

# The Canadian Architect and Builder

VOL. XIV.—No. 167.

NOVEMBER, 1901.

## ILLUSTRATIONS ON SHEET.

Residence, Toronto.—Messrs. Symons & Rae, Architects.

## ADDITIONAL ILLUSTRATIONS IN ARCHITECTS' EDITION.

House in Rosedale, Toronto.—Mr. A. Frank Wickson, Architect.  
Town Hall, Windsor, N. S.—Messrs. Elliott & Hopson, Architects.  
Photogravure Plate.—Canadian Bank of Commerce, Winnipeg, Man.—Messrs. Darling & Pearson, Architects.  
Photogravure Plate.—Kirby Hall, North Side of Courtyard.

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### Safety of Elevators.

An elevator in one of the principal office buildings in Toronto, dropped twelve or fifteen feet the other day. The suspension cables became detached from their fastenings at the top of the shaft and fell in a heap on the cage. The passengers fortunately escaped injury, but as may be imagined, were badly frightened. Rumors are abroad of similar happenings at some of the great departmental stores of which no mention has appeared in the papers. A system of elevator inspection is supposed to be in force in Toronto, but these accidents would seem to indicate that its efficiency might and should be improved.

### Methods of Designating Floors.

So much confusion exists regarding the order in which the different floors of a building should be named that some leading Canadian architects have decided to fall in line with American practice and the ideas of the majority of their clients by numbering the different floors one, two, three, etc., beginning with the ground floor as number one. The practice here and in England has been to name as the first floor the one first above the ground floor. It is claimed, however, that probably 75 per cent. of architects' clients regard the ground floor as being the first floor. The result is frequent misunderstandings between architects and clients, requiring frequent explanations, and leading to delays where matters have to be arranged by correspondence. It is thought by some that the difficulty would be overcome by adopting the American instead of the English method. Where there are basements, the floor would be designated as the "basement floor," and the floor

above as the "first floor," counting from the front of the building. Local architects are by no means unanimous in opinion regarding the advisability of changing the method which has been in vogue until the present. The subject is an interesting one and of considerable importance to the profession, and might profitably receive discussion at the Annual Conventions of the Architectural Societies.

### Workmen's Compensation Acts.

The Workmen's Compensation Acts of Canada, fashioned after the law of Great Britain, are found to be not less difficult of interpretation. In Great Britain all sorts of interpretations have been given by the Judges of the various courts, resulting in such a legal muddle, that there appears to be no certainty in the mind of anybody as to what an employer's liability under the act really is. As evidence that the meaning of the Canadian law is equally obscure, it might be mentioned that the partners of a well-known legal firm not long ago spent half a day in discussing the interpretation of a particular clause. Much unnecessary litigation as well as injustice seems certain to be the result of the operation of this important law simply because proper care was not exercised in its construction.

### The Designing of Factories.

Architects and persons interested in architecture outside of the profession, will rejoice to observe the more or less successful attempts that are being made to give a character and interest to the design of factory buildings. Such buildings need not necessarily look like huge packing boxes. They may be well adapted to their purpose,