

built much more quickly than those of brick. Two men, working under the supervision of a foreman, can build a house in three months, and in another week it can be finished and ready for occupation. The houses have central heating systems, by which the temperature can be graduated according to the season, and there are no fireplaces.

Moulded concrete is also being partially used in the houses which the Corporation are constructing under their three large new schemes. Sheffield was the first city in the country actually to complete all the necessary steps in connexion with one of the post-war housing schemes. Great quantities of bricks have now been delivered on three sites, and the building of houses has begun.

Industries Committee—Housing Proposals

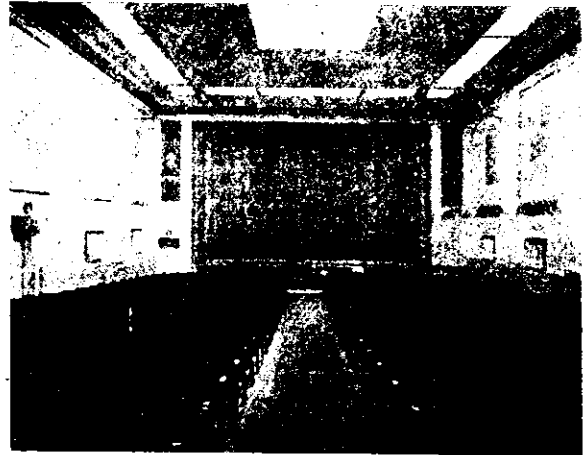
The Industries Committee, which presented its report to Parliament early this month, has evidently given some thought to the Housing question, as their recommendations include the setting up of a National Housing Department with very wide powers. It is proposed to place the Department under a Minister, and administer it by a Commissioner and two associate Commissioners, with power to acquire land and buildings compulsorily, to purchase land, make roads acquire and carry on sawmills and joinery works; to purchase and import supplies, purchase plant, manufacture articles required for the dwellings, etc.; in short, the Commissioners should have wide powers to push on vigorously, and in a business-like way, the work of providing the much-needed houses. Ample funds must be provided, and the Committee recommend that an amount up to £2,000,000 be made available. The sum indicated will provide about 3000 additional houses. The houses provided under the national scheme shall be available for preference to men having incomes below £300 with an additional allowance of £25 per child over three in number.

The Committee further recommend that local bodies, including harbour boards, be empowered, in conjunction with the State, to initiate and carry into effect local housing schemes. It is also recommended that the Government shall lend moneys to approved companies, employers, and farmers under stated conditions. In this case the rent is to be based on 5 per cent. on the cost of the building only, the borrower to bear the loss of maintenance, rates, etc.

The Committee are of opinion that the legislation governing advances to workers requires considerable widening, and recommend:—(a) That the maximum amount of loan that may be advanced be raised to £750, for the purpose of erecting a new building, and to £600 for the purchase of an existing building. (b) That these advances be made to workers whose incomes are not more than £300 per annum, with an addition of £25 for each child up to three in number. The Committee recommend that stringent regulations be drafted to prevent, as far as possible, profit-making by the sale of houses erected under this scheme, and always provided that, in the event of any sale the purchaser must be a worker whose income is within the limitation.

How to Light a Picture Theatre.

The old idea that pictures thrown on a screen by a lantern require a completely darkened room to be clearly seen was shown to be incorrect long before the invention of the moving picture. French experimenters demonstrated that all that was needed was that light from without should not fall directly on the screen itself nor shine into the spectators' eyes. Yet it was some time before the movie-producers realized that their theatres need not be dark. Some are even now too dark for comfort. There is no need for this, since the problems involved have now been completely worked out by illuminating engineers. The requirements and their practical fulfilment are both stated clearly in an article in "The Electrical World" (New York, May 17). Says this paper:—"When lighting problems are considered, auditoriums of photoplay theatres present a condition differing somewhat from that presented by the legitimate theatre because sufficient light must be furnished to permit the audience of the photoplay theatre to find



A New Lighting Scheme in an American Theatre, which keeps the screen dark while lighting the seats.

its way about, yet the distribution of this light must be such as not to interfere with the picture on the screen. The intensities in different parts of the theatre may be materially different, since the surface most vitally important is the screen. It is usually quite practicable to raise the illumination in the rear or at the entrance if the motion-picture screen itself is properly submerged in darkness.

"In this way a person entering is not at first subjected to so low an intensity of illumination as he is after passing down toward the front of the theatre. The minute or two which elapses between the time of entering and the time of reaching an area of low illumination gives the eye a certain amount of time in which to accustom itself to the lower intensity.

"A second requirement of this type of lighting is that the greatest amount of illumination should be thrown upon the horizontal plane, that is, the seats and aisles. It is considered poor practise to throw any amount of light on the side-walls because of the effect of reflection toward the screen. Moreover such

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