

NEWS OF THE BUILDING TRADE

Building at Montreal.

The much hoped for increase in the building trades generally, in Montreal, has thus far in the year failed to make itself evident. There is, it is true, quite a fair amount of work in the hands of the architects, but a large percentage of it is only "proposed." Several important features of last year's work are missing, and it will take a large amount of work to make up for them alone. Perhaps one of the most important items missing will be bank premises. In the past few years these have grown enormously, and it is sure to be some time before there is another rush. The monthly report of the building department at the city hall indicates quite a decrease for March as compared with the corresponding month of 1907. In March last one hundred and ten permits for new work were issued representing a total value of \$137,568, while last year a total of \$534,636 was reached, with only ninety-nine permits, which clearly shows that the class of work is much below the usual standard. However, it is by no means too late to hope for betterment, and although it is perhaps unfortunate for the city that some of the large work at present on the boards is to be built at some distance from it, it is not impossible that the contracts may be placed among its contractors.

The Sarah Maxwell Memorial School has been completed and formally opened. It is fireproof throughout and is the outcome of the recent trouble in the city regarding the safety of schools. It has accommodation for 450 pupils and in many respects is a model. Mr. A. F. Dunlop is the architect.

Among the new work on hand is the Natural History Museum on Drummond street. The plans show a basement, a main floor, a mezzanine floor and two museum storeys. It has a frontage of 74 feet and is 140 feet in depth. The facade is simple but dignified, and is generally in harmony with the purpose of the building. The cost of the complete building has been estimated at \$80,000. In the meantime it has been decided to build as high as the mezzanine floor and the remaining storeys will be proceeded with as funds permit. Messrs. Hogle & Davis, architects, have the work to carry out.

Another scheme on hand is a new building for the "Old Brewery Mis-

sion," by Messrs. Finley & Spence, architects. It is proposed to erect a five storey building of a simple yet dignified style, to provide 350 beds, a hall to seat 500 people, a restaurant, reading room and various offices connected with the Mission's work. There is also a fair amount of domestic work at present projected.

If there is one thing which thrives at present in the city it is the real estate business, and judging from its octopus-like extensions on all sides it looks as if there was no end to it. Every other day sees some farm in the suburbs divided into building lots and the speculative builder is never heard to complain of the dullness experienced elsewhere. One of the most important sales that has been registered for some time in the business section was that of the Alliance Building for \$335,000 to the Royal Trust Company. It is among the oldest office blocks in the city, but its fate at present is undecided.

Building at New Westminster.

More buildings are projected, or in course of construction, in New Westminster, B.C., now than at any other time in its history. A careful canvass of the real estate men and architects revealed the fact that there are over 125 buildings in course of erection in the city, many of them up-to-date residences which will be occupied by the builders. All the carpenters in the city and many from outside are working full time trying to keep pace with the work, and there is every indication that a great activity will mark the building trades throughout the year. It is estimated that the value of all the buildings in course of erection in the city would total half a million.

A Good Season for Toronto.

Although it is yet a little early in the season, the architects of Toronto look for a good deal of building this spring. This was the sentiment expressed at the annual meeting of the Toronto chapter of the Ontario Association of Architects, which has had a most successful year. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. George W. Gouinlock; secretary, Mr. H. Sparling; treasurer, Mr. P. G. Wickson; auditor, Mr. H. B. Gordon.

Nova Scotia's Winnipeg Building.

The new building for the Winnipeg branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia, which is to be located on the southwest corner of Portage avenue and Garry street, and which will cost \$250,000, will be built at once. Messrs. Darling & Pearson, architects, of Toronto, say that the contract for construction has been awarded to Thomas Kelly & Sons. This firm is composed of Thomas Kelly, of the firm of Kelly Bros. & Mitchell, and his sons.

The building is to be absolutely fireproof. The outside will be of heavy granite, fronting on both Portage avenue and Garry street, while the architecture is of graceful and decorative design. The entrance on the corner will lead into a large rotunda which will take up the entire area of the building on the ground floor. The treatment of the rotunda and banking rooms will be of marble, various colors being blended to produce a rich and artistic effect. The two lower floors will be devoted to banking and the upper two will comprise general offices. In the basement will be a modern safety deposit vault. All the floors are to be of reinforced concrete, with marble mosaic in the rotunda and banking rooms, while the upper floors will be of marble terrazzo. All the partitions will be of tile.

The property upon which the building will stand was purchased for \$2,800 per foot. This was the highest price ever paid for Winnipeg realty. The old building which now stands on the property was one of the original warehouses in Fort Garry. It was built of hewn oak logs, and at the time the walls of the old fort were destroyed the building was removed to its present location and covered with boards, as it now appears. Hon. Wm. Hespeler was the purchaser who removed it to its present site.

The first Hindu temple in the Western World has been dedicated at the corner of Wenster and Filbert streets, San Francisco. The edifice is modeled after the great Taj Mahal of India.

Spring building indications are promising at West Toronto. The Home Bank will almost immediately commence the erection of their new branch at the corner of Union and Dundas streets.