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WELLINGTON, AUCKLAND, CHRISTCHURCH, AND DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND, DECEMBER, 1919.

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Editorial Comment

The Season's Greetings.

With thankfulness as well as pleasure we extend the season's greetings to our readers. This is the first occasion since 1913 on which such a message of cheerfulness could be given without a feeling that it was out of place. Last year the war had ended, but the position was still uncertain, and New Zealand had its own special trouble of the influenza epidemic, which caused unprecedented mortality in our community. Looking back over the last six eventful years, we realise that in human experience the world is much older than is represented by that passage of time. It seemed in 1913 as if the doctrine of peace and goodwill to men had been well inculcated by nearly two thousand years of Christianity, but the world awoke to the fact that its most important inventions in mechanics and chemistry, instead of fortifying the reign of peace, had made it no more stable, and increased the horrors of war when they came. Civilisation still depended on the basis of physical force. We are still struggling in the aftermath of the terrible turmoil, but the readjustment of human relations has been so enormous that although there are pessimists who declare that the world is no better, we are confident that lessons of self-sacrifice have not been lost, and that the community, from the King down to the humblest subject, is knit closer together by a realisation of common interest. The great economic problem is being attacked with a fuller realisation of the need for improved distribution of the good things of this world; and although the symptoms are sometimes irritating, the means for coping with the problem are more ready to our hand now than thought itself has undergone a great leavening. To turn for a moment from the wider outlook to our own affairs, we cannot let this opportunity pass without a word of keen appreciation for those faithful readers and advertisers who have assisted the promoters of this journal to keep it alive and vigorous through difficult times. "Progress," like other productions of paper and ink, has had to meet the unprecedented conditions of the times by curtailing its size and activity, but we are gradually releasing ourselves from the handi-

caps of shortage of paper and labour, and hope in the coming year to regain our old self, with improvements suited to the needs of the changed times. Consequently it is with special pleasure that we revive the time-honoured greeting:

A MERRY CHRISTMAS,

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Empire Trade.

It has taken a long while to rehabilitate the export trade of the Old Country, but we welcome signs of greater enterprise, and a throwing off of some of the old-fashioned restraints on easy negotiation which used to be characteristic of the English trader. He still has to be lectured a little about lack of enterprise, but we must give the giant time to recuperate after his splendid exertions in the cause of freedom and humanity. So far as the British Government is concerned, its reorganisation of the commercial intelligence side of the Board of Trade is a sign of healthy enterprise. We also bear of large combinations in manufacturing lines, formed for the special purpose of securing effective representation in overseas countries. A good deal of stimulative argument for British consumption is being provided by the alertness and success of American competitors in Britain's former markets. We hope that lesson will sink in. Quite recently Sir Hamar Greenwood, Secretary of the Overseas Trade Department of the Home Office, told an audience of British-Colonial representatives in London that he regarded Americans as Britain's fiercest and most efficient competitors in world trade. While we were fighting for our lives, America, he said, was absorbing the wealth of the world, and securing markets which she had never before possessed. But, he said, our sacrifices were worth the cost. The British Empire was the greatest factor in the enemy's defeat. He would do what he could to secure for the Empire the largest portion of trade for the Empire's use. The Government could not now offer large subsidies for shipping. It would mean more taxation, but he believed that comparatively small assistance would realise extraordinary results. If we did not have an Imperial policy there was something wrong with the country. He did not think that America had realised all that she expected in the way of trade since the cessation of hostilities. He would like to see the Agents-General and the High Commissioners a more corporate body. They could thus assist trade development, because they possessed knowledge which untravelled people did not possess. He considered that the shipping difficulty would soon disappear. Sir Hamar Greenwood, in his advocacy of an Imperial organisation for the benefit of Empire trade, will find ready response to those sentiments in New Zealand. Great Britain is far and away our best customer, and, logically, we should do the bulk of our buying from her. American trade with New Zealand—a one-sided affair mostly of imports—has made rapid strides of recent years. American motors we have long had with us, for, generally speaking, they were best suited to colonial roads. Even the confectionery trade is now being invaded, this process being made easier by the continued shortage of sugar in England. American goods came to

us when we could get no others, and they usefully filled the void. A sharp reminder of the handicap of one-sided trading has been provided by the high rate of exchange, which has been affecting New Zealand seriously in relation to American imports. Britain has a huge burden of war debt to meet, and a huge population to usefully employ. We shouldered our share of war's sacrifice, and we must do our best to maintain our helpful association with the Motherland which did so much to maintain our country's stability when credit was in the maelstrom.

Soldiers for the Building Trade

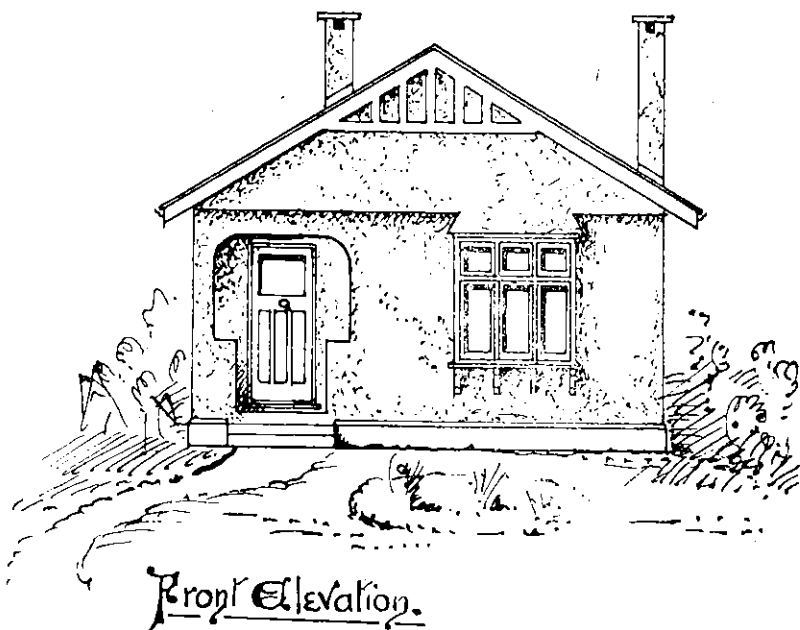
An important experiment has been initiated by the New Zealand Repatriation Department, which has arranged with the Builders' Federation of the Dominion to train a number of returned soldiers in the trades appertaining to the industry. We sincerely hope that the trade unions, jealously concerned about the rights of apprenticeship, will regard this venture with sympathy, and welcome the trainees in a manner due to those who have faced death for the sake of our much-prised institutions of freedom. It is believed—and there is the experience of the Repatriation Department to prove it—that the matured man is able to pick up a trade much quicker than the boy apprentice, so that there is every hope of these soldier trainees turning out good tradesmen in the course of a year or so. Meanwhile, as a man cannot exist on an apprentice's wage, the State will assist the trainee with an allowance sufficient to bring his total receipts up to a reasonable minimum. The experiment comes at an opportune time, for it meets a need in the way of providing fresh openings for the returned soldier, and also helps to fill a serious gap in the ranks of craftsmanship. We would prefer to see the building trades recruited to the full from soldier trainees rather than see the State obliged to resort to the policy, already mooted, of securing immigrant tradesmen from the Old Country. In directions other than that of building trades, soldiers are being used to fill the labour gap without causing hardship to the men already earning their living in the industry. Motor repairing, a rapidly growing and comparatively new industry, has been short-handed for years, and it is being found that many of the soldiers, formerly unskilled, have a great liking for the work of repairing motors. Some take up the motor engineering course while undergoing treatment in hospital, and although all the students do not develop into full-fledged motor engineers, they at any rate become more intelligent drivers than would otherwise be the case. We congratulate the Repatriation Department upon the resource it has shown in dealing with the returned men—particularly for the wise policy it has pursued of increasing their value and efficiency as citizens of a busy country by providing them with education to make them more skilled industrially. Though the war made a sad gap in the ranks of the country's fit men, New Zealand is evidently doing its best with those who are left, for they are not only being better trained for daily occupations, but the tide of land settlement, so necessary for the prosperity of the Dominion, is flowing in full volume, thanks to the land settlement scheme undertaken on behalf of the soldier.

Dwellings Under the Housing Act, 1919.

Details and Plans of the Houses proposed to be Erected
by Applicants under the Act of 1919.

By the courtesy of the Labour Department we are able to publish the plans of the two houses the Department considers the most economical. These designs (Nos. 24 and 25) are intended for erection in concrete, brick, or any other permanent material, though they can also be built of wood. If the applicant desires some other design he may apply accordingly to the nearest Departmental officer, stating the

ing must be on land set apart or purchased by the Government from time to time for the purpose of dwellings. For this purpose, however, the Housing Branch of the Labour Department will consider the purchase of any suitable section owned by or offered to an applicant. In special cases, too (see par. 25) the Department will purchase a house already erected for an applicant. Full particulars, forms, etc.,



Front Elevation to Plan of 5-roomed Dwelling (No. 24), drawn by Labour Department for Applicants under the Housing Act, 1919.

reasons for his request, and forwarding a plan or sketch. His application will be considered by the Board. The cost of the dwelling and section must not exceed £775 in wood, or £850 in any other material.

Some misapprehension appears to exist as to the difference between the provisions of Part I of the Housing Act (formerly the Workers' Dwelling Act) and the Advances to Workers Provisions of the State Advances Act. The latter provisions enable a "worker" (as defined in that Act) who wishes to erect a dwelling for himself to obtain a loan for the purpose. The amount of loan must not now exceed £750 (hitherto £450) nor three-fourths of the total value of the land and the dwelling. Under the Housing Act the "worker" may apply for a dwelling to be provided for him, and the amount of deposit required from him is only £10; but the dwell-

ing regarding loans under the Advances to Workers provisions may be obtained from the Superintendent, State Advances Office, Wellington, or from any Postmaster in the Dominion, and particulars, forms, etc., concerning the Housing Act from the various offices of the Department of Labour.

Part I.—Workers' Dwellings.

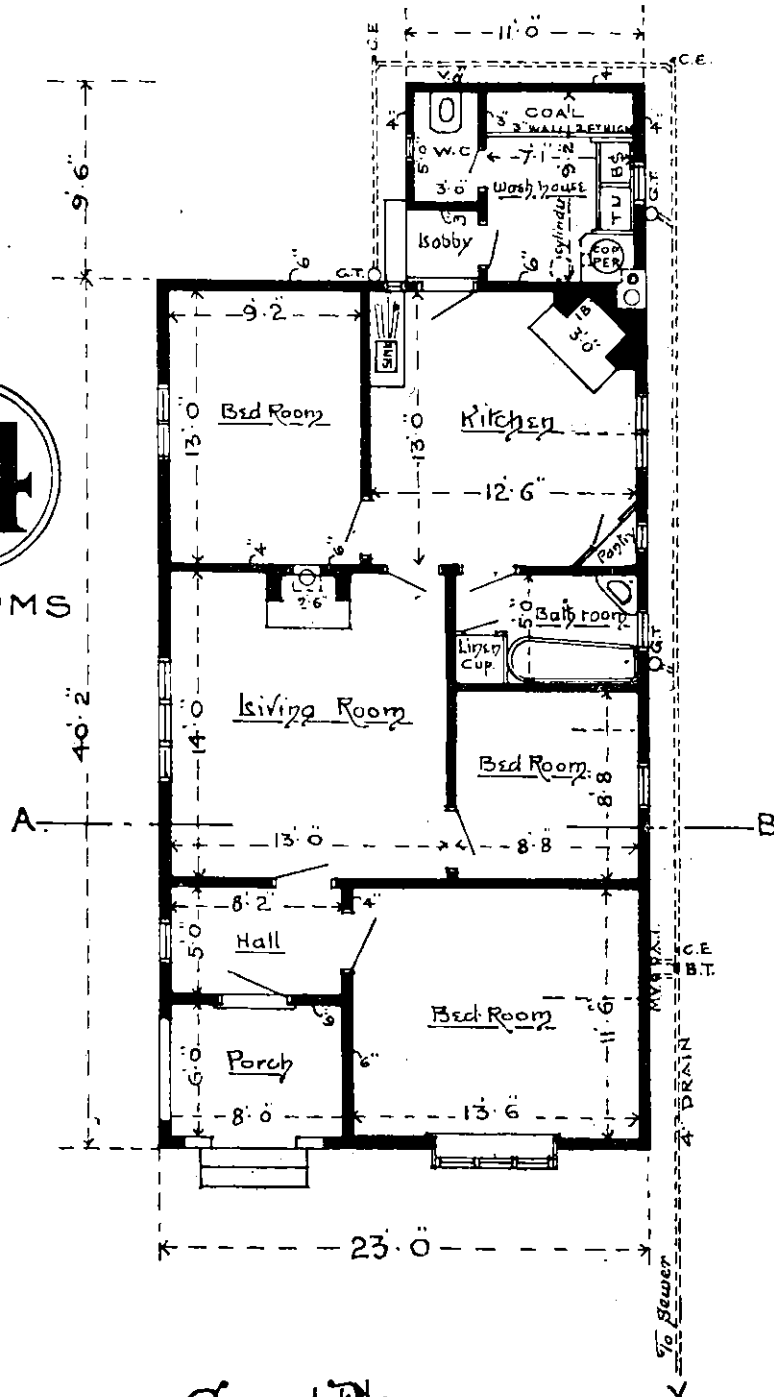
The provisions of Part I. of the Act are intended primarily to apply to workers with the limited income of £300 who do not possess sections of their own. For these persons the Department will itself purchase the land required and erect dwellings thereon. For any person who already owns a section the State Advances Act also makes provision. Any person who already owns a section but who cannot obtain a sufficient loan from the State Advances Office may apply to the Department of

Labour for the benefits prescribed by Part I. of the Housing Act, and if the section owned by him is suitable the Department will, under certain circumstances, take it over from the applicant and build a dwelling thereon. In such a case the section would be accepted as security instead of the £10 deposit.

Payment of Purchase Money.

The purchase money (less the deposit of £10) is payable in instalments not exceeding 30 years if built in wood, and $36\frac{1}{2}$ years in any other material, at a net charge of only $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. plus rates and

24
5 ROOMS



Ground Plan.

insurance, the weekly payment being £1 2s. 6d. for a wooden house, and £1 1s. 8d. for a house in any other material. The purchaser must keep house in repair.

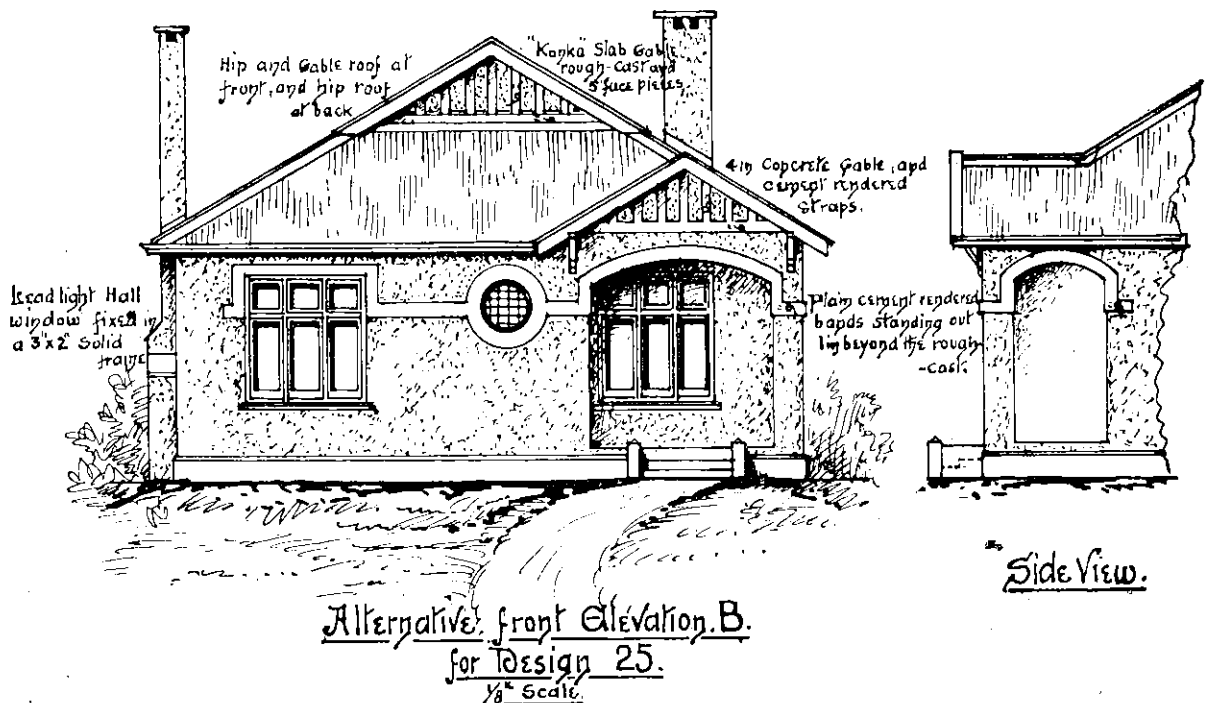
Houses Already Erected.

In order to assist any worker who may be unable to obtain a sufficient advance from the Advances to Workers Branch of the State Advances Office, the Housing Board will in special cases be prepared on application to purchase a dwelling already erected, and then to enter into an agreement for the sale of that dwelling to the worker in the same way as if the Board had erected the dwelling. The limitation in the price and the necessary qualifications to obtain such a dwelling are the same as if the dwelling were erected by the Department.

society, or it may provide that the settlement shall belong to the society and that the dwellings shall be leased by it to the proposed occupants. The scheme may also include such proposals as may be desired for the general control and development of the settlement.

Part III.—Loans to Employers for Workers' Dwellings.

The Governor-General may at any time publish a notice in the Gazette that this part of the Housing Act shall apply to any named industry, and thereupon any employer in that industry may apply to the Minister of Finance for financial assistance towards the provision of dwelling-houses for any workers permanently employed by him in connection with that industry. Any person who desires



Alternative Design (No. 25) for 5-roomed Dwelling, as supplied by the Labour Department for Applicants under the 1919 Housing Act.

Part II.—Special Settlements for Public Servants.

Provision is made in Part II. of the Act for the establishment of special settlements for Public Servants. Any incorporated society of officers in the permanent employment of the Crown may apply to the Minister in Charge of this part of the Act for the approval of a scheme for the formation of such a settlement. Except in regard to the rate of interest, and the period of repayment of loans, etc., the Act does not lay down any conditions upon which such a settlement may be established, leaving such matters to arrangement between the society and the Minister. For example, the scheme may either propose the sale of the dwellings to the members of the

extension of this part of the Act to any industry should apply to the Minister.

Part IV.—Erection of Workers' Dwellings by Harbour Boards.

Under this part of the Act any Harbour Board is now empowered to erect dwellings for workers in its employment on any land owned by the Board and not held in trust for any special purpose.

Any Harbour Board worker who desires further information under this head should apply to the Harbour Board.

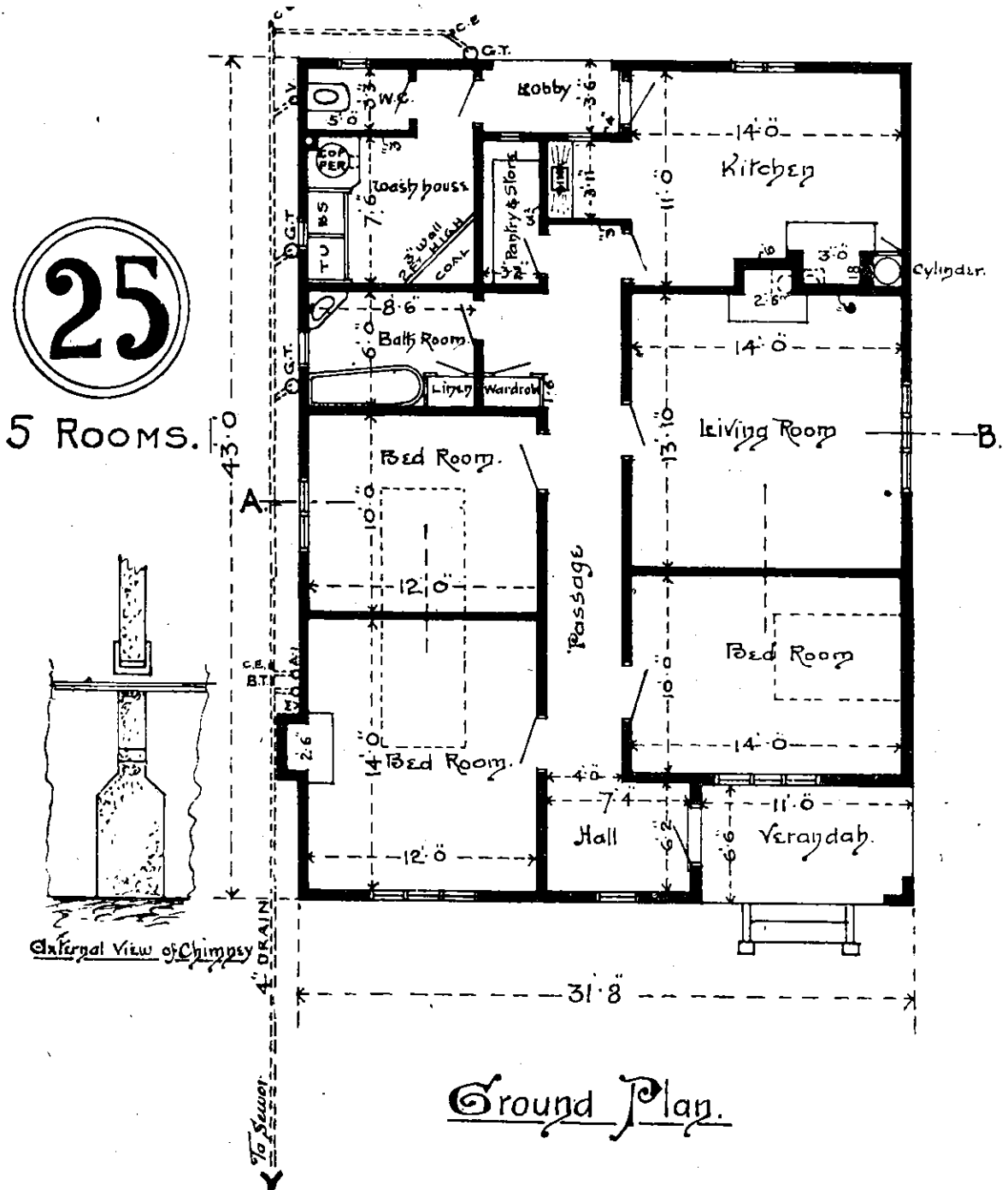
Part V. refers to the erection of workers' dwellings by other Local Authorities, and Part VI. to Advances to Workers under the State Advances Act

1913, information regarding which may be obtained from the State Advances Offices, Wellington.

Part VII.—Restriction on Increase of Rent.

The War Legislation that fixes the maximum rent of dwellinghouses and restricts the right of a land-

lord to eject a tenant, has been further extended by giving a magistrate power to refuse to make an order of ejectment if he is of opinion that undue hardship would be caused to the tenant were such an order made.

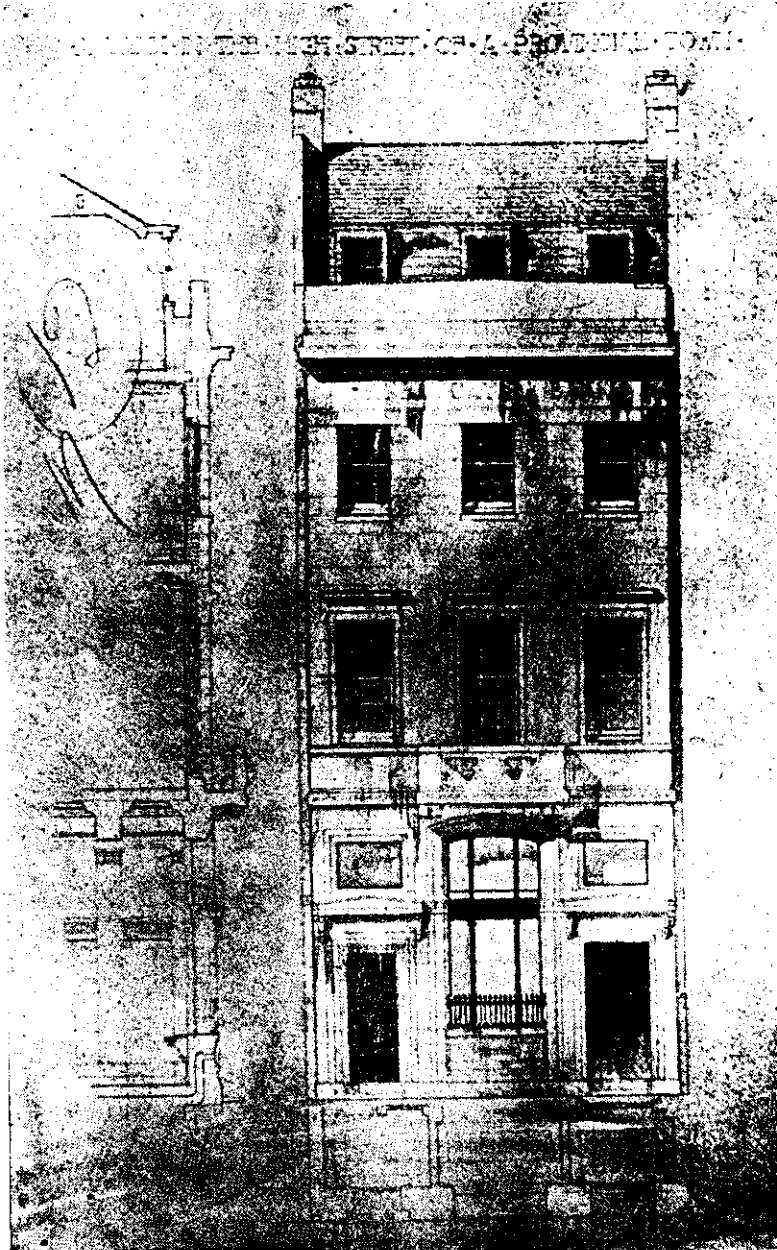


New Zealand Architectural Students at Home.

Recent issues of English Architectural papers to hand contain mention of several of our old students who, after serving with the forces, have taken advantage of their opportunity to further their studies

would spread a knowledge of English architecture throughout the world, and bring a fresher outlook to England.

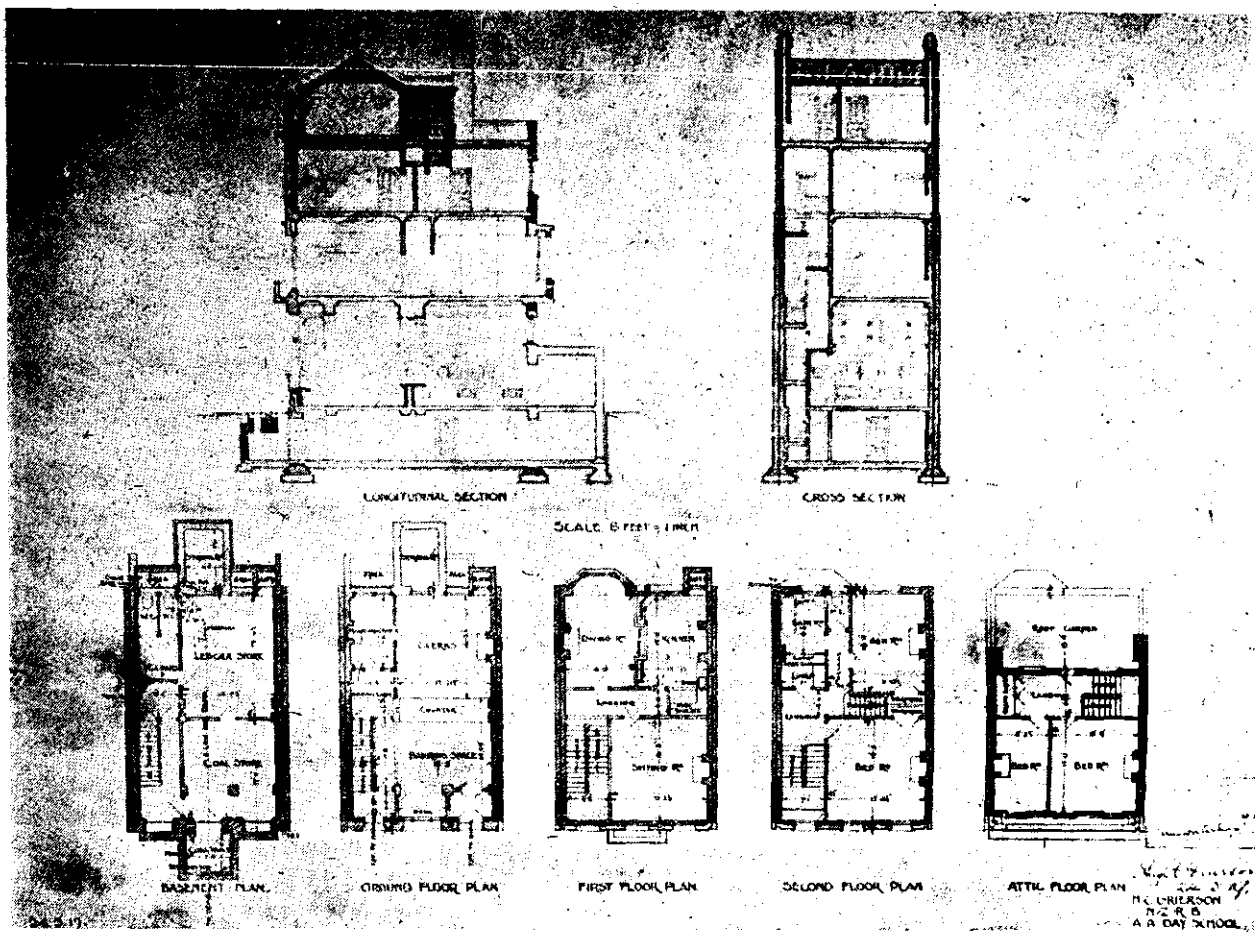
Colonel Northcroft, who is the director of education in England for the New Zealand forces, paid a high tribute to the work of the Association, and mentioned that several cases had come to his know-



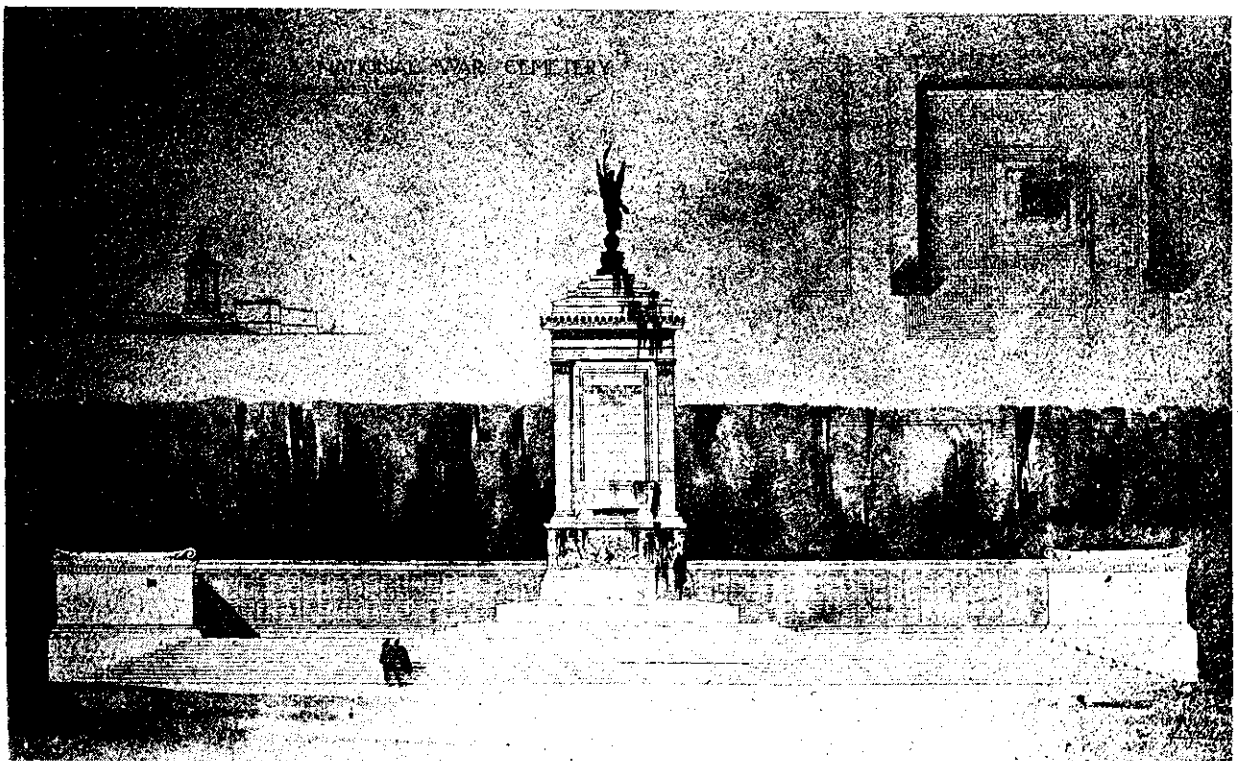
Design for a Provincial Bank, by Mr. Hugh Grierson, of Auckland, now at the Architectural Association School of Architecture, London

in the Architectural Association, School of Architecture, London. At a recent general meeting of the Association, the President, Mr. Maurice Webb, extended a cordial welcome to the men from overseas who were attending the school, of whom there were between 60 and 70. He said their presence

ledge of men who had absented themselves from camp and maintained themselves at their own expense in order to attend the school. In New Zealand, houses were not built so much on a commercial basis as for the people who were to occupy them, and this gave the architect a much larger scope.



Plan of Provincial Bank, by Mr. Hugh Griereson.



A Central Monument for National War Cemetery France, by Mr. A. M. Bartley (of Auckland), at the Architectural Association, London.

The following prizes were awarded to New Zealanders:—Third year, 2nd prize: books valued at £15 15s., Mr. H. L. Massey, of Auckland. Among the "mentions" appear the names of Mr. E. W. Armstrong, Mr. A. M. Bartley, Mr. K.M. Driffin, Mr. F. E. Greenish, Mr. H. C. Grierson, and Mr. E. S. C. Millar. In this issue appears a drawing by Mr. A. M. Bartley, A.R.I.B.A., reproduced from the "Architect," August, 1919, and also a design for a provincial Bank by Mr. Hugh C. Grierson, of Auckland.

The following New Zealanders have qualified for Associate of R.I.B.A. held in July this year:—Mr. G. S. Reid of Dunedin, Mr. S. Natuseh of Wellington, Mr. E. W. Armstrong, of Gisborne, Mr. H. A. Brown and Mr. H. L. Massey of Auckland, Mr. J. White of Dunedin, and Mr. E. Reidy of Auckland.

Permission has been granted by the N.Z.E.F. for architectural students who gained scholarships to study at the Pennsylvania University in America, as soon as a diploma has been gained by them in England. It is the intention of Messrs. Armstrong, Morgan and Massey to avail themselves of this opportunity at the end of next year, thus giving 18 months study in America before returning to N.Z.

A Note Upon Architectural Competitions.

By C. Reginald Ford, F.N.Z.I.A.

Some forty years ago a great English architect, the late Edward M. Barry, R.A., neatly summed up the case against Architectural Competitions. In response to an invitation to enter into a competition for the design of a proposed building he wrote as follows:—

"I have to ask you to express my best thanks to the Committee for this mark of their confidence, and, as I am sure that the invitation was intended as a compliment, I feel it due to them to acknowledge it gratefully. Considerable experience has led me, however, to the conviction that competition is one of the worst modes of obtaining good designs, and that it is bad for the employer, bad for the architects, and bad for art generally. It is bad for the employer, inasmuch as, among other reasons, it prevents that intimate communication of ideas with the architect, during the preparation of the designs, which is necessary to prevent future disappointment, and even to secure a correct understanding of what is ultimately proposed. This is one main reason why so many complaints are heard (when it is too late) that the convenient use of the building has been sacrificed to mere showy considerations, such as it is the tendency of competitions to foster and develop. It is bad for the architects, inasmuch as [several men] are expected to waste their time, labour, and even money, as no architect can prepare competition designs without incurring considerable expense. Nothing of this kind is expected of other professions . . . No

one thinks of asking six lawyers or six physicians to expend their ability and funds in order that one among them may receive professional employment. It is bad for art generally as it induces the preference for showy drawings to really good architectural design, and because it generally ends in disputes and heartburnings."

If the architectural profession were the only sufferer from the competition evil, and architects were foolish enough to go on competing, despite much bitter experience, then, perhaps, nothing more should be said upon the subject. Barry, however, rightly placed first among the objections to architectural competitions the fact that they are opposed to the true interests of the promoters of them. He himself refers to one grave fault inherent in the competition system, that the resultant design is most unlikely to be the best possible solution of the problem set, owing to the necessary lack of co-operation, while the design is being worked out, between those who have to use or control the building and the architect designing it. Very little experience in the planning of buildings, even of those of comparative unimportance, suffices to prove that the evolving of a successful plan is very rarely indeed a straightforward and simple matter—the easy arrangement of certain abstract requirements. In practical design the solution of the problem confronting the designer almost invariably requires the careful consideration of many conflicting and oftentimes irreconcilable claims. In order to gain one desired object another must be sacrificed. This of course is true of purely architectural considerations which the architect alone can decide upon. But especial reference is now made to points in planning concerning the successful functioning of the completed building upon which the advice of those who were to use it would be invaluable. Any architect of experience will readily acknowledge that his most successful works have been those in which he has had the close co-operation of an intelligent and sympathetic client. One sees a point, the other develops it, and this in turn, perhaps inspires some other idea, and so the plan grows. This is not to suggest that the layman does his own planning—the competent architect by his training and experience is alone fitted to cope successfully with the problems of the arrangement of varying spaces with proper means of access and communication, so as to make of a conveniently and economically arranged building an architectural unity. But, as has been suggested above, the planning of modern buildings, particularly those of a more complex nature, means the adjusting of conflicting requirements, and the decision which requirement must give way can best be made by those who are, perhaps, to spend their days in the building, or who have expert knowledge of the processes to be carried on in the same. In the very nature of the competition system this co-operation between client and architect is impossible. The chance fitting together of a nebulous puzzle replaces the skilful working out of a scientific problem.

Whenever a competition is proposed its advocates claim that it will bring to its promoters the

services of all, or of a number of, the best men in the profession in the district in which the competition is to be held, whilst a fee will only have to be paid to one of them. Disregarding the meanness (unconscious, we are prepared to believe) involved in this consideration we may ask, Is this claim justified? We believe not. Quite the contrary is true. Except in such a time as that we have just passed through, when in the offices of even the most successful practitioner there were idle times, at least some of the best men in the profession are certain to be too busy to take part in a competition gamble at the time of its promotion. Beyond this some of them will not, at any time, for any consideration, do so. The services of these men are, therefore, lost to the promoters. "The selection is thus limited to the less capable, but really needy."

There is, too, another vital point to be considered by any person or body before they decide to choose their architect by means of a competition. What are the functions of an architect? Too often the fact that he must be capable of far more than preparing successful "sketch" plans if he is to render full service to his client is overlooked. After the sketch plans are complete he must be able to prepare the working drawings to enable the building to be successfully constructed. There is the design and computation of supporting materials; computation of footings and sustaining powers; preparation of large scale and full size drawings; the writing of specifications and drawing up of contracts; the investigation and selection of materials of construction, both concealed and exposed; design of sanitary and heating equipment; arrangement of artificial lighting; design of architectural ornament, etc. To this list, by no means complete, must be added the most important, responsible, and onerous duty of supervising the construction. What assurance have the promoters of a competition that the man who won it by a set of beautiful drawings can perform to their satisfaction these very necessary duties? On the contrary, there are instances innumerable where the winner of a competition has completely failed to carry out the promise of his design, and where the resultant building has been a grave disappointment, or worse, to all concerned. This disappointment would have been avoided had the architect been chosen, not by the gamble of a competition, but by the only proper method of selection, that is, a choice based upon the knowledge of the man, his accomplished work, and his character.

It is worth noting, also, that it is not unknown, even in New Zealand, for the winner of a competition not to be the actual designer of the winning plans at all! The design has been prepared by someone with a facile gift of draughtsmanship, but with a very limited knowledge of the principles of construction. When the building is complete it is found to be entirely lacking in the grace which found the design favour in the eyes of the judge, structurally it is weak, the construction is poor. But again it is too late, the evil is wrought.

(To be continued.)

Here and There.

With reference to a paragraph that appeared in last month's issue regarding houses being built for the Dunedin City Council, the whole scheme of which is for forty houses and one shop, the Council have imposed the following conditions on the architects who are designing the houses:—“(a) That the whole scheme consist of 10 houses of 5 rooms, 20 of 4 rooms, 10 of three rooms, and one shop and dwelling. (b) That no room shall be smaller than 10ft. by 10ft. (c) All houses to have separate baths, scullery, w.c., and wash-house. In the case of 3-roomed houses, the copper and tubs are to be placed in the scullery. (d) Provision to be made for ash-bin to hold three tins for each house, the ash-bin to be constructed of the same material as the houses. (e) Approved ventilation to be provided in kitchen and scullery. (f) All rooms to be fitted with electric light, and gas service to be laid on to each dwelling and ring provided. (g) Water and drainage systems to be constructed for each dwelling by the City Engineer. (h) All buildings to be constructed either in brick or concrete, with tiled roofs. (i) The sites of each dwelling to be excavated by the City Engineer.”

* * * *

In connection with the acute state of the housing problem, a Wellington builder, Mr. H. E. Manning, has received a contract from the Government, for sixty-six houses to be built in concrete on the monolith system. Mr. Manning's idea is to build the walls of solid concrete poured into iron moulds, using a patent boxing system of which he is the inventor. He states that the houses can be erected at a cost of £100 per room, instead of from £150 to £200, as is the case with wooden houses.

* * * *

Parliamentary candidates will have to show that they know something of town-planning, and are prepared to do something should they be elected, as the Federated Town-Planning Associations of New Zealand are submitting the following question to all candidates for Parliamentary honours. The question reads: "Are you in favour of a Town-Planning Act being passed by Parliament during the next session, making provision for modern methods of town-planning being applied to all lands and works throughout the Dominion, including Crown lands and works?"

* * * *

The Christchurch City Council, in common with other Councils, is making an effort to overcome the housing difficulty. The Council has purchased six acres in North Linwood, which area, after making provision for roading, is sufficient for thirty-five houses.

* * * *

The "Wairarapa Age" of Nov. 21st, waxes eloquent over lady architects. We fancy we have seen the paragraph in print before, but at the same time we trust our professional brethren will quake in

their shoes when they realise what is in store for them. The paragraph runs as follows:—

“The trouble is that, up to the present, men have designed our houses for us, and women architects are only just coming into their own. Surely there is no more suitable field for women than that of designing homes; and I hope ere long to see domestic architecture almost entirely taken over by women. Then, and then only, shall we have really sensible, comfortable homes to work in as well as to play in. How can a man who has his business to attend to, possibly understand the needs of a woman who spends most of her time in the kitchen? He doesn't stop to think how she does her many and varied tasks, because they are usually all done by the time he comes home; and he never realises that a left-hand sink is preferable to a right, that there should be a good light on the stove, and plenty of ventilation. If some of the architects of to-day would take practical women into their offices, merely to act in an advisory capacity on these questions of domestic architecture, they would enlarge their practices a hundredfold, and build up names for themselves in a very short time.”

The political candidate is to be asked if he will support such expenditure as is necessary to provide a sufficient staff of well-trained teachers and such school sites, buildings and surroundings as will fulfil modern requirements. The Education Institute and the School Teachers' Association are evidently proving much more alive than they have been for years past.

A well-attended meeting of the Auckland members of the building trades affiliated to the New

Zealand Building Trades Federation was held at the Trades Hall last month for the purpose of discussing and authorising the steps necessary in connection with the filing of a dispute for the purpose of securing an award covering the whole of the eight trades comprised within the federation. Mr. T. Bloodworth, president of the Auckland branch of the federation, presided. The committee that had been appointed for the purpose of submitting a report on the subject, recommended that the Carpenters' and Joiners' Union should file the dispute and cite the various affiliated unions and the employers engaged in these trades as parties. The recommendation was unanimously adopted, and it was stated that immediate steps would be taken to file the dispute.

The Government Statistician has published a table giving the average house rents in twenty-five representative towns in New Zealand for the month of August last. This shows a variation in rents which is quite inexplicable. The rent of a seven-roomed house in Wellington is given at 30s. 4d. per week, in Auckland at 22s. 1d., Christchurch 24s. 10d., Dunedin 21s. 6d., Hamilton 26s. 11d., Napier 24s. 8d., Masterton 22s. 5d., Palmerston 22s. 11d., Nelson 16s. 11d., Greymouth 16s. 9d., Invercargill 18s. 1d., and Gore 19s. 2d. The rents in the majority of the South Island townships are much lower than they are in the North, but it is hard to discover why there should be a difference of over 8s. per week in the rent of a seven-roomed house as between Auckland and Wellington. The sooner Sir Joseph Ward comes along with his houses at 10s. 6d. per week—which at present appear only in electioneering manifestoes—the better pleased will the community be.



WELLINGTON MASTER BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION.

Annual Conference held in Wellington last month.

SAWMILLING SECTION.

[This Section is published by arrangement with the Dominion Federated Sawmillers' Association (Incorp.) in the interests of the Sawmilling Industry of N.Z.]

Editor: W. T. IRVINE.

Sawmillers throughout the Dominion are busy endeavouring to meet the demands of the public to the utmost of their power, but have been recently faced with fresh awards in various Industrial Districts, thus raising the cost of production, and correspondingly reducing the net return to the miller. But as the price lists to be observed by the Federation were fixed under certain conditions and awards then existent, it is manifest a revision of the lists should be made by the Board of Trade, which has shown every reasonable desire to meet altered conditions in any industry as they arise. The demand for timber is so keen to-day that some merchants who have allowed their stocks to run down, are making bids for the output of certain mills, at higher rates than the agreed lists, but this position has not been recognised by members of the Federation, who have stood loyally by their agreement. Where, however, the Federation has no control, as in the case of millers not affiliated, steps must be taken by the Board to see that their conditions are complied with, otherwise the miller who affects to play a "lone hand" may obtain some advantage to which he is clearly not entitled. All of which simply goes to show the futility of effective regulation of an industry, unless all engaged in it are compelled to affiliate and work with the Board through some recognised authority chosen by themselves. As we stand at present a maximum price is fixed for timber and a minimum for the labour employed in its production, but it is easy to foresee that under other circumstances than exist at present, a maximum or minimum must be made to apply to both, if regulation is to continue.

addition to other officers, will be attached to the staff.

With regard to the profit-sharing scheme put forward by Mr. H. Valden (Ellis & Burnard, Ltd., Hamilton) and the "Welfare Shares" he proposes to distribute to the employees of industrial undertakings, with the view of creating a greater community of interest between employer and employee, and healing the breach between capital and labour, we understand quite a number of complimentary references have been received by him. These, we believe, are now under review, and a precis will shortly be available for publication. It is a noteworthy feature that profit-sharing schemes are in the air, not only in the Dominion, but also in Great Britain and America, and if these have the effect of advancing in some measure the solution of the labour difficulty, and allaying the industrial unrest so much in evidence of late, they will serve a useful purpose. Towards this end any scheme will probably require the test of time to prove its worth, but if patience, sanity, and a give-and-take policy is adopted by both sides, we have little doubt of the outcome.

Logging Scholarships.

By J. Butler, Managing Director Kauri Timber Co. Ltd.

In New Zealand there is no industry that has received less attention by those who are responsible for the Technical education of our boys than sawmilling. There is no branch of sawmilling that has been more neglected than logging and yet there is no branch that offers more scope for scientific application.

A knowledge of engineering in all its branches is now expected of men who are entrusted to take charge of logging operations, but this knowledge is generally gained by personal experience which in most cases is punctuated with failures that would not have resulted had they been possessed of a proper scientific knowledge.

For successful modern logging technical training is required in the following subjects:—

Estimation of bush quantities and logging costs; surveying; civil engineering, including dam-building, railway building, water supplies, etc.; mechanical engineering, including knowledge of all types of steam and oil engines, railway equipment and running, cableways, splicing and rigging of wire ropes and general mechanics; all branches of hydraulics; actual logging costs; organisation of bush crews; camp planning and sanitary arrangements.

According to the Annual Forestry Report the total output of timber produced for the year ended 31st March, last was 228 million feet, or 20 million less than the previous year. Of the 63 million feet white pine produced, less than 32 millions were exported, being a reduction in export of this timber of over 2 millions as compared with the previous year. This fact, coupled with the production of patent butter boxes, and the increased use of birch, and *pinus insignis*, appears to have quite allayed the serious apprehensions of the Dairy Industry with regard to its future requirements.

It is announced that the Government has appointed Captain Lean Macintosh Ellis to the position of Director of Forestry. Capt. Ellis is a graduate of the Toronto School of Forestry, and has had experience in Canada, the United States, France, and the United Kingdom. Six Forest Inspectors, in

These are sufficient to show the necessity for technical training.

In America logging colleges are established and well supported and logging here is perhaps more varied and difficult in its character than it is there, and if America can support a college surely New Zealand should be able to support one or two scholarships.

It is with this idea that I am appealing to the Federation to take the matter up and make proper representations to the Government with the view of establishing one or two scholarships and so encourage students to take up logging as a technical occupation.

Labour Troubles.

Unions and Strikes.

One of the greatest problems before the country to-day is the seething unrest of Labour. Co-partnership and profit sharing was put forward as a means of making Labour more satisfied. This method is advocated, and is adopted by many commercial companies. It no doubt has a lot in its favour but there is a lot to its and Labour's disadvantage, once the system starts to be universally used. It has the possibility of creating efficiency of both capital and labour of the very best commercial ventures, at the expense of totally sacrificing less competent labour and capital. Capital is used in commercial ventures to make, if possible, larger interest than the current value of money, say, 6 per cent. In doing this the investors take all kinds of risks. There is an element of gambling in the transactions, and in some cases the risk is very great, so great that it could almost be allied with betting on horse racing, so that capital is entitled to, say, 6 per cent. on safe money value and on the top of this a risk rate not easy to define. The different way capital is invested all has a bearing influence on profit-sharing to labour. Investors who take large risks we will assume pay large profits, or probably lose their capital, while sound judgment on the part of the investor, proper organising and control of capital and general management, must have a profit earning or losing influence on the capital invested, and in consequence each investment will be offering different conditions to the labour it employs on a profit-sharing basis. Now we will assume there are 20 ventures in the same line of business and production, each investment will more or less be working under different conditions. The judgment of the investors may be faulty or even reckless, the general management will not always be on the same lines. Some will be handicapped by different circumstances.

The result of the ventures that makes the largest profits will offer better inducements to labour than the venture making small profits, and thus draw to its fold the very best workmen, which will further increase the profit earning of those particular companies, while the less competent workman will be forced into working for the companies making small profits and will naturally further decrease their profit earning. This would lead to grave dissatisfaction amongst labour. This in itself would be bad enough but it would probably spread still further. Wage

earners would look further and watch the most successful company operating in any districts paying large profits to its labour. By this method the most successful business proposition would at once command the very best picked labour and become further efficient, no doubt very satisfactory to the capital and labour which they employed, but not to the capital and labour, handled by less competent labour.

It would be quite possible to get the very best efficiency of some of the industries working by the profit sharing system; (while efficiency and merit have to be recognised and rewarded), this seems, however, to sacrifice too much to gain any lasting result, and opens the door to serious discontent. Efficient labour cannot afford to do something that is not satisfactory to less efficient labour. Neither can capital put forth a measure that would destroy less efficient capital.

As this unrest of labour is practically over the whole world, and affects all kinds and classes, the adjustment of better conditions must be something that reaches further than profit sharing or co-partnership—something more just to the inefficient worker, something more secure than a game of chance on capital risk of all kinds of investments.

Further, profit sharing or co-partnership does not tend to cheapen cost of production or cost of living, but would create a higher cost of living because both workmen and capital would be out after larger profits in combination together. Take labour producing flour. On the profit or co-partnership no one would expect labour to ask the investor to reduce the price of flour, but rather to enable them to get a greater share of profits. This may be greatly to the detriment of other workmen or working in other industries and to get even all round, swelling the cost of living higher and higher while in the industries that reach out furthest for high prices, they and their workmen survive by the sacrifice of many others.

There seems one place that labour value can be started from in fairness to all parties and the community that is based on the cost of living. It is agreed that labour is entitled to a living wage. If so, the cost of living must be the basis as to what is a living wage. There does not seem anything impossible in being able to ascertain the cost of living from time to time by proper experts.

Once the cost of living is ascertained and an adjustment of different classes of labour, it will then rest with capital to offer inducements to decrease the cost of living, and labour to play its part.

It is only natural that this will not be done unless some inducements are offered to labour—inducements that have in view a safe and sound policy. That the present Arbitration Act has not got. The true solution of the cost of living is more or less in the dark, while the Arbitration Act does not make for efficiency, but counts each man's efficiency at the one value, which is quite wrong. We will assume the minimum wage is fixed, and encouragement will be given to bring about efficient workmen while merit and ability will, of course, get their reward above incompetence, otherwise the individuality of the worker will soon be lost, which would be detrimental to the whole nation. Labour, capital, and brains

have all a part to play in bettering the conditions of humanity, and each should strive to play its part fairly to each other.

It is for brains to try to perfect a system that will improve present working conditions, and make for better relations between capital and labour, and reduce cost of living. Labour cannot be satisfied working on chance, it needs a fair living wage to the less competent (not necessarily the non-tryer).

The object of labour after getting the living wage fixed and a fair adjustment of difference in class of labour should be to reduce wages and the cost of living. The experts who find the true living wage watch the barometer of costs and they will say from time to time what is the living wage which will vary as costs vary or as near as possible. The wage earners may look at reduction of wages as disastrous to them, but the main point is that this continual rising cannot for ever go on and it is not the amount of money they get that has any great weight in the matter, but the purchasing power of money is the true measure of value to both capital and labour.

It is quite possible for 10s to have a very much greater purchasing power than £1 has to day and in that case the labourer or the capitalist would be better off with the altered conditions. The methods that are open to labour to improve the position and get efficiency fairly are many. For example there is what is called waste labour—workers doing work any old way, wasting energy, and time lost to everybody. There is always a proper way to do work with the least loss of time. This needs trained labour working in combination like a first class football team (I do not suggest labour to keep up their pace). One often sees a labourer, say 8 stone or thereabout, trying to do labour that requires the labourers of the best physique.

Scientifically there is a lot of wasted energy in labour that has got to come out to help to do the labourer's share of reducing costs of living.

Trained labour makes for efficiency.

Proper placing of labour makes for efficiency.

Contented labour makes for efficiency.

Dissatisfied and unrestful labour makes for inefficiency.

Strikes and lockouts make for high cost of living. Labour must have fairness on some sound method of adjustment, something that is fair to the worker, the community and capital. It is quite possible that capital can offer better value to labour on lower cost of living than on high—with lower wages and greater purchasing power of money, less capital is required to finance the business and interest charges and overhead charges are reduced. Less profits are satisfactory to the capitalist because the value of purchasing power also affects all positions.

It seems quite possible that if the capital could buy with 10s what it now takes £1 to buy, industries could offer say 5 per cent. better value to its workers. There would be no inducement to labour to reduce wages unless he had a sound assurance although he received say, only 10s in place of £1 he gets to-day, he would, through the reduction of cost of living, have even more actual value.

As this applies to all parties there is no real reason, that it cannot be brought about in place of high flying price daily reducing the £1 value. This system could go on until in real value £1 would only be equal to 5s.

To the worker the cost of living must be his guide and the place at which his value as a worker starts. Organised labour so far makes for unrest, building up fighting funds, and general trouble, some unions getting more than they are probably entitled to, others less, with no safe basis to control the value of labour with the rise and fall of the cost of living.

Capital, brains and labour have to put forth their greatest energy to get the greatest reward. Nature does not make us all alike. Nature provides for energy and by this means responds. The sun produces the greatest growth of crops when it puts forth its greatest energy on this earth, but it does not grow all grain equal in value.

Rates of Exchange.

Possibilities of a State Bank.

A cablegram from London mentions that American financiers are arranging a conference with British financiers to discuss "means of arresting the decline in the value of the sovereign, which, it is recognised, seriously threatens America's export trade." The present abnormal condition of exchange is attracting a great deal of attention in local commercial circles, and any arrangement that can be made to restore the value of the sovereign in the United States and generally stabilise exchange conditions will be welcomed. The existing rates involve a loss of about 3s. on the sovereign when it is turned into dollars, and a corresponding gain to the Americans when the dollars are turned into sovereigns. The situation acts as a severe restraint on trade.

Sir Joseph Ward, in the political manifesto he issued recently, mentioned that during the war rates of exchange had advanced materially, and he thought that the time had arrived to "appeal to the whole of the financial institutions" in order to secure a reduction. "This is one of the directions in which a State bank would prove of considerable value," he added. "It should not, of course, be a part of its policy to carry on any section of its business at a loss or without providing a fair profit for the work done for its clients, but it would have a valuable influence in helping to keep the rates of exchange at a level where they would not be such a heavy tax as at present upon producers and exporters."

Banking authorities in Wellington are not generally disposed to believe that a State bank could effect very much in the way of reducing rates of exchange. "Rates of exchange are not determined in New Zealand, though admittedly the banks work together to the extent of maintaining a conventioned rate," said one banker yesterday. "That conventional rate is dependent upon the rate prevailing in the London market, and there does not appear to be any way of changing that position. Business people are aware that under ordinary conditions rates of exchange for many countries fluctuate from day to day. The finan-

cial houses in London watch the fluctuations with extraordinary keenness, and make some of their profits out of adjustments and movements of money, with percentages of profit so small as to look scarcely worth attention to the uninstructed layman. British Dominions, having strong and well-organised banks, have generally escaped those fluctuations by the adoption of conventional rates of exchange. But the rates must have a close relation to the London rates."

It was impossible to discuss intelligently the effect of a State Bank on rates of exchange, added the banker, without knowing something of the organisation and scope of the suggested institution. A State bank, acting independently of the private banks might choose to cut down its own profits by doing exchange work slightly below the current rates. But the benefit to the commercial community would not be large, since the profit of the bank was only one of the factors governing exchange. The State bank would not be able to operate independently of the London money market. If a State bank handled all payments in connection with the export of New Zealand produce, it would undoubtedly accumulate very large credits in London and might be able to reduce exchange rates. It was well known that some business houses saved money by arranging exchange between themselves. If A, a New Zealand exporter, had sold produce worth £10,000 in London and had the money to his credit there; and if B, doing business in New Zealand, wished to pay for £10,000 worth of British goods for export to the Dominion, it was possible for A and B to arrange matters between themselves and save exchange. B. could pay A £10,000 in New Zealand and take over the £10,000 held by A in London. But it would hardly be suggested that a State bank would handle all the payments, and failing that, it would be in much the same position as the other banks.

It is thought in financial circles here that the effort of the British and American bankers to adjust exchange rates will be successful, though some time may elapse before the pre-war position is fully restored. The Americans are getting an advantage under present conditions, but they realise that if the conditions continue the other nations will be forced to cease buying American goods. A strong effort will be made to prevent this occurring.

Not So Well Off.

Labour Leader's Warning.

Speaking on "Industrial Fallacies" at Leeds recently, Mr. W. A. Appleton, Secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions, said one misapprehension was that high wages necessarily meant a high standard of comfort. Millions were getting twice as much in nominal wages, and yet were not living as comfortably as before the war. Another misapprehension was that idleness made for happiness. If people who were striving for more leisure were only doing so in order that they might do nothing, he was sure they were not going to be any happier. It was the exercise of thought and creative capacity that afforded the highest happiness. He was afraid we were getting into trouble by imagining that shorter hours necessarily meant less unemployment. The

effect would be seriously to increase the cost of production and the selling price in overseas markets.

He feared they were making the mistake of assuming that the grievances of the minority were more important than the welfare of the majority. They were having lightning strikes, which were stopping production and holding up the whole country. We were running after will-o'-the-wisps, and later on we would have to pay for the foolishness that had kept us more or less idle for the past three months. These occupations were to-day combining to compel the rest of the workers to pay additions to their wages. He wanted the miners, the railwaymen and the transport workers to have a good time, but they should realise that every penny put upon the community handicapped the other fellow. He wanted working people to get back to the old truth—"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

Elephants as Lumber Jacks.

The elephants are our chief standby in Siam and without them teak could not be worked, as it grows in such inaccessible places that no hauling machine could be brought near the trees, says a writer in "Asia." Elephants can climb like cats. It is marvellous to see them pick their way up and down steep slopes, but sometimes they lose their foothold. One of our elephants fell down a steep river bank last year, hit her head against a rock and broke her neck. The work of the elephants consists in climbing up to the fallen trees and pushing or rolling them down hill to a spot where it is level enough for dragging chains to be attached. Then they drag the logs down to the nearest floating creek, often six or seven miles away. An elephant can handle from fifty to seventy logs per season, which lasts from about June 1 till the end of February. Then it becomes too hot for them to work, and they go into rest camps until the next rains. The elephants do their best work in floating streams, working the timber with the current, releasing logs from jams and rolling the stranded logs back into the water. The elephant drivers have a special "elephant" language which the nials understand—a special elephant vocabulary with such terms as "Push sideways," "Roll," "Pull out," "Stop," "Lift your chains."

It is very interesting and exciting to watch the elephant at work in high water. They are magnificent swimmers. When they swim from bank to bank, herding the logs that require their special attention, you see nothing of them except the tips of their trunks through which they breathe, and the mahouts, or drivers, who are generally in water up to their waists. If a big stack or jam breaks suddenly where elephants are working, they know the danger of being overtaken. They trumpet and clear off to either bank or swim downstream as fast as they can go. I once saw an elephant working at the head of a jam slip off a rock into deep water and get swept under the stack. We all believed that he was a goner, but every now and then we were surprised to see his trunk come up through the logs, suck in a long breath and disappear. The trunk would reappear each time further downstream. He finally emerged at the foot of the jam, very much blown.

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"Progress" will be pleased to have its friends contribute from time to time, their experiences. If you have any new ideas, or old ones for that matter, they will be welcomed. Let us hear from you.

—EDITOR.

Building Notes.

ASHBURTON.

The plan for the proposed Ashburton Borough School observatory, prepared by the Canterbury Education Board's architect, was on view at Ashburton recently. The design is for a neat, substantial building of brick, with concrete foundations, specially constructed to prevent any vibration. The building will be surmounted with a revolving dome.

AUCKLAND.

The discussion re the Returned Soldiers' Club has now been settled. It appears that the complete building the soldiers required would cost considerably more than the available funds. The plans have therefore been altered omitting the fourth floor, and the sum of £1200 held by the Association has been handed over for building purposes. The land cost £12,500 and the plans have to be modified so that the cost must not exceed £8000.

Auckland, in common with other centres, is very short of labour. One large building and contracting firm state that they have been compelled to refuse orders amounting to £1500 in a fortnight owing to the lack of carpenters. They state they could do with thirty more men. Building material requisites are also very short, though Auckland, of course, is well supplied with cement.

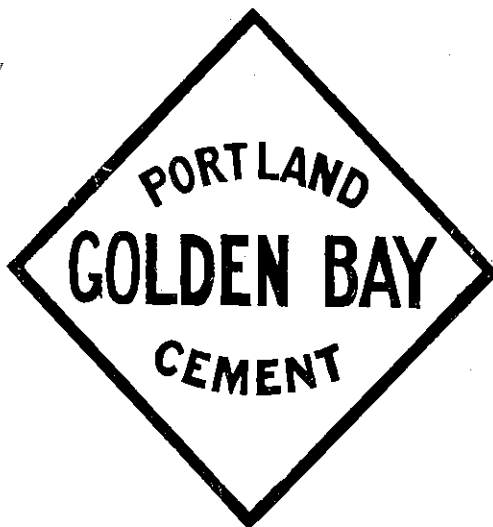
The Auckland Education Board has sixty thousand pounds available for replacing old schools. It is proposed now to start on the Napier Street School, and erect an up-to-date school there. A grant has been made by the Minister of Education for an important addition to the New Lynn School, tenders for which have been invited.

A contract has been let for alterations and additions to provide extra accommodation for the Leslie Presbyterian Orphanage amounting to £5000.

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CANTERBURY AGENTS

Mr. R. H. Abbott is erecting in Newmarket a block of buildings in brick, comprising eight shops, which, it is hoped, will be completed this year. Mr. J. Currie, Auckland, called for tenders during the month for the erection of a residence in Green Lane. Messrs. Wilson and Moodie called for tenders during the month for Messrs. Sargood, Son, & Ewen, Ltd., for additions to warehouse, and Messrs. Holman & Moses called for tenders for additions in brick to premises in Karangahape Road. Messrs. Grierson & Aimes, architects, called for tenders during the month for re-flooring the Otahuhu Public Hall; and Mr. Daniel B. Paterson invited tenders for the erection of a residence in wood in Remuera. Mr. A. A. McLan invited tenders for the erection of a house at Mangere, in concrete.

CAMBRIDGE.

A public meeting held last month selected a design submitted by Mr. N. Wallnutt, for a monument to the fallen soldiers. It was also agreed that a commemorative building should be erected in Victoria Square for Returned Soldiers' War Trophies. The monument is expected to cost £4000 and the building £6000.

CHRISTCHURCH.

The construction of a new railway goods shed at Christchurch, has been commenced. The building will have a floor area of 400ft. by 60ft, divided by a fire break, and will be equipped with electric overhead travelling cranes. The shed is to be completed in a year, the cost being estimated at £10,000.

The New Brighton Power Boat Club is about to erect a two-storeyed boat house at New Brighton.

Messrs. J. S. and M. J. Guthrie, architects, invited tenders, during the month, for re-building St. Mary's Catholic School in brick. The same architects invited tenders for St. Matthew's Memorial School at St. Albans. Messrs. England Bros., architects, invited tenders for the erection of a house in St. Albans; also for extension to premises for Messrs. E. Reese, Ltd. Messrs. Ellis & Hall invited tenders for a two-storeyed residence at Fendalton. Mr. T. Duncan Brown invited tenders for a new Presbyterian Church at Rangiora.

DUNEDIN.

Mr. Leslie D. Coombs, A.R.I.B.A., reports that he has let contracts for an addition to the Oban Hotel (thirteen rooms), contractor, D. O'Connell; also alterations to shops in the Octagon, contractor, E. McLeod. The same architect called for tenders for a residence at Anderson's Bay, and another at St. Clair, and has recently completed additions to Momona Cheese Factory, contractors, Loan & Watson; alterations to residence, Rattray Street, contractors, Loan & Watson; shop in George Street for D. Ritchie & Co., contractors, Fletcher Bros.; additions to the Otago Dairy Producers' Cool Stores, Dunedin, contractor, J. McKinnon.

Mr. Basil B. Hooper reports as follows:—Works recently completed include—Country residence, garage,

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etc., for Dr. Barnett, at Hampden; additions to residence in Highgate, Roslyn, for Mrs. Allan; additions to country residence at Waikouaiti, for C. W. Rattray, Esq.; double garage, etc., in Heriot Row, for G. R. Ritchie, Esq. Works under construction include—Extensive alterations and additions to the late Sir Joshua Williams' residence, Anderson's Bay, for C. W. Rattray, Esq. The entire house is being remodelled and renovated. Hot water heating is being supplied to a number of the rooms, by an Ideal Domestic hot water boiler, and gas fires fixed in practically every room. A feature is the billiard room, 32ft. x 19ft., with a large open fireplace, built in chipped clinkers; and heavily beamed ceiling. The casements are steel, glazed with clear glass lead-lights. The work is being carried out by day labour. Mr. H. C. Anderson controlling same under the architect's directions. Also a residence in Dunottar for Mrs. Napier; a country residence at Waitati for Dr. McKellar; extensive additions to the Otago Tallow & Bye Products Co. Works at Burnside, in reinforced concrete, wood, and iron; and a residence in Dunottar for Thos. Turnbull, Esq. Plans are being prepared for residences at Anderson's Bay, Lynwood Avenue, Dunottar, and for additions to residences at St. Clair and Port Chalmers.

Mr. H. Mandeno, registered architect, reports the following works just completed:—Residence (stone) for J. A. Roberts, Esq., on Gladbrook Station, contractor, D. O'Connell; large residence (brick) for C. F. Oliver, Esq., in Albert Street, contractor, W. H. Naylor; Catholic church (concrete) at Roxburgh, contractor, D. Boyd; renovating buildings at Wakari for the King Edward Technical College, contractors, W. McLellan (timber work), M. Scott (plumbing); motor repair shop, King Edward Technical College, contractor, W. H. Naylor; lavatory block at Otago Boys' High School, contractor, A. Ferry; dressing and shelter sheds, Otago Boys' High School, contractors, Fletcher Bros.; additions to South Dunedin convent, contractor, W. McLellan. Works in course of erection—Large residence at Dunottar for S. Bowman, Esq., contractor, W. H. Naylor; malt houses, kilns, and stores for the Wilson Malt Extract Company, contractors, Geo. Simpson & Co.; strong rooms and alterations for the Standard Insurance Company, contractors, Jas. McGill & Sons; six class rooms (stone) Otago Boys' High School, contractor, W. McLellan; residence (brick) for J. B. Moss, Esq., contractor, Geo. Gibbs; renovations to residence A. Bathgate, Esq., contractor, W. McLellan; alteration for J. G. Patterson, Esq., contractor, Geo. Gibbs; warehouse (brick and concrete) for Messrs. Sargood, Son & Ewen, Ltd., at Invercargill, contractors, Jas. McGill & Sons; Convent chapel (stone) at Oamaru for the Dominican Nuns, contractor, W. McLellan; Kelsey-Yaralla Kindergarten in Leith Avenue, contractor, J. L. Hamilton; shop and workshop for Mr. D. Boyer in Carroll Street, contractor, J. L. Hamilton; residence (timber) Balclutha, for Mr. Smith, contractor, J. L. Hamilton; alterations to business premises for Messrs. John Chambers & Sons, contractors, Wood & McCormack; residence for Mrs. W. J. Tonkin at Ettrick, contractor, D. Boyd. Plans are being prepared and tenders are being called for:—Garage and motor repair shop for Messrs. Cooke, Howlison & Co., Ltd., in Ward Street; class rooms (brick) for the Dominican Nuns at Invercargill; Catholic church (concrete) at Palmerston; shop, workrooms and dwelling at Balclutha for C. Kirby, Esq.; large residence for the Christian Brothers at Rattray Street; open-air sleeping shelters and lavatory block for the King Edward Technical College at Wakari; alterations and additions to seaside cottage for J. C. Stephens, Esq.; additions to Archerfield School for Mrs. Nesbit; residence (timber) at Anderson's Bay; residence (timber) at Balclutha; business premises in reinforced concrete in Wellington; several large building schemes are also in the preliminary stages and will be proceeded with as soon as labour and material are available.

Mr. D. G. Mowatt reports that he has let a contract to J. Hamilton, contractor, for additions to the Otago Brush Factory, King Street, Dunedin.

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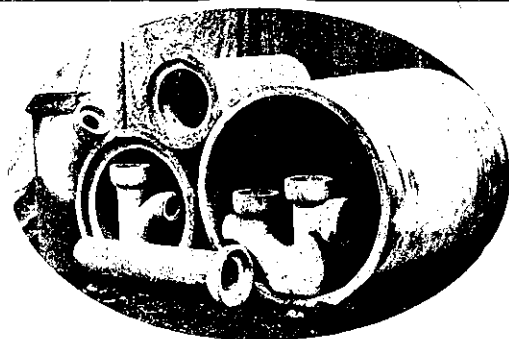
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FEATHERSTON.

Tenders were invited, during the month, for the erection of workers' dwellings at Hinakura.

HELENSVILLE.

A Soldiers' Memorial is about to be erected in Helensville district, designs for which are being called. The amount available for erection of same is between £500 and £1000.

MASTERTON.

A visit was paid by the Director of Education, Dr. Anderson, and the Minister of Education, to Masterton, to consider the question of an up-to-date institution for higher education. The Minister promised to provide a High School for the town. Messrs. Collins, Harman & Munnings, architects, invited tenders for the erection of business premises for the Farmers' Co-operative Distributing Company.

TAURANGA.

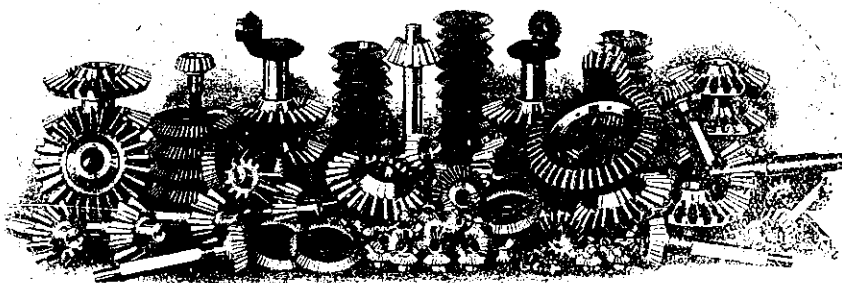
The local War Memorial Committee is raising the sum of £1200 for memorial gates at the entrance to the Domain.

TIMARU.

The Timaru Education Board are considering the erection of a Manual Training Centre, and making certain conversions at the Timaru Technical School. The Public Works Department invites tenders for the delivery of doors, windows, and frames for the Timaru Post Office.

WAIRAKAPA.

Messrs. Wake & Goodes, architects, invited tenders, during the month, for the erection of a vicarage at Tinui, and a residence at Mauriceville. The local papers in Masterton and district, lead one to suppose that Masterton is going ahead faster than any other town in New



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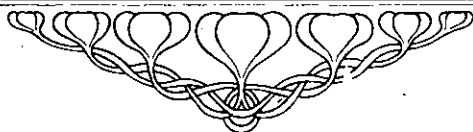
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Zealand. Houses are said to be going up in every direction. Wealthy settlers in the neighbourhood are acquiring land and building residences on a more or less elaborate scale.

WELLINGTON.

During the month the Federated Builders and Contractors' Association held its Annual Conference. As in every other centre, Wellington builders are complaining bitterly of the absence of labour and the consequent stagnation of building. There does not appear to be any lack of work to be done, the housing problem having already become notorious.

The City Council called for comprehensive designs for a building in brick or concrete in the Basin Reserve.

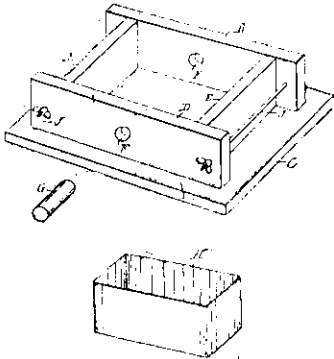
Mr. William Turnbull, architect, invited tenders for alterations and additions to the National Mutual Life Association's premises.

In addition to the workers' dwellings effort of the Government, illustrated on another page of this issue, the Labour Department let a contract to Messrs. Swanston & Ashton, a Wellington and Masterton firm, for the erection of forty concrete houses at Miramar, and negotiations are proceeding for an additional sixty-six houses, fifty-one at Miramar, and fifteen at Petone.

During the month the City Council called for the erection of additions to the Electric Light Station. Three tenders were sent in, all of which were considered too high, with the result that the Council has decided to build by day labour.

Patents of Interest to Builders.

Concrete Building Block—A patent, No. 42056, has been taken out by Tom Sutcliffe, of London, which consists of a method of moulding a hollow concrete or like building-block having full faces upon all its aspects and walls of uniform thickness, wherein loose sand or the



like is introduced to form a core or cores during the moulding, the shape of which core is determined by a liner, the sand or the like being subsequently removed through holes formed in the walls of the block.

Window Frame or Sash, Metal—A patent, No. 42154, has been taken out by F. J. Gibbons, of Stafford, England, which consists in a construction whereby the sliding-sash when slid open becomes pivoted vertically so that it can be turned inwards to provide ready access



to its outer surface from the inside of the building. For this purpose means are provided to pivot the sliding-sash vertically when slid open, and simultaneously to permit same to leave the guides on which it slides, from which it is previously precluded from leaving.

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