

are located. The Commons is an oblong hall fitted with 215 seats and desks for the use of the members. The ceiling is supported by sixteen ponderous pillars. A broad gallery runs around the chamber, which is frequently thronged with various classes from all parts of the Dominion to hear the "*Wisdom of the Land*" deal in their prosaic way with matters from which only genius could draw inspiration. Here assemble annually the legislators of the country. Some a thousand miles away from the surf-beaten shores of the Atlantic; from the Great North-West; 3,000 miles away to the Pacific Ocean, beyond the barriers of the Rocky Mountains, and from every village, town and city. It is then that this noble pile of buildings with many-coloured windows is brilliant. It is then that the usually quiet streets are busy, that the hotels are crowded, that society's convivialities are kept up for three joyful months.

Looking down upon the assembled members, one recalls the mighty figures that have gone. The walls of the chamber seem yet to echo the thrilling words of a Macdonald and a Cartier, of a Mackenzie and a Dorion, of a McGee and a Howe. May their works and deeds remain as links binding the old to the new, and may the new bells of the chamber ever

"Ring in the nobler modes of life
With sweeter manners, purer laws;"

till its pillars shall tremble at the sound of the Almighty trumpet, and its firm foundation mingle with the mass of universal decay.

The other half of the building is occupied by the Senate. This apartment is more attractive with its crimson drapings, rich velvet hangings, and select assemblies. It is frequently the theatre of other pleasant gatherings—the Vice-Regal receptions, when every one can make the acquaintance of Her Majesty's representative in real republican fashion.

Many will remember the first official levee of our popular Governor-General a short time ago, but to justly describe that event one's pen should be dipped in liquid gold and rainbow tints. The gaily decked reception room, the soft strains of music, the kaleidoscopic blending of colour in velvet, silk, satin and gauze, the

gleam of jewels, the fairy flitting forms, the courtly cavaliers, the gay uniforms of the military, the scarlet gowns of the judges, to say nothing of the gorgeous dresses of the ladies, all combined to make a scene like unto the night when "Belgium's capital had gathered there her beauty and her chivalry."

To the east and the west of the Central Block are the departmental buildings. Practically in harmony with the central edifice, though not of so imposing proportions, they are of great external beauty and add to the general effect. The Eastern building is most picturesque with its broken front and pleasing variety. It has two facades at right angles; one 400 feet and the other 250 feet in length, and a gracefully designed tower, whose lofty dome serves as a guide far and near. The Governor-General's office, Privy Council chamber, the departments of the Secretary of State, Justice, Interior, Dominion Police, Auditor-General and Finance, are in this block. The western building is nearly similar to the eastern, with a frontage of 220 feet on the square, and 277 feet on Wellington street, and a tower 296 feet in height, known as the Mackenzie spire. In the basement are stored the Archives of Canada, which form a collection of historic documents and transcripts unequalled on the continent. The departments of Railways and Canals, Public Works, Militia, Trade and Commerce, Customs, Inland Revenue, Marine and Fisheries are here located. The Langevin Block, although out of harmony with the structures opposite, has a magnificent appearance. It was constructed in 1883 at a cost of \$787,000, after the style of Louis XIV. The nation's official business has increased so rapidly since Confederation, that the erection of this building was indispensable, and in fact ere long another structure will be necessary to accommodate the growing number of Canada's public servants. The Post Office, Agriculture, Indian Affairs and Patent Department are to be found in this building.

The Library which was completed in 1877, stands in the rear of the Commons. It is of octagonal shape, resembling the chapter-house of a cathedral. The inside is circular, 290 feet in diameter. The