

ONTARIO'S PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

The New Legislative Buildings
in Toronto.

A VIVID PEN PICTURE.

Description of the Plan—The Decorations of the Legislative Chamber—Arrangements of the Departments—The Speaker's Quarters—The Library and Other Accessories.

THE Province of Ontario has good reasons for being proud of her new Legislative Buildings in Queen's Park, Toronto. They form the most striking and imposing block of buildings in the city, the second noblest structure in the Dominion, and one of the most complete and admirably adapted legislative and departmental edifices upon this continent or in the world. A more appropriate or advantageous site could not have been selected, for the beauties of the partially wooded park add grace and grandeur to the pile, and, as viewed from University Avenue or from any of the other points of vantage in the neighborhood, it makes a colossal statement to the one hundred years' progress of the great province of Ontario. This effective structure, greatly aided in appearance by the material used in the construction, viz., Credit Valley sandstone, reddish brown in color, with its pronounced central pavilion, flanked by long, retreating intermediate wings, which terminate in projecting corner pavilions, giving emphasis to the departmental wing to the east and the legislative and library wing to the west, takes rank with the most successful public buildings on the American continent.



SIR OLIVER MOWAT, PREMIER.

can continent, and is certainly one of the most interesting and impressive in the Canadian Dominion. The architectural forms observed in general outline show the principles of the classical and Roman schools, while the decoration and details of construction partake of the Celtic and Indo-Germanic.

The Principal Front.

To the south, centering on University Avenue, is the best single facade, its central pavilion appropriately expressing civic authority by the externalizing and centralizing of the legislative chamber and its dependencies, an expression of purpose hitherto overlooked in the designing of buildings of this character. This stately pavilion measures 120 feet by 116 feet, and 185 feet high, boldly treated on three sides with a series of clustered arches, sturdy, clustered columns, accented angle turrets and quiet field of walls, delightfully enriched with carvings in many of its parts and surfaces. The whole is crowned by a pyramidal roof with elongated dome, turrets at each angle, taking the place of the stereotyped dome or tower.

The base or lower storey forms the chief entrance, prolonged to a breadth of some 65 feet, composed of three arches flanked by the base walls of the accented angles. Here is concentrated a wealth of enrichment, great roll mouldings, each differently treated, carved clustered capitals, wall bands and friezes, appropriately setting the character of the building. The grand entrance archway is made finely and most practically effective by an approach of successive platforms and short flight of steps, which gives dignified access between porch, loggia and steps. Above the chief entrance porch, the central arch of which is 18 feet wide by 24 feet high, are three very large arched windows, which light the legislative chamber from the south. Above these windows stretches the

The Great Sculptured Frieze

—a carved surface 69 feet long and 15 feet deep, in low relief, peopled with symbolic sculpture, so disposed and grouped as to conform to the four circular windows introduced therein, and in the center the head of the province. The well designed allegorical treatment of frieze not only enhances the refinement and purity of the architectural screen below, but most appropriately expresses the power and authority which has its throne beneath those roofs.

On either side of this grand central pavilion are the east and west intermediate wings and corner pavilions, stretching out this principal facade to a length of 493 feet. Each section is in proper scale and proportion to the legislative pavilion, preserving the same dignified symmetry between part and part, and yet varying in the successive storeys and in general massing, so as to clearly indicate the relative importance and purposes of the different apartments.

The East and West Facades.

The east and west facades, each of 258 feet in extent, manifest solidity relieved by ranges of great, round-headed window arches and extremely impressive covered entrances and driveways, consisting of three massive archways projecting from the walls of the building and supported on large circular, buttressed piers.

The north facade with its boiler house is treated with cloister effect and flanked by the east and west intermediate wings, which are very pronounced, while at the northern terminal of either wing are gently accented entrances to the speaker's apartments on the west and to the departmental wing on the east. The chimney and extraction shafts, arranged in harmony with the series of pyramidal roofs, form most pleasing skyline, and produce an effect from the wooden park to the north which is grateful to the beholder in the careful

simplicity of its lines and the studied breadth of its general treatment.

The Internal Arrangements.

The buildings in plan form a double letter E, covering an area exceeding 76,000 square feet. In its principal features the arrangement is the same on all floors, excepting as regards the grand staircase, which is one flight only, beginning on the ground floor and leading direct to the spacious lobby of the legislative chamber. This staircase, with its ample dark slate treads, red tasseled, paved platforms and richly treated wrought and cast iron metal work, is consonant in feeling with its surroundings, well disposed and thoroughly lighted. Two other large public stairways in either wing give access to each of the storeys, and four electric-powered passenger elevators are conveniently arranged in various parts of the structure.

Entering the building by the central or grand entrance the visitor finds himself in a spacious hall leading direct to the main staircase, to the legislative chamber, which is, as has been already stated, the predominating feature of the pile.

The Legislative Chamber.

Its dimensions are 82x65 feet, and 50 feet high. The speaker's dais, executed in San Domingo mahogany, richly carved, is placed at the south end, with the press gallery immediately behind and forming, as it were, a part thereof. The speaker's gallery, treated in uniformity, runs across the opposite or north end, and on either side are located the ladies' and visitors' galleries. These latter are greatly increased in beauty by the massive arcades fronting them, and they are admirably successful as to sight lines, as every member on the floor of the chamber can be seen therefrom from whatever point he may arise to address the house. The lower walls of the chamber to the height of nine feet are wainscoted in panelled, moulded and carved sycamore and mahogany, and above this the plastering is richly decorated and moulded in low relief.

The Decorations of the Chamber.

In keeping with the design of the building the decoration of the legislative chamber is in the Romanesque style, the vigorous forms and florid coloring of that school being well exemplified in the treatment of the interior. The main portion of the ceiling is taken up with a free rendition of the arms of the province, the coloring of the fields being obtained with diapers of maple leaves and the framing a beautiful scroll, through which is entwined a maple branch. The novelty of the design has been criticised on account of the disregard of the wood ribbing, the lines breaking through it at all points, but a glance at the design of the wood ribs shows that a careful following of each panel with a border would have produced a heavy and monotonous effect. The freer treatment adopted is justified by many of the finest examples of European ceiling work. The large eight-foot coffer ceiling is an original design in Romanesque foliage, with medallion forms in the center of each panel formed by the carved trusses. This coffer has been deservedly admired for the skilful handling of strong color displayed.

Colossal Sculptured Figures.

In the spandrels formed by the window arches and tympanum arches of the north and south walls are four colossal groups of figures representing "Moderation," "Power," "Justice" and "Wisdom," surrounded by heavy scrolls while in the spandrels on the east and west walls two figures carry tablets, on which are inscribed the dates "1792" and "1892" the years respectively in which the legislature was inaugurated and the centenary of the same. The beautifully worked enrichment of the arches is treated in warm tones, wiped with transparent color and resembling somewhat a stained or antique marble.

The main walls are simply panelled with a gold border, and are a rich yellow brown. The whole scheme is of course studied mainly for a night effect, but when the broad glare of light from the vast south windows is subdued the day effect will be equally satisfactory.

The Departments.

The departmental quarters occupy the whole of the east wing and east central section of the buildings, and on the ground floor overflow into the west central section, where the crown lands section of the administration has its home. Hon. A. S. Hardy, the commissioner, with his personal staff, occupies the suit in the east corner pavilion, and the many branches of this extensive department, including the sales and purchase, the survey, patents and roads, the woods and forests, accounts, and the mining bureau, are accommodated in the offices on either side. The northern end of the eastern extension is given up to Hon. Mr. Dryden and his department, agriculture, the bureau of industries and the offices of the inspector of factories.



HON. C. F. FRASER.

The mezzanine, or first floor, is occupied as to the east wing by the offices of the attorney-general and his staff in the corner pavilion, with the council chamber adjoining, and to the north in the same wing are the quarters of Hon. J. M. Gibson, provincial secretary; the inspector of asylums and prisons, the department of insurance, and the office of the inspector of division courts.

The second floor of the east wing accommodates the public works department in the corner pavilion, where the offices of Hon. C. F. Fraser and his staff are located. The provincial treasurer, Hon. Richard Hareourt, has his quarters in the northern portion of the same floor, while the license department, the department of the administration of justice and the offices of the registrar-general are provided for in the northern portion of the east central section. Above these, in the attic pavilion, the draughtsmen of the architect's and engineer's departments have a local habitation.

The Central Section.

The ground floor of the central section, west of the main entrance, is given up, as has been already stated, to the overflow from the crown lands department. Above this, on the front floor, are the postoffice, members' hat and coat rooms, and members' lobbies; and the corresponding section on the second floor is utilized for the ap-

proaches and ante-rooms to the several galleries of the legislative chamber and the ladies' retiring rooms.

The West Wing.

The ground floor of the west wing is arranged for committee rooms; Mr. Speaker's apartments, with separate private entrance; the Queen's printer's quarters, etc. On the first floor are the offices of the speaker's suite, members' smoking room, dining and reception rooms; the library and librarians' quarters; the reading room, and additional committee rooms; and the second floor is devoted to reporters' rooms and house-keeper's quarters.

The basement also provides no inconsiderable accommodation, in addition to the boiler house, furnished with six multi-tubular steel boilers, and machinery for the manipulation of the vast and intricate heating, ventilating and electric lighting system, which supplies the whole building.

Here are located the carpenter's shop, and quarters for the mechanical engineer and the plumber. Under the speaker's quarters in the west wing are placed the restaurant, kitchens, caterer's departments and living rooms, and the laundry. There are also five spacious vaults for the storages of the deeds and documents of the legislature, the printer's and the postmaster.

Historical.

The question of new parliament building was first mooted in 1877, and in 1880 the Commissioner of Public Works, one Hon. C. F. Fraser, obtained from the legislature an initial grant of \$500,000 toward their erection. That sum being found insufficient, \$250,000 additional was voted in 1885, which was further added to in 1887 by \$200,000. A final grant of \$300,000 brought the total up to \$1,250,000. Mr. R. A. Waite, of Buffalo, was the architect. The work of excavation was begun in 1886.

Points in a Line or Two.

Four large electric elevators of the very latest design are in service. The Legislative Chamber is 81x66 feet, with a ceiling 50 feet high. The roof line of the middle pavilion is 180 feet from the pavement.

The southwestern tower will have a large illuminated clock ten feet in diameter. A magnificent bird's-eye view of the city, country and lake may be had from the towers.

There are 23,000 superficial feet of plate glass in the building, the weight of which is fifty tons. The buildings cover four acres—the extreme ground measurements being 461 ft. 2 in. by 125 ft. 6 in.

Only three deaths resulted from accidents to workmen while the buildings were in course of construction. The ladies have a large, handsomely fitted up room all to themselves, not far from their special entrance to the chamber.

Sept. 21, 1892, was the date when the Commissioner of Public Works laid the keystone of the east arch in the main entrance.

The building is equipped with thirteen large fireproof vaults, fitted with iron frames and in filling cases, thus ensuring almost absolute safety from fire.

Ample fire protection has been provided—a six-inch water main runs through from street to street, and hydrants are placed in the basement and on each floor.

On the east side of the main entrance excellent likenesses are carved in stone of Blake, Governor Simcoe, Chief Justice Robinson, and Sandfield Macdonald. On the west side are the portraits of Hon. T. B. Peadar, Major General Brock, Robert Baldwin, and Matthew Crooks Cameron.

AMBASSADOR PAUNCEFOTE.

Great Britain Raises the Rank of Her United States Minister.

The United States Department of State has just announced that the Queen of Victoria has raised the rank of Sir Julian



SIR JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Paunceforte, her representative in Washington, from that of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to that of Ambassador, and that his credentials as such are on their way. Under the provisions of the Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation bill of March 1, 1893, President Cleveland is authorized to confer the same rank upon the U. S. representative in London.

As an Ambassador, however, is the personal representative of a sovereign, the United States is in a quandary, some newspapers arguing strongly that it would be un-democratic to follow Great Britain's precedent. Sir Julian Paunceforte is the first Minister to Washington to hold the title of Ambassador, but it is probable that France, Germany, Russia and Austria will follow England's example.

Sailors Battered by Aerolites.

A meteor sizzling from the heavens came within a few feet of striking the coasting schooner Earl P. Mason off Cape Hatteras on the passage from the Sattila river, Georgia, for Philadelphia. The crew say that it was one of the most magnificent spectacles they ever witnessed. The meteor burst into many pieces and scattered its scintillating fragments all around, some of which, as they dashed into the sea, made reports that sounded like cannonades. Particles of the meteor as they flew through the air with the appearance of red-hot chunks of iron struck the water with hissing sounds and disappeared, only to send up masses of steam where they had gone down.

The condition of the atmosphere during the fall of the meteor was most peculiar. There were gaseous odors all around, and even the surface of the sea glowed as if it were ablaze. The heavens, too, appeared to be on fire. From the zenith to the surface of the water there were long trails of sparks along the clearly outlined path of the meteor. It became necessary for the vessel to "lay to" under storm trysails until the atmosphere had assumed its normal condition. The vessel's compass was affected, and the needle fluctuated without regard to the cardinal points.—Philadelphia Record.

Prettiest Women in the World.

The prettiest women in the world are said to be the women of northern Italy. They are a mixture of the French beauty and the old Italian nobility, and inherit the vivacity of one country and oriental beauty of the other.

CANADIAN DISPATCHES.

The News of Eastern Canada in Short Paragraphs.

James H. Shearer, dry goods, Toronto, has assigned, with liabilities of about \$20,000.

Neil McCabill's flour mill at Forest has been destroyed by fire. It was a fine brick structure.

Mechanical Superintendent David Preston, of the C. P. R., Montreal, is dying from poisoning caused by a corn cure.

Dr. McGuire, who has been a resident of Guelph for a quarter of a century and had an extensive practice, has gone insane.

Three Petrolia stores, occupied by Morrison, harness maker; Rismann, cigars, and Jenkins and Sons, clothing, were burned.

Miss Janet McArthur, of Middleton, was burned to death through her clothing taking fire from papers which had ignited by throwing an unextinguished match among them.

L'Etendard newspaper, of Montreal, is in financial difficulties, and has offered its creditors ten cents on the dollar cash and twenty cents in scrip. Its liabilities are between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

A big deal is reported to have been consummated. The Toronto Rubber Co., which has the largest rubber establishment in Toronto, has it is said, been absorbed by the Gutta Percha Company of Canada.

A steel rail was placed across the M. C. railway track near Walker station, being struck by a mail train with such force as to bend it double. The train narrowly escaped being thrown from the track.

One of the wildest snowstorms of the season took place at Kingston on Saturday. It was accompanied by a strong southerly gale, and in consequence business was much impeded. About six inches of snow fell.

W. A. McLaughlin, leader of the Opposition in the Manitoba Legislature, admitted bribery by agents at the election trial and the seat for Brandon was declared vacant. The bribery consisted of hiring teams on election day.

Farmer Baker and Lingford, his hired man, were acquitted at the Whitty assizes of manslaughter of Palmer, who was killed in Pickington township last fall by a shot from Lingford, while he was robbing Baker's hen roost.

The Ontario Iron and Steel company is about to establish a blast furnace at Cambridge's Bay north of Toronto, the city having agreed to give it a fee simple of 150 acres and a bonus of \$75,000. The company will have a capital of \$1,000,000, and the works will cost \$500,000.

A feature of Saturday's proceedings of the Salvation Army celebration now going on in Montreal was the dedication of a sheltering home of the once notorious Joe Beef's Canteen, formerly famous for affording a retreat for that class of the community called "bums" and "wharf rats."

Tuesday last was a big settling up day with the banks, and Montreal bankers report payments very bad, a large number of cheques having been given. There are no big failures reported as the banks generally are carrying their customers. Bad roads and a cold winter are given as the cause for poor payments.

The farmers of Anderson township held a meeting recently and formed a continental union club. About 100 men enrolled themselves. The meeting was called by John Bray, a prominent farmer, who announced that it was the intention of the Continental Union association to put up parliamentary candidates wherever it was possible in the coming election.

At the inquest relating to the deaths of Mrs. John Kennedy and her brother-in-law Alexander Kennedy, which occurred in Kempsville, March 4th last, under circumstances which gave rise to suspicion of poisoning, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that death in each case had resulted from an accidental poison administered by some person or persons unknown.

The Quebec street railway company has unearthed a big boodling scheme among its conductors. For months the company has been systematically robbed by conductors who had invented a tin slide by which means money and tickets were taken from the boxes. A few years ago the tickets he could get at a cheap rate and resold them. Thirty years ago the company was established a secret service in connection with its lines.

The Ontario Miller says: Every mill and elevator in the province is filled with wheat. The surplus, patents and wheat because they cannot sell flour. A man can to-day buy flour for 10 cents a barrel less than the same flour would have brought in December, when millers were buying Ontario car wheat at 38c and 61c. Reports from the southern part of the province say that the fall wheat is badly damaged by frost, following rains, and that the crop will probably be much smaller than last year.

The population of Toronto, with a total of 144,023, is divided as follows: Canadian born 93,162, of whom 29,747 were born in Ontario; foreign born 50,861, classified as follows: England and Wales 22,801, Ireland 12,252, Scotland 6,347, United States 5086. No other nationality reached the thousands in Montreal, out of a total population of 182,650, 150,695 were native Canadians, 143,747 of whom were born in Quebec and 9092 in Ontario. The foreign born numbers 31,843, including 9117 English, 3776 Scotch, 9460 Irish and 4000 of the United States.

John H. R. Molson's gift of \$30,000 to the medical faculty of McGill University, followed by Sir Donald A. Smith's princely donation to the same department of \$100,000, are the largest contributions by one and still greater contribution by W. C. Macdonald, the well known tobacco manufacturer of Montreal, who has already given at least \$1,000,000 to the university. The amount of Mr. Macdonald's contribution is understood to be \$500,000, to be spent in the arts and law faculties. The correspondent states that it is Mr. Macdonald's desire to see McGill the greatest university in the new world.

The Ancient Name of Great Britain.

The oldest form of the name of Britain is *Ortanis*, from which comes the adjective *Ortanicus*, which in Irish is *Ortinnich*. This is the name which the Irish gave to the first, once masters of Great Britain. The adjective mentioned became in the language of the Gauls *Pretannicus*. Pytheas, the Greek navigator of Marseilles, who flourished about the time of Alexander the Great, and is said to have made a voyage to Britain, in one of his few fragments now extant, calls Great Britain the *Pretanic Island*. A century after Pytheas, a Gallic poet—the Briton—tore the Pict out of the larger portion of rest Britain, and established themselves there. From this came confusion in the mind of Greek geographers between the name of the conquerors and that of the conquered is land. Out of this confusion arose various and mischievous fables. The Pretanic island became *Bretannic*, and then *Britannic*, which form became fixed, and has come down to us.

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We publish **Ladies' Companion**, \$1.00 per year; **Ladies at Home**, 50 cents per year; **Boys and Girls**, 25 cents per year. Note our address: 166 King St., West, and do not confound our publications with any others of somewhat similar names.

PREMIUM LIST.

To the first person solving puzzle we will award an elegant **Rosewood Piano**, valued at \$50; the next will receive a **Gold Watch**; the third, a **Silk Dress** Pattern; the fourth, a **Woolen Suit**; the fifth, a **Handkerchief**; the sixth, a **Handkerchief**; the seventh, a **Gold Brooch**; the eighth, a **Silver Five O'Clock Tea Set**; to the next ten will be given each a beautiful **Gold Brooch**; to the next ten will be given each a **Gold Brooch**; and to the ten following each a **CRAYON PORTRAIT** of sender or any friend. The sender of letter bearing latest postmark, previous to June 1st next, will receive a **Gold Watch**. The sender next to last will receive a **Silver Watch**, in preceding, each a beautiful **Gold Brooch**.

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