

even better in 1907 than it was in 1906, by comparison with the largest of the cities in the United States. Predictions are proverbially dangerous, but little is risked in the assertion that in 1907 the city of Toronto will spend more on new buildings than any city in America, whose population is within 100,000 of that of Toronto.

One of the healthiest features of the activity in building is that it is fairly spread over all classes from the skyscraper to the little factory, and from the costly residence to the workingman's home. Toronto, like most other large cities, is divided into certain fire districts according to the danger and consequences of a fire spreading. In certain of these districts, only buildings of stone, reinforced concrete or brick may be erected. In others frame, or rough cast houses are permitted; but in a rough cast district, residents by petitioning may have a certain street or block placed in the brick limit, thus guaranteeing their property against the depreciation an inferior type of house would inflict. Not more on this account, than because the city is built upon, and surrounded on two sides by, brick clay beds, the number of brick houses in the city probably surpasses that of any other city of similar size in America. On the outskirts where future industries may be expected to locate, city restrictions give way to county latitude, and a man can put up a house to match his purse, and without consulting any authority but his own convenience.

A testimony to the solid character of the city's growth is the order of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, issued May 17, that the company operating the street railway system add 15 miles of double track to its existing lines and that it put another hundred cars into service. This additional mileage and equipment is called for, the Board held, to make the company's carrying capacity commensurate with the increase in population, whose present annual increment of 15,000 souls is regarded by the Board as practically certain to be at least maintained. Placing the present population at 300,000, the Board looks forward to one of not less than 450,000 ten years hence, and its order is framed accordingly.