

# Bank of Hamilton Building, Winnipeg

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IN the new Bank of Hamilton Building the task of the architects was to give suitable expression to each of two parts—the office building and the home or workroom of a large bank—of which it is composed, and of harmonizing them in unified composition. This they have done admirably, at the same time solving an even more difficult problem of neighboring the massive Bank of Commerce without being outclassed by the great scale and mass of its colonnade. They deftly avoided any such trial of strength by adopting an entirely different treatment and scale and method of fenestration. No columns occur in the facades. Instead, the wall surfaces are unbroken except by simple openings, and are treated with a square sinkage in the stonework which emphasizes the solidity of the masonry, by a decorated crowning story and cornice, and by a few elegant sculptural accents at significant points.

The upper stories which are given over to offices are indicated by the small rectangular windows, while the bank's quarters are distinctly marked by arcade openings that forms the motive of the high ground storey. The entrance to both parts is through a high arched doorway which is rendered impressive by the simplicity of its treatment, and which is given scale by its delicately detailed bronze grille. This archway with its greenish initial tracery silhouetted against the great blackness of its shadowy depth, and its elegant keystone cartouche, is the feature of the facade; the rest of the wall in being kept simple giving it the fullest effect. At only one other point is a decorative note struck, namely, by the cartouche on the corner bearing the arms of the Bank. The name of the bank appears in bronze letters on the freize over the entrance, while an agreeable effect is given to the wall surfaces by the fossiliferous marking of local Tyndall stone.

Entering, one steps into a square hall flooded with light and walled in Botticino marble and with ceiling of antique gold, which forms a vestibule to the bank as well as to the elevator and stair hall. A noteworthy feature of the scheme here is an elliptical stair leading to the superin-

tendent's department, the simplicity of the graceful spiral of the string curving upward without visible support and carrying a light bronze handrail on turned spindles, being a particularly fine achievement. The walls are ex-



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tremely simple and the character of the vestibule worked out mainly with cornice, door and base mouldings, low marble benches, and the ceiling enrichment.

In the banking room the arcade which outwardly expresses this interior so well, continues as the dominating motive of the architectural scheme. It forms the four walls, admitting the north light from McDermott Avenue, and separates the banking room from the alcove spaces in the main storey mezzanine, used for clerks and files and automatic tubes and telephone stations. Altogether the result of this splendid