

A NEW DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH BUILDING WHICH WILL ADD DISTINCTION TO THE TOWN

The new Dutch Reformed churches which are springing up in various parts of the country include some very fine and very modern edifices, outstanding adornments of the rural towns in which they are situated. One of the latest examples is to be seen at Machadodorp. It is a novel type for South Africa—the blending of old Dutch and Spanish mission styles—but others are likely to follow. Mr. Gerard Moerdyk, A.R.I.B.A., of Pretoria, is the architect and Mr. M. C. Spalding, of Capetown, is the building contractor. Work began last March and such excellent progress has already been made that the job is certain to be completed well within the allotted time—twelve months.

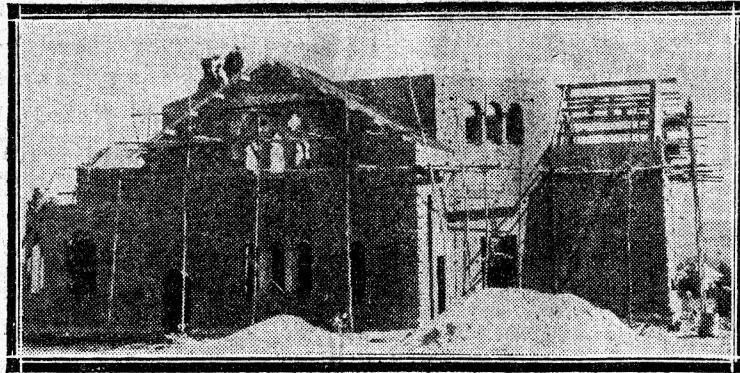
The body of the church is octagonal in plan. Four alternate sides will be surmounted interiorly by semi-arches of 30ft. span and the apex of the roof will be 45ft. above the centre of the sloping floor. Behind the four arches there will be three galleries and an organ loft. The lighting will come largely through leaded panes in elegant tracery windows. All the fittings are to be of teak and the pulpit, which will be of the same

material, will be a striking and handsome piece of ecclesiastical woodwork construction. The seating accommodation of the church will be 850 without

overcrowding and South American experience of similar sacred buildings assures the perfection of the acoustics. Pretoria bricks are being used for the

structure and the outside will be plastered and rough cast. A square tower 110ft high will dominate the entire town, from almost any part of which the church clock will be plainly visible. The roofing of the building will be of red Etruscan tiles.

The Machadodorp Dutch Reformed Church congregation consists of 850 registered members, with as many souls again under the aegis of the church. These figures include Waterval Boven, where there is a branch church with about 200 members. The Machadodorp congregation began in 1912, being taken from the Barberton, Lydenburg and Carolina church communities. A modest building was put up to begin with and since 1914 a continuous effort has been proceeding to form a fund to erect a worthy structure. That fund has now reached £13,000, including one donation from a church member of £550, half the cost of the organ which has been ordered. The bulk of the money required is, in fact, in hand and the minister, the Rev. J. A. Theron is hopeful that when the new church is opened next year it will start entirely free from debt.



The fine Dutch Reformed Church, which is now in process of construction at Machadodorp. The photograph was taken in the middle of August.