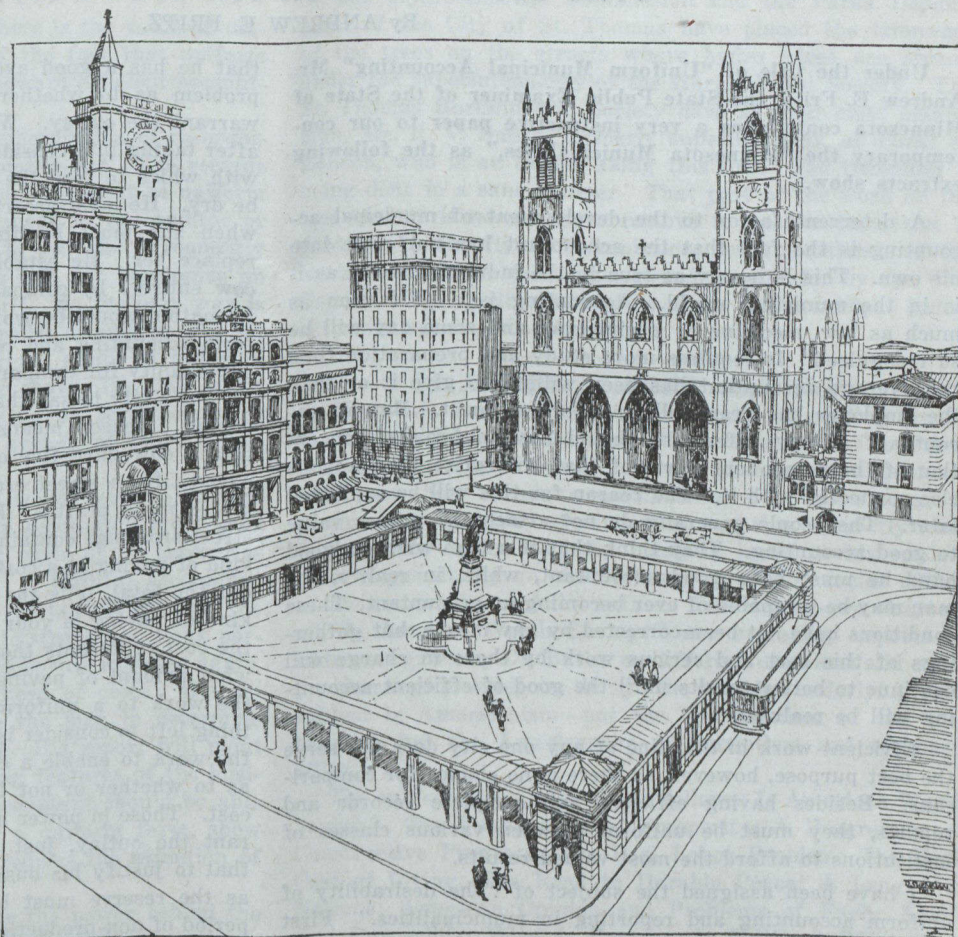


A Suggestion To Accelerate Street Railway Traffic

J. S. ARCHIBALD.



The above sketch is a suggestion for two street railway waiting rooms and public conveniences in Montreal's busiest square. Those readers who have visited the commercial metropolis will recognize the site as that of the historic Place d'Armes Square, showing in the background Notre Dame Cathedral, the largest and one of the most beautiful churches on this continent. The square, because of the exigency of the service, has become a terminal point for the principal routes of the Montreal Tramway System, consequently, in spite of the fact that a car leaves the square every few seconds, there is always a waiting crowd, which is augmented to large dimensions during the rush hours. To obviate this condition as much as possible by accelerating the street railway traffic the suggestion entered the mind of Mr. J. S. Archibald, one of the Tramway Commissioners, to provide a scheme as sketched above.

The idea of the two waiting rooms—one on the west side and the other on the east side of the square, and each one the length of two of the largest cars—is to serve the double purpose of providing shelter for the waiting crowds and to speed up the loading of the cars, thus saving time and irritation. Before boarding the cars the passengers will deposit their tickets in receptacles in the waiting rooms and then pass through doors leading to both the front and rear platforms of a car. This would ensure a quick service on all the lines starting from the square.

To complete the scheme the sketch suggests a

colonnade between the two waiting rooms, and to still further serve the public needs it is suggested that the basement of the waiting room on the west side be utilized for public conveniences, the necessary heat to be supplied from steam mains that already pass underneath that spot.

Both the sketch, as already mentioned, and the idea belong to Mr. J. S. Archibald, who in addition to being a member of the Tramways Commission is one of Montreal's leading architects. Mr. Archibald's difficulty was to provide the shelters without detracting from the dignity of the square itself. In the centre is Hebert's statue of Maisonneuve, considered by many the finest piece of sculpture in America, on the south side is Notre Dame, on the north the main office of the Bank of Montreal, a great architectural work, and on the west and east sides are fine office buildings, all of which go to make a magnificent square. To build ordinary shelters on such a square would be desecration, and yet utilitarianism must be served.

Probably it was these or similar thoughts that prompted Mr. Archibald to suggest the idea as illustrated in this sketch which, while utilitarian to a degree, is architecturally in keeping with the environment. Whether or not the city authorities will carry out such a scheme remains to be seen, but certain it is a serious attempt to solve a problem that not only affects the City of Montreal but most of our urban centres where street railway traffic is the only means of transportation for the people.