

BUSINESS ARCHITECTURE.

The character of a city is very apt to be judged by its commercial, no less than its public buildings. A stranger, passing along business streets, derives his notions of the community very often from the style of their premises. And business men visiting the wholesale markets, are especially apt to judge a city by the style of its warehouses for the reason that they seldom see any other portion of the town.

Among the handsome buildings erected during the past season for business purposes, one cannot fail to be struck with the dry goods warehouse of Messrs. Bryce, McMurrich & Co., on Yonge Street, erected on the site of the plain and substantial building which that firm occupied for so many years. A comely front of four stories of Ohio grey stone relieved by small panels of New Brunswick granite in the intervals, and enriched with chaste carvings; it is the finest wholesale front upon the street.

The new Insurance Chambers on Church street, next the Bank of Toronto, now completed, are an ornament to the locality. Three stories and a Mansard roof gives accommodation to the various companies represented here; the Queen City, the Hand-in-Hand, and the Anchor Marine, the English and Scottish Investment Company of Canada (limited), while leaving a number of rooms to be let for offices and lodgings. The front of the building is of grey free stone, with panels of white marble. A feature in the elevation is the shield of the first named office, (in which the figures are of life size in stone), and the heads or busts of the various officers and directors of the group of companies represented.

It is pleasant to see the improvement effected in the structure itself and in the general appearance of Toronto street, through the refitting of the Nordheimer block by its new owner, the Canada Permanent Loan & Savings Company. Of the elegant interior fitting of the building we have already spoken. But the advantage derived by the exterior of the building—one of the most graceful fronts in Canada, we have always thought—from the cleaning of the stone by a new process, suggests that it might well be done to other of our buildings. The city authorities, for example, might do well to treat the facade of the St. Lawrence Hall to such a washing, it is well worthy. And the owner of the ornate Romain building on King street would find his own sense of the beautiful refreshed by doing the like for that rich front.

The new building of the Dominion Bank will shortly adorn the south west corner of Yonge and King streets. The corner of Bay and King will presently boast of a new building; while the corresponding corner of Church and King has been torn down to make room for a taller brick block. The new gas office in grey stone with granite pillars, does very much to assist the architectural improvement of Toronto street. On Adelaide street, corner of Victoria, have arisen the Equity Chambers, of vari-colored brick with stone carvings and granite pillars in the several stories. It is at least a striking

building with a strong ecclesiastical leaning in its style.

These, with other new buildings described from time to time in our columns, form landmarks of the progress of this city in architectural taste. And with the minor improvements constantly going on in the alteration or re-decoration of fronts, the appearance of our business streets is steadily growing more creditable.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL FOR 1877.

The number of letters carried last year was somewhat less than in 1876, and the gross revenue was rather less than in 1875. The number of letters carried was 41,510,000; postal cards, 5,450,000; registered letters, 1,842,000; free letters, 1,096,000; newspapers and periodicals, 39,000,000; books and miscellaneous articles, 4,638,000; and 90,000 parcels. The income for the year was \$1,501,134, and the expenditure \$2,075,618. Nearly seven millions of dollars passed through the money order office in the course of the year. The free delivery in the cities has been a success. The weekly average in the delivery of these letters was in 1877, 202,268, against 163,302 in 1876. Eight cities now enjoy the privilege of free delivery. Of all letters registered during the year only 64 miscarried, and in most of these cases the enclosures were either recovered or the amounts made good. The number of letters passing through the Dead Letter Office was large, amounting to 563,384, or over eighteen hundred per day.

—A member of the Quebec Board of Trade, Mr. Hagens, writes to the *Chronicle* of that city somewhat complainingly upon the subject of pilots on the St. Lawrence, and adversely to their incorporation as a body, holding that before the present system of equal payment was adopted the emulation which existed insured instant attention to the wants of shipmasters. He says that ships approaching a pilot station and indicating by a flag that they are in need of a pilot, now often lose a whole day for want of one while that functionary's boat is perhaps lying in some snug harbor in place of being on the look out. Serious damages occur, he says, in the port of Quebec from the incapacity of pilots, their selection being by rotation. When ships are ready for sea, a pilot will refuse to take them out, alleging want of water, which want is, however, not discovered by other officers. He also considers that deprivation of his license is inadequate punishment for the carelessness of a pilot through whose fault a heavy loss may be caused. Pilots are careless now, he alleges, about affording facility for despatch, for their inaction no longer affects their pockets. His remedies for the evils he alleges to exist are, that Masters should have the privilege of selecting their own pilots, and that

every pilot shall have liberty to pilot all the vessels he can, and receive pay for what he does, subject to such assessments as the Pilotage Board of Quebec may institute for the widows and orphans funds. That any old and infirm pilot wishing to retire should be at liberty to do so, and be pensioned.

—Before the Immigration and Colonization Committee at Ottawa last week, Mr. Henry Simpson, formerly editor of the *Liverpool Daily Post*, stated, as to the meat and food question, that in Liverpool and Cardiff there was a very large and growing trade, but that what had to be guarded against was the American agents labelling their spoiled pieces as Canadian. In one case which the witness had personally investigated, a Liverpool buttermilk named Kelly had been arraigned, and it turned out that a mixture of lard and oil was sworn to be "Canadian butter." That was the name given to the lowest class of butters. It was found upon investigation that none of the component parts of the so-called Canadian butter had come from Canada at all. Before the same committee, Mr. Barnard, of the *Journal d'Agriculture* Quebec, gave evidence to the effect that it would be a good thing to establish the manufacture of sugar from beet-root in Canada. It was quite practicable, and was a thing which ought at once to be taken into the hands of the Government.

S. S.—We recommend you to procure one of the pamphlets, issued by the Dominion Grange, which fully explains the purposes of the order. We believe the officers are: the Master; the Overseer; the Lecturer; the Chaplain; the Treasurer; the Secretary and the Gate Keeper. We do not know whether the duties of the last named official are anything more than nominal, but we believe the lecturer has real work to do in expanding the functions, ideal and real, of the order. The lady officials to wit, Mrs. CERES and POMONA, and Miss FLORA, are so named respectively after the goddesses of grain, of fruit, and of flowers in the heathen mythology. Never having seen these lady officers with their "singing-robes and garlands on," we do not know how they dress on meeting nights.

—The new Premier of Quebec takes the ground that the alternative of direct taxation is economy, by the practice of which he will be able to dispense with the new taxes proposed by the late administration. Time will tell.

!—In 1857, the revenue of the city of Charlottetown, P.E.I., was \$6,319, and the expenditure \$6,453. In 1876, the figures were respectively \$43,111, and \$46,621, of which latter \$4,466 was for the redemption of debt. The liabilities of the city at close of last year were \$72,088, while the assets are placed at \$97,804. The expenditure for the year exceeds the revenue, but energetic measures have been adopted under the new mayor, Mr. Carvell, to improve the administration, the keeping of accounts, &c.