

MONTREAL.

(Correspondence of the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.)
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS.

THE series of monthly dinners and course of lectures for the winter were inaugurated on the 10th December. A number of the members dined together at the St. Lawrence Hall and afterwards adjourned to the rooms of the Association, New York Life Building, when a lecture was given by the president, Mr. A. C. Hutchison, on "Ancient Rome," illustrated by a large number of excellent lime light views. The lecturer began by making an analysis of the history of Rome, and fully explained each view as it passed on the curtain in a clear and interesting manner. Mr. Hutchison having passed the greater part of last winter in Italy and Sicily studying the ancient monuments, proved to his audience, who thoroughly enjoyed his lecture, to be very well acquainted with his subject. Mr. A. T. Taylor, vice-president, was in the chair, and there was a good attendance of members and students. On motion of Mr. J. Venne, seconded by Mr. Theo. Daoust, a vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer for his paper.

Future gatherings have been arranged for the second Tuesday of the month during this season, with the following program: Jan. 14, Mr. R. Findlay, "Old Colonial Architecture" (with illustrations); March 10th, Mr. J. Venne, "The Making of Plans for a Building" (with illustrations); April 14th, Mr. W. E. Doran, "Truth in Architecture." The February meeting has not yet been definitely arranged for.

The following examiners have been appointed for the examinations to be held during the coming year: For Montreal, Messrs. A. C. Hutchison, A. T. Taylor and J. Venne; for Quebec, Messrs. J. F. Peachy, H. Staveley and C. Baillairgé. Examinations will take place this winter in Quebec for admission to study and registration on the 29th, 30th and 31st January. One month's notice is required to be given the secretary by intending candidates.

The Association has petitioned the Attorney-General for the repeal of the law known as the Augér Bill, and for substituting for it the law which was in force before the Augér law was known; or that in default of its repeal, that the following amendments be made to it: 1st. That the rights of the lenders remain privileged and free of all proceedings which would tend to delay their recovering the amount of their loan. 2nd. That no discrimination be made in this law for anybody except for the laborer. 3rd. That the time when a building can be legally termed completed be clearly defined.

The proposed building by-laws which were prepared in English by a committee composed of members of the Association appointed by the Council at the request of the municipal authorities, have been translated into French by the latter and returned to the Association for comparison and further revision, which has just been completed. It is hoped that this by-law will be passed without amendment at an early date, as the remedy is greatly needed, and Montreal could then be classed among the best governed cities as regards the erection of its buildings.

A PROTEST.

TORONTO, Dec. 3rd, 1895.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.

SIR: Will you kindly favor me with space in your paper to cite a prevailing grievance, which is as time advances becoming more and more pronounced. It is the practice of government employees, with a permanent salary, to compete against architects who have only their profession. Men holding positions in the government service are frequently employed as architects by some of our largest corporations, and others.

Now is this fair, is this just to the architect, the government and the public? I and others think not, and know that if the matter was brought to the notice of the Minister of Public Works he would not countenance it, for if I am correctly informed, employees of the Department are not at liberty to carry on a private business. It is in reason that such should be the case, for it is impossible for any one man to attend to two separate businesses at the same time, and it is self-evident that a man carrying on a personal business cannot keep his mind from dwelling on it at all times, which would in this case interfere with the successful discharge of the government business. It is not improbable that during some part of the day he will require to be on the works to give a decision on a critical point of construction which is not understood by the contractor. This cannot wait until he is liberated from business; when and where is it done if not on the works, directly after it is discovered? It is also a known fact that

plans prepared by one of these men have been figured on by contractors in the government office. Their methods of getting patronage are not just to the profession to which they imagine they have a right to belong. They make capital of the fact that they do it after hours, have no office expenses, and must have constructional ability or they could not hold their present situations. I have never heard what claim they make to be designers; they are wise if they do not lay stress on that.

These methods of doing business are highly detrimental to the profession, to say nothing of the effect on the character of the men who resort to them. I cannot longer withhold my protest at seeing the profession pulled down from its hitherto high standard as the highest and noblest art in the universe, by such men, for a mere monetary consideration, for I have no doubt that if they could not add to their munificent salaries they would not do the work at all. If they would even have the decency to maintain the recognized schedule of professional charges, it would place us on an equal footing in an unequal race. Then the public would probably give their commissions to architects who could devote their whole time to their client's interests, which would necessarily mean architects whose time is their own.

Very truly yours,

CONN.

TORONTO SKETCH CLUB.

A meeting was held in the office of Messrs. Darling, Sproatt & Pearson, on Tuesday evening, Nov. 19, when a Sketch Club was organized for the purpose of studying design. This club differs from the old architectural clubs to a great extent. In the preceding clubs, lectures, classes, etc., were of the first importance, while design was considered a secondary matter. The relative merits of classes for lectures and design were fully discussed at this meeting and it was resolved that design was the most necessary function of an architect and more attention should be paid to this subject than is usually taken by students. The study of construction can be carried on privately as books give all the information necessary to make an architect expert in that line. With design it is different. A design may be prepared at home, but it is absolutely necessary, if the student is to advance, that his design be criticized by some one competent to do so. A designing club of some kind is, therefore, what a student should attend, so that the faults or merits of his design may be pointed out. It was decided to have the meetings as informal as possible and any point about a design openly discussed. In order to obviate the expense of running the Club, it was decided to hold the meetings in the offices of the numerous architects who would favor the Club in this particular. The architect at whose office the meeting is held will act as critic on the occasion. After the criticism is over, the members cast ballots for the designs they consider entitled to 1st and 2nd place.

The first regular meeting was held in the office of Messrs. Strickland & Symons. Mr. Symons acted as critic. The subject was "An Entrance." It is the intention to have the subject only chosen and the members design in any style they wish.

A meeting was held at the office of Mr. E. B. Jarvis, on the evening of the 19th inst. The subject on that occasion was "A Gable." The next meeting will be held in the offices of Messrs. Darling, Sproatt & Pearson, when Mr. Darling will act as critic. Reports of these and all subsequent meetings will appear in the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER. It is also the intention to publish such of the sketches as shall possess sufficient merit for that purpose.

THE FORESTERS' TEMPLE.

SOME time ago we published an illustration of the temple being erected on the corner of Richmond and Bay streets, Toronto, for the Independent Order of Foresters. The charter of that organization authorizes them to hold real estate only to the value of \$100,000, whereas the building, including the site, is expected to cost about \$260,000. It has just come out how this provision has been avoided. Oronhyatekha, the supreme head of the order, has an amanuensis named Jessie Brayley, and this lady suddenly finds herself possessed of considerable wealth (on paper), the property above referred to being in her name. The site was deeded to her, and she gives mortgages to the trustees covering the value of the property. By this means the limitation imposed on the Order is avoided. The registration of the papers gave publicity to the facts,