

on the verandah, almost absolute safety from an outbreak of fire is assured. It is intended to erect a hospital some 30 yards behind the present block of buildings, which after all will be the administration block when the scheme is developed and completed, connected by a covered-in right-of-way with the main building. For the present hospital wards and nursing accommodation are provided for in the front of the main building. The cost, including roading and asphaltting is nearly £6,000, of which sum about £4,000 has been subscribed to date. The committee has in view the erection of further necessary buildings, such as a hospital, and additional living rooms, which will involve a further expenditure of £5,000.

N. Z. Institute of Architects

Wellington District Branch

Report presented at the annual meeting held at the registered office of the Institute, 153 Featherston Street, Wellington, on Friday, October 11th, 1918, at 7.45 p.m.

The Branch has held four ordinary meetings and four committee meetings during the session. One ordinary meeting lapsed for want of a quorum.

The following attendances were made by the members of the Executive at committee meetings:—Mr. Lawrence (chairman), 4; Mr. McKay (vice-chairman), 1; Mr. Crichton, 1; Mr. Feilding, 4; Mr. Kean, 4; Mr. Gray Young, 3; Mr. J. S. Swan, 3; Mr. Dawson, 1; Mr. Haughton, 2; Mr. H. T. Johns (Hon. treasurer), 4; Mr. F. H. Swan (Dist. Secretary), 4.

The membership of the Branch now comprises 38 Fellows and 43 Associates, giving a membership of 81 as compared with 52 Fellows and 78 Associates last year. This reduction in the membership was brought about by a suggestion to the Council of the Institute by this branch that the Wellington District Branch should be divided into three. This has been given effect to and the result will give the two new branches thus formed, viz., Taranaki-Wanganui District Branch, a membership of 31 and Hawke's Bay-Gisborne District Branch a membership of 24 and also allowing adequate representation in Council and Branch Committee.

During the year two more members of the branch have joined the Expeditionary Force for service abroad, viz., Messrs. Hamilton and Barrett, and two members have been accepted for Home Service. With the calling up of the Second Division and consequent proceeding to camp, members should notify the secretary of such change as the subscription fees of all members on active service are remitted.

We regret to record that one of our most promising Associate members has given his life for his King and country whilst serving with the Forces, viz., Alan Stevenson; whilst another most promising Associate member has passed away during the year, viz., Montgomerie Ballantyne. Our sincere sympathy goes out to the relatives of these deceased members.

During the session a most interesting lecture on "Methods of Graphical Representation of Formula" was delivered by Mr. La Trobe, an honorary Fellow, before a record attendance of members. It is hoped that in the future more lectures will be arranged, and with this in view, two lectures have already been promised for the ensuing year.

The proceedings of the branch have been limited to ordinary meetings with little of importance to report. Owing to varying causes members have been very lax in attending meetings, one meeting lapsing for want of a quorum. It is hoped that, in the future members will take a more active interest in the welfare of the branch.

We regret to again record the number of outstanding subscriptions, and it is hoped that members will recognise their obvious duty in this respect as the delay in payment of fees tends to hamper the finances of both the Institute and the branch.

Your Committee feels that the Government should be asked to regulate prices of timber generally, and with a view to reducing the cost of same, the exportation of all timber to Australia should be stopped.

At the last annual meeting of the Branch the committee was empowered to invest the surplus funds of the Branch. This has been done, and the sum of £30 has been placed on fixed deposit bearing interest at the rate of £4 10s. per centum per annum.

A statement of the receipts and payments for the year was attached to the report duly audited, which showed the finances of the Branch to be in a satisfactory condition.

For the Committee,

FRANCIS H. SWAN,

District Secretary.

New Wharf for Auckland

It is proposed to erect a new wharf at the end of Freeman's Bay reclamation costing £40,000 to £50,000. A wharf 650 feet by 60 feet would provide accommodation for two colliers or an ordinary-sized tramp steamer and a sailing vessel. It would be necessary for a channel to be dredged, with a width of 700 feet at the outer end, to 600 feet abreast of the wharf, and to the north wall, with a minimum depth of 25 feet.

The office of the New Zealand Institute of Architects, which is situated in the Norwich Union Fire offices, 153 Featherston Street, Wellington, has recently removed from room No. 9 to room No. 11 in the same building. The new room is much more commodious and suitable to the increasing needs of this body. The question of furnishings for the new room was mentioned by the president (Mr. Chas. A. Lawrence) at the annual meeting of the Wellington District Branch held on the 14th inst., when offers were received from individual members to donate a carpet, a settee, two tables and twelve chairs. The generosity of local members, in thus furnishing the Institute's head office, is highly commendable.