

SHRINE 130 FEET HIGH AS VOORTREKKER MEMORIAL

Architect's Model at Empire Exhibition

AN extraordinary nobility and spaciousness will be incorporated in the Voortrekker Memorial, if one is to judge from a model exhibited to Pressmen by Mr. Gerald Moerdyk, the architect, at the Empire Exhibition yesterday.

Mr. E. G. Jansen, Speaker of the House of Assembly and chairman of the Voortrekker Committee, was present while Mr. Moerdyk explained his model. This has not yet been adopted as the final form of the Memorial, but the principal ideas have been accepted.

The symbolism of the Memorial is a great, four-square shrine of grey granite, rising 130 feet or more above the level of a man standing on the ground.

The side of the building is 100 feet long. The walls rise sheer, broken by a cloister with flying buttresses at the top, and terminating in a flat roof.

Inside the shrine will be a great hall, with a large frieze round the walls, depicting scenes from the history of the Voortrekkers, such as their departure, the murder of Piet Retief, and the Battle of Blood River.

CIRCLE OF WAGONS

One of the most impressive things about the Memorial will be the circle of 58 wagons—the same number as there were in the laager at Blood River—which surrounds the main shrine. Each wagon will be of the same size as an ordinary wagon.

Great solemnity will attend any Dingaan's Day service in such a shrine. Apparatus in the roof will enable one shaft of sunlight to be admitted into the interior on December 16 every year—the date of the Dingaan's Day feast.

A double dome covers the inside of the shrine. The lower dome has an opening about 40 feet in diameter, through which the upper dome is visible. Under this dome will be a sarcophagus, containing those relics of the bones of the Voortrekkers which can be found.

Under the sarcophagus will be a crypt, in which other Voortrekker relics can be placed.

The most significant piece of symbolism Mr. Moerdyk has employed is a Voortrekker woman with her child at the entrance to the shrine.

"The Phoenicians, the Portuguese and even the Hollanders," Mr. Moerdyk explained to the reporters yesterday, "failed to establish civilisa-

tion in the interior of South Africa. They merely left a paler colour on the skins of some of the Bantu.

"The Voortrekkers established this civilisation because they brought their wives and children with them. That is why we have placed the Voortrekker mother at the entrance to the shrine."