

Extensive Area Offered by City Council

A PRIVATE meeting of the committee with leading Maritzburg citizens took place before and after the tour of inspection.

The first place visited was the Voortrekkers' Museum in Langham street, where Mr. M. Basson, the Natal Archivist, related the story of its establishment and history. This was followed by a visit to the Voortrekker graves in the general cemetery in Commercial road, and then Maritzburg was viewed from the heights of the Natal University College at Scottsville.

The City Council of Maritzburg has offered an extensive open site at the top of Alexandra Park for the purpose of erecting the memorial, or, alternatively, any other site in Maritzburg that might be preferred.

After the old tree at Parkside, Alexandra road—under which, it is believed, Commandant-General A. W. J. Pretorius, members of the Volksraad and burghers of the Republic of Natal had undertaken to accept British rule on July 5, 1842—had been inspected, the site in Alexandra Park was visited.

INSPIRATION TO YOUTH

Situated in an open area high above the city, and overlooked by the Natal University College, the site is one of the most beautiful in Maritzburg. It was explained to the committee that one of the objects of the memorial, namely, to inspire youth, would be achieved, as there were numerous schools in the vicinity. The desire that the memorial should be symbolic of the open-air existence of the Voortrekkers was also a feature, as the whole of Alexandra Park had been alienated as a "lung" to Maritzburg, and there was not the slightest likelihood that buildings would be erected around the memorial.

In addition, Tafelberg (Table Mountain), the Umsindusi river, the old Dutch road near Kettelfontein, and other views of historic interest could be picked out from the memorial, to which there would be ready access by either road or railway.

The site investigation committee consists of Mr. E. G. Jansen (chairman of the central committee), Mr. J. J. Scheepers (secretary of the central committee), Mr. J. M. Lombard (treasurer of the central committee), Mr. B. M. van Rensburg, Mr. C. M. Booysen, Senator F. S. Malan and Mr. G. Moerdyk, all of whom were present in Maritzburg yesterday.

The Maritzburg committee, consisting of Mr. Hugh Bryan (chairman), Mrs. J. Withers Carter (secretary), Dr. G. S. Nienaber and Mr. P. Eagle, were present, as also were Mr. J. H. Farrant and Mr. E. C. Heher, of the Maritzburg Publicity Association, with Mr. M. Basson, Natal Archivist.

WORLD'S VIEW VISITED.

In the afternoon a visit was paid to World's View, another prospective site, where the visitors were loud in their praise of the beautiful and inspiring surroundings.

After being entertained to tea at the Country Club, the committee left for Weenen, which is the next place they will visit. After Weenen, the itinerary is: Ladysmith, Dundee, Harrismith, Winburg, Bloemfontein, Frankfort, Potchefstroom and Pretoria.

"We are certainly impressed with what Maritzburg has shown us today," said Mr. Gerard Moerdyk, the cele-

brated South African architect, with whom the task of preparing the design of the memorial has been entrusted. "We have several factors to consider, however. These are historical associations, accessibility of site, and location in an area serving the greatest possible number of people. I must say that Maritzburg has the first requirement. This is the first centre which we have visited. We go on now to see the other centres. I want to impress our good intentions. We are out to achieve the best possible result."

Mr. Moerdyk expressed appreciation of the Alexandra Park site, which was in itself eminently suitable. The location of the monument in the Drakensberg had been suggested by some, he said, but any creation of theirs there would have a puny effect. While in a beautiful setting, the Alexandra Park site would allow of a creation that would be impressive.

Mr. Moerdyk has already prepared a design for the monument, a brief outline of which has already been announced. It is possible, however, that it may be modified to conform with the needs of the ultimate site. Mr. Moerdyk added that it would take six or seven years to build the monument, but it was desired that the basement would be ready by 1938, so that the foundation stone might be laid then.

Several of the visitors were heard remarking in appreciative terms of the enthusiasm for the monument and its objects which had been revealed in Maritzburg.

The site investigation committee will report to the central committee in the near future, after which a Union conference, at which all provinces will be represented, will make the final decision as to where the monument will be erected.



MARITZBURG'S TREE OF PEACE.—The members of the Voortrekker Monument Committee yesterday visited the "Tree of Peace," on the lawn at Parkside, Alexandra road, Maritzburg, the residence of the late Lieut.-Col. F. S. Tatham. Under its shade, it is claimed that Commandant-General A. W. J. Pretorius and his burghers came to a decision, in the year 1842, to accept British rule.