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This Spring Number of the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER is intended as

a substitute for the Special Number which until this year it was our custom to publish at New Years. It is destined to mark the opening of the building season, and we trust will meet with careful examination and the appreciation of our readers. We are indebted to Mr. Ernest Wilby for the excellent piece of design displayed on our front cover page, and to the other friends who have kindly contributed articles of special interest for this number.

The Season
of '99.

THIS number is intended to mark the opening of the last building season of this century. In Toronto the season has already opened, a considerable amount of building being now in progress. Indeed, operations in that city were not entirely suspended last winter, except during the extremely cold weather. In the opinion of the majority of architects and builders, satisfactory foundations and walls cannot be properly constructed in winter in this climate, and throughout the country as a whole, little is attempted during January and February. In Toronto, however, the temperature is as a rule much higher than in most localities. Some architects and builders in recent years have endeavored to shorten if not close up entirely the gap which has separated the building season of one year from that of another. Judging by the number of enterprises already commenced and projected, the outlook for this year is most encouraging for architects, builders, workmen, manufacturers and dealers in building materials, and others whose welfare is dependent on building activity. The cost of building is likely to be enhanced at least to the extent of recent advances in price of materials. It is to be hoped that contractors' figures may likewise be increased to a point which will allow of a reasonable margin of profit. The season of 1898 was satisfactory so far as the volume of work done was concerned, but on all sides the com-