



Drawing by Gyrth Russell

## THE BALL-ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HALIFAX

of the impending changes is a rather factitious "land-boom," which means a general increase in rents and therefore in the cost of living.

Only one corner of Halifax will be affected by the proposed changes. This is the south end or main residential section. The value of the fine houses on Young Avenue will doubtless be lowered by their proximity to the railway yards, the constant tumult of shunting engines and rumbling cars. But you cannot make an omelet without breaking eggs. The houses of the quarter to be demolished, old Irishtown, can well be spared. The heart of Halifax will not be changed, or even touched, let us hope for ever.

The human heart is a double-celled affair, and the two chambers of the civic heart of Halifax are Government House and the Province Building.

Both are fine old Georgian struc-

tures of hewn native stone, dating from the first years of the last century. Nova Scotia had not a quarter of her present strength when she made such magnificent provision for the dignity of her law-givers and the head of her government. The local parliament and the King's representative were to be housed splendidly, Fashions in building have changed many times since their foundation stones were laid, but these stately colonial fabrics do not look obsolete. Rather they silently rebuke the tawdry, flimsy, modern structures, like two aristocrats of the old school in a crowd of vulgarians. New Dalhousie has adopted this plain but satisfying style.

Once upon a time a certain thrifty set of legislators proposed to sell Government House to an American syndicate for a summer hotel! Another statesman planned to add a storey or