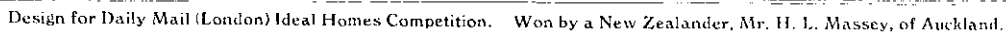


The Building Trade in England.

Reversion to the Guild Idea.

It is probably not too much to say that the decision of the workers in the Building Trades of Manchester to form themselves into a Building Guild and to offer to construct houses, without any intervention on the part of employers, direct for the Manchester City Council, is the most significant and revolutionary development that has ever taken place in the



trade union world. For some years now the guild theory has been discussed and debated—once at Leeds. In the case of the headquarters of the Theosophical Society it was applied to a limited degree; but here is a bold, practical, and extended application which may lead in the early future to the organisation of the whole building industry on the Guild basis. "One feels ashamed," remarked Mr. Cole at the National Guilds meeting addressed by Mr Bernard Shaw in London recently—"one feels ashamed to have been discussing this Guild idea so long without having thought of this simple, practical scheme."

It is the Manchester Guild Committee which has worked out a constructive scheme in detail, and the