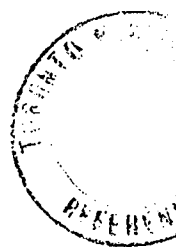


The New Registry Office, Toronto



DURING the latter part of 1913 plans for the proposed Registry Office were selected by competition, in which thirty Canadian firms participated. In June, 1914, tenders were called for the construction of the building. Sixty-two firms submitted figures, including four bulk tenders. It was decided to erect the building by separate trades, and contracts were let to local firms for all parts of its construction, except the marble work, which was executed in Quebec. With this one exception it is a product of the Toronto building industry, and represents an entirely Canadian undertaking demonstrating that it is unnecessary to go to the United States for architects and contractors in order to get efficient service.

Besides being a notable addition to Toronto's public buildings, it gives vastly superior accommodations compared with the old registry offices which it replaces, providing adequate and well lighted space for both public and staff with every convenience of plan to facilitate and preserve a systematic and efficient working arrangement for filing and searching of records.

Located between Chestnut and Elizabeth streets, with its main frontage facing Albert street, it lies at a point slightly north in the district between Osgoode Hall law courts and the City Hall. As the immediate neighborhood still contains a large number of unsightly buildings comprising a section of the older part of the city, the architectural character of the new building is in marked contrast to its surroundings and its presence is bound to exert a most beneficial influence in the future development of the vicinity in which it stands.

As the purpose of the building would indicate the construction is fire-proof throughout, the exterior being of buff Indiana line stone, the frame of structural steel, fireproofed with tile and with tile arched floors and tile partitions. Sufficient excess strength was allowed in the steel frame and foundations for the addition of a future third storey.

It is interesting to note that the cost to the city exceeded by only \$385.00, the lowest bulk tender submitted; the total of separate tenders amounting to \$372,506.00. The cubical contents amount to 1,176,200 cubic feet, and the cost per cubic foot was 31.7c. The extra charges were kept to a very low figure, and only amounted approximately to one-

tenth of one per cent. of the cost of the building.

A considerable amount of marble is used in the interior, the floors being of pink and grey Tennessee; the walls in ashlar, of Champville, French marble; and the base of Botticino. Regina marble, a Canadian product quarried at Quebec, was used for window sills, counter tops and stair treads, with most satisfactory results.

Main Floor.—The main entrance from Albert street is through a broad lobby and octagonal rotunda from which open entrances to the East and West Registry Divisions and stairs and elevator to the Land Titles section on the second floor. Duplicate offices for the Registry divisions are provided. Each of these consist of a public space, around which are grouped the coat room, waiting room, consultation room, etc., as well as the private offices of the registrar and his secretary. A large receiving space, lighted from above, is provided, with rooms for the comparing of documents, examination of originals with lift to document room on second



MAIN ENTRANCE, REGISTRY OFFICE, TORONTO.