

A proposition to erect a suitable building to meet the requirements of the Exchange was submitted, and a committee appointed to take the matter in hand. The Board of Directors for 1904 were elected as follows:—President, R. G. Kirby; First Vice-President, John Holdgo; Second Vice-President, George Duthie; Treasurer, David Williams; Assistant Treasurer, Jas. Crang; Directors, T. Cannon, jr., C. W. Batt, Wm. Pears, Wm. Clark, Alex. Marshall; Representative of Board of Industrial Exhibition, Joseph Russell; Auditors, Geo. Clay, Frederick Holmes.

A RECORD BEAM.

The largest steel beam in the world has recently been placed in the framework of the New Amsterdam Theater on Forty-second street, near Seventh avenue. It is 85 feet long, 12 feet wide, and weighs 42 tons. This beam was placed in position high in the air, supported only by a light and frail-looking trestle of structural steel. Of course, the steel supports of a great building that is two theaters in one are anything but frail; but the big beam which,

standing on edge, was twice the height of a tall man, seemed perilously insecure until the network of supporting beams grew around it. The giant piece of steel, says the Building News, serves a unique and important purpose. From it the large gallery of the lower theater is to be suspended, so that there will be no pillars to obstruct the view of those either in the balcony or the gallery. In addition the beam supports the floor of the upper theater, so that it is really the mammoth key of the intricate structure. It was made in Trenton, N. J., and was shipped in sections to New York. The work of assembling these massive sections in place on the trestle and uniting them with white-hot rivets constituted an engineering feat of considerable enterprise.

Theaters have been built of structural steel before, but the New Amsterdam is claimed to be a distinct advance. A unique feature is the double stage in the main or lower theater. It is to be so built that it can easily be lowered, divided into two and slid aside while another stage, already "set" for the next act is brought up from a still lower level to take its place. In this way it will be possible to make the most elaborate changes of scenery required in modern productions in two or three minutes.

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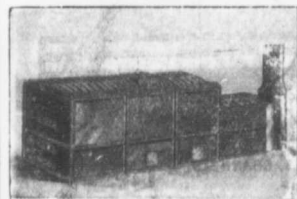
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