

THE TORONTO BUILDERS' EXCHANGE.

The Toronto Builders' Exchange may be said to have originated from the old General Builders' Society, which was established in 1867; at a later date was formed the Federated Builders' Association. The Federated Association was merged into the Builders' Exchange in 1892, when the Exchange became incorporated.

The first President was Mr. Wm. J. Hill, who subsequently represented the Liberal interest in West York in the Ontario Legislature.

The Exchange at first occupied offices at Victoria street near Adelaide street; later, more suitable premises were taken on Victoria street near King street. The present premises are entirely inadequate for the largely increased membership, and the Board of Directors are negotiating for premises which will give ample accommodation for all branches of the building trade. The new premises will comprise offices for the various sections, together with Board room, Estimating rooms, Committee room and a large general Assembly room.

The management of the Exchange is vested in a Board of Directors which meets monthly. The following committees deal with such matters as come within their province: Finance Committee, Legislation Committee, Labor Committee.

Should any differences arise between members, the same may be referred to an Arbitration Committee for settlement.

The usefulness of the Exchange has been manifested in many instances. The advisability of adopting a uniform contract form has been for some time very apparent, some of the contracts which builders have been called upon to sign having been notoriously unfair.

By mutual agreement between the Architects' Association and the Exchange, the "Revised Contract" was amended in 1904 and this form will be used in all future contracts.

The adjustment of labor difficulties in connection with the building trade has also been a feature of the Exchange work. It has always been recognized that a policy of fairness and conciliation in treating with their employees is the best, and the Exchange has endeavored to carry out this principle, although when the demands of organized labor were unreasonable, the Exchange has always declined to accede to such demands.

The usefulness of the Exchange in every-day affairs becomes daily more apparent.

Apart from other considerations, the daily association of men engaged in similar lines of industry must, naturally, result in better feeling, and broader and more liberal views in business matters. In proportion to the interest taken in Exchange work by the members will its usefulness be extended.

The large amounts of money expended every year in building operations, and so large a percentage of the population being employed thereon, the Builders' Exchange must necessarily be an important factor in the future of Toronto.

The Act of Incorporation states that the purpose of the Exchange shall be to "inculcate just and equitable principles, and to promote good feeling and harmony among those engaged in the building trade, to the end that membership in this Society shall be an assurance to the public of skill, honorable reputation and probity."

These principles, if carried out in practice, must

prove beneficial to all the trade, and fully justify the existence of the Exchange.

Mr. George Duthie, president, was born in Toronto, where he has resided for the greater part of his life. In 1888, on the retirement of his father, he became head of the firm of G. Duthie & Sons, roofers, etc., and for the last seven years he has been manager of the Roofers' Supply Company. Many important contracts in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces have been performed by the firm with which Mr. Duthie is connected. He takes an active interest in the welfare of the Builders' Exchange, and co-operates heartily with any schemes whereby its members may be benefitted.

Mr. Thomas Self, of the contracting firm of Self Brothers, is first vice-president. Mr. Self was born in Ireland. He located in Toronto when he was twenty years of age and has resided there ever since. In 1888 he began business on his own account, and has been engaged in many important building contracts, among which were the Manufacturers' Building at the Exhibition Grounds and Massey Hall. Mr. Self has been a member of the Builders' Exchange for fifteen years.

Mr. C. W. Batt, of Toronto Junction, is second vice-president. He is a native of Hampshire, England, and came to this country in 1871. He spent a number of years in Bothwell, Ontario, where he was engaged in the building and lumbering business. In 1888 he moved to Toronto Junction, where he has since resided and has become well known as a contractor.

Mr. J. L. Phillips, secretary, has been connected with the Exchange for some fourteen years, and has held the office of secretary nearly ever since the organization received the charter of incorporation.

Mr. James Crang, treasurer, in 1878, in partnership with Mr. John Harris, took over the mason contracting business of Mr. Wm. Booth, for whom Mr. Crang had previously been foreman. In 1883 this partnership was dissolved and Mr. Crang has since carried on the business himself. The Home for Incurables and St. Lawrence Market are some Toronto buildings with the erection of which he was connected.

Mr. John M. Gander, president of the Plasterers' section, came from London, England, to Toronto, in 1870, where he has since resided, except for a few years spent in his native land. Mr. Gander has performed some important plastering contracts, a large percentage of the bank buildings in Toronto having been done by him.

Mr. Frederick Holmes, president of the Stone Cutters' section, is a native of Norwich, England. He engaged extensively in contracting in Lancashire, and was at one time vice-president of the Manchester Contractors' Association. In 1882 Mr. Holmes came to Canada and has ever since been connected with the building trade. The Board of Trade Building, Foresters' Temple and Alexandra Palace are some Toronto buildings with whose construction he has been identified.

Mr. Arthur Dinnis, of 126 Walmer road, Toronto, is president of the Carpenters' section.

Mr. Frank Saunders, head of the contracting firm of F. Saunders & Son, is president of the Masons' section. Mr. Saunders is a native of England, his home having been near Cambridge. He came to Canada about thirty-five years ago, and for the last twenty-four years has resided in Toronto, where he has been engaged in the masonry and contracting business.

Mr. William Pears, president of the Brick Manufacturers' section, was born in Toronto. For the past twenty-five years he has been engaged in the brick business at Toronto Junction, Ontario; during the last four he has had control of the Ontario Paving Brick Company. Mr. Pears held the position of president of the Exchange for a period of two years.