

CITY'S NEW POST OFFICE

*Not Yet Too Late
to Change Design*

CRITICISM BEARS FRUIT

The possibility of substantial changes to the designs of the new Johannesburg Post Office and the new Capetown General Hospital, with a view to securing greater architectural harmony and beauty, is stated in reliable circles in Pretoria to be by no means remote.

The Government asked for full particulars and has been informed that it is not yet too late to secure some highly-desired improvements.

The recent criticisms of the designs for the two buildings have revealed widespread dissatisfaction in regard to certain buildings designed by the Public Works Department. Among these is the new office of the Native Commissioner at Pretoria.

"ARCHITECTURAL DISASTERS"

With regard to the new Johannesburg Post Office, the criticism of the design is of long standing. Referring to the first copy of the plan, Professor C. E. Pearse, Head of the Architectural School, Witwatersrand University, wrote in the January (1932) issue of the "South African Architectural Record":

"The building is to cost nearly £300,000. Capetown appears to swallow these pills fairly readily, but why should Johannesburg? It was due to a determined effort by the architectural profession in the Transvaal that the design for the new Johannesburg Railway Station was given to private practitioners.

"However, the least said about the new Johannesburg Post Office, as illustrated, the better, but the cultured layman and even the intelligent member of Parliament must realise that architectural disaster after disaster is our lot."

TOWN-PLANNING

A critic, closely connected with town-planning, has expressed the opinion that the design for the new Johannesburg Post Office is in conflict with modern architectural tendencies in Johannesburg and that, as such, intelligent town-planning was being made rather difficult.

In Pretoria, it was revealed yesterday, a new public building, where a certain State department was to have been housed, has proved unsuitable and that structural alterations will be necessary before the department can move in.