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

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Editorial Comment

Co-Partnership —A Growing Tendency.

We are glad to see a very definite tendency among large firms in New Zealand towards the co-partnership principle. It has many phases, and what is sometimes called co-partnership is really only a bonus system, without any actual voice for the employee in the control of the business. But the idea is steadily increasing in popularity among employers, and there is every cause to hope that it will ease the tense industrial situation existing during this difficult transition period between war and peace. All over the world there are labour troubles, and the Dominion horizon is clouded. The nearness of a big struggle in the shipping industry in Australia provides its direct menace to New Zealand, for disputes have already arisen over the manning of ships which have brought much-needed cargoes of coal and hardwood from the Commonwealth. A large New Zealand building firm has announced its adhesion to the profit-sharing system, and a big Wellington drapery firm is considering proposals for the issue of shares to its employees, meanwhile proving its sincerity by distributing a bonus from last year's profits. Similar excellent indications come from a woollen manufacturing firm having an extensive New Zealand business. Some employers will commence the reform by the introduction of a simple bonus system based on annual profits, but we hope to see a more general introduction of pure co-partnership, with the employees having representation on the managing directorate of the business, and a definite system under which service and responsibility will be rewarded in direct proportion to the value given by personal exertion. The value of the principle lies in its undoubted results in increased efficiency. Raising wages usually adds to the cost of production, and will do so under any scheme of profit-sharing, but if by giving employees a tangible share in the profits of a business they get an opportunity of earning larger wages, as well as giving them a greater feeling of security of tenure in their employment, it is possible to obtain a higher efficiency which will be a real gain to the business. When the workers are allotted their share of the profit, and it is capitalised under a

co-partnership scheme, this does not add to the dead-weight liability upon industry, for capital has to be paid for whether loaned by a wealthy individual or by the worker. In the first case the investor is a sleeping partner, but, in the case of co-partnership, the holder of the scrip is someone with a lively interest in the success of the concern, and able by his own exertions to assist in securing good results. We feel inclined to agree with a representative Socialist who gave evidence before the United States Commission on Industrial Relations. He was urging that his doctrine only represented a normal development—though to some people it seems revolutionary. First, he said, came the age of slavery. Then the age of feudalism. This was replaced by the age of capitalism, accompanied by wage-slavery. He looked forward to Socialism as the next development, but as we have already suggested in these columns, capitalism will remain with us a long time if it will move with the times and adapt itself to changed conditions. As this is the age of large businesses, an increasing proportion of the most able individuals have necessarily to remain wage or salary-earners all their lives. Their keen personal interest in their work can best be secured by a personal interest and benefit from its results. And co-partnership provides the means to this desirable end.

**Workers'
Dwellings
and
Quantity
Production**

A number of practical people in New Zealand are interesting themselves in the task of standardising and quantity production of dwellings in concrete. They will get their practical opportunity shortly, when the Labour Department will call for tenders for two hundred dwellings for workers to be built in various parts of the country. The designs have been prepared with a view to utilising concrete, and all the houses are to be of five rooms. Although the Labour Department has its own plans upon which tenders will be invited, we are informed officially that it will be prepared to consider tenders from firms which submit their own plans for standard dwellings, and that it will consider tenders for the erection of any number, up to the full two hundred. It is the intention to abandon the former policy of grouping the dwellings. They will be scattered wherever sections can be found, but we hope the Department—which is still looking for land—will give some chance to the advocates of quantity production by not scattering the sites too thoroughly. After all, standard planning is not the whole secret of cheap building. Some expense can of course be saved by using copies of the same design over and over again, but the really substantial gain is when large quantities of material can be brought to the ground and used, concrete turned out in batches, and buildings designed for construction in the fewest materials, so that one class of labour is not obliged to wait for work to be completed by another set of men. Mr. J. F. Munnings, a New Zealander who was a Government architect in Bengal, informs us that the administration standardised its dwellings, providing seven different types of larger dwelling, three types for houses occupied by subordinates, and three types for the Indian staff. They were built of reinforced brick, and between 500 and 600 of the smaller houses for the Indian staff were constructed at the capital of Dekka, Eastern Bengal.

To a certain extent one type was used as a set off against another of the same class. Economy was obtained by large building operations and standardisation of details, and this is the line on which the New Zealand Labour Department will have to proceed if it wishes to assist in solving the housing problem. A few houses here and there will not meet the position, nor will this narrow programme be any improvement on the present expensive system of building workers' dwellings. Possibly Parliament will soon take an interest in the question, and show that it appreciates the necessity of handling the matter on a large scale, as befits so urgent a national problem.

**Timber
Milling
and
Transport.**

The building industry has been severely prejudiced by the railway curtailment which, in consequence of coal shortage, came into operation early in July. Though the Railway Department has been able to pull up its stocks a little during the period of the "cut," there appears no hope at the moment of an improvement in the facilities, save a slight revision of the services under which more freight will be carried instead of passengers. On the West Coast of the South Island, as there is plenty of coal from the local collieries, there has been no need to seriously curtail the goods services, but the reduced schedule of goods carried on other sections does not include timber, consequently the timber mills of the North Island are faced with the prospect of shutting down, and building operations, especially in the inland towns, are terribly handicapped for lack of material. There is very little timber stock available for use in such an exceptional emergency. The fact that stocks are not large at the mills enables them to keep working as long as they can be financed. A suggestion was made at an early stage that the Government might help the millers to keep going by making advances against milled timber, but the Hon. A. M. Myers, acting-Minister of Finance, replied by referring the millers to their bankers, with the remark that he felt sure the banks would do their part in helping to overcome the difficulties of the situation. We hope so, too, but as it is a Governmental transport system which has temporarily failed, the State could well recognise its special responsibility under the circumstances, as timely aid will be of advantage to the whole building industry, enabling it to secure ample supplies when conditions of transport revert to normal. As we go to press we ascertain that the Railway Department has not materially improved its supplies of coal since the curtailment, owing to the Australian shipping strike interfering with supplies from that quarter. There are, however, substantial cargoes en route from America, and the Australian trouble seemed on the verge of settlement. Until this actually occurs, there will be little chance of a substantial improvement in goods services on the railways. Slight improvement will no doubt be effected by the drastic curtailment in passenger traffic. Whatever is saved in this way will be applied to the relief of industry. First to receive consideration, we understand, will be the building operations on dairy factories, now getting ready for the new season. The timber industry is also to receive the earliest consideration, so as to prevent unemployment through lack of material in the towns and at the mills.

Californian Bungalows.

Some Reinforced Concrete Homes.

Having long passed the experimental stage, the employment of reinforced concrete as the important building material of the future is assured, and will supersede all others, not only for substantiability and durability, but also from a sanitary point of view, and the fact that it has proved its worth on many occasions as an absolute fireproof element, gives it a claim to the fullest consideration, and

will readily lend itself to the artistic conception, as well as being durable.

The illustrations herewith will furnish a fine range to select from, and the floor plans a good idea to work on:—

No. 1.—This cement-finished mission bungalow of seven rooms exclusive of tower and bath, is a home that will appeal to many, it may also be constructed



No. 1. A Californian Bungalow, Cement Finished, in Ornamental Mission Style. Plan shown on page 569.

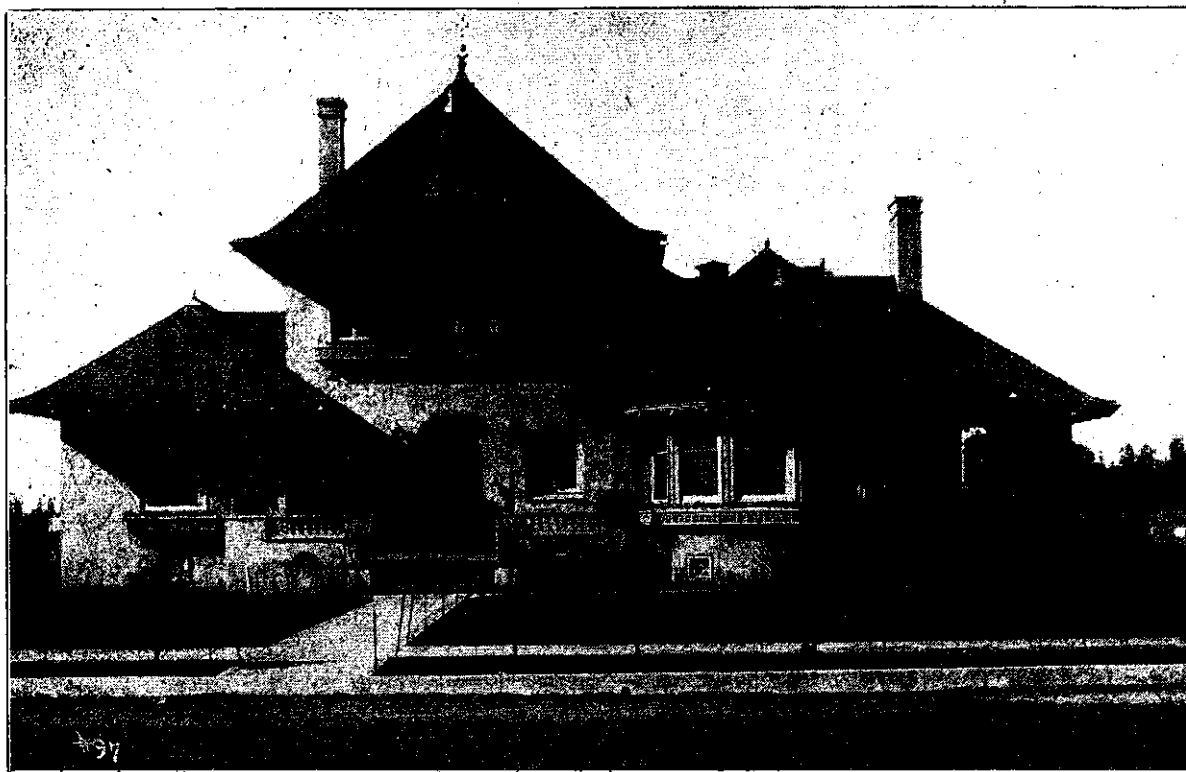
places it in a class that is entirely its own. Architects and builders have not been slow to recognise its merits and that it permits of more rapid construction than almost any other material.

Concrete construction is undoubtedly to be the substitute in house construction, when the scarcity of timber demands an adequate building material to replace that commodity. By so doing an improvement will come into vogue that will be of permanent value, inasmuch as the cost of the buildings is very little more, and the additional investment will total out less than the insurance premium on the timber building and the work is made permanent. The insurance can very well be eliminated the inflammable material being reduced to a minimum and the risk easily handled. When these facts are grasped and recognised by the home builder, concrete construction will have the preference, as the material

of cement blocks or reinforced concrete. There are few plans, comparatively speaking, which combine so harmoniously and well so many Californian features both outside and as to the interior. It is a type of the Spanish Mission style. In many respects it is a perfect home. It is large, and the rooms are ample in size and admirable in arrangement, especially so for a family that does much entertaining.

The reception hall, living room and dining room are arranged en suite, with a floor space of nearly 700 square feet. To this a corner bedroom may be added by throwing open the connecting door. The roof may be red tile. The flower boxes are of cement. Hardwood floors and beam ceilings are used in the principal ground floor rooms.

The sun room at the left, opening off the dining room, with its comfortable seats, will be appreciated

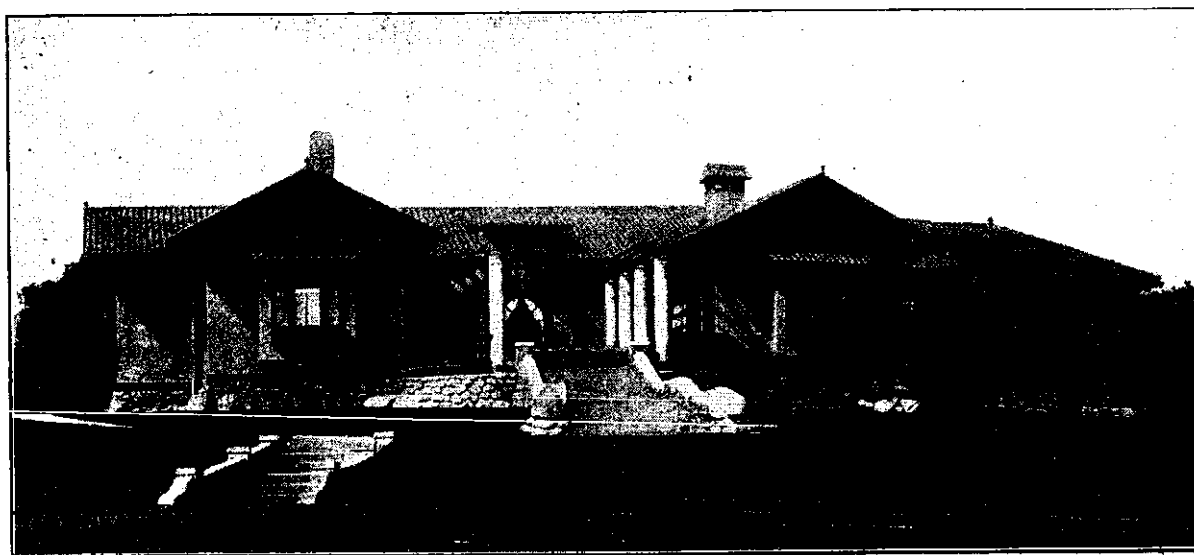


No. 2. A Handsome Bungalow. Plan shown on page 563.

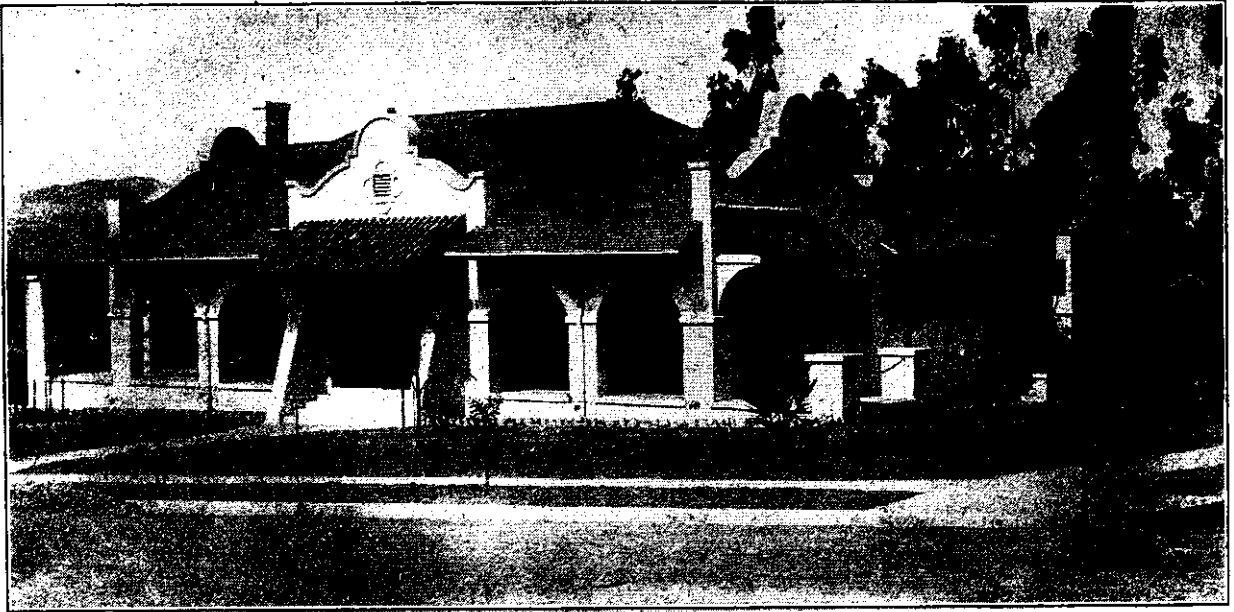
by many. The tower room can be used as an open-air sleeping room, or it may be fitted with windows and used as a sleeping room or den. And here is another pleasing innovation. The rear part of the roof can easily be made into an attractive roof garden. The dimensions of this house are $43\frac{1}{2}$ feet front and $44\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, exclusive of porch, nook, etc. As indicated by the illustration, this house

should have a site that will set it off to advantage and lend itself to scenic effect.

No. 2—This house is two full stories high, with all the charm and grace of a beautiful bungalow. It has been placed in among the one-storey houses because of its appearance, and with the thought that it might fit someone's needs better than a one-storey. The upper floor has a large family and



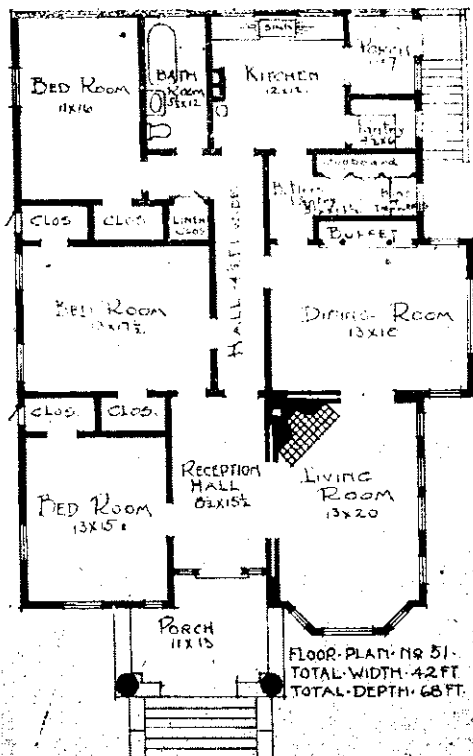
No. 3.—A Handsome Design for a Concrete Bungalow. Plan shown on page 570



No. 4.—A Concrete Bungalow of Unusual Design.

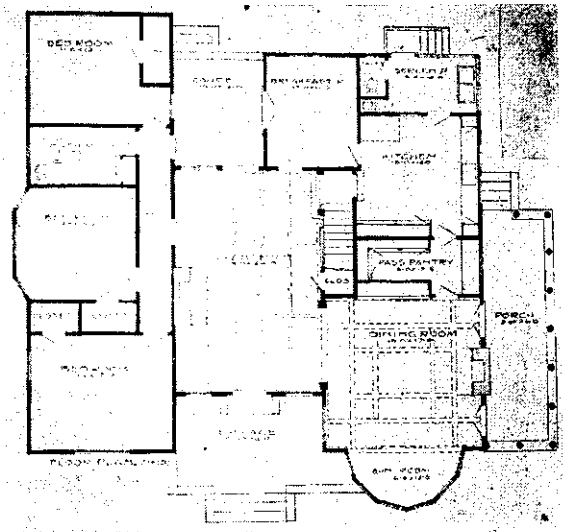
billiard room combined, and a maid's room. The living room and dining rooms are beamed and paneled, with mantels in each room and a wide buffet

and cement steps and porches. This house needs a wide lot and should have generous lawns and wide gravel or cement walks or drives.



Plan of No. 1, shown on page 567.

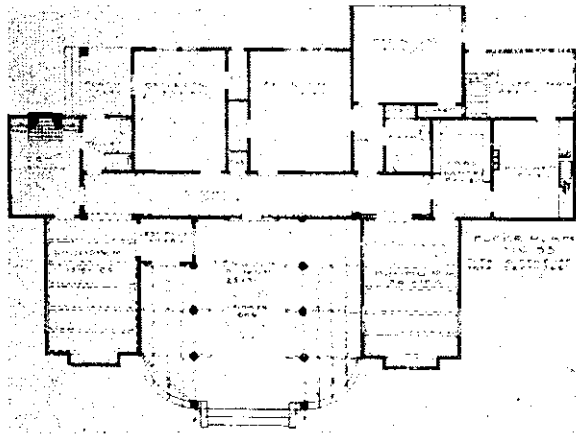
in the dining room. The other unique features of the plan are the sun room, or bay window, and the breakfast room and court. The exterior walls are of reinforced concrete with plaster ornamentation



Plan of No. 2, shown on page 568.

No. 3 This beautiful and unusual design should be surrounded by spacious and well-planned grounds in order to fully develop its artistic merit, and if to this might be added the advantage of an elevated location, the conditions would be perfect. The entrance is quite unique, being into an open pergola court at the end of which is the main entrance. Directly in front is the charming feature of the house a circular flower bed, and a many-paned window opens into a commodious hall. The dining room and living room occupy the front en-

tirely and all rooms have an outside view. In this way every room in the house has almost immediate access to the outside. The mantel is in the reception room, and is faced with brick in two shades of brown. The living room has a panelled wainscot and beamed ceiling, while the dining room has only a deep cornice beam. Large closet space is provided and an excellent bath room.



Plan of No. 5 Bungalow shown on page 568.

No. 4—This is a concrete bungalow that is well adapted to a cold climate as well as a very warm one, and the walls are well protected, affording shade and keeping the rooms dry. This house may be built on a corner lot or would show well with plenty of space and the floor plan can be easily arranged.

New South Wales Government Housing Scheme.

What sort of houses the New South Wales Government proposes to erect at Newcastle, Lithgow and other outside centres we do not know, but it is to be sincerely hoped that they are better than those about to be perpetrated at Daceyville. We have seen the plans and specifications of some of these, and venture to prophesy that the day will come when there will be a stern investigation to try to discover who ought to be punished for the crime of their existence. We do not believe that the Government architect is responsible. Some one has ridden the high horse, and that particular someone has blundered hideously.

Some of the plans are such that if submitted by a private architect would be rejected by the building authorities, but the Government is not amenable to the building law of the land. In the majority of the plans the pantry and kitchen are placed in the closest proximity to the lavatory, bathroom and sinks. In the hot moist weather the gentleman will lift up his hordes and rejoice in a fair field and a generous access to the corned beef, cold mutton and fish reposing in the meat safe.

Some of these proposed buildings have a frontage of 43 feet and a depth of 26. If the depth of the land is to be based on the usual allocation the tenant will get his money's worth in soil if not in house. Usually the length of the house lies at right angles to the street. But in this case it is parallel with it. So, if the land is divided as usual the prospective occupant will be able to go in for market gardening or stock raising. Perhaps it is a subtle move on the part of Mr. Holman's Cabinet to cope with the alleged meat shortage!

Some of the roofs are fearfully and wonderfully cut about, having kinks and dips that may be picturesque, but which will be a source of infinite annoyance to the future occupant.

The specifications call for tiled roofs laid in hardwood rafters of three inches by two. The regulation minimum is four by two. These hardwood rafters will warp, and whole stacks of tiles will slip, probably through on to the ceiling below, and crashing through, kill a few children and maim some of the adults. The ceiling joists are also to be of hardwood, five inches by two, to be finished off with Oregon lathes and plaster.

The internal subdivisions in some cases are shocking. In one case the lavatory window overlooks the main entrance!

If any of the occupants conclude the purchase, they will be those who are unfortunate enough to be able to pay down a substantial deposit, which will so cripple them that they will be unable to move. To sell such a house three years after its completion will be as impossible as the sale of brimstone in the place where all bad builders should eventually go.

In this connection it is interesting to see what they did in other countries under conditions of even greater urgency than obtain in our own land. The United States discovered that its ship building programme was seriously interfered with by the lack of proper accommodation for the workers. American captains of industry have recently awakened to the fact that the proper housing of the workers has a tremendous lot to do with national efficiency. A measure was drafted and entitled The Housing Act, rushed through both Houses of Congress and became law on May 16th, 1918.

Under this Act £12,000,000 (60,000,000 dollars), were immediately appropriated for the building of homes for the employees at Mare Island Dockyard, Vallejo, California; at Philadelphia; at New York, and Seattle, Washington State. That was only a preliminary. In a few weeks it had soared up to £40,000,000 (200,000,000 dollars), and since then has been enormously increased, but the writer has not the actual figures by him.

A Commission was appointed to confer with the workers as to the types of houses most suitable to their requirements. On that Commission were town planners, architects, builders, transport experts, and representatives of the various unions affected.

In the long and elaborate report of that Commission one paragraph stands out like a flag on a hill top:—

"What the worker requires is not a mansion, nor anything wildly elaborate, but a good, comfortable home, with modern conveniences, close enough to his work that he will not have to fight his way to work and home again on a street car before and after his day's toil."

Nine types of houses were found necessary to fill the bill: Single family houses. Two family houses. Single family houses with rooms for lodgers. Lodging or apartment houses for men. Lodging houses for women. Residential cafes for men and also for women, tenement and boarding houses. The single family houses were to be wholly or semi-detached. No house to be more than two rooms deep. Materials, as far as possible to be local, so long as they were permanent (brick, terra cotta, stone, concrete, and all with fire-resisting roofs). Every house to have a basement. Closets and built-in cupboards in every room; gas for cooking; electricity for lighting and heating; baths, with hot and cold water services.

The great dread was that the element of hurry would result in the rapid creation of huge barracks, but it was not so. Each village was effectively town-planned with an artistic and effective arrangement of the houses, open spaces and parks for the benefit of the children.

The result has been the creation all over the country of numerous model communities, beautiful to behold, convenient and comfortable to inhabit, and more permanent in character than the "additions" any American city has ever before known.—*Architecture*.

New Zealand Architectural Students in London.

Mr. Horace L. Massey, of Auckland, who was a frequent competitor in Progress Competitions before he enlisted, has sent us the following letter:—

C/o. Architectural Association,
35 Bedford Square,

London, W.C. 1, April 20th 1919.

Editor, Progress:

Dear Sir:—Having at last settled down to studies again, I thought that perhaps you would be interested in the movements of the New Zealand students that are at present in England. As you have no doubt heard, the New Zealand Government have offered facilities for the study of architecture and other branches of professions to New Zealand soldiers while in England. This is really fine, and it is great to see how the New Zealanders have stormed the Architectural Association. There are at least fifteen students like myself at the Architectural Association, and the Principal, Mr. Robert Atkinson, is very pleased with the

keenness of all, and I think I can safely say that at present the New Zealanders are holding their own.

Three of us at this school have been very lucky in being awarded New Zealand Expeditionary Force scholarships of three years' duration at £200 per annum, viz:—Morgan, Armstrong, and myself.

The following are the names of all the New Zealand students at the Architectural Association:—Lieut. K. Draffin, Auckland; Sgt. H. Grierson, Auckland; L/Cpl. Bartley, Auckland; Staff Sgt. A. Morgan, Auckland; Cpl. E. Marr, Auckland; Pte. H. Massey, Auckland; Pte. Lockley, Auckland; Cpl. E. W. Armstrong, Gisborne; Capt. Greenish, Wellington; Lieut. Morton, Wellington; Lieut. Baker, Christchurch; Lieut. Harman, Christchurch; Lieut. Gordon, Otago; Gnr. G. Reid, Otago; Sapper E. Miller, Otago; Sgt. W. Trengrove, Christchurch. Other men will be joining at the beginning of next term.

Most of the above men will be returning to New Zealand within the next few months, but one or two like myself, will be staying on for a year or two. The chance is ours now so I intend to avail myself of the opportunity before returning to good old New Zealand.

I want to thank you so very much for your kindness in sending me the copies of "Progress," for it has helped me to keep in touch with things architectural at home. I would like to receive a copy each month.

I will be receiving my discharge at the end of this month, and so will be out of the Army at last. Warmest regards from—

Yours sincerely,

HORACE L. MASSEY.

Improvements at Dargaville.

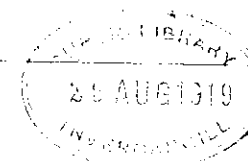
We are informed by Mr. Basil Hooper, A.R.I.B.A., of Dunedin, that the illustrations published in our last issue by Mr. R. Hammond, of the suggested improvements at Dargaville, which were shown at the recent Town Planning Conference, were drawn by Mr. Hammond while a student at the Architectural Section of the Dunedin School of Art.

ATTAINING DISTINCTION.—WIFE OF PROFITEER—"Are you quite certain I've had the very latest form of influenza?"

DOCTOR—"Quite, madam, quite. You coughed exactly like the Countess of Wessex."—"Punch."

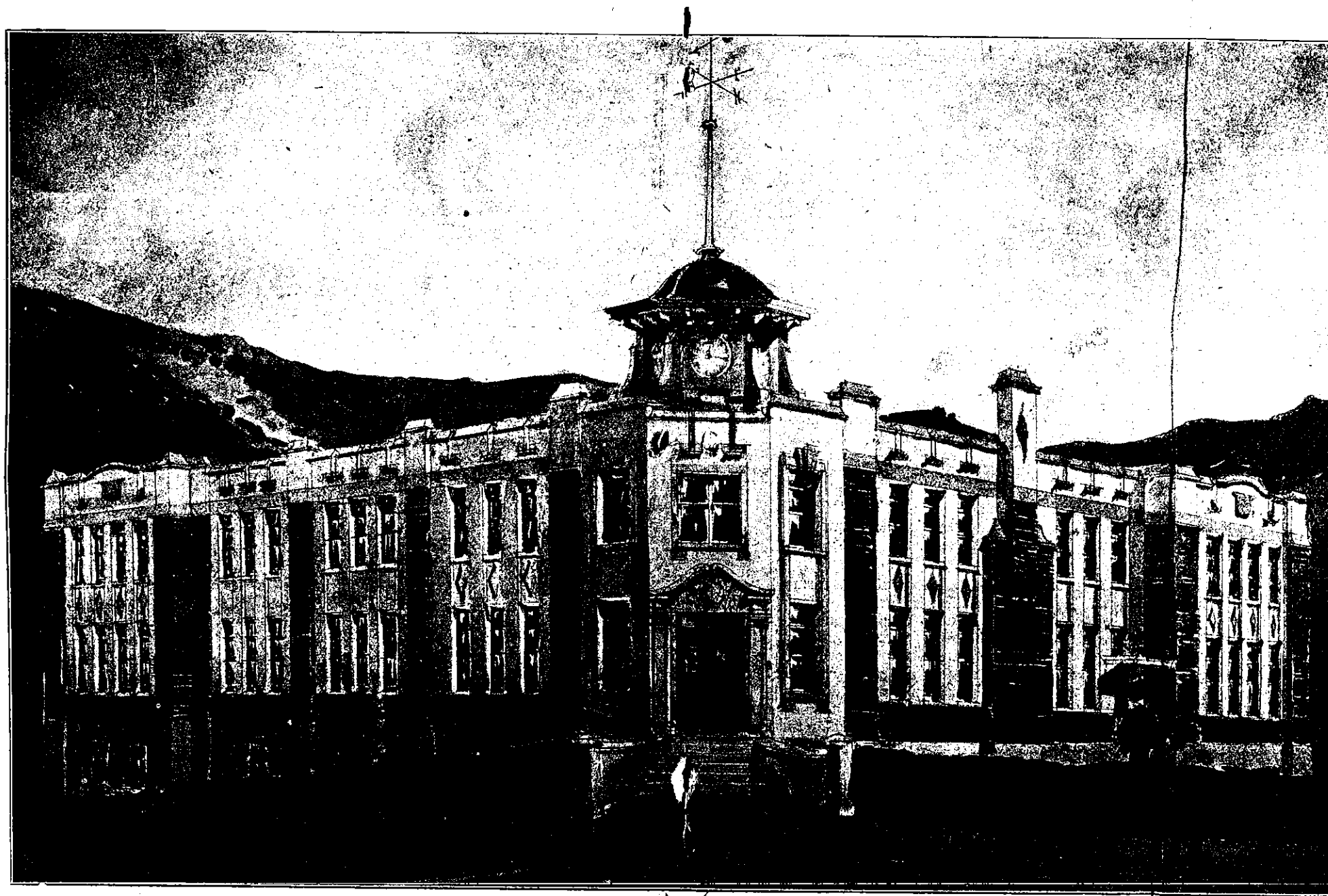
* * * *

INDIAN GIVER.—Queen Mary sent a beautiful bouquet that had been presented to her to a soldiers' hospital. To show their appreciation, the inmates commissioned one of their number to stand at the hospital gate the following morning, holding the gift, when the queen passed. He did so—with rather unexpected results. Queen Mary, seated in her car, saw the soldier standing there, bouquet in hand, and assuming that he wished to present it to her, she reached out and took it. After she had thanked him, her car passed on.



JOHN McGLASHAN COLLEGE,

Maori Hill - Dunedin.



Proposed Elevation of the Main College Building, portion of which is to be erected in readiness for the first term in 1920. Wm. Dunning, Architect, Dunedin.

The Brick Industry.

Exploration of Wairarapa.

A Mauriceville Discovery.

Some weeks ago Mr. A. Neighbours, of the well-known Westport brickmaking and pottery firm of Neighbours Bros., visited Masterton, and made a survey of the surrounding country, in the hope of discovering a deposit of clay which would warrant the establishment of brickworks in the district. Mr. Neighbours was somewhat disappointed. The only part of the district in which he found suitable clay was Matahiwi, and this, he considered would be too expensive to work. He then visited Mauriceville East, where he discovered a magnificent deposit in close proximity to the railway station, on the property of Mr. R. Brooks. A sample of a quarter of a ton was taken to Westport, where it was submitted to the severest tests. Mr. Neighbours is of opinion that the Mauriceville clay, of which there is an unlimited supply, is second to none in New Zealand for brick-making purposes. He brought a specimen brick to Masterton which had shown absolutely no shrinkage from the raw material. It was of an excellent dark red colour, solid throughout, and perfectly smooth in surface. Mr. Neighbours states that the clay is remarkable for its fire-resisting qualities. He has never before handled material of such high class. He intends taking immediate steps in the direction of forming a company to develop the industry.

Personal.

Mr. Will Prouse, of the firm of Hoggard, Prouse, and W. H. Gummer, Wellington and Auckland, has arrived in London according to cable advice received recently.

Mr. F. Peck, of Nelson, architect for the new Anglican Cathedral, Wellington, left about six weeks ago on a visit to the Old Country.

Mr. James Fletcher, of Fletcher Bros., Dunedin, states that conditions in the building trade in the North Island are beginning to move, and it is anticipated that within a few months quite a boom will take place.

Mr. Gray Young, architect, of Wellington, has taken Mr. Fearn into partnership, and the firm will in future be known as Young and Fearn.

Messrs Swan and Gray Young have been appointed joint architects for the new £70,000 Technical School job, which is about to be erected in Wellington.

Mr. and Mrs. Hurst Seager are leaving shortly for a visit to England.

Here and There.

Raetihi must be a prosperous place at the present time. It is stated that the building trade in that township is booming, and that there are double the amount of buildings under erection or in contemplation than in any other township of its size in the Dominion. There is also a proposal to form a racing club in the district.

At a recent meeting of the Christchurch City Council, a plan prepared by Mr. S. Hurst Seager in connection with the Council's proposals for town planning was submitted. The plans dealt with an area on Buckley's road, where 28 houses could be erected.

A Christchurch man, Mr. A. D. Ford, has put forward a housing scheme to be worked by municipalities based on loans from the Government free of interest totalling two million pounds. To meet the loss of letting the houses at 15s per week and provide necessary interest and sinking fund he proposes that Parliament should put an extra duty of 20 per cent. on tobacco and cigarettes. It would mean an increased price of three-fifths of a penny per plug of tobacco, but he thinks that consumers would pay it willingly in the knowledge that the payment would make it possible to erect 3000 sanitary homes.

A Woolston (Christchurch), borough councillor recently moved that immediate application be made to the Government for the expenditure of £10,000 for house-building in the borough, and said: "The Government is going to have an election soon, and we may be able to get this done if we ask now, but we won't have much chance later on." "We would get the promise, anyway," supplemented the Mayor. The motion was carried.

Excellent progress is being made with the formation of the Wellington Building Trades Federation, which the organisers hope will eventually embrace carpenters, plumbers, painters, electricians, timber workers, builders, labourers—in fact, all workers connected with the building industry. All the unions to which the idea has been submitted have approved of it (says the "Post"), and the other organisations have arranged meetings to consider the matter. So far the constitution, as originally drawn up, has also met with approval. The objects of the Federation, as set out in the constitution, are: (1) Uniformity of hours; (2) uniformity of working conditions; (3) council of administration re disputes; (4) board of appeal of disputes between unions; (5) common action in consideration of labour laws and their amendments. The Federation shall consist of all unions connected with the building industry in the Wellington industrial district. The government of the Federation is to be vested in a council composed of delegates elected annually from each affiliated union, and the principle of "one union, one vote" is laid down.

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.

Following up the remarks made in our last issue respecting the position of the sawmilling industry on the West Coast, as it may be affected by the new regulations if carried out in their entirety, we now publish in another column a statement made by one largely interested, which appeared in the "Post" of a recent date. From this it will be seen that although a miller operating on Crown lands may hold the maximum reservation of 1600 acres in addition to the license of 400 acres he is operating, the regulations as intended to be imposed by the Minister of Forests, would preclude any export of timber from these reservations. This would, therefore, mean the serious restriction of a legitimate business he has laid himself out to cater for, and would probably ruin several of the millers who have installed plants and laid down extensive tramways relying upon the good faith of the Government to carry out their part of the bargain. So far as the loss of revenue that will be sustained by local bodies is concerned, they are strong and able enough to watch their own interests, and in the face of the promise made by the Hon. the Premier that there would be no interference with the revenue derivable from the sawmilling industry, no doubt they will have something to say to Mr. Massey on his return. But the attitude of the powers that be, practically amounts to confiscation, and we cannot believe that such will be the case, or that the policy now promulgated will be carried out without modification. At the meeting of West Coast local bodies, representatives of the sawmilling industry, and Sir Francis Bell, held at Hokitika lately some very plain speaking took place regarding the whole position, but this did not appear to impress the Minister who stuck to his guns and stated that it was a Government policy matter from which he would not depart, whatever his successors might do. Reference was again made to the method of introducing the legislation which resulted in the regulations as now framed, and which practically mean Government by Order-in-Council, and steps are to be taken to bring the matter up in the House with a view to counter existing conditions and proposals. In fact, Mr. T. E. Y. Seddon, M.P., thanked the Hon. Sir Francis for his candid attitude and stated in turn that he would do all in his power to have the regulations altered and the reserves lifted. A series of resolutions were then passed at the meeting which leave no manner

of doubt as to the fight the West Coast intends to put up for its rights.

* * * *

The statement made by Sir Francis Bell in explanation of his attitude, and by the regulations—as it appeared to our evening contemporary is also published in this number for the information of our readers who may not have seen it. In this he is reported to have stated that the conference demanded the right to cut without limit, and to export without limit, and if this demand were made we can only reply that it is not in accordance with the agreement entered into by the Board of Trade, and the Sawmillers' Advisory Committee, whereby a definite reduction of export has been agreed upon, and the full supply of all domestic needs guaranteed. It should, however, be again pointed out, that owing to the Australian market absorbing a greater proportion of rough box timber than could otherwise be used in this Dominion a larger return of output per acre has resulted, than would have been possible without the export trade.

* * * *

The "cut" in the railway service still continues, and all timber traffic is held up. Millers are doing their utmost to keep all hands employed, but there must be a limit to this for financial and other reasons if the normal traffic is not brought into operation very shortly. On branches adjacent to a coal supply—such as Greymouth and Whangarei lines—we understand traffic proceeds as usual. The chief sufferers being, Main Trunk, and Rotorua line millers, and those operating in Southland.

* * * *

The seamen's strike in Australia is having its effect upon us, too, in a very practical fashion as evidenced by the non-discharge of the steamer Inga, which arrived at Wanganui about a fortnight ago with a cargo of coal for the Wanganui gasworks, and has not yet begun to unload because her crew are non-unionists. It was hoped to arrange for a certain amount of timber for back loading to be shipped by this vessel from Wanganui to stiffen her before proceeding to Greymouth to fill up, but the whole business is held in suspense pending a settlement of the strike. The industry of the world seems to be in the melting pot, and we can only hope that, even if it be through suffering and pain, better counsel will soon prevail and so put an end to the turmoil.

The Timber Industry.

(Paper by Mr. J. A. Murdoch, Hokitika).

The timber industry is closely allied with the mining industry of Westland and is an equal factor in opening up this part of the Dominion for settlement. In 1916 the timber industry employed nearly 6000 hands.

The greatest national factor in the world to-day is man power. Industries like the timber industries, which support a large number of men, are a necessity to a nation apart altogether from their commercial importance.

In the year 1896, the late Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon called together a conference having for its object the assisting of the mining industry by seeking more markets for the timber supplies of New Zealand. In 1909 a timber commission sat and after exhaustive enquiry and consideration made two recommendations, first, afforestation; second, no restriction of export.

In the early part of 1918, the dairying and meat freezing industries complained to the Prime Minister that the export of timber was depriving them of supplies. They were either really scared or were simulating fright in order to bring about a condition of the timber industry when timber would be forced on the New Zealand market at ruinously low prices. The sawmillers requested the Prime Minister to call a conference. This conference was held on 4th April, 1918, and the Sawmillers' Federation submitted a scheme of control that would ensure New Zealand's needs being supplied at less than export prices. Under this control it was proposed to levy on the export timber to recompense to the sawmiller who was obliged to supply a New Zealand user. The sawmillers' scheme was not adopted, but other regulations were made having as their object the ensuring of New Zealand's needs being satisfied. Since the position has been thus fixed it has been found that there are very few cases where New Zealand customers have failed to get supplies in the ordinary way of trade. Any request for supplies has received immediate attention and the Sawmillers' Federation has loyally assisted in regulating the industry so as to ensure New Zealand having its needs supplied.

In the matter of fixation of prices it is rather anomalous that while labour which contributes so largely to the production of timber is protected by having a minimum selling price for the product of that labour, the chief clamour for fixation of prices proceeds from the builders who are incensed because the sawmillers have refused to grant to them a 7½ per cent. preference over the general public. So long as the control is in the hands of the Board of Trade, of which the Hon. Mr. Macdonald is President, there is every indication that all interests will receive attention. In my opinion it will be disastrous if the commercial control of timber passes to the Forestry Department, which so far is little more than a name. The Forestry Department has scarcely commenced to breathe, has no staff, and judging by the regulations recently issued with regard to the limitation of timber, is in-

capable of controlling such an important industry and is not seized of the facts necessary to stimulate instead of choking that industry. The Commissioner of Forests has apparently been captivated by idealists who have not fathomed the practical commercial aspect of forestry. As showing the impracticability of the Commissioner's advice it is illuminating to read from Mr. D. E. Hutchin's report on the Waipoua kauri forest, page 42, dated the 8th November, 1918. Fancy this country being put to the expense of obtaining from this learned author such statements as the following when discussing the question of timber hauling:—

"With no wild animals in New Zealand the serried lands of New Zealand should be a donkey's paradise" (see page 42 of his report), and on the succeeding page he advocates that buffaloes should be introduced into New Zealand for the purpose (so far as we can see), of trampling down the undergrowth in order that well-paid officials like himself would be able to ride through our forests in comfort. Is this the kind of advice upon which our Forestry Department is moving and making regulations? And is this the kind of advice upon which to base our forestry policy? There is grave danger that the swing of the pendulum from the too long neglected forestry will go to the other extreme and that, surrounded by idealists with the commercial experience, the Commissioner of Forests will be led to inflict unnecessary and harmful restrictions upon the timber industry. The first and most practical step in serving our forestry interests would be to see that the products of our existing forests will be utilised to the fullest extent and the efforts of the Board of Trade should be in that direction, rather than in the restriction of our markets and thus perpetuating the waste that has too long been permitted.

It is a fact that the output per acre of forest on the West Coast has increased 30 to 40 per cent. in consequence of the export trade taking a class of timber which was not marketable in New Zealand. Much could be done to encourage the use of inferior grades of timber in New Zealand in the same manner as they are used in Australia.

I know that the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that a most important improvement has been devised by our well-known Joseph Butler, of Butler Bros., Ltd., which will prolong the life of white-pine. Mr. Butler's patent or device means that a butter box quite as good as the present butter box can be made from one-seventeenth of the timber heretofore used, and this without loss of efficiency. When we consider the importance of the butter box trade and the complete reliance of that trade upon white-pine, the value of device whereby the timber can be made to go seventeen times as far as heretofore must be apparent, even to the uninitiated. Improved facilities for manufacture and transportation will give higher value and a longer life to our existing forests and would be of more practical value than the restrictive measures which have lately been suggested.

Another aspect of the subject must not be lost sight of, and that is that ever acre of timber land

cleared adds an acre for grass land. It is true much low land only gives rough feed, but in the aggregate, thousands of cattle are now being raised on land which a few years ago was covered with standing bush. The sawmiller is the pioneer of the settler and as almost all the river bed lands are now grassed, expansion of grass lands is almost confined to land from which the timber has been cleared.

It must not be forgotten that in restricting the sale of timber cut off private land, the legislation is inflicting a grave injustice on this part of the Dominion. The North Island settler cut down some of the finest totara forests forty years ago, and burned this splendid timber in order to clear his land. He had the use and benefit of it all these years while those who have saved the timber have been waiting for a fair market. These latter have themselves now penalised for the benefit of those very settlers who years ago cut down their forest bank, and turned the land of forest into pastures. It is all very fine for them to squeak, but it is very unfair.

Mr. B. Ward said he heard the paper read with pleasure. It was an able one, but that did not surprise him when he knew the writer. Dealing with the regulations he expressed his inability to understand the reason why the restrictions had been made, whereby the settler was not allowed to sell the timber on his land, even if it were freehold. It seemed to him the limit of madness to prevent the sale of timber off the lands. It was inexplicable to him why the regulations had been introduced. He felt that they should not interfere with the industry in the manner that would result from the introduction of these restrictions.

Hon. H. L. Michel said he understood that the position was the outcome of the difficulty of the Department in arriving at the question of the payment of royalty on timber lands, owned by the Crown. He congratulated Mr. Murdoch on his able paper.

Mr. Gardiner Wilson gave instances of how he was removing red-pine off his farm, stating he was having a great difficulty with the government officers in the matter.

Mr. Murdoch, speaking in acknowledgment, referred at some length to the paper and the dangers arising to the industry, if the recent restrictive regulations were continued.

Milling Industry.

The New Regulations.

Commissioner of Forestry Criticised.

A representative of the West Coast sawmilling organisation, states that a recent article of the "Post" (commenting on the objections of the Westland County Council to the forestry policy of the Government) has been quoted in the "Greymouth Evening Star" and other papers. Therefore the "Post" has been requested to grant space for the following

explanation of the position of the milling industry in some districts, as affected by the new regulations:

"Restriction of Industry."

"The objections of the Westland County Council, as stated in the Post, were on three main grounds. With objection No. 1, Restriction of Settlement, and objection No. 3 Reduction of Revenue, the sawmillers are not concerned; but in the matter of objection No. 2 Restriction of Industry, they are vitally interested. It was only when Sir F. D. Bell visited the district (in the West Coast) the other day that he disclosed the full extent of his designs to strangle the milling industry; and it may be said at once that the sawmillers cannot believe that the policy of confiscation so brazenly advocated by the Commissioner of Forests at Hokitika is the considered policy of the Government.

"The Minister stated in the plainest terms that any fresh grant of a sawmill license, whether in exchange for a certificate of reservation or otherwise, would carry a condition absolutely prohibiting the export of rimu beyond the Dominion. To understand what this amounts to, one must explain the conditions on which milling bush is held under the Warden's Court, nearly all the milling bush being in mining districts, and held under this tenure. A sawmiller, on application, is granted a sawmill license up to 400 acres. On this he pays an annual rent of 1s per acre, merging in the royalty when he commences operations. He can also have reserved for him, on payment of an annual rent of 1s per acre (not merging in royalty), areas, not exceeding 400 acres each, up to a total of 1600 acres. When his sawmill license is cut out, he can exchange the title of one of these reserved areas for a sawmill license, and may take up a fresh reserved area, if such is available. It will be seen that the total maximum area which the miller may hold at any one time is 2000 acres, including the reserved areas.

Cost of Plant.

"Now, whatever the legal position may be, it has always been taken for granted that the miller possessed a right to convert his reserved areas in succession into sawmill licenses, without any new conditions attaching other than a possible increase of royalty. The reason for this assumption is evident. No prudent man would enter into the difficult and uncertain business of sawmilling unless he had in sight, as the very first condition, enough bush to ensure for his mill a life long enough to provide for the necessary sinking fund on his capital expenditure, and a reasonable interest return. The average present-day mill on the West Coast, built on the strength of a 2000-acre holding, at pre-war prices, costs from £2500 to £3000 to erect and equip. The mill-owner who can work his bush with a tram anything less than eight miles in length is lucky, and the average is more than this. But at eight miles the tramway cost, at pre-war prices, £1200 a mile, or, say, £10,000. This is a total expenditure of £13,000 for an average mill. These figures are

only mentioned in order to demonstrate that it has been universally assumed that the miller had a good title to both his sawmill license and reserved areas; otherwise no sane man would incur such an expenditure to work a bush of 400 acres, giving him perhaps three years' work.

Question of Export.

"Before dealing with the effect of the Minister's intended action, we may consider the question of export. There is good ground for claiming that if the Minister's proposals were equitable when applied to other parts of the Dominion, which we deny, they should not be enforced on the West Coast. The export trade to Australia in rimu had its origin in the Greymouth-Hokitika district, and large sums were spent in introducing the timber to Australia, some eight or ten years ago. In those days the West Coast sawmiller was tolerated, and found employment for labour and capital by shipping to Australia when the Dominion market failed to absorb the output. He was still tolerated in the earlier part of the war period, when he found loading for steamers which would otherwise have gone empty to Australia, and kept his mills running in spite of the stagnation in the Dominion timber trade. But towards the end of the war period prices in Australia began to rise, and other sawmilling districts began to seek the Australian business to the neglect of their natural markets. The West Coast millers never failed to supply their home markets Wellington and Christchurch, so far as tonnage was available, and any shortage which exists or has existed in these centres is due, so far as the West Coast is concerned, to lack of tonnage only. The outcry raised by the builders and buttermen over the alleged shortage of timber, ultimately led to the restrictions on export which have been in force for the last year or so. They were probably at no time necessary as applied to this part of the Dominion, but are being administered by the Board of Trade with complete satisfaction to West Coast millers.

"It was early recognised that the sawmillers' position here is totally different from that in most other parts of New Zealand, where they have direct rail communication with their markets. It was seen that it was immaterial what source supplied the Dominion markets, so long as their demands were met; and the commonsense plan was adopted, in effect, of letting each district find its natural outlet, provided the wants of the Dominion are first supplied. The Australian market is the second natural outlet for the West Coast, Canterbury being the first. At the moment, more steamers are available for the coastal trade than there have been for years, and there is some prospect of stocking up the yards in Canterbury. After this is done, there will be a reversion to the old order of things, when it was necessary to send half the output to Australia.

Limitation of Output.

"But it is at this point that the Commissioner of Forests steps in and says that by the issue of a Gazette he will cut down the production of every mill

by half, so soon as the miller has cut out his sawmill license and desires to acquire one of his reserved areas instead. The fact that this may happen to-morrow or three years hence does not make the position any better. Indeed it makes the action of the Commissioner of Forests all the more inexcusable and unjust, for it means closing up one mill to-morrow, while another may have three years' unrestricted run. Further, it will operate directly in the interests of the miller-freeholder, who will not be interfered with, while the man on Crown land will be squeezed out. It is incredible that such an undemocratic reactionary policy can be endorsed by the men who form the National Government.

"The cynical indifference with which the Minister regards the extinction of a man's means of living is a revelation," the statement concludes. "He said in so many words at Hokitika, that, if the Dominion trade was not enough to keep all the mills going, the number of mills must be reduced. It need hardly be asked which would be the first to go under, the big men or the little. We have dealt only with the outrageous injustice which the Minister proposes to perpetrate, and have not touched on his ridiculous theories as to 'demarcation, regeneration,' and so forth. Perhaps we may be allowed at a later date to say something about the hare-brained schemes of his forestry advisers."

Timber Trade.

Government Forestry Policy.

West Coast Protests.

In response to a request from a "Post" reporter, Sir Francis Bell, Commissioner of State Forests, recently made the following statement regarding his conference with local bodies and millers on the West Coast of the South Island:—

"I was invited to meet a conference of various local bodies of the West Coast of the South Island at Hokitika on 1st July to hear their objections and those of the sawmillers of the West Coast to the recent forestry legislation and regulations, and, on my part, to explain their effect. There was a very large attendance, including representatives of all local bodies, of the sawmilling industry, and of chambers of commerce. Addresses were delivered by several gentlemen, putting before me the various objections to the legislation and regulations as affecting the income of local bodies and general industries of the West Coast. The local bodies are entitled to a part, and in some areas to the whole of the royalties derived by the State from timber cut upon Crown lands, but are not entitled to any part of the revenue from royalties in State forests, and therefore the recent proclamation of a large part of the timber mining areas of the West Coast would have later the effect of reducing the revenue of local authorities, and has the immediate effect of superseding the authority of the warden, whose jurisdiction does not extend over State forests. I admitted at once to the conference that the revenue

question must be adjusted so that the local authorities should not be, in their present finances, hampered by the change from Crown lands to State forest lands. I was unable to pledge my colleagues as to the extent of the adjustment, as the Minister of Finance was absent from New Zealand, and the matter had, therefore, not been fully considered by Cabinet, but I tried to make it plain that the object of the new forestry departure is not to obtain revenue, but to maintain forests.

"But the revenue question was only a minor part of the reasons offered against the policy. That policy had been declared by me in a statement to the Commissioners of Crown Lands to be that the forests of New Zealand should henceforth be used to provide timber for the people of New Zealand and not for the purposes of people beyond New Zealand, and therefore that export must be gradually reduced, and finally become a vanishing quantity. And, further, that, while all timber ripe for cutting might be cut now, it was insisted that where the land was not suited for settlement the growing trees unfit now for cutting should be preserved for the future, and the felled trees replaced by planting in the original forests. Land fit for settlement must be cleared of timber, whether ripe or unripe, but land not required now for settlement upon which forest grows is to be maintained as forest, both in the present and in the future, and that forest is to be the indigenous forest of New Zealand. Planting is to be carried on to a greater extent in the future than in the past, but planting is to be upon open land, and is to be an addition to, and not a substitution for, the indigenous forest, planting being principally of exotic trees. The West Coast timber consists principally of rimu and white-pine, and the demand for both timbers in Australia has increased very greatly and very rapidly in recent years. As an example, the export of rimu timber to Australia was eight million feet in 1914, and it increased to 40 million feet in 1918, and the export of white-pine has increased at such a rate as practically to leave the prospect of white pine for future use a blank within a very few years.

"The argument for the West Coast was: First, that the trade in timber was the trade which the whole West Coast now looked forward to as its principal industry; secondly, that large mills had been erected, and valuable machinery procured for the export trade; and thirdly, that the conference was satisfied that it was useless to endeavour to keep growing rimu, unfit for cutting, for future purposes, and the best and wisest course would be to cut the rimu and kahikatea as fast as possible, and sell it as fast as possible. And, inasmuch as the local demand could be easily supplied by a very small part of the intended production, that free export without limit should be allowed. It was contended by at least one speaker that the whole of the rimu ought to be destroyed, and in its place *pinus insignis* replanted. Certain objections were made to the diminution of the jurisdiction of the wardens, and also to the intention of the State For-

estry Department to require in the new licenses for every area reserved for specific mills that, where the land was not fit for settlement, only such tree should be cut as the forestry officers marked, and that, where land was fit for settlement, the timber milled should not be exported. It was contended that the imposition of the new conditions in the licenses for reserved areas was a breach of the understanding upon which the mills were located upon their actual licensed areas, and amounted to a breach of faith with the millers. The principal question, however, and the main subject of difference between myself, as Commissioner for State Forests, and the conference, was that I felt compelled to adhere to the policy of preserving the forests for the people of New Zealand, and the conference demanded the right to cut without limit, and to export without limit. And, inasmuch as I felt it my duty to make it clear that the present Government would not depart from the declared policy of constituting provisional State forests and gradually reducing export, so that New Zealand timber should be exclusively for New Zealand inhabitants in the immediate future, the conference ended by a declaration by Mr. Seddon, the member for the district, that he would use all his influence to prevent the policy being carried out, and the formation of a kind of general union to prevent the continuance, even for the present, of the Government policy."

"To myself personally," Sir Francis Bell added, "the conference showed every courtesy and consideration, but with one or two exceptions, I think all present were much disappointed with the result of the interview."

Sawdust Bricks.

Sawdust bricks for fuel are just now receiving close attention at the Forest Products Laboratories of the United States. The shortage of coal problem has caused a revival of interest in the possibilities of successfully briquetting sawdust and shavings so they will compete commercially with other fuels, and thus aid in the relief work which may become necessary.

In the past such processes have been successful so far as heating qualities were concerned, but have been rather too expensive, so that there is no established industry of the sort in the United States at the present time.

The usual method of compressing sawdust into briquettes is by the aid of pitch or tar as a binder in suitable machines. At one time machines were used in which, instead of a pitch binder, string was wrapped around the briquette, and held the sawdust in shape until it was used for fuel.

THE AIRPLANE CHICKEN.—AVIATOR—"Here, take this chicken away—"

WAITER—"What's the matter with it, sir?"

AVIATOR—"It's all wings and machinery."—*London Opinion.*

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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.

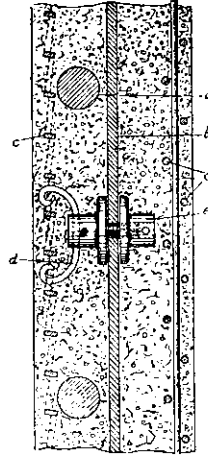
—EDITOR.

CEMENT PRICE ADVANCED.

Portland cement has been advanced in price as from 1st August, equivalent to 9s. per ton, to 17s. 6d. per cask or three bags. The rise represents 6d. per bag.

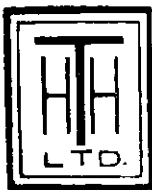
Patents of Interest to Builders.

Reinforced Concrete Structure—A patent, No. 41259, has been taken out by James Parker, and Omerod Mitchell, both of England. It consists of interposing within the thickness of the concrete walls of such structures a partition or thick-



ness of flexible waterproof material—such, for instance, as bitumastic sheeting—in close proximity with which, but held in spaced relation thereto, the reinforcing members are suitably disposed and tied together, and to which the

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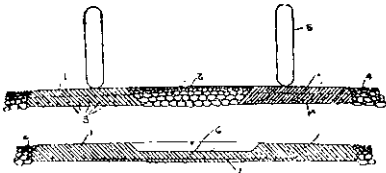
22 WINGFIELD STREET

WELLINGTON.

concrete in a plastic condition is applied by hand by passing the same through the spaces in or between the reinforcing members and then building up and finishing the facing-surfaces.

Ore Concentrator—A patent, No. 41448, has been taken out by Ferdinand G. Gasche, of Chicago. Consists in directing a stream of the particles in a single direction across a floor at a velocity which initially is substantially uniform irrespective of the varying size and weight of the particles, and against an atmosphere, which absorbs the energy of motion of the individual particles, thereby causing the precipitation of the particles upon said floor at points near and far from the point of initial projection according to the varying size and weight of the particles. The apparatus comprises an ore-pulverising machine, in combination with an ore-container wherein the pulverised ore may be held under air-pressure a valved outlet for said container for the discharge of the ore with a portion of compressed air, a gun or nozzle which receives the pulverised ore and air, and a concentrating-floor over which said nozzle is directed. Other features are contained in invention.

Road Surfacing—A patent, No. 41226, has been taken out by Leonard G. P. Spencer, of Auckland, which, consists of



the combination of reinforced concrete and tar macadam roadways, and two concrete wheelways tied together at intervals with reinforced-concrete ties.

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Wood, etc., Protecting and Fire-proofing—A patent, No. 41449, has been taken out by Artenox Co., of Delaware, U.S.A. It comprises treating materials with an ammoniacal solution containing a zinc compound, but substantially free of other non-volatile constituents, said solution having an alkaline reaction towards phenolphthalein, and its content of combined zinc being at least about 5 per cent. Other features are contained in invention.

Building Notes.

ASHBURTON.

Mr. Roy Lovell-Smith, of Christchurch, called for tenders late last month for extensive additions and alterations to Coleman's Buildings, Ashburton for Messrs Gough and Son.

AUCKLAND.

As a result of an appeal made to old boys of King's College to do their part in furtherance of the new college scheme, it has been decided to donate a chapel as a memorial to those who had died at the war. So far donations to the amount of £926 had been paid by old boys. For the past year, however, the position in regard to the new college has remained practically unchanged. In regard to the new college, the chairman at a recent meeting said the chief difficulty of the board of governors had been limited funds, and the high cost of building. In consequence, the board had had to mark time, but it had now been practically decided to proceed with building operations, although for the time being the scheme would be carried out in a modified form. He understood the plans of the modified scheme were now being prepared, and that tenders would soon be called. The original scheme had been estimated to cost £50,000, but the modified one would cost £10,000 less. The chapel to be erected by the old boys would be erected whatever the scheme was. The chapel had been estimated to cost £8000, and it would be necessary to obtain £4000 before they could obtain the 50 per cent. which the bank was prepared to advance.

The question of rebuilding St. John's College at Tamaki, was referred to recently by the Anglican Bishop as being a real necessity.

The sale took place recently of the block of land and business premises occupied by E. Porter and Co., the price paid being over £55,000. The property has a frontage to Queen Street and High Street, and based on the Queen Street frontage of 51 feet the price works out at nearly £1080 per foot.

In order to overcome the difficulty of overcrowding of the schools the Auckland Education Board has now in hand a programme of school construction and extensions which, with new sites, will involve an expenditure of over £100,000.

Mr. Henry E. White called for tenders for the erection of a bungalow in wood, at Mt. Albert. Messrs Chilwell and Trevithick, called for tenders for alterations and additions to a house in Church Road, Epsom. Mr. L. C. A. Potter, architect, also called for tenders for house at Epsom. The following tenders have also been published:—Mr. J. Routley, St. John's Presbyterian Church, at Papatoetoe; Messrs Wilson and Moodie, for concrete steps for Racing Club, at Ellerslie; Mr. S. Goldsboro, for brick shop and dwelling at Milford; Mr. J. Currie, residence at Kohimarama; Messrs Wilson and Mudie, for alterations to Victoria Arcade; Messrs Ed. Mahoney and Son, for premises for Bank of New Zealand at Otorohanga and Matamata; Mr. A. Palmer, roofing Holy Trinity Church, Devonport; Messrs Holman and Moses, St. Luke's Presbyterian Manse, Remuera; H. J. West, architect, for two shops and billiard room Opatiki. Mr. Farrell called for tenders during last months for school building at Morrinsville. Tenders were also called for new post office at Manuera in brick.

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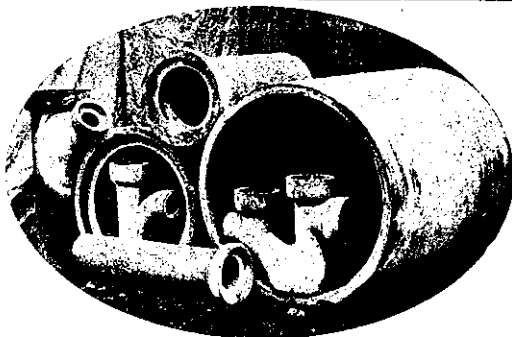
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UNION CHAMBERS, WELLINGTON

CHRISTCHURCH.

A new church is proposed to be built to replace St. Mary's at Merivale, to cost not less than £15,000. The Ven. Archdeacon Haggitt thinks there will be no difficulty in securing the amount required, as several promises amounting to £6600 had already been received. No architect has been appointed, and no design will be accepted until a satisfactory indication is made by the congregation that the money to build is forthcoming.

The plans for the new building for the Boys' High School have been prepared by Messrs Guthrie Bros., architects, two old boys of the school.

A start has been made with the erection of the buildings in Woolston, in the vicinity of the Radley bridge, for the Kaiapoi Woollen Company. They are to be used for hosiery and cap factories, and are to cost about £14,000.

Messrs England Bros. called for tenders for a residence in Heathfield Avenue. Messrs Collins and Harman called for tenders for the erection of a house in Hohnwood Road. Messrs J. S. and M. J. Guthrie, architects, called for tenders early this month for the erection of the new Soldiers' Club building in Gloucester Street. Mr. Roy Lovell-Smith also called for tenders for a house at New Brighton.

DUNEDIN.

Messrs Mason and Wales called for tenders for an isolation ward for the Tapanui Hospital.

HAMILTON.

The committee appointed to raise funds for the new Soldiers' Club for Hamilton reports a gratifying response.

As a result of its efforts £4050 has been obtained towards the sum of £5000, which is the amount required.

Mr. F. C. Daniell, architect, called for tenders early this month for office buildings, Victoria Street.

Despite the war and other disabilities the progress made by Hamilton during the past five years has been phenomenal. From October, 1914, to date, building permits for property valued at over £227,272 were issued by the Hamilton Borough Council. From October of last year, or about the time of the signing of the armistice, building operations in Hamilton have advanced rapidly, and up to July the figures were £60,189, included in which are eight buildings for July valued at £4710. In the suburbs the scene is one of great activity. In almost every street a house is being erected or preparations being made for building operations,

PHONE 1649

F. de J. Clere

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Stewart E. Williams

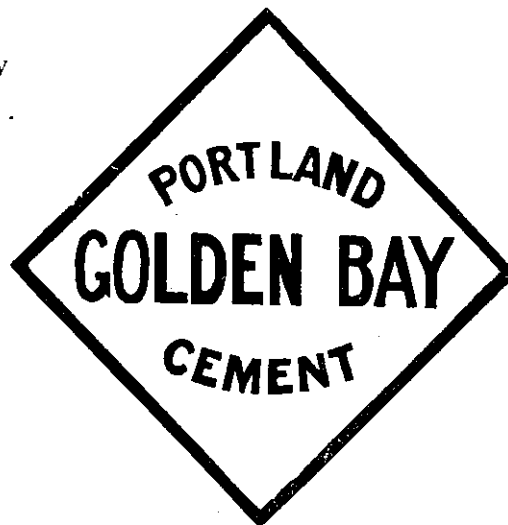
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and a safe estimate is that at least 100 houses and business premises are being erected. At Frankton a contract has just been let for the erection of 27 houses. A syndicate is putting up several shops in Victoria Street, Hamilton, and the National Bank of New Zealand has recently purchased a site with the intention of erecting new premises.

MASTERTON.

New premises are to be erected shortly for the Bank of Australasia. The Union Bank of Australia also contemplate erecting fine premises in Perry Street shortly.

It is proposed to erect a tower and chapel to the existing Church costing £5000 as a thanks offering for the termination of the war.

NGARUAWHIA.

Mr. L. C. Potter, architect, of Matamata, called for tenders recently for the erection in brick of business premises.

TIMARU.

Messrs J. S. and M. J. Guthrie, architects, Christchurch, called for tenders early this month for additions in brick to Messrs J. Ballantyne and Company's premises.

WANGANUI.

At a recent meeting of the congregation of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Wanganui, it was decided to establish an institute in connection with the church, the aim being to subsequently erect a hostel. The immediate scheme is expected to cost about £1000.

WHAKATANE.

A deputation was appointed at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and local bodies recently to interview the Minister for Public Health with regard to the immediate erection of the Whakatane Hospital on the site agreed to by the health officer.

WELLINGTON.

The Wellington Diocesan Synod have approved of the site of St. Mark's Church for the proposed Anglican Cathedral, subject to the report of a geological expert.

Messrs Penty and Lawrence called for tenders during the month for additions to Victoria College.

A contract has been let to Messrs Hansford and Mills to erect the new building for the State Fire Insurance Department on the corner of Lambton Quay and Waring-Taylor Street, from plans supplied by Messrs Hoggard, Prouse and W. H. Gunner, A.R.I.B.A. The building, which will be seven stories in height, will be constructed on the latest American steel-frame principle, and the whole of the facade will be of Kairuru marble, from the Takaka district, Nelson, on a brick basis. The magnitude of the structure can be gathered from the fact that it will have a frontage to Lambton Quay of 104 feet, and one to Waring-Taylor Street of 58 feet. The cost of the building will be approximately £80,000. As most of the material has been practically secured, it is not anticipated that there will be much delay in pushing on with the work. There is already a large stock of steel in Wellington for the building, and two more shipments on the water. The building was planned some six years ago, and its erection has only been delayed on account of the war. Its erection will take about twelve months, or more, according to circumstances. The contracting firm is the one at present engaged on the erection of the new Parliamentary Buildings.

An addition two storeys is being added to the Midland Hotel, Lambton Quay.

Messrs Swan and Swan called for tenders for alterations to Messrs Geo. Fowld's premises.

Mr. Fielding called for tenders during this month for the erection in brick of Whyte's Hotel, Foxton.

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a partner in the firm of Messrs. Atkins, Bacon & Mitchell (Architects and Structural Engineers, Wellington).

Mr. Mitchell is an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He studied for 2½ years in London, and while there had practical experience with large constructional firms in the erection of theatres and steel structures, particularly in the erection of large munition buildings in England during the war period.

Mr. Llewellyn E. WILLIAMS, A.R.I.B.A.,

a partner in the firm of Messrs. Clere & Williams (Architects and Structural Engineers, Wellington).

Mr. Williams is also an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects and a Member of the Concrete Institute, London. He is a Medallist in Building Construction and Sanitation of King's College University of London. He also studied his art in Paris for one year in the ateliers of Chiffot, Umbdenstock and Gromort, and in Belgium and Italy.

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