

# CONSTRUCTION

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## Modern Theatres

One hardly subscribes to the opinion of the Manitoba censor who would delete comedy from the movie and immerse us with sober and tragic themes to bring us more in accord with the grim aspect of transpiring events. The active and healthy mind in fact demands a certain amount of diversion and entertainment to keep it at its best; and especially in distressing times such as the present whatever form of wholesome recreation and amusement the stage offers, serves to lure us momentarily at least from too deep a state of morbid realism.

Briefly, it is its great scope for variety as well as its purely educational side which makes the theatre a great institution and of sufficient civic importance to entitle it to the fullest architectural investment. Fortunately, the present adverse conditions have not altogether deterred its development, but rather has a number of noteworthy structures for this purpose been erected in Canada during the war. Several of the more recent of these are illustrated in this issue of CONSTRUCTION, and represent the legitimate drama, vaudeville, and the above phase of histrionic art, the movie. In part at least these subjects show a very clear grasp of the problems involved, and a understanding of the underlying principles of design to obtain an atmosphere of refinement and convenience and comfort in plan and furnishings. Certain of the schemes in fact strike a new note in theatre construction, not so much in the sense of some-

thing absolute new or revolutionary in character but in certain adjustments of plan and decorative treatment. The very character of these new playhouses will, undoubtedly, exert a stimulating influence on the popular mind. They will likewise prove a handsome source of revenue to the Government in the way of war tax which the people seem willing to pay, and are interesting to say the least, as indicating progress in modern theatre design.

## P. Q. A. A. Annual Meeting

The annual election of officers for the Quebec Association of Architects has resulted as follows: President, Mr. J. A. Monette; 1st vice-president, Mr. J. A. LeBon; 2nd vice-president, Mr. D. Norman McVicar; secretary, Mr. J. Emile Vanier; treasurer, Mr. D. M. Miller; members of Council, Messrs. U. J. Asselin, A. Beaugrand-Champagne, Herbert Raine, G. R. Macdonald and L. A. Auger.

It was decided at the meeting to approach the Montreal Legislative Committee in reference to the long deferred building by-laws, with a view to having the new regulations passed and made effective. The acceptance of an invitation from the Board of Control to meet with representatives of that body to discuss matters of mutual interest was also approved and a committee appointed for that purpose.

## Toronto Exchange Elects Officers

The following were elected officers for 1918 at the annual meeting of the Toronto Builders' Exchange held on January 21st: President, W. E. Dillon; past president, S. R. Hughes; vice-president, Walter Davidson; 1st vice-president, A. D. Grant; treasurer, John Aldrich; directors, Geo. Oakley, Chas. Bulley, Wm. Clark, Jr., E. Geary, Jas. Munro, Geo. Gander; auditors, Arthur N. Dancy, Jas. Barnes; secretary, D. J. Davidge.

In addition to a discussion of the Compensation Act and Lien Law and the transaction of general business, the meeting was also made the occasion of the presentation of a steamer trunk, club bag and purse of money to Mr. Geo. McSweeney, late secretary, who is now a member of the R. N. F. Corps. It was also decided to inaugurate a campaign to increase the membership and a committee consisting of Messrs. Jas. Munro, C. T. Penn, W. J. Nicholson, R. Falkiner, A. D. Grant, H. Feather; J. Scott and H. Jennings, was appointed for this purpose.

Owing to the fact that the entire building at the corner of Richmond and Simcoe Streets will be required by the Goodyear Company, the Exchange has been forced to vacate these premises and is now located on the second floor of the Land Security & Savings Building, at the south west corner of Adelaide and Victoria Streets where very central and desirable quarters have been secured.