

the identification tag. These medals are sold to help rebuild the Cathedral.

"When the Red Cross first opened a canteen hotel in Rheims, a short time after the armistice was signed, the people were beginning to struggle back in groups of twos and threes to join those who lived in the wine-cellar during the last bombardment. By the end of last May more than 30,000 of the original population of 125,000 were home again. This canteen hotel has a capacity of 500 beds.

"It isn't only in France that American ideas and American help are sought: the new Czecho-Slovak Republic has engaged an American to standardise architecture and engineering along American lines.

"American architects, contractors, and builders are not going to Europe to do the job, but to collaborate."

### Here and There.

Contracts have been signed for the erection of more workers' dwellings in Christchurch. A start will be made to erect the houses next month. They will be of the bungalow type, and made of cement manufactured at Paparua Prison.

Another block of dwellings is to be erected at Rotomaro for the Taupiri coal miners. The houses already erected there are well-planned and up-to-date. The miners have the option of purchasing their own freehold houses on very easy terms, a scheme having been devised by the secretary to the company under which, by a payment of a weekly sum—said to be practically less than the rent value—the house in time becomes the miner's absolute property. If the miner desires to leave the district he can sell to another man or dispose of his holding to the company, which will purchase the house subject to valuation. Three or four acres of land have been marked out for a site for a new school.

Regarding the proposed new building for Auckland University College, the Minister of Education, Sir Francis Bell, said that the College Council would have to be provided with sufficient funds to erect a building fit in every respect to be the chief seat of learning in the North Island. The Government was prepared to deal with great liberality with the demands of Auckland when they were presented. Asked to indicate the amount the Cabinet was prepared to vote, the Minister said he thought it would not be less than £100,000.

Provision was made in the Housing Act for financial assistance towards the provision of dwelling-houses for the employees in industries. A "proclamation" published in the Gazette declares that this part of the Act shall apply to the meat-freezing industry, applications having been received from various employers in that industry for assistance under the Act.

## BUILDERS' COSTS AND ESTIMATES.

By R. A. DERRICK.

(Continued from February issue.)

The three subdivisions now dealt with—"C," "R," and "G"—cover fairly well all the work likely to be met with in costing the carpenters' work in ordinary villa construction. Other carpenters' cost units may have to be added. Thus many builders will need cost units for roof principals, fixing roof purlins, and similar work. Others again may find it useful to have cost units for work such as fixing shingles, and for fixing special wall finishes, and so on. Each builder should design his cost units to suit his own particular type of business, and contracting and estimating methods. The foregoing will give a good idea of the manner in which this may be done for carpenters' work.

There yet remain subdivisions "B" and "L"—bricklayer's and labourer's work. These may be subdivided into cost units somewhat as follows:—

### Subdivision "B"—Bricklayers' Work.

Walls, etc.:—B W B—"Bagging" walls; B W C—Chimneys work; B W I—Inside walls; B W K—Striking work; B W L—Sleeper walls; B W O—Outside walls; W W S—Special walls.

General Work:—B G C—Coppers and Flues; B G F—Setting Frames; B G S—Setting sills and stonework.

Old Work:—B D G—Making good old work; B O B—Pulling down old work.

Sundries:—B P R—Building piers; B S R—Work on special arches.

Other cost units might include cornices, elaborate chimneys, and ornamental work generally. Cleaning down the work is often sublet to a special tradesman such as the tuckpointer, who would do the work at a price for both labour and material. This work is therefore not included in the bricklayers' work. As a sub-contract this work is still a cost unit of course.

### Subdivision "L"—Labourers' Work.

Digging Work:—L D F—Digging foundations; L D P—Digging post holes.

Concrete Work:—L C F—Concreting foundations; L C H—Concreting hearths; L C R—Preparing reinforcing rods; L C W—Concreting in form work.

Bricklayers' Work:—L B M—Mixing mortar; L B K—Hod carrying of bricks and motor; L B S—Scaffolding.

General Work and Assisting:—L A C—Assisting carpenters; L A S—Stacking timber; L A U—Unloading materials; L P D—Pulling down old work; L K G—Clearing ground for building; L K U—Cleaning up after the work.