

ARCHITECTURE and BUILDING

Town-Planning Conference and Exhibition.

The Programme of Papers.

Some interesting visitors who should add greatly to the value of the discussions are expected to attend the Town-Planning Conference organised for the Government by Mr. S. Hurst Seager. As the original date was too close to the Municipal elections and mayoral installations, it has been changed to Monday, 19th May, for the opening of the Conference, which will continue until Saturday, May 24th. The discussions will be in the mornings and afternoons, the evenings being devoted to lantern exhibitions.

It is expected that the Hon. J. D. Fitzgerald, Minister of Town-Planning in New South Wales, will be able to attend the Conference. He is particularly interested in an Australian garden city at Daceyville, near Sydney, so that his contribution to the discussions should be of great value.

Another overseas visitor will be Mr. J. F. Munnings, Durban gold medallist in architecture and chief architect of the City of Bengal. He is spending his furlough in New Zealand, and has consented to read a paper at the Conference.

On the first day, Monday the exhibition will be at the disposal of delegates only, and on Tuesday, May 20th, the Conference will be formally opened by the Hon. G. W. Russell, Minister for Internal affairs, who will give an address. The programme, as it has been arranged so far, is as follows:—

Tuesday morning, May 20th.—1. "Present Acts Bearing on Town Planning."—Mr. Newton, Assistant Under-Secretary of Internal affairs.

Tuesday afternoon.—Conclusion of discussion on "Town-Planning Legislation," and paper on the Principles of Town-Planning Legislation, by H. E. Von Haast. 2. "The Health and Wellbeing of the People in respect to Situation, Climate, Soils, their Homes and Environments."—Dr. Valentine, chief Health Officer.

Wednesday, 10 a.m.—3. "The Garden City in relation to the Reconstruction and Repatriation Problems."—Mr. S. Hurst Seager.

Wednesday afternoon.—4. "Garden Suburbs: The Subdivision of Land for Residential Areas, and Arrangement of Sites for Homes and Communal Buildings (Kitchens, Creches, Places of Recreation and Instruction)."—Hon. J. D. Fitzgerald, Minister of Town-Planning, New South Wales.

Thursday, 10 a.m.—5. "The City Beautiful: Planning and Replanning for Convenience and Beauty—Trees, Fountains, and Monuments."—Mr. J. F. Munnings, Chief Architect of the City of Bengal.

Thursday afternoon.—6. "Roads: Their Planning and their Construction considered in respect to—(a.) Civic Services—Gas, Water, Sewerage, and Electricity; (b.) The Cost of different Methods and the Use of New Zealand Materials; (c.) In relation to the Effect of their Surfaces on the Cost of Haulage."—Mr. A. Dudley Dobson, Christchurch City Engineer.

Friday, 10 a.m.—7. "The Housing Problem: Homes for Workers, their Plans and Furniture."

Friday, afternoon.—8. "Parks, Playgrounds and open Spaces as Places of Recreation, of Physical Development, and of Rest."—Mr. C. J. Parr, G.M.G., M.P.

Saturday morning.—9. "The University, Colleges and Schools: Their responsibility in relation to the Inculcation of Town-Planning Principles."

It is probable that Sir Robert Stout will give the paper on Saturday morning. As the arrangements are being completed, other subjects may be added to the programme.

The Honorary Organiser, Mr. Hurst Seager, will lecture in a number of North Island towns this month on "What Town-Planning means to the Dominion," and he will similarly tour the South Island, commencing the second week in April.

Surveyors and Town-Planning

The remarks of some enthusiasts of Town-planning projects who blamed the surveyors for "laying out a town in rectangular blocks like a chess board," have caused Mr. Geo. McIntyre, of Christchurch, to defend the surveyors. In a letter to the Christchurch "Press," he says:—

"Official survey regulation 55 is as follows;— The streets of all towns are to be laid off in straight lines, and at right angles to each other as nearly as a due regard to the natural features of the country and drainage of the land will permit, and allotments are to be laid off wherever practicable at right angles to the streets which they front."

"In order to secure that there shall be no departure from these requirements, regulation 56 provides that plans of all such proposed subdivisions must be approved by the Governor-General prior to sale."

"Under the Land Act, a 'town' has been authoritatively defined to mean 'any parcel of land outside a borough divided into areas for building purposes.' So that even half a dozen sections or less have been officially branded as a 'town.'"

A New Hospital Ward for Wellington

A contract based on plans prepared by Messrs. Clere and Williams, architects, has just been let to Mr. E. S. Knight, contractor, for the erection of a large ward, No. 7, at Wellington General Hospital, for the sum of £6,218 17s. This ward will be over and of the same size as Ward 4, one of the original wards erected in 1878-9, and will connect up Ward 6 with the Ophthalmic Ward, the addition of which was completed by the same firm last year.