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Scholarly Architecture at Wembley.

Triumph of Arts in British Empire Exhibition Buildings.

(From "The Spectator.")
As yet most of us connect the British Empire Exhibition with a post-mark and the future. It seems singularly dim and far away. Most of us have not begun to think even of our work for the summer of nineteen-twenty-four, still less of the possible amusement of a casual evening or two. But if you go down to Wembley, as the present writer did, and see ponds being filled up, engines running here and there, and huge steam diggers spooning the earth up a ton at a time, the time seems short—too short we might think who remember quite well the banal courtesies of the White City or Earl's Court. There is something magnificent about this great work. The scale is gigantic, the effort purposeful, the materials of the composition masculine and impressive. They are the earth of banks and excavations, the steel and concrete of the vast skeleton buildings, the smoke of the numberless little engines, and the moving figures of more than a thousand men. So great is the scale that on a day of late autumn the mists played their part even within the oval "A" without in the periphery of the great Stadium, which is considerably larger than the Coliseum. But, fortunately, this prodigious exertion of the new powers of man has for once been directed. Mr. John W. Simpson and Mr. Maxwell Ayrton, the architects, have neither been overwhelmed by the gigantic labors which a single stroke of the pencil immediately involves, nor have they been made contrarily flighty by it. The public is going for the first time in England, to see an Exhibition which has been designed by scholarly and capable architects instead of by the concoctors of restaurant and cinema facades.

ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The chief characteristic of Mr. Ayrton's designs is a clean squariness of outline. The general lay-out of the Exhibition is regular, and most of the buildings are low and flat-roofed with no applied ornament. The chief effects of the design are made, with broad flights of steps and wide arches, while the actual structure of the buildings gives an impression of squareness and mass. In the present writer's opinion, the design for the Stadium, where this severity has been departed from a little, is the least successful of the drawings. Up to the point to which the actual structure has arrived, it is fine and massive. The lower stages give exactly the impression of the rusticated basement courses of some vast baroque fortress, arches with huge keyholes, a tunnelled entrance burrowing under the soaring height of the walls, while the broad flights of steps lead up to the wide terrace above. But the domed towers which are to occur in the course of the main facade seem somewhat little out of character. Or is it perhaps only the domed tops and not the towers themselves that are at fault? The horizontal lines used in all the other buildings are singularly satisfying to the eye in their restfulness and serenity, and somehow the domes seem a concession of the usual style. But this is one small point in the midst of an admirable scheme, and if concession to White City standards go no further there will be nothing to complain of. Indeed, so closely knit and graciously conceived is the design that we cannot help feeling a pang at the thought of the many dangers that must beset before the Exhibition is complete.

OF COLONIAL DESIGN.
For example, two of the most prominent sites in the scheme are to be occupied by Australian and Canadian buildings; two vast pavilions will stand flanking the Stadium, and facing the main entrance buildings on the other side of the lake. These buildings of course, will be most properly designed by Canadian and Australian architects, and these two gentlemen will therefore have it in their power to ruin the scheme of the whole lay-out. It should be perfectly easy for them each to design a building which, though admirable as an individual, might prove a disastrous "member" of the Exhibition. Aesthetic good citizenship will be an immensely important factor here. However, in the case of New Zealand the difficulty has proved to be non-existent, and a cordial aesthetic understanding has been reached already. It is not for a moment to be supposed that the other Dominions will show less sensibility. They will certainly show themselves courteous citizens of the world. It will, of course, be possible for the designers of these buildings to show great individuality and skill within the easy limits which considerations for the common good will impose. They will be faced by most interesting problems, no less in actual construction than in designing. We understand that the system upon which a great deal of construction (the reinforced concrete work especially) is being carried out in the British section are new. Here and there they are said to be revolutionary. Mr. E. C. Williams, the young engineer, has shown great resource in meeting several new problems which the work presented. To the layman, indeed, his share of the work is in some ways the most impressive part of his whole undertaking. It is difficult to know which to admire more, the daring energy of some of the great machinery which he controls or the minute intricacy and accuracy of the working drawings. We consider their painstaking delicacy, their laborious exactitude, and remember that upon the thousand or more calculations of strains embodied in the blue print, before we will depend the safety of the 125,000 people whom the Stadium will accommodate.

DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL.

Indeed, it is the trait of persistence in the human creature that the whole staff of the Exhibition chiefly emphasize at the moment. It seems incredible that somewhere already the details of the mouldings of the finger-plates for the doors of the building, which is to stand where the steam excavator is working, are being drawn. Probably ribbon or the like "trivial" delicacy is being woven to decorate some particular stand in a building whose gaunt skeleton has just begun to show against the sky and the mud. It seems strange that so crude and primitive a thing should ever be brought to the finalities of varnish, light and carpet. The Stadium is to be inaugurated and opened to the public on the occasion of the playing of the football cup-tie final. We imagine that a good many people will be very much interested to see these bare bones which a year later they will see clothed. It will see clothed. It will be interesting to follow the development of an Exhibition planned and directed for once by men of taste. How far will they ultimately succeed to the old evil traditions and to the many vested interests that must be allied with the powers of aesthetic darkness?—B.E. E. News Service.

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I Got a Job makin' a pitchur and it was lots of FUN —
JACKIE COOGAN
Brigus Jottings.

On Saturday morning, before the dawn, the Angel of Death visited the house of Mr. Wm. Hiscock and bore away the soul of his daughter Sadie, who was just merging into womanhood. In this one house, as in many, the glorious season of rejoicing has become a time of sorrow with drawn blinds and bowed heads. Santa Claus passes by with a shake of his head, and Aracl knocks with a summons not to be denied. Particularly sad is this occurrence, as it is the third time within 2 years that death has come to the home of Mr. Hiscock. First his wife was taken from him; a few months afterwards his son (a young man of 20 years), and now, the final blow, his daughter is snatched away. Two years ago upon the death of her step-mother the young lady who has just died took upon herself and uncomplainingly fulfilled the tasks of mothering five young children, her step-brothers and sisters. Endowed with a very frail physique, the additional care and responsibility of a number of young children was too much for her powers of resistance, and she gradually succumbed to that all-devouring curse of Newfoundland—Consumption. The large and representative attendance at her funeral Sunday was a mute testimony of the esteem in which the young lady was held by the whole community. The funeral oration delivered by the Rev. O. Jackson, pastor of the Methodist Church, was one of the finest the writer has ever heard. The whole sympathy of the community goes out to Mr. Hiscock in his sad bereavement.

The first gun in the political campaign (which and when not stated) was fired Saturday, when a motor boat gaily bedecked with flags arrived from Port de Grave to convey the popular young druggist of Brigus, Mr. J. F. Cantwell on a triumphant tour through this section of his district (in future). The day was windy and cold, but nothing daunted, this martyr of popularity invested himself in numerous coats and stepped manfully aboard the boat to brave the terrors of the crossing from Brigus to Port de Grave. Eye-witnesses in the latter place say that his welcome exceeded all imagination. The Welkin (wherever that is) fairly rang with the cheers of the people all along the

route. The fact that Mr. Cantwell will be elected on whatever side he chooses to come is generally conceded by all in general. Mr. Cantwell is single-handed setting out to put down the bug bear of Sectarianism for all time. The voice of the people apparently demand his candidacy and all intending "Premiers" should govern themselves accordingly and take cognizance of this fact. Mr. Cantwell is not altogether unknown in local politics, as his excursions at various times into Harbour Main district are well known to both present and past administrations. It would be well for future executives to note that Mr. Cantwell has stated publicly that he is not for sale (neither he nor his influence) at any price.

The Brigus hockey team are practicing daily for their coming encounter with St. John's hockeyists. Last year they went to St. John's, and St. John's smiled satirically at the aggregation of Baymen who were coming over to play "Hurley" and offered them a team to oppose them, which to say the least of it, got a lot of entertainment and strenuous exercise. This year the team will go prepared to meet the best that St. John's can produce, and hope to, at least, give the fans of St. John's as good an exhibition of hockey as the Nova Scotians which have been imported yearly at much greater expense.

The Christmas parades of both the C. of E. Guild and L.O.A. were held amidst splendid Christmas weather. The picturesque colorings of both parties blended beautifully with the green of the arches and the whole carpet of snow around, meanwhile the bands discoursed march tunes. An entertainment for children was held in the afternoon by the L.O.A., and a dance in the night in the Public Building. Both events were largely attended and were very successful, reminding children and grown ups alike that once a year at least there is a time for relaxation and rejoicing.
EDAM CHEESE.
Jan. 8, 1923.

Radio Helps Fishermen.

GOTHENBURG.—The radiophone is becoming a serious menace to the safety of the herring off the Swedish coast. The fishermen out at sea soon will be told from the Gothenburg radio central the exact location of the herring schools. This unique service, which will tend to eliminate wasteful waiting on the part of fishermen, and will doubtless mean a considerable increase in the catches of herring, is the newest commercial use to which the wireless telephone will be put in Sweden, according to plans just completed. While merchant vessels have for some time been required by law to carry wireless equipment, the smaller fishing vessels have hitherto operated without systems of communication with the land. They will now receive weather reports, forecasts, and news, as well as the radio tips regarding the appearance of the herring. Plans are on foot to distribute news in Sweden by radio telephone. Experiments are being made from Stockholm as a center.

WHEREFORE.
"Mama, what is that man sitting on the sidewalk talking to a banana skin for?" asked a St. John's street kid to his mother.

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BREAKING THROUGH.

FRIDAY :--MISS NICKELS, NEW YORK'S PRIMA DONNA.

France Turning Towards Colonial Development.

PARIS—A proper development of her rich colonies would help France fill the gap made by the waste of the general war, is the argument advanced to-day by Albert Sarraut, Minister of Colonies, who is known in the United States because of his work at the Washington disarmament conference. M. Sarraut is the leader in an effort to so equip French colonies that in case of another war, France would not depend on the outside world for her stocks of food, coal, and other supplies. The French colonies in Africa and Asia are slightly larger than the United States, with a total of 56 million inhabitants. Through protectorates and otherwise, France controls about forty per cent. of the continent of Africa. According to M. Sarraut, the richest of all French colonies is Indo-China, with a population of 19 million people and an area six times that of the state of Alabama. M. Sarraut has a bill before parliament to bring about the development of France's colonies, their mines, forests, and agriculture, a programme which would require three billion francs. If France could arrange matters with Germany as she would be assured no further invasions, this money would be forthcoming by reductions in the national budget. M. Sarraut declares. The native populations of French colonies are described as well disposed toward their rulers, so much so that President Millerand recently made a trip through the African possessions of the Republic in perfect safety.

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MUTT AND JEFF

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE WAS IN JEFF'S FAVOR.

—By Bud Fisher