

# The Canadian Architect and Builder

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## ILLUSTRATIONS ON SHEETS.

House in Roxborough Street, Toronto—Messrs. Sproatt & Rolph, Architects.

## ADDITIONAL ILLUSTRATIONS IN ARCHITECTS' EDITION.

Santa Croce, Florence—Looking East.  
House in New Hampshire.

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**Sir Aston Webb.**

Honours bestowed on the occasion of the King's birthday, last month, included knighthood for Mr. Aston Webb, R. A., the late President of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He makes the fifth Knight in the profession in England. There is also a Baronet.

but it suggests, on whatever scale, the architectonic solution, for, though, a sky line of tanks is absurd, a sky line of towers would be quite another thing.

**A Skyline of Tanks.** Toronto, since the fire, has come to the conclusion that there is nothing so satisfactory for the business part of a city as a general use of sprinklers. That is agreed. But how about the tanks which crown the buildings thus equipped. The cooper's art is one of our few surviving handicrafts, and it is right we should exalt it—but abstractly. This elevation of a monstrous vat to roost on every building is grotesque; fine in its way, but not in the way in which the town aims at being fine. If we had mill design as well as mill construction the ensemble would be perfect, but we are in the grip of the Renaissance and must be Renaissance all through. Fortunately, though a Renaissance tank would tax the resources of Vignola, a Renaissance tower is easy, and, if clients require precedent for a tower on their buildings, there is one at home in the Canada Life Building. The low tower which is the making of that building has for its *raison d'être* the elevation of a water tank to supply pressure to hydraulic elevators. The Canada Life tower was carried out on a scale beyond absolute requirement,

**Engineers for Fire Chiefs.**

One more department of modern life is about to get into the hands of the engineers. The case of the Flett-Lowndes' building in Toronto, where, after the fire which started the sprinklers was extinguished, 20,000 gallons of water were sprinkled on the goods, because the firemen could not find the valves which controlled the service, points to new conditions that have to be met. In the first place the headmen of every district must be (and in fact are) informed of the position of the valves of every automatic service in their district. But they must remember where the valves are, or have a note of it in such form that they can refresh their memory in a moment; and, as the simplest form of note and the most quickly read is a plan, there should be a plan of every automatic system in a given district filed at the district fire-station. And the station-boss should take the plans with him to every call in his own district, to guide not only himself but the chief. Secondly the firemen must be familiar with the mechanism of all such contrivances. At the Flett-Lowndes fire they appear to have wasted time in experiments from want of a clear understanding of the functions of the pipes connected with the sprinkler system. And an insurance man declares that, when h