

Handsome Structure.

Dutch Reformed Church Jubilee Hall.

Each succeeding day shows an advancement with the erection of the Jubilee Hall, of the Dutch Reformed Church, in President Brand Street, which is rapidly approaching completion and when finished will, unquestionably, be one of the handsomest structures in the capital of the Free State—both in regard to its artistic conception and unique architecture. The front elevation is now assuming shape and betokens a singularly effective and inspiring facade. The foundations are of dressed bluestone, with a polished cornerpiece on which appears the formal inscription detailing the date on which it was placed in position.

Beautiful Work.

Access to the building will be gained through massive teak doors opening from a platform which surmounts stone steps, running the full length of the edifice, and supports four magnificent Corinthian pillars which in turn support the upper portions of the wall. The latter have been chiselled out of solid white stone and the workmanship reflects taste and skill.

As a matter of fact the whole of the masonry is hand-work and everything is fitted and finished with an exactness that totally eclipses the machine-made article. The balustrading and exterior embroidery is of a quiet yet exquisite description revealing the master mind in design and the skilled craftsman in construction.

New Style of Roofing.

The roofing, though not original in character, is new to Bloemfontein. It is carried on steel supports and consists of a layer of wood covered with felting and finished outwardly with copper sheeting. This is surmounted on the highest point by an octagonal cupola, which with lead-lights of an amber tint will

diffuse a soft and sufficient light in the daytime while the artificial evening light will present an effective appearance externally.

The Interior.

The interior will be no less handsome than the outside. The walls will be panelled, for a distance of about eight feet in height with Rhodesian mahogany. Apart from the main hall, which will provide ample seating accommodation for the members of the Synod, there are three galleries for the use of visitors and adjoining are rooms for the administrative work of the church. The foundation stone was laid on January 30 last and it is expected that the new habitation will be ready for occupation within a couple of months.

A Fine Structure.

The building, of which the foundation stone has thus been laid, is being built of beautiful white sandstone, quarried in the Bothaville district. An important feature of its architecture will be four fluted columns at the entrance. There will be seating accommodation for 250 delegates, according to the plan in the House of Assembly, while there will be three public galleries. Lobbies, committee rooms, offices, and the like, comprise the rest of the building. The interior will be panelled with mahogany, and the roof will take the form of a copper dome.