

The total cost of the Addington Library building, which was erected by the City Council by day labour, amounted £564 17s. 11d., being £17 17s. 11d. more than the lowest tender received for the work. Councillor Beanland, chairman of the Works Committee, informed the Council that a "real good job" had been effected. It is not often that day labour contracts come so near to an open tender price.

The Canterbury Education Board invite tenders for heating new rooms at Sydenham school with a hot water heating system.

A mild scare was created in the city recently when a crack was discovered in the New Government Buildings. Mr. J. McEnnis district engineer of the Public Works Department, and Mr. W. G. Jamieson, one of the contractors for the building, inspected the crack. Mr. McEnnis subsequently stated that he considered the disturbance was only a local one, and that there was no cause for alarm. The crack was due, not to the sinking of the foundations, but to the contraction of the stone and the concrete, the stone having a tendency to shrink. About eighteen months ago a crack appeared in that part of the building facing Cathedral square, due to the expansion of the concrete. Levels were taken in the building at that time, and proved quite true.

Mr. Jamieson expressed the opinion that the foundations were so substantial that an express train could be driven over the building with perfect safety to the structure. Owing to the variations of heat and cold in Christchurch there was often a disturbance in the stonework of buildings, and the Government offices did not compare unfavourably in this respect with many another building in the city.

The lead light workers dispute has been settled by the Conciliation Court by adopting the present agreement with the following amendments: Lead glaziers, plate-glass cutters, and hand bevellers, 1s. 6d. per hour; and silverers, polishers, leadlight workers, and machine bevellers, 1s. 3d. per hour. The agreement will come into operation on July 5th, and will hold good for a term of two years from that date.

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With a view to providing suitable sites for the development of the manufacturing and other industries of the city, the Otago Harbour Board placed a large block of land adjoining the water-front on the market. Some sixty sections were offered for lease. As an incentive to settlement the board has taken 25 per cent. off the upsets fixed by its valuer. Eight of the sections offered for lease were disposed of by auction, and since then applications for two more sections have been received by the board.

The contractor for the new Anglican Cathedral (several illustrations of which have appeared in these pages) has reached the highest point of the building, and last month Archdeacon Fitchett placed in position a finial on the northern turret. The tops of these towers are 130 ft. above the lowest step at the Octagon Entrance. Owing to the fact that the platform space was restricted, and had to be reached by a series of long ladders, no representative gathering was possible. Besides the Archdeacon, the Rev. H. O. Fenton, Mr. Basil Hooper, Mr. Stanley Smith, Mr. McLennan (contractor) and Mr. Haig (the clerk of works) were present. The finial on the south turret was placed in position by Mr. Basil Hooper, local representative of the Home architects. The scaffolding is being removed as the stone work is cleaned down, and a good idea of the final appearance of the west front will soon be obtainable.

Surveyors are now engaged on the Teviot Estate, which was recently acquired by the Government for discharged soldiers. They are now picking a road-line. The Phantom block, which comprises about 7,000 acres, or half the estate, is the better portion. It has a good supply of water, possesses excellent soil, and is more suitable for sub-division into medium-sized areas than the western portion of the block.

The alterations to the building selected by the Red Cross Society as a military convalescent home for sick and wounded soldiers are being pushed on energetically, and it is hoped that the institution will be opened in the last week of this month. Major-General Henderson who paid a visit of inspection recently was delighted with the comfortable house and its beautiful grounds, and expressed the opinion that it should make an ideal home for soldiers

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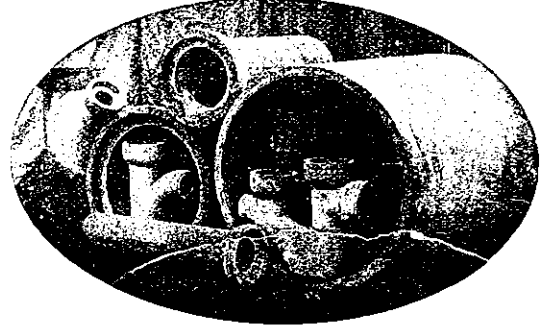
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