

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

MR. H. B. MACKENZIE, GENERAL MANAGER.

A little over a year ago, Mr. H. B. Mackenzie succeeded to the important post of general manager of the Bank of British North America on the resignation, owing to ill-health, of Mr. H. Stikeman. This promotion to the chief executive position of the institution with which he had been identified since 1887 came as the climax of a brilliant career in its service. Born at Ingersoll, Ontario, in 1867, Mr. Mackenzie is a son of the Venerable Archdeacon Mackenzie, rector of Grace Church, Brantford. He began his banking career in the service of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1884, but three years later joined the Bank of British North America at Brantford. In 1890, Mr. Mackenzie was transferred to the General Manager's Office at Montreal, and three years later was appointed secretary to the general manager. He shortly afterwards moved to London, Ontario, as accountant, and in 1897 became assistant inspector. In 1903 came promotion to the office of chief inspector, and two years later in August, 1905, he was placed in charge of the Victoria, B.C., branch of the Bank. Early in 1907, the enlarged operations of the Bank made necessary the creation of the new position of superintendent of central branches with headquarters at Winnipeg, and Mr. Mackenzie was selected as its first occupant. Three years later he returned to Montreal as superintendent of branches, and in 1913 followed, in natural sequence, the promotion to the principal executive position in the Bank's service.

These details form but the exterior outline of a notable career, in which banking ability, sound judgment and hard work have played an important part. These qualities serve well in a position of so notable responsibility and importance as that now occupied by Mr. Mackenzie. Those who were aware of his qualities anticipated at the time of Mr. Mackenzie's appointment as general manager, a conspicuously successful career in his new position and it may now be said that those anticipations are being fully realised. Mr. Mackenzie's address regarding Canadian conditions to the shareholders at their recent annual meeting in London, England, revealed a fund of knowledge, a breadth of view and a conservatism of temper and practise that should assure the shareholders of the Bank that their interests are in the hands of a most capable executive. Under Mr. Mackenzie's régime, it may be confidently expected that the Bank of British North America, which for nearly a century has played an important part

in the development of the Dominion, will continue its increase in importance and prestige. The good wishes for his success, which were universally extended to Mr. Mackenzie on his accession to the general management, are being steadily realized.

BANK'S NEW HEAD OFFICE.

The Bank of British North America has this month entered into occupation of its new headquarters on St. James Street, Montreal, which, as the illustration shows, form a notable architectural addition to the banking and financial offices of the Canadian metropolis. The site occupied by the building is a historic one, it having been in the possession of the Banks for 72 years—since 1842, and the old building which has now had to be destroyed in the interests of an expanding business was for years a well-known landmark of Montreal's financial quarter. The Bank's new headquarters are at once dignified in appearance and admirably suited for the purpose for which they are intended. The whole building, which is of five stories, is occupied by the Bank. The facade is of Stanstead granite with rusticated base and wrought iron grills, surmounted by an Ionic order with pediment, the pillars being 38 feet high. Wrought iron lamps, artistically designed, decorate each side of the entrance. The main banking room is reached through a vaulted vestibule and is 30 feet high, and furnished entirely in Hauteville marble. Twenty Ionic columns surround the open space in the centre. The ceilings are richly ornamented in blues and golds, the working space being lighted by skylights and mezzanine windows. Tennessee marble is used for the floor and also for the hall and main staircase, the official offices being finished in mahogany and quartered oak with parquet floors. At the front are the local manager's office, a writing room and a committee room. The mezzanine floor is devoted to inspectors' rooms, the first and second floors are occupied by the head offices and the general manager's department, and the top floor is given over to living rooms for the clerks, a dining room, kitchen and service quarters. The vaults are located in the basement and sub-basement. The building is equipped with passenger and freight elevators and is heated by the Bank's own plant, connection being also made with the steam mains of the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company. The arrangements for ventilation and lighting are of the most modern description.

Designed by Messrs. Barott, Blackader and Webster, the building is a thoroughly fitting one for the well-known institution whose headquarters it forms.