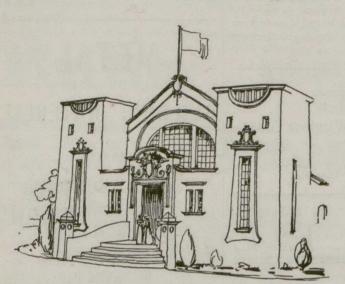
BUILDING CONDITIONS.

There is much activity in building throughout Canada this season. In Winnipeg, the value of new buildings according to the permits issued, nearly doubles last year's record. In Toronto all the architects appear to be busily Domestic work is calling for a large share of engaged.

good taste prevails to a much larger extent than in the past, when the builder undertook to be his own architect. The high cost of lumber has undoubtedly retarded build-



CANADIAN PAVILION AT THE GLASGOW EXHIBITION.

attention. Some important and interesting buildings of this class are in progress, while less costly dwellings are springing up on every hand. The majority are being built amount of speculative building of the better class. It s as homes by the owners. There is also a considerable gratifying to note that the designs for most of this work were prepared by local architects, and in consequence



RUSSIAN PAVILION AT THE GLASGOW EXHIBITION.

ing enterprise, and the strikes of workmen in Ottawa and elsewhere are hindering operations and blocking new undertakings.

RELATIVE VALUE OF FIRE RESIST-ING MATERIALS.

Some valuable data concerning the fire resisting properties of various materials and methods of construction have been made available by a series of tests conducted in connection with the recent Building Trades Exhibition in London. These tests related to floors, partitions, doors, both of wood and iron, and protective coverings to open spaces. As regards flooring, it was found that by fillling up with plaster to the extent of 1 in. the soffit of an ordinary floor having deal joists, a floor was rendered fire-resisting for 45 min. When slag wool was similarly used it stood the test of one hour's duration. A floor made of simple baulks of timber laid side by side, the thickness of the baulks being 9 in., stood an 80 min. test, with a gradual temperature up to 2,000 degrees Fahr. The result was that the under surface of the wood beams was charred to the average depth of about 2in., but beyond this no damage was done. A floor protected by 5in. of concrete was destroyed in 54 min. A simple iron and concrete floor was next tested. After an hour and a half the bulk of the concrete collapsed owing to the deflection of the steel p'ates. A floor constructed of iron and concrete, in which all the ironwork was embedded, stood a very severe test. The fire did not pass through it, and wood strips imbedded in the upper surface of the concrete were uninjured. With regard to partitions, one formed of terra cotta, wired lathing, covered with plaster of paris, stood a very severe test. It was found that doors of oak and teak stood the most severe test, and with regard to windows it was found that blinds of asbestos cloth were a great protection from the cloth were a great protection from the spread of fire.

THAT

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