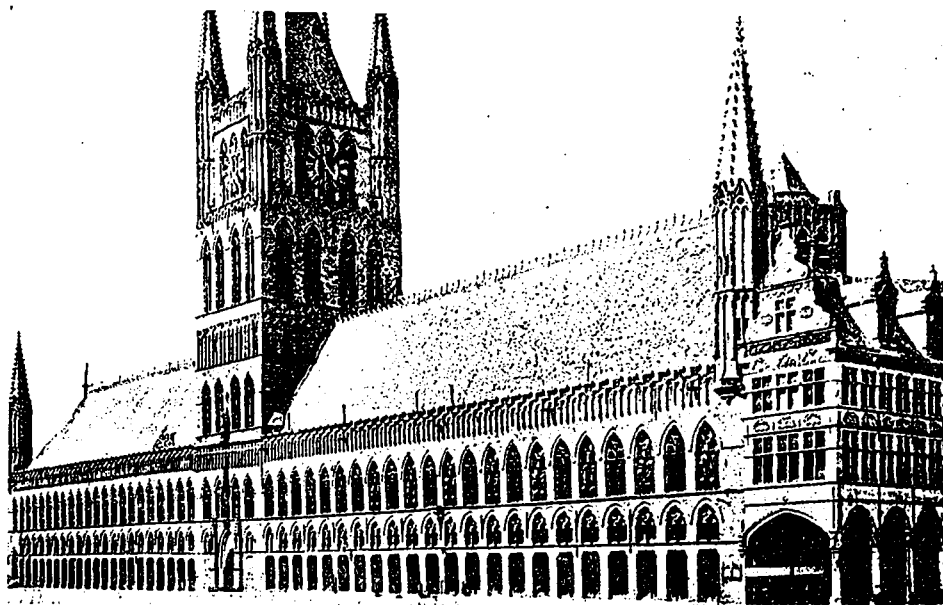


herself up to 1540, after which she sank to a second rate town. Her means of water communications in many different directions allowed only a temporary decadence, and by means of agricultural and manufacturing pursuits she has grown to a population of 167,000. The Cathedral of St. Bavon is the most conspicuous building, the exterior quite striking in its heavy ornateness, while the interior is a striking contrast in its refinement. The Hotel de Ville, erected in 1518, is credited as being the best architectural work in the city. Facing the Rue Hautport is the magnificent facade of Flamboyant Gothic and overlooking the market is the one in Renaissance, both executed in the sixteenth century. The belfry contains a carillon of forty-four bells, used originally to send forth the song of victory. The city contains a large number of recent structures, among the more important of which are the buildings of the University, designed by Louis Cloquet. The Medical Institute, presented by the eminent Dr. Rommelaere, comprehends the work of hygiene, bacteriology, and medicine, and forms a large quadrangle with the Institutes of Physiology and Pharmacy.

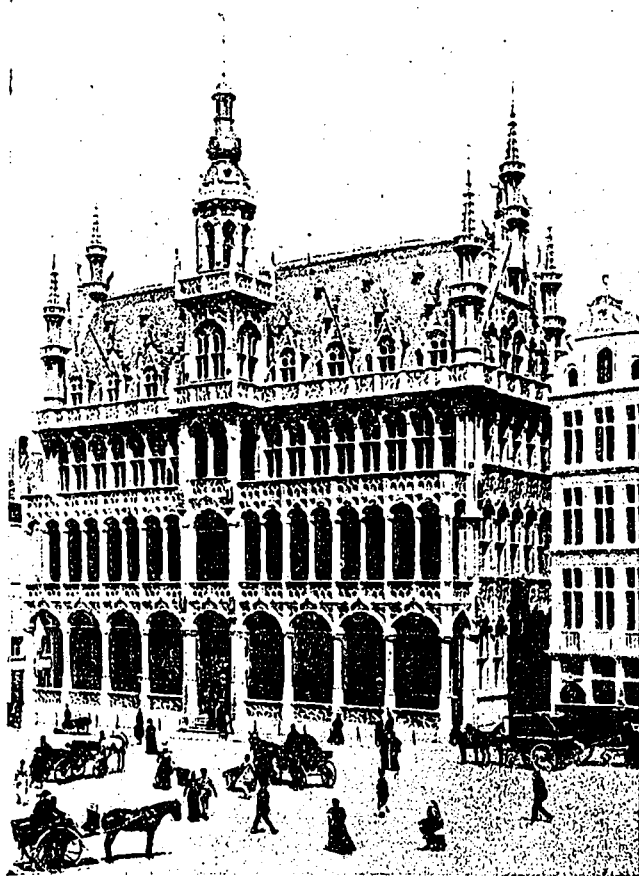
The cities of Bruges, Courtrai and Ypres have been classed as dead cities, as they have not shared in the industrial revival of the last fifty years. In the case of Bruges its mediæval appearance is better preserved than that of any other city in Belgium. For this reason it becomes an ideal retreat for artists. Most of the buildings are of brick, some elaborately executed and of extreme interest, while the finely wrought iron ties are everywhere introduced to enhance the effectiveness of the exterior design. Among the important buildings might be mentioned the Cathedral of St. Sauveur, and the Church of Notre Dame, both examples of early pointed Gothic; the hospital of St. Jean; the Hotel de Ville, the Chapelle du Saint-Sang and the Church of St. Jacques. The town hall, built in 1377, is the oldest municipal court of justice. With a frontage of eighty-eight feet and a depth of sixty-five, it forms a simple and pure design for the picturesque tower rising approximately three hundred feet above, long famed for its chime of bells. The niches of the main facade contain statues of the Counts of Flanders.

Courtrai has an exceptionally pleasing Hotel de Ville, built in 1527, which still retains its



HALL OF THE CLOTHIERS' GUILD AT YPRES.

original feeling in spite of recent restorations. The proportions of the windows; the balcony from where the tribune addressed the people; the detail, all tend to give a severe and harmonious effect to the ensemble. Several features of interest are to be seen within, especially the tablet of Robbe and the bas relief of Devreese, representing the death of Cæsar, both at the top of the heavy stone stairway. The chimney is quite monumental and very original, with its



MAISON DU ROI AT BRUSSELS.