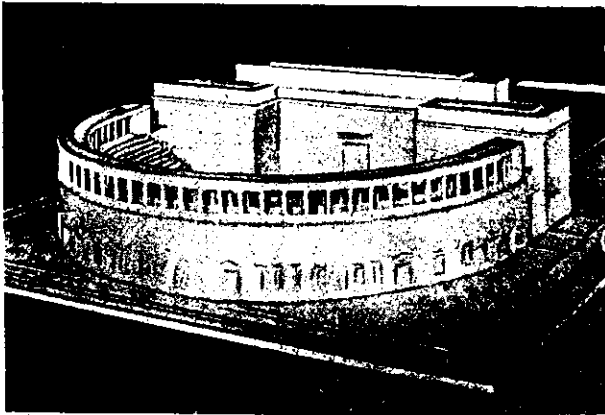


In the meantime a prospectus of the proposed Pan-Pacific Peace Palace is being prepared, for the trustees of the Union are already contributing twice as much toward the work as is appropriated by the Hawaiian legislature. The design for the palace was first suggested as a soldiers' and sailors' memorial. It comprises a Greek theatre that will seat 5000. In front of this is the main building, one wing of which will house a theatre seating 2000, the other a picture gallery and memorial hall and auditorium. Artists' studios will be housed in the upper part of the connecting corridor between the great wings, the main floor of the corridor being reserved for the executive officers of the Pan-Pacific



A Rear View of the Pan-Pacific Palace and Greek Theatre.

Union. Behind this is the big stage before the Greek theatre auditorium. In the ample space beneath the back tiers of seats in the arena will be the headquarters and offices, offered to the useful civic clubs and organisations as well as banquet halls, etc. Above these in a second storey, will be housed the Pan-Pacific Commercial Museum. The facade of the main building will be reflected in a pond of clear spring water. In the basement around the entire block of buildings it is proposed to house permanently the scenic dioramas of Hawaii as well as others of scenes from all Pacific lands.

Personal.

News has been received in Wellington that Captain S. Natusch, M.C., who was recently awarded a New Zealand Expeditionary Force Architectural Scholarship, has passed the associate-ship examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Mr. G. Frost (chairman of the Wellington Technical Education Board) and Mr. John S. Swan (one of the two architects concerned in the preparation of working plans of the new Wellington Technical College) visited Christchurch early this month for the purpose of consulting Mr. J. H. Howell (the new director) on the plans of the proposed building.

Scarcity of Material.

A Hospital Board Contractor Gets 10 per cent. Increase on Contract.

The Architects to Waikato Hospital Board last month advised that the contractors for the nurses' quarters and kitchen block had written stating that they were unable to proceed because they could not obtain material, and they would have to dismiss their men. With regard to material they pointed out that they had been notified of a rise of 9s per ton on cement and 7s 6d per 1000 on bricks, which amounted to practically a 10 per cent. rise. If the contractors had to carry the rise, they stated that it would be impossible for them to continue the contracts, and they would ask the board to release them from the same unless some arrangement could be made to give them some measure of protection. The architects supported the contractors' statements.

The result of this was a special meeting of the Board, and after conferring with its solicitors and the architects, the following resolution was carried:— "That the board grant the contractor an advance not exceeding 10 per cent. on all material on which the architect gives his certificate that the cost has risen as a direct or indirect result of the railway 'cut,' and that the Government's consent be applied for forthwith."

Concrete Houses.

A Sheffield Experiment.

Sheffield can claim to have taken a pioneer part in connexion with the building of concrete houses. Long before the matter attracted attention in the country generally, the concrete method was put to practical test on the outskirts of the city, and the results have been highly satisfactory.

A local landowner has been the principal mover in the experiments, and has erected houses on his estate, two of which have actually been occupied since 1915. The material he uses is composed of seven parts of clinker or boiler ash, and one part of cement, with a binding of sand, and the mixture has been proved to be quite 40 per cent. cheaper than the concrete made of broken brick or stone, cement, and gravel. The cavity-wall system of building is employed, and it is claimed that the houses resist the weather better, and shield the occupants more from the heat of summer and the cold of winter, than do those with solid walls.

The experiments show that a bungalow containing three bed rooms, one sitting room, kitchen, bath room and other conveniences, can be built for £400, as compared with about £700 for a similar structure of brick. One of the experiments consists of the building of 32 houses. Already ten of these, which are in process of erection, have been sold, and there are demands for others even before they are put up. They are built of moulded concrete and the same material is used for the roofs, which are so treated with red ochre as to give them the appearance of being tiled. It is found that concrete houses can be