

CONSTRUCTION

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CURRENT TOPICS

OWING to the unsettled conditions due to the European War, it has been regretfully decided to postpone for an indefinite period the Seventh General Annual Assembly of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, which was to have been held at Quebec, Que., on 21st and 22nd September, 1914. Alcide Chausse, Hon. Secretary.

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VANCOUVER CIVIC CENTRE, 1914.—The committee appointed by His Worship Mayor Baxter invite competitive designs for the development of the proposed Civic Centre. Premiums amounting to \$500.00 and \$250.00 will be awarded to the designs placed first and second respectively. The award will be made by independent experts, whose decision shall be final. All designs must be delivered not later than November 30th, 1914. Programme of competition and plans may be obtained from the Secretary, Vancouver Civic Centre Committee, care of Board of Trade, Vancouver, B.C.

UNTIL quite recently it was believed to be impossible to make cement water-proof. The Ceresit Company, however, now claims to have a mixture of cement which is absolutely water-proof and has given some rather remarkable demonstrations of the efficiency of its material. The most spectacular of these tests will be made in the Palace of Machinery at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition where the company is erecting a beautiful temple of the Water God Aquarius. The temple is surmounted by a spraying fountain and the water-jets will cover the dome and fall into a hidden gutter along the base of the top and then down the hollow supporting the columns. These are faced with glass on four sides so that the water passing down the cement tubes may be plainly seen. The structure is composed entirely of the Ceresit mixture and the company claims that it will be able to prove to the millions of Exposition visitors that the cement is absolutely water-proof.

* * *

"Massachusetts is still bending a thoughtful brow over the ruins of Salem. Everybody agrees that the one thing which contributed most to the spread of the fire was—shingles. House after house burst into flame the instant the rain of sparks touched the tinder-like shingle roofs. A dry, weathered shingle makes about the finest kindling known. In a closely populated town, a brisk wind carries flames over shingle roofs as fire sweeps over sunburnt prairie grass. The Bay State is using the Salem fire to start a strong argument against shingles. It will do the rest of the country no harm to listen."

The above is an excerpt of an editorial appearing in *The New York Evening World*, and calls for serious attention from everyone. Of the few unaffected buildings within the fire-belt practically all were covered with asbestos roofing. It should prove a potent factor in the use of fireproof shingles handled by the Canadian H. W. Johns-Manville Co., Ltd.

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