

adequate to house the Company's business for half-a-century. But business grew so fast that first one adjacent building was annexed and then another, so that the present quarters are in three buildings. But even these are insufficient to give elbow-room to the Company's activities, and for some years the directors have been quietly laying plans for an adequate building. A good site was found and acquired on the east side Dominion Square, just north of the Y. M. C. A. building.

Some time later it was learned that the Y. M. C. A. building itself was for sale. As this structure occupied the desirable corner site on Dorchester street, the Sun Life directors, fearing the space might be used for the erection of a hotel or some other undesirable neighbour, determined, for their own protection, to acquire this site also ; which was done.

Having thus secured what is practically the most advantageous site uptown, the Company decided that it would be better to erect the new building upon it. But to do this it was necessary to secure a plot of land behind, occupied by Knox Church. This purchase was advantageously consummated.

Thus the Company has now a block of land fronting 344 feet on Dominion Square and 220 feet on Dorchester street, extending right back to Mansfield street.

The proposed building will occupy 144 feet on Dominion Square and the full length of the Dorchester street frontage. It will be 109 feet high, and built, as will be seen from the accompanying picture, after a most tasteful classical design. It will be up-to-date in every particular, embodying the very latest developments in modern commercial architecture. The material will probably be grey granite and the effect will be one of quiet beauty and solid strength. Building operations will commence early in the spring.

It will be noticed that the erection of the building will leave the Company in possession of a block of land 200 feet by 220 feet. This of course will be sold at a fitting opportunity. Since its possession by the Company it has already increased substantially in value, and it is planned to enhance this value still further by driving a fine street through from Dominion Square to Mansfield street along the north side of the Sun Life building. There is now a lane running through roughly about the same place, but the creation of a forty foot thoroughfare will cause a great addition to the value of contiguous property.

When this is completed it will leave a block of land 160 feet by 220 feet, which will then be marketable at a figure which will enable the directors to dispose of it at a handsome profit for the Company and the policyholders.

At the same time the new street will help to set off the Sun Life building, which will thus be absolutely detached on all sides, bounded by three streets and a fine square, with free entrance all round for light and air.

Both from location and appearance the building will be one of the handsomest among the many handsome office structures of Montreal. In the centre of the uptown business district, its position is also splendid economically, and its completion in 1915 will be a fitting jubilee crown for the most prosperous and progressive of Canadian life assurance companies.

Colombia.

To one who will glance at the map of South America, it must be conceded that Colombia occupies an enviable position with relation to the change in the world's commerce which must be brought about by the opening of the Panama Canal.

The Republic of Colombia covers an area of 438,436 square miles, greater than the combined areas of Germany and France. The total coast line is 1,200 miles, 700 miles of which face the Caribbean Sea, and 500 miles on the Pacific Ocean.

Although described usually as a mountainous country, this is true of less than one-half of the total area, but inasmuch as the greater part of the low lands exist to the east of the Cordilleras and are mostly unexplored and uninhabited it can be truly said that the inhabited part is particularly mountainous, as more than four-fifths of the total population live in those parts through which the Cordilleras pass. The mountain chains which cover this part of Colombia are the Northern Terminal Ranges of the great Andean System. On the southern frontier the Andes narrow into a single mass of range, which divided into three great ranges, the Western, Central and Eastern Cordilleras. The Central, the axis of the system, is distinguished by a line of lofty peaks, some of which show their white mantles 2,000 to 3,000 feet above the line of perpetual snow. (Approximately 15,000 feet in this latitude.) The principal summits are Tolima (18,432 feet); Ruiz (18,373 feet) and Mesa de Herveo (18,360). On a clear day these form a magnificent spectacle, particularly the latter, which can be seen from Bogotá, and is