

# THE INVESTIGATOR.

INCORPORATED WITH OUR CHEERFUL FRIEND.

Our Country's Welfare Paramount.

VOL XXII

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1894.

No. 1.

## THE CITY AND COUNTY MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS OF TORONTO.

The illustration given is a correct engraving of this massive edifice now in course of erection. It is situated at the head of Bay, facing Queen Street, and the exterior wall will girt about eighteen hundred feet. It stands 100 feet back from Queen Street, the space in front forming a small open park—the buildings will form a square with a quadrangular courtyard in centre, and will have main entrances from Queen, Teraulay, James, and Albert Streets.

It is being built of Credit Valley grey stone, relieved with New Brunswick brown stone trimmings, clusters of pillars and elaborate carvings. The design is of modern romanesque style, and will be a standing monument of the genius of the architect, Mr. E. J. Lennox, of Toronto. The idea of solidity, with easy combining, as it does, the idea of symmetry and graceful lines. The most striking feature of the front facade is the massive tower, which is thirty five feet at the base, and rises to the height of two hundred and sixty feet. The west half of the building facing Teraulay Street will be used as the County Offices, and the east half facing James Street, will contain those of the City. The Police Court and Offices will occupy the North east portion, the main entrance to which will be from Albert Street.

### The Interior

Is reached by the main and several private entrances. The eastern and western ones form the centre feature of each facade, and are located on the ground floor and immediately opening off the terrace level. They are 12 feet wide with vestibules which lead to an entrance hall, 31 X 60 feet from which exits can be made to the courtyard. From the hall corridors run north and south to the right and left of these hall ways will be handsome wrought-iron staircases with marble treads and landings, brass polished, nickel plated hand rails, and will be easy of ascent; opposite each entrance there will be two most improved wrought iron elevators. On the first floor, are the departmental rooms of the City Engineers, the Health Office, city and park Commissioner and at the north east end the police commission and other police offices. We may mention that each flat is provided with private and public lavatories etc., and the whole building is thoroughly ventilated by the most modern appliances.

The main entrance to the first floor is in the centre of the south facade, and is reached by a flight of stone steps 85 feet long through an arched loggia, the floor walls and roof of which are of cut stone, from this there are three doorways, the center one being 12 feet wide and supplied with handsome oak doors which lead to the vestibule, the floor and walls of which are of cut stone and the ceiling is of heavy timber, oak highly polished. The vestibule is divided from main hall by an elaborate colonnade of stone columns and arches. Immediately opposite the entrance is the main hall which is opposite to the main entrance, which is 180 X 40 feet, the grand staircase 15 feet wide and turning to the right and left to the city and county apartments.

As it rises to the second floor the staircase will show its handsome designs with its marble treads and landings grided and scrolled wrought iron ballustrading and brass polished, nickel plated handrails. The ceiling of the main hall and other halls will be elaborately ornamented with plaster beams laid out in panels, the walls will be ornamented with enriched pilasters and caps, will be dadoed with heavy paneled and moulded oak to the height of seven feet. Our space will not permit giving full details of these extensive buildings, but sufficient has been said to give the reader some idea of this truly magnificent structure, suffice it to say all the offices, court rooms etc., are furnished in the same grand style.

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER however deserves a special notice. It will be 40 X 50 feet the area of the ceiling will be 65 X 40 feet and 20 feet high and will be supported in one span from wall to wall. It will be elaborated with deep paneled beams laid out in squares, the sides of which and the walls will be decorated with enriched freeze and moulded cornice and cantilever blocks.

It will be handsomely furnished to correspond and will undoubtedly be the most superb Council Chamber in the Dominion. The different court rooms to be occupied by the building will be elaborate and similar as described for the court chamber, every accommodation has been provided for the Judges and others occupying the building; a large, handsome library and reading room will be furnished for the law society; in fact, the aim of the architect, Mr. Lennox will be to make this building the most complete Municipal and County edifice on the Continent.

This work is being carried on by day labor. Under the direction of the Architect it is now rapidly proceeding in this manner, and will probably be completed in this way without any further change.

After this building had proceeded to a certain stage under the contract entered into between the City of Toronto and the builders, a difference arose between the architect and the builders, which led to the dispossessing of the work from the contractor, and the court ordering this work to be carried on by day labor, under the direction of the architect it is now rapidly proceeding in this manner and will probably be completed in this way without any further change.

SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE NEW COURT HOUSE, SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS, FOREMAN AND ACCOUNTANT.

### E. J. LENNOX, ESQ.

Architect of Municipal and County Buildings, was born in Toronto, in 1855. His father, the late Edward Lennox, was a native of Antrim Co., near Belfast, Ireland, who came to Canada and settled in Toronto in 1832, where for many years he was engaged in the produce business and other mercantile pursuits. Our subject was educated in this city at the Grammar and Model Schools, after which he studied his profession with the late William Irving, Architect, Toronto, and subsequently for some time travelled on this continent, visiting all the principal cities in order to thoroughly acquaint himself on all new and improved modes of building and architecture. In 1877 he returned to Toronto and commenced business on his own account, in partnership with Mr. McTavish, with whom he was associated until 1882, when they dissolved. His genius as a designer and practical knowledge combined with the great care he took in the supervision and the execution of every detail of plans under his charge, soon brought him into notice and gained him a high reputation. Among the many buildings that bear the marks of his skill as an Architect, we may mention those completed in the Main Arcade, King Street; the Medical Council Building, corner Bay and Richmond Streets; Head Office of The Freehold Loan & Savings Company, corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets; this building is absolutely fire proof and the most complete equipped office building in Canada; the Bond Street Congregational Church; the Spaldina (Methodist) Broadway Tabernacle; the Victoria Hall, the Bloor Street Baptist Church; the Erskine Presbyterian; and many other public and private buildings—entirely too numerous to mention. He has been Architect over all classes of work ranging in cost from several thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars.



Municipal and County Buildings, TORONTO.

Mr. Lennox takes as much pains in the supervision of the smallest edifice as the massive structures he has now in course of erection, among these are, the New Athletic Club Building, College Street, Hotel and Banking House, corner King and Jarvis Streets, which is nine storeys high, being erected for the Beard Estate; Massey Mission Hall, and old Man's Home, each of which is to cost about a hundred thousand dollars, also the Massey Mausoleum, built completely of Granite, which is the finest and most elegant Mausoleum yet erected in Canada; and the City Municipal Buildings of Toronto, the engraving of which in this paper is a correct illustration, and which will cost about a Million and a half dollars.

Mr. Lennox, although still quite a young man, is in the first rank of his profession in Canada, and although carrying the heavy responsibilities of watching the work done on these immense structures, his system of regularity and measuring his time, and his thorough knowledge of every particular is such that it enables him fully to attend to the smallest details. It is said that whatever he takes in hand is thoroughly attended to, no matter how small the undertaking.

## Ex AID. THOMAS HUNTER.

SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS, CITY AND COUNTY BUILDINGS, TORONTO.

was born in Toronto, November, 1840. His father the late John Hunter, came to Canada in 1830, and settled in this city, his son after school days, served his apprenticeship to three trades, viz: stonemasonry, plastering, and bricklaying, following the latter trade in New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati and in the south, on the breaking out of the civil war he volunteered into the southern army under General Bragg, and afterwards under Generals Morgan and Forrest, meeting with many privations and thrilling adventures until 1864, then he made his way back to Canada, landing in Toronto on 28th March of that year, and shortly after commenced working at his trade. From 1865 to 1868 he acted as foreman for leading contractors and the latter year commenced on his own account as a builder, among the many monuments of his ability and skill as such, may be mentioned the Central Presbyterian Church, corner of Grosvenour and St Vincent Streets, Christie Brown & Co's, biscuit factory corner of Duke, and Frederick Streets, Joseph Scales' Tobacco show Wellington, near York, now Kings' boot and shoe factory and many other substantial buildings. In 1884, he was elected as alderman a position he continued to fill for four successive years, during which time he was the terror of public contractors, who slighted their work. The investigation in the case of the Garrison Creek sewer and the Tannery Hollow wall, which afterwards tumbled down. This proved his vigilance while his knowledge of how the work should be done and the kind of inferior material being used caused him to bring the matter before the Council where he accused the inspector of gross negligence; but was met by a flat denial of the charge, both by the Commissioner and the City Engineer.

Mr. Hunter however, knowing he was right, challenged a full investigation by three disinterested builders. The case eventually ended before the County Judge, the charge being fully substantiated, the commissioner and engineer both censured and the dismissal of Rolson the inspector.

Mr. Hunter's well known desire to see all work on buildings, especially public ones done according to specification, induced him to carefully watch the progress of the County Buildings and draw the attention of Mr. Lennox to the bad stone the contractors were just beginning to put in, which that talented and energetic architect took the prompt measure to stop which so nonplussed the contractors, and caused them foolishly to go into litigation with the corporation, pending which the Court has ordered the work to go on by employing day labor.

Mr. Hunter, after mature consideration was induced by the architect to undertake the organization of 250 men in all branches, and superintendent the construction, a position his thirty years experience eminently qualified him for.

He is a member of "Doric" A. F. & A. M., G. R. C., and the Knights Templars; is esteemed by all classes, and although strict, is a just and considerate employer.

The rapid progress in the erection of the buildings now going on, abundantly testifies to the mastery hand that directs every detail, and the clear judgement of the architect, in the appointment of Mr. Hunter as superintendent of works.

## Mr. Thomas Truesdale The Accountant.

Was born in County of Down, near Belfast, Ireland, in 1842 and educated at the National Schools there. At the age of fifteen (1857) he came to Canada, and at once was engaged by Mr. George Watt, the well known wholesale Grocer, (now Geo. Watt & Son) of Brantford, Ont. as his clerk and subsequently book-keeper—and afterwards for many years was in business for himself as a retail grocer of that place. In May 1889 three months previous to the commencement of work on the City and County buildings above referred to, his old friend the late Mr. Elliott, secured his services and sent him ahead to Toronto, to prepare for active operations as his confidential agent, accountant and cashier, which position he filled to the entire satisfaction of Contractors, and when the work was taken over by the City, was continued in office by the architect, the duties of which he still fulfils most efficiently and is now the oldest employee on the works.

Mr. Truesdale throughout his career has long since gained a high reputation of strictest probity, as well as a most painstaking accountant; and enjoyed the implicit confidence of the late Mr. Elliott, as he does also that of Mr. Lennox and Mr. Hunter the architect and superintendent of the works.