

P. W. D.

CHANCE FOR PRIVATE ARCHITECTS

MR. MOERDYK'S PROPOSAL

The architects of the Transvaal are considering an approach to the authorities to give a small proportion of public work to private architects, stated Mr. Harold Porter, president of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of the South African Institute of Architects, when a representative of The Star brought to his attention the report of an interview with Mr. Gerard Moerdyk in yesterday's issue of The Star.

Mr. Moerdyk had suggested that the work of the Public Works Department should be set down to administrating and supervising and that Government work should be distributed among practising architects. Mr. Porter considered that Mr. Moerdyk was going a little too far. For many years in the Cape Province the architects had carried out school work, he pointed out, and it was felt that as a commencement certain hospital work, at least, should be distributed among practising architects of the Transvaal.

There was a tendency for the Public Works Department to be stamped by the ideas of one individual, and while it was admitted that the standard set was very high, both artistically and constructionally, he fully agreed with Mr. Moerdyk that there should be an opportunity of getting ideas from prominent and capable architects.

It was also felt that some of the more important Government buildings could be put out of public competition among the architects of the country. The Johannesburg Municipality were considering putting one or two of their proposed buildings, chiefly the new fire station, out to competition.