

Concrete.

(Western Architect and Builder, Cincinnati.)
 Inasmuch as the merits of concrete may now be considered as fully assured, it is well that the general advantages of the same be understood by the public, and also that persons financially interested in its market value see to it that its reputation is not brought into disrepute by ignorance and unscrupulous handling.
 Cement concrete is eminently good for some things, but this does not prove that it is pre-eminently good for all purposes.
 Cement concrete may stop running water, but it is not impervious to damp. So in ordinary construction solid concrete walls will be damp on the inside under certain conditions, and even walls built of hollow concrete blocks may not prevent damp coming through. Late trials seem to prove conclusively that concrete is not damaged to any great extent by fire; the surface exposed to fire may scale, but it is a good nonconductor, and the heat does not penetrate a mass of concrete.

Its greatest value seems to be along constructional requirements, and it is possible to build structures that in proportion and in outline way be pleasing to the eye; but it is not pleasant in color; furthermore, it often shows on its surface the effect of damp, and in some instances it exudes a chemical reaction on its surface similar to brickwork.

There may be differences of opinion, but it surely can not be claimed that concrete exterior surfaces are as pleasant to look upon as masonry of stone or brick, which shows the philosophy of their construction. In concrete buildings, finally finished by plastering the exterior surfaces, the final effect is that of morolithic construction, and there is an apparent lack of scale in the building and its parts. Perhaps it may be the result of our habitual vision of construction in stone and brick that there seems to be something lacking when looking on this character of concrete construction, for it is surely part of the charm of ordinary masonry that the building method is made apparent in the bedding and bonding of the stonework, and also in the voesius of arches, all giving evidence of thought and human effort in construction. It may be that an observer may not know why he is pleased, for he does not analyze his perceptions. Compare the inherent beauty of a bridge, even of quite ordinary stone masonry, with an iron structure for the same purpose. The former in its setting in the landscape seems to link the work of nature and the work of man together.

It is true that concrete block construction is an attempt to attain the same end, but the result is sadly artificial; it lacks an appeal to humanity.

These thoughts, however, may not appeal to those who are only financially interested in concrete construction. There is, however, a consideration so important to its future that these parties should take heed to it, namely, that the inherent qualities of concrete will not brook bad material or workmanship, or ignorance of the proper method of using it.

It is the misfortune of concrete construction that it appears so simple that any man who can handle a shovel can take contracts and carry on this concrete construction business with profit to himself and with safety and satisfaction to his patrons.

This is the present danger of concrete construction.

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Germany and Great Britain.

After the pleasant tributes to British hospitality and friendliness by the German Burgomasters, who recently visited Great Britain, it is well to take note of the far more important utterances of the Teutonic Navy League, which has become an unquestioned power in aid of the Kaiser's scheme for a great fleet. The annual general meeting of the league was held in Hamburg some ten days ago, and Dr. Burchard, the Burgomaster, boldly discussed Great Britain's attitude towards the growth of the German navy. It may be said that his historical treatment of the subject was better than the comparisons which he instituted. That the expansion of Great Britain last century was largely due to a diplomacy which aimed at the possession of colonies and the securing of bases for the British fleet is quite true. But when Dr. Burchard suggests that Germany is merely following Britain's example, and that the British have no right to complain about her naval preparations, he forgets the essential difference between an expansion policy today and one of a century back. Bismarck frankly admitted that Germany's overseas expansion must be at the expense of some other power. The creation of an empire from a motley collection of states was a great achievement, and it is quite possible to understand the German Emperor's determination to maintain a large army in order to preserve what has been gained. But, while Great Britain's development of Australia was not at the expense of any other power, and while this country and Cape Colony were little valued when they passed into British

hands, there is little of the earth's surface that is now not definitely "staked out."

The expansion of Germany can, therefore, only be the result of force or purchase. Great Britain, the possessor of so much over-sea territory, is thus bound to note the tendency of Germany to increase her navy to dimensions out of all proportion to her colonial interests. She cannot forget the Iron Chancellor's admission that Great Britain, as first in the field, has secured all the desirable portions of the earth. If economic interest alone dominate Germany's naval policy, however, the ambition for a colossal fleet is unwarranted. The Algeiras conference exposed the hollowness of her pretences in Morocco, and there is no part of the globe where her interests are imperilled by lack of naval force. Dr. Burchard asks Great Britain to remember the principle that there is room in the world for the economic development of all its peoples. Some of us in view of the exclusive tariff policy of Germany and others, are inclined to believe that Great Britain is the solitary nation which acts on this principle.

It is curious to note the recent commendation of the "open door" policy by England's visitors, and to compare it with the action of the fatherland. "Peaceful rivalry" does not go well with the pan-German press campaign against Great Britain, whenever extra taxation is required for the German naval program. Moreover, it is difficult to overlook the chilly reception given alone by Germany to the Anglo-Japanese alliance, and the undoubted attempt to weaken the Anglo-French agreement. Great Britain manifests no ill-will to Germany, and frankly welcomes her in international commercial competition. But while a great navy is essential to the British for defensive purposes, a great navy for Germany suggests that sooner or later it will seek to justify its cost by acting on the offensive. Great Britain is the power whose overseas possessions afford the greatest temptation, and for this reason she is warranted in keeping a watchful eye on German naval development.

Nor Indians with Indian Pudding.

Simeon Ford tells of a woman in a Chicago hotel who was known as she most inveterate "kicker" the hostelry had ever known.

One evening at dessert, the lady who was always complaining asked the waiter why the dish served her was called "ice-cream pudding."

"If you don't like it, ma'am, I'll bring you something else," suggested the polite negro.

"On, it's very nice," responded the lady. "What I object to is that it should be called ice-cream pudding. It's wrongly named. There should be ice-cream served with it."

"Yes, ma'am," replied the waiter, "but that's just our name for it. Lots o' dishes that way. Dey don't bring you a cottage with a cottage pudding, you know."—Success Magazine.

His Study of Economy.

"Too many men," said Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, "practise economy as a Chicago man once did."

"This man got married, and one night, a month or so after the wedding, he put on his hat and coat as soon as he had finished dinner.

"I am going out, my dear," he said to his wife. 'I am going to the theatre. Don't wait for me. I shan't be home till late.'

"The young woman flushed.

"Then you're not going to take me?" she faltered.

"No, darling. It's impossible," he returned. 'I only bought one ticket. You know now we're married we must study economy more.'—Kansas City Journal.

Depends On How The Game is Played.

The Appropriate Hymn.

Before he ascended the pulpit in a country church a special preacher was asked if he would like any particular hymn chosen to agree with his sermon. "No," he replied; "as a matter of fact I hardly ever know what I am going to say until I get into the pulpit." "In that case," replied the vicar, "we had better have the hymn, 'For Those at Sea.'"



The Road Repairs.

Hon. C. H. LaBillois, chief commissioner of public works, in speaking of the operations under the road act of 1904, which will be carried out for the first time this season, said they are likely to lead to most satisfactory results, and expresses the opinion that when the work was completed—as it is required to be on August 1—that New Brunswick would have the best roads of any province in Canada.

Instructions, the chief commissioner added, have now been issued for general repairs to the roads, and during the next two months some \$140,000 will be spent. Of this sum \$70,000, he said, is the result of the road tax collected last year which is placed to the credit of each highway district and paid out to the superintendents under the order of the chief commissioner. The remaining \$70,000 is contributed by the provincial government.

On account of the late spring, Mr. LaBillois said, the farmers would be ready from this out to work on the different highways and he looked for the largest amount of repair work ever known in the province.

The following extracts from the regulations issued to superintendents, and governing this class of work under the act, will prove of interest:

"Every superintendent or road master shall employ all the labor he shall require, whether of men or horses, from persons in the district where such work has to be done, as far as practicable.

All vouchers must give full descriptions of the work done either by sale or day's work. If by day's work, the number of days must be given, and the rate of wages, quantity and prices of materials furnished.

In addition to accounts and vouchers to be sent to the department of public works, you must furnish the secretary treasurer of the municipality with an exact copy of your expenditure.

Any superintendent who fails to make a proper and complete return of expenditure cannot expect to be continued in office.

I cannot understand the rage manifested by the greater part of the world for reading New Books. If the public had read all those that have gone before, I can conceive how they should not wish to read the same works twice over; but when I consider the countless volumes that lie unopened, unregarded, unread, and unthought of, I cannot enter into the pathetic complaints that I hear made that Sir Walter writes no more—that the press is idle—that Lord Byron is dead. If I have not read a book before it, to all intents and purposes, new to me, whether it was printed yesterday or three hundred years ago.—William Hazlitt.

Books are not made for furniture, but there is nothing else that so beautifully furnishes a house. The plainest row of books that cloth or paper ever covered is more significant of refinement than the most elaborately carved settable or sideboard. Give us a house furnished with books rather than furniture.—Henry Ward Beecher.

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