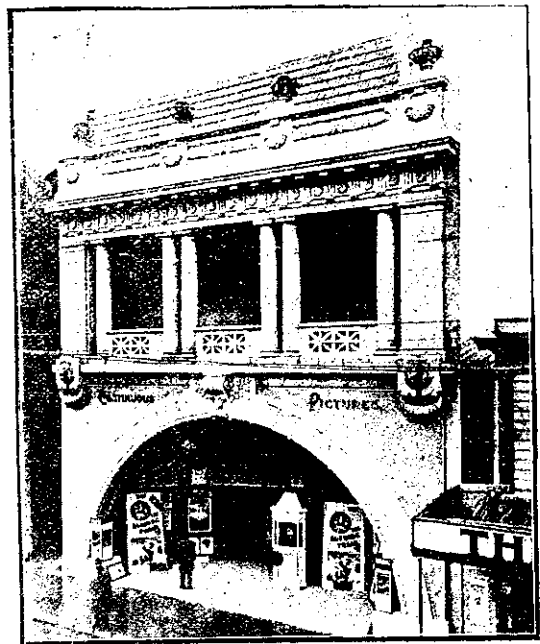
Mr. J. S. Guthrie called for tenders last month for residence at Sockburn.

Messrs. England Bros. called for tenders for the erection of a house at West Melton.

The Public Works Department called for tenders for the erection of a railway cottage at Waiau.

A letter from the Education Board acknowledged a resolution passed by the householders' meeting urging the Board to push on with the erection of an up-to-date building for secondary teaching and home science, and stated that the

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architect had been instructed to draw plans, and an application would be made to the Department for a grant towards the cost of the work.

The Opawa School Committee are about to interview the Minister of Education with reference to a new school building promised some time ago.

The Board of Governors of Rangiora High School have decided to erect a new up-to-date hutment for additional accommodation for the scholars.

Sixteen permits for buildings representing a value of £17,150, were granted by the City Surveyor last month. Five were for the central ward, representing a value of £10,800, ten for the St. Albans, representing £6,000, and one for the Sydenham, representing £350.

Mr. F. W. Armstrong, of 153 Hereford street, is calling for tenders for electrical installation for the Royal Exchange.

Tenders were invited early this month for alterations and additions to a house at Houn Bay by Mr. J. S. Guthrie.

Messrs. England Bros. invited tenders for the erection of a Catholic High School at Upper Riccarton.

The Public Works are calling for tenders for the erection of a new Post Office at Papanui up to July 29th.

A piece of land in Gloucester street, next to the Masonic Hall, has been purchased by the Returned Soldiers' Association as a site for new club rooms. The new building will be of handsome design, and will contain an office, billiard room, lounge, reading-room, writing-room, card-room, library, etc., and a memorial hall. The present club rooms have been found much too small and quite inadequate for their purpose, and the new building should prove as comfortable as those of its kind in the other centres. There is at present a boardinghouse on the new site, but this will be pulled down, and it is hoped that the Association will be housed in its new rooms early in the spring.

In our notes last month a reference was made to some recent tendering for workers' dwellings in Kilbirnie, Wellington. We stated that "After Cabinet had authorised the expenditure, a contractor whose tender had been approved, asked for an increase of about £60 on each house over the amount that he had quoted in March last (about a 10 per cent. increase). He stated that this request was due wholly to the rise in cost of materials, and that his profit would be the same as it would have been on the original basis, if

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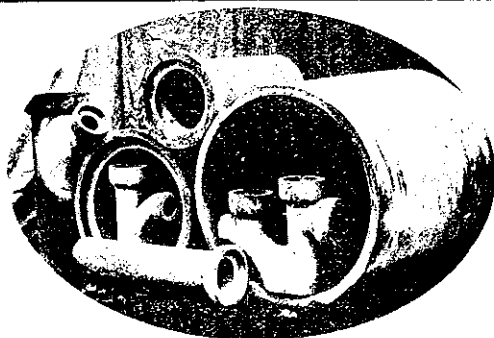
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materials had been available at the prices in his estimates. The Department declined the request. Negotiations are now in progress with another builder."

We have received a letter from Mr. W. H. Winsor of Spreydon, Christchurch, who states that he is the builder referred to in the note, and that some of the information published by us was not correct. Mr. Winsor says: "My original tender, (with a proviso that if any increase or decrease in the cost of material, etc., which might occur between the closing and acceptance of tenders, should be mutually adjusted) was sent in on January 15th, not in March, and this tender was for eleven houses, not six."

On April 20th (three months after), I was informed that my tender was accepted for six of the dwellings.

Naturally I pointed out the increased costs of several classes of goods, which any builder will bear me out, occurred in the price of plumbing, painting and paperhanging material, also hardware, and not the least, in timber, between these dates.

No reference to profits was either made, or even inferred. Having built a good number of workers' dwellings for the department in Canterbury, to the expressed satisfaction of the department's officers, I can only surmise that the facts have been somewhat distorted in their transmission to print. If the department are negotiating with another builder for the erection of these houses (which is entirely their own affair), then I am confident they are not using the same plans and specifications as they gave me, and in justice to a contractor, who, according to your remarks, appears to have been over-reaching in his demands, I think you should find this out and right what is, I am sure, an unintentional wrong."

Enquiries at the Labour Department elicited the fact that the Government have since let a tender for 6 houses to the second lowest tenderer, Mr. Young of Lower Hutt, Wellington, and that the plans and specifications were subject to slight alterations only. We regret the error in the month which Mr. Winsor says should have been January not March. Prices of course, are particularly variable just now,

and no doubt Mr. Winsor has a good claim for the extra ten per cent., but at the same time it looks as though this request was the cause of the contract being passed on to another tenderer.

DUNEDIN.

A definite step has now been taken by the General Committee of the City Council towards the establishment of a municipal fish market. The committee now recommends the council to instruct the town clerk to prepare the necessary Bill to be introduced at the next session of Parliament, giving the council statutory powers to deal in the fish industry in all its branches. This includes the establishment of cool stores, manure works in a depot (probably close to the foreshore, and also the establishment of at least three retail shops. The intention at present is to contract with the fishermen for the supply, and not to purchase trawlers.

The Sanatorium Committee of the Otago Hospital and Charitable Aid Board paid a visit to the institution at Pleasant Valley on Thursday. There are 45 patients receiving treat-

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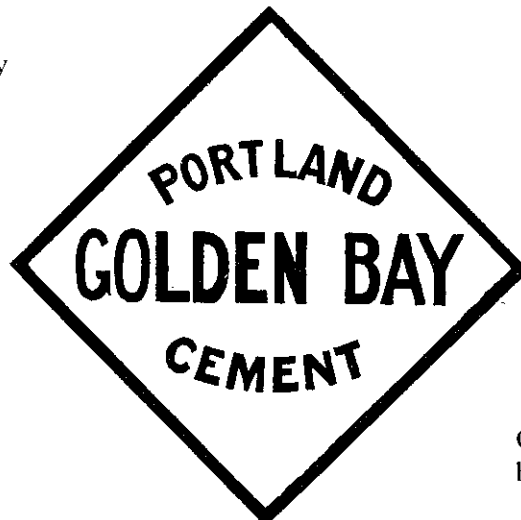
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ment. Two rooms recently added to the nurses quarters are almost ready, and the new room in the administrative block will be finished shortly.

Tenders were received until noon on Thursday, July 11th, for the erection of business premises in Cromwell (reinforced concrete), by Messrs. Salmon and Vane, A.R.T.P.A.

Tenders are invited for the erection (in wood) of a Methodist church at Ettrick. Tenders close on 25th of July, 1918.

HAMILTON.

Mr. J. E. Chitty called for tenders last month for the erection of new business premises in Hamilton for the Farmers' Co-operative Auctioneering Co.

A recommendation that a grant of £500 be made by the Auckland Education Board towards the Hamilton Manual and Technical School building gave rise to a lengthy discussion at a recent meeting of the board. It was stated by members that the board had no power to make such a grant, and it was finally decided to inform the Hamilton residents that if they raised £250 by private subscription a Government subsidy bringing the amount up to £500 would be obtainable.

HAWKES BAY.

A proposal that the Natives of Hawke's Bay should build a Maori Cathedral, where all important services connected with the Maoris could be held, has been made by Bishop Sedgwick. The Natives at Motu have considered the proposal, and a site has already been given. The same donors also offered 1,000 acres in the back country as a source of revenue on condition that the building was erected at Waipatu. The proposal is being considered in other districts.

TE KUITI.

A suggestion was made at the Waikato Hospital Board's last meeting that a hospital, costing £3,000 should be erected at Te Kuiti.

WAIKATO.

Tenders were invited last month for the erection of a laundry building at Wairau by Messrs. Crichton and McKay, P.R.T.B.A.

WELLINGTON.

At the Diocesan Synod held early this month, the Synod went into committee to consider the question of the Cathedral site. The committee are to report to the standing committee within two months.

Messrs. Swan and Swan called for tenders for the erection of a brick and concrete store at Petone.

Mr. W. Gray Young called for tenders for the erection in brick of the first portion of the Normal school, Upland road, Kelburn.

The Public Works Department called for tenders for seating accommodation in the galleries of the new Parliament Buildings.

Tenders are invited by Te Horo Co-operative Dairy Co. Ltd. for additions to cheese factory.

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