

The statistics published a short time ago with regard to contracts and extras, speaks very well for those in charge of these matters, in the expenditure of about £42,000 on Custom House, Te Aro Post Office, Magistrates Court, Kilbirnie Post Office, the extras only amounting to £250, and the only amount of any size was £1800 of extras on the £40,000 Public Trust Office, but the actual amount paid on contract does not exceed the original contract price.

Mr GRAY YOUNG, architect, reports the following work in hand:—Residence of 6 rooms in Rimu Street, Kelburne, for Mr. Cecil Goulter; Watts Bros., contractors. Additions to Mr. F. W. Furkett's residence at Hataitai; Isaac Clark & Son, contractors. He is calling tenders for a cottage of 4 rooms at Seatoun, two houses of 6 and 8 rooms respectively, both two storeys, in Wilkinson Terrace, Oriental Bay, for Miss M. A. Alcorn. He is preparing plans for residence of 6 rooms in Oriental Bay, residence of 5 rooms at Hataitai, cottage of 4 rooms at Newtown.

Messrs PENTY & LAWRENCE architects, report, amongst other work:—Private hotel for nurses, of 20 rooms, in Kensington Street; Mace & Nicholson, contractors. Banking premises, with clerk's accommodation, at Blenheim, for the Union Bank of Australia; Jas. McKinley, contractor. Calling for tenders for banking premises and manager's residence, in brick, at Hamilton, for the Union Bank of Australia.

Mr. JOHN T. MAIR, A.R.I.B.A., reports:—Contract let for cottage at Khandallah to Messrs. Norling & Quinn, builders; £393. Eighteen tenders received for shop and dwelling at Hataitai; contract not yet signed. Plans in hand for a large fireproof concrete residence in Southland; also residences at Khandallah and Sumner. Satisfactory progress under weather conditions with the erection of the First Presbyterian Church and Hall at Invercargill; Messrs McKinnon & Hamilton, builders; the Deacon's Court has decided to erect the architect's original design for church at an increased cost of £1300. Completion of residence at Upper Hutt for Dr. Kemp; H. W. Shaw, builder. Completion of first part of concrete shops for Mr. H. R. Gibbs, at Upper Hutt; H. W. Shaw, builder.

Mr. JOHN S. SWAN reports as under:—Contract for additions, etc., to three houses at Roseneath; let to Mr. H. M. Davis. Con-

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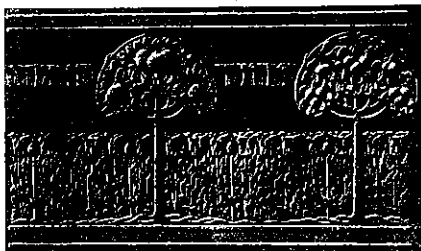
Hugh C. Grierson,
Architect

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tract for stained glass windows for Wanganui Convent; let to Messrs. John Hardman, Ltd., of Birmingham. Stables for hotel; being erected by day labour. Wrought-iron gate and concrete posts at Wanganui Convent; let to Mr. W. J. James, of Wanganui. Twelve tenders received for additions to Wellington Hotel for Messrs. J. Staples & Co., Ltd; lowest tender will be accepted in a few days.

Mr. BENNIE, architect, reports that the work on Messrs. Aulsebrook & Co.'s large warehouse is well in hand, and that the new dining-room for the Hotel Cecil is nearly finished.

Just at the present moment the Parliament House grounds look like a very bad back-block road in mid-winter. The destruction of the beautiful forty-year-old garden and the great waste of public money in connection with the whole scheme are universally condemned, and it is certain that all the members of the late Cabinet were not agreed as to the wanton destruction of trees and shrubs that has taken place. However, it has got to that stage with the new Parliament Buildings that it is absolutely necessary to push them on with all expedition. The late Minister for Public Works said that the Legislative portion of the building would be completed early in 1914, but judging by the present rate of progress it is likely to be much later.

Further extensions and improvements are to take place at the Gear Meat Company's premises at Petone. Some houses are now being lifted bodily and moved to make provision for the work.

Drainage work at the Lower Hutt is progressing favourably, although these recent rains are likely to cause inconvenience. A new 10 h.p. oil engine has been secured for the septic tank in this eastern section.

The question of cheap public telephones is still very much to the fore, and it is hoped very shortly to enable heaps of those who cannot afford, or do not wish, to have them in their own houses, to be able to communicate with others at a very low charge.

Wanganui proposes to erect a thoroughly up-to-date and comfortable theatre, and Mr. Henry E. White, architect, Wellington, recently submitted full working plans. It is to be erected opposite Chavanne's Hotel, and part

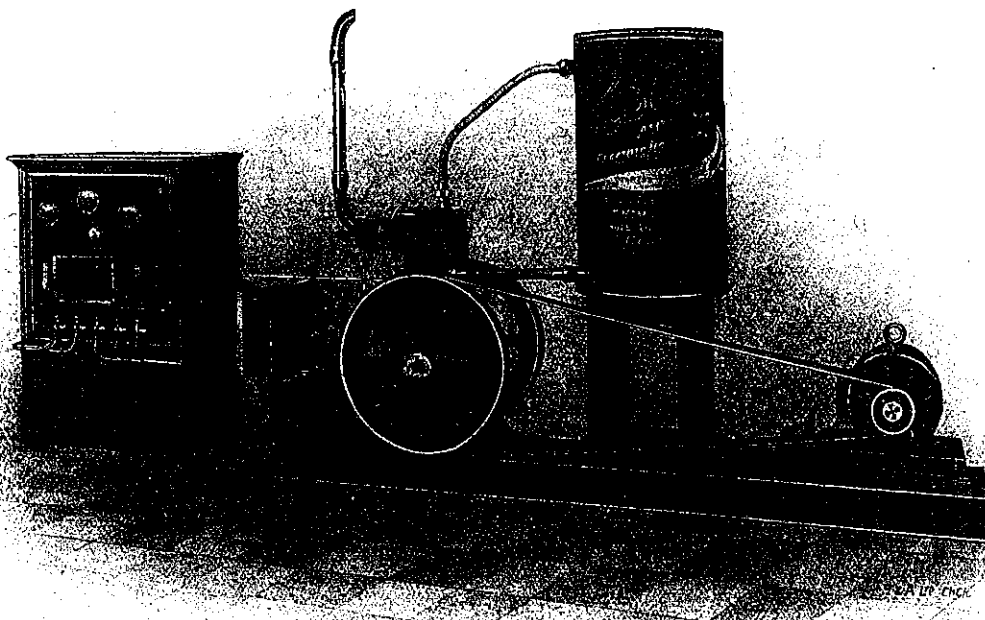
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