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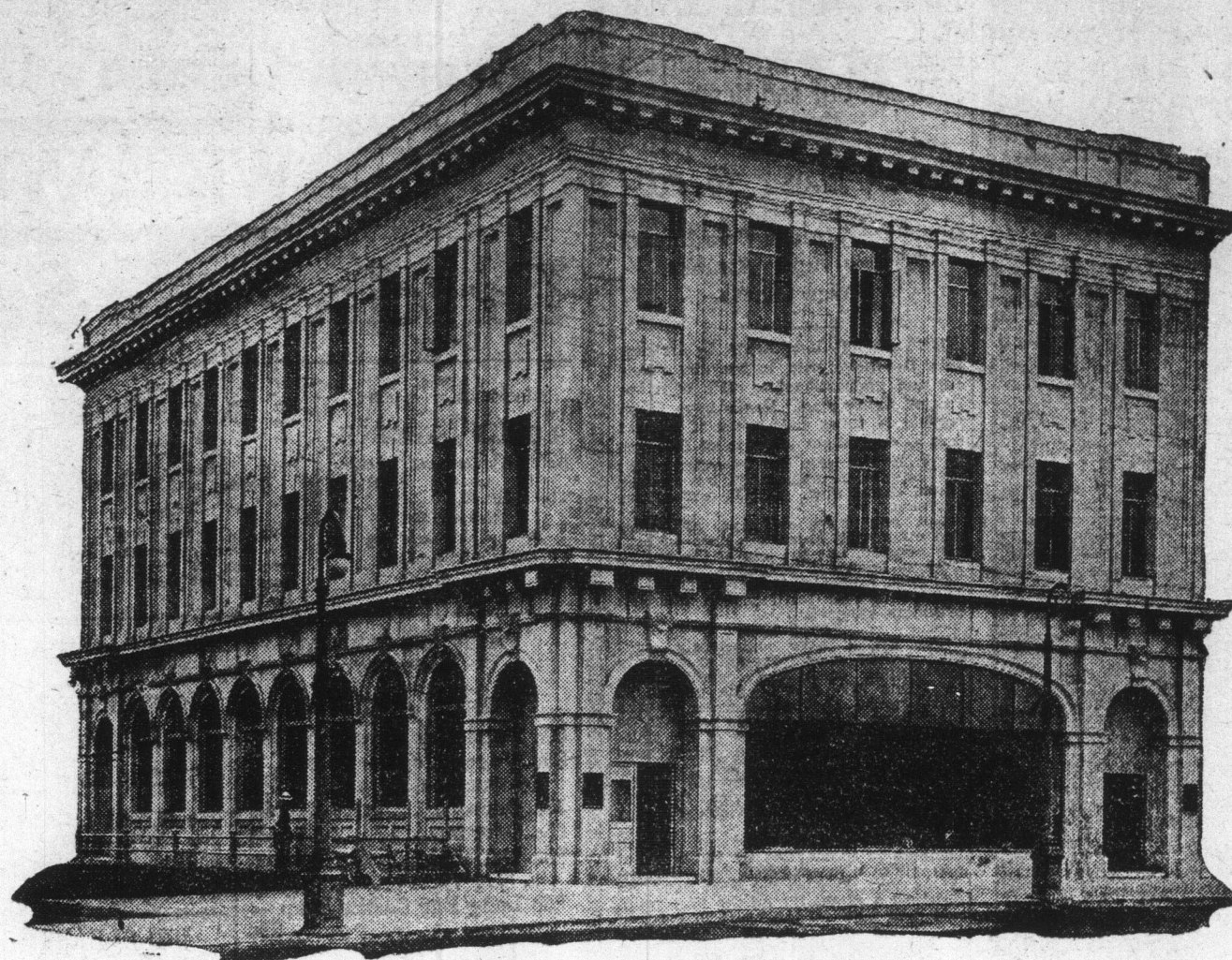
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View of the New Utilities Commission Building Opened Yesterday



Charge of entire superstructure
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London's New Utilities Offices Officially Opened

When completed, will cost \$115,000. Was erected by day labor and was started just a year ago. Is fireproof throughout and richly finished and decorated. Board of education will use top floor.

The new Utilities building, which was opened yesterday afternoon by Sir William Hearst, is declared to be not only the finest building in London, but undoubtedly the finest municipal structure in the whole province. Chairman Pocock pointed out it is unique inasmuch as it is one of the largest structures erected by any municipal government by day labor.

The building has been in the course of erection just one year Monday. It was on that day that the work of tearing down the building which the new one replaces was started, and the work has gone on steadily ever since. It will likely be another month before all the workers engaged in cleaning up the odds and ends will finish their work.

Those who have been through the building fairly grasp at the splendor of the new structure. Its finish is of the finest and best. It is not loud, but spells richness, turn where you may. In detail it is complete, and the workmanship and material are of the lasting quality.

COPIED FROM EDISON'S.

The ground floor office is what might be termed a vest-pocket edition of the famous Edison electric building of New York. It was there that General Manager Buchanan got his idea and utilized it when the plans for the building were being prepared. It might here be noted that the plans and details of the building were drawn and prepared by the commission's staff, and the plumbing and electric lighting installed by their own workers. The commission estimate that they saved a large sum of money for the city on these two items.

The building is fireproof throughout. The foundation is concrete. The outside structure is grey Indiana limestone, with hand-carved trimmings. The balance is reinforced concrete, gypsum block partitions and steel trim. Wired glass windows are in all partitions.

BASEMENT A FEATURE.

In the basement, which is the full size of the building, and has a good high ceiling, are the showroom and stockroom. The showroom is a rather unique spot. It is here where electric washers, pumps and motors are shown and tested. Water taps and draining facilities have been provided. However, it is the lighting of the room that is a feature. Artificial sunlight is provided. To achieve this the outside wall has been painted sky blue. The lights throw their rays on this wall, and are reflected through the windows into the room as beautiful sunlight.

To one side of the showroom is a public toilet for women. "The city has long required such a place and so we provided it," said one of the officials. Next to this room is the work shop and large stockroom, while in the rear is the boiler room. The heating system is forced hot water.

It is perhaps interesting to point out that the floor of the basement is so low, or rather the city sewer is so shallow that the commission had been obliged to install a pump to pump out their sewage when the tank is full. If this pump were not installed it is contended that water could not be used in the basement.

MARBLE FOR STAIRS.

The stairs leading from the basement to the first floor and from the second floor to the top are of Terazzo marble. The stairs leading to the first floor from the ground floor will, when in place, be of Canadian Laurentian marble. The walls of this staircase will be of the same material.

At each half landing on the different staircases are toilet rooms. These are richly fitted up. The walls are white marble. The plumbing is the latest. The ground floor of main business office and salesroom, the part which the public will come more in contact with than any other, is finished in Italian Pavanazzo and Canadian Laurentian marble. The Italian plates are beautifully figured. The front part of the office will be used as a showroom and salesroom. There is a large counter, the outside of which is marble, and the interior is of steel. The only wood in the whole office is to be found on the top of the counters and the railing around the top. It was the intention to use bronze for the railing, but the war drove the price of this material out of reach.

CHECK COUNTERS.

Each of the large side windows provides a check counter. These presented a fine appearance at the opening. In each stood a large basket of artificial flowers. At the main door, the coat of arms of the city is pictured in handsome colors in the tile floor. The office space provided in the rear of the counter is large, and will be well fitted up to care for the whole staff. In the rear there is a small room for the stenographers to keep the din of the machines from the general offices.

The lighting of this office is a decided feature. During the past few nights

Continued on Page Five.

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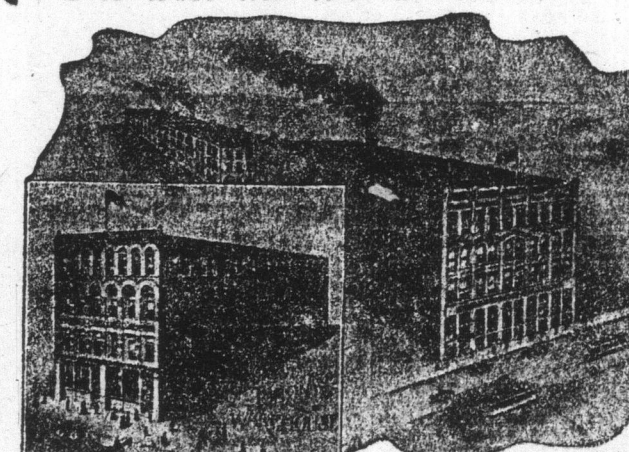
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