

OTTAWA.

(Correspondence of the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.)

Attention is again being directed by the repairs now being made to the Geological Museum in this city, to the need of a new building which should be better adapted for the purpose. Efforts have been made on more than one occasion by the Royal Society as well as the civic authorities to induce the government to undertake the erection of a new building, but the great cost of a fire-proof structure such as would be required has deterred the government from moving in the matter. It is much to be regretted that the proposal made soon after the death of Sir John Macdonald to erect a building as a memorial to his memory and to serve as a National Museum and Art Gallery, was not carried into execution.

The new R. C. church of St. Joseph, an illustration of which appeared in the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER for October, was dedicated a fortnight ago. The building, which stands on the corner of Wilbrod and Cumberland streets, is constructed of stone, in the Romanesque style, and is surmounted by a lofty octagonal tower. The exterior, with the exception of the main entrances, which show some elaborate stone carving, is devoid of ornamentation. The interior, on the contrary is most elaborately decorated, as is the rule in Roman Catholic Church edifices. The cost of the building was in the neighborhood of \$70,000. Mr. W. E. Dornan, of Montreal, was the architect.

MONTREAL.

(Correspondence of the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.)

The statues of Wolfe and Montcalm designed by Hebert for the facade of the Parliament Buildings at Quebec, will shortly be placed in position.

Prof. Harry Bamford, M. S. C., late of Victoria University, Manchester, England, has received the appointment of lecturer in the Engineering Department of McGill University, Montreal.

The sum of \$21,391.69 has been received and an almost equal amount disbursed by the treasurer of the Missionneuve Monument to be erected in this city. The work of canvassing for the additional \$75,000 required is to be at once proceeded with. Mr. Hebert is the sculptor.

St. George's Anglican church on St. Joseph street, is about to celebrate its jubilee. It is proposed to mark the occasion by the erection of a tower and additions necessary to complete the building at a cost of some \$16,000. The church, which occupies a commanding position, is a good example of Gothic architecture. It was the third Anglican church erected in Montreal, the corner stone having been laid by Bishop Mountain on the 6th July, 1842.

In reply to an enquiry, the Hon. Mr. Nantel, Minister of Public Works, stated in the Quebec Legislature recently, that the total amount expended on the enlargement of the Montreal Court House, since 1887, was \$649,946.25. This does not include a heavy bill for extras for which the contractor has brought suit. The opinion prevails that the work has been far more profitable for a few individuals than for the people who will have to provide the funds to meet the cost.

The first monthly meeting and dinner of the Province of Quebec Association of Architects was held on November 23rd. The dinner took place at the City Club and was followed by a meeting in the Association rooms. Mr. A. C. Hutchison gave a lecture, illustrated with lime-light views, on the Architecture of the World's Fair. There was a good attendance of members and students. The second dinner and meeting will take place on Thursday, the 14th inst., when there will be a discussion on the advisability of admitting honorary members, and on other subjects of interest to the Association. The students are invited to attend.

Your remarks concerning the necessity for ample provision being made by architects in their calculations for the increasing wind pressures to which apparently buildings in this country are to be subjected, prompts me to remark that in this locality at least, it would seem wise on the part of architects, in the light of recent experience, to make provision against earthquakes also. Solidity is a characteristic of most of our buildings, and to this no doubt is due the fact that so little damage resulted from the recent earth disturbances in this city. In the general alarm which seized upon all classes of our citizens this fact appears to have been overlooked, for there was an effort on the part of everybody to get into the open air.

The new addition, recently completed, to the Art Museum was formally opened by His Excellency, the Governor-General, a fortnight ago. The new building is designed to afford improved class rooms and an additional gallery for exhibition purposes. The Art Association of Montreal was organized in 1879, art classes being formed shortly afterwards. Besides the annual exhibitions there have been held sixteen loan exhibitions. There has also been accumulated a valuable permanent collection of paintings, the nucleus for which was donated by the late Mr. J. Tempest. In connection with the opening ceremony, the hope was expressed that something would be done for the development of art in conjunction with industrial education, in order that the knowledge of art might be employed for the purpose of beautifying manufactures. Mr. A. T. Taylor was the architect of the new building.

An interesting test was recently made at McGill University of the strength of a beam of British Columbia spruce furnished for the purpose by Messrs. T. J. and F. J. Claxton. The beam, which was 25 feet 5 inches in length, 8 1/2 inches in width, and 17 1/2 inches in depth, was cut from a tree felled about 700 miles north of Victoria a year ago. It was subjected to a transverse test on supports 24 ft. apart on centres, the centre load being applied by increments of 500 lbs., and the deflection noted for each increase

The beam failed under a maximum load of 38,250 lbs., and not, as is usual, by the rupture of the fibres on the tension side, but by the crippling of the side in compression. The skin stress developed was also unusually high, being a little over 6,000 lbs. per square inch, while the coefficient of elasticity was 1,670,000. The strength of the British Columbia spruce is, therefore, double that of ordinary spruce or pine.

It is somewhat difficult to understand the recent agitation for the removal from its present site of the Nelson monument in this city, in the light of the fact that the monument was erected by the joint efforts of the French and English residents of the city, the first steps being taken towards its erection at a social assembly at which the news of Nelson's death was announced. Seeing that both nationalities contributed to its erection, and that it has remained in its present position for so many years without objection of any kind being made, it must be assumed that the recent agitation was due to the articles of an inflammatory nature which were published in certain of the papers, and to this cause no doubt must also be attributed the action of the youths who were recently discovered in an attempt to destroy the monument by means of dynamite. The entire agitation has been frowned upon by the more influential class of citizens of both nationalities, whose desire is that the harmony which has prevailed to so large an extent in recent years should continue. While punishment should be meted out to the young men engaged in the attempt to destroy the monument, the fact will no doubt be borne in mind that the papers referred to were the real cause of the unfortunate occurrence, and the severity of their sentence mitigated accordingly.

WINNIPEG.

(Correspondence of the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.)

If the large number of buildings erected here during the past season is any criterion, Winnipeg has seen the last of the depression which followed her unfortunate boom, and architects and builders may now look forward in pleasant anticipation of "seven years of plenty."

The spell of cold weather which we have been enjoying, or otherwise, during the last few days, has interfered somewhat with the completion of work started late in the season, and the proprietors and contractors interested are watching anxiously for the thaw foretold by the "oldest inhabitants."

A good sign of the times is the excellent business blocks that are being erected in the country towns of Manitoba and the North-West. In many cases the walls are built entirely of stone, or with stone foundation and brick superstructure, and in every case the ground floor is provided with plate glass windows, and would be no discredit to longer established communities.

Plans for the Wesley College which the Methodists propose to erect on Porling Avenue next year, are now being prepared, and the design promises a model educational building. It is to be of stone, four stories in height, and basement. The work throughout to be most substantial. The cost will be about \$80,000. This building will add another monument to the energy and enterprise of the above denomination in this country.

The Bank of Ottawa is the most important building erected on Main street this year, and is a good substantial edifice, four stories high. The design might do for a local man, but when one considers that it was prepared by an architect of Toronto, the "Athena" of Ontario, it is certainly disappointing, for it was expected that this enterprising Bank would have provided for the edification of the western rustic a higher type of architecture than he has been accustomed to.

The result of the bye-election which has just taken place here, may materially affect the building trades, and assist the prosperity of Winnipeg. If Mr. Martin, our newly elected member, is successful in persuading the Dominion Government to remove the rapids in the Red River so that firewood, lumber, stone, etc., may be brought here by water from Lake Winnipeg, thus lessening the expense of building by supplying the principal materials used, at a reduced cost. This matter has been under the consideration of the Dominion Government for years, and though fully convinced of its importance, they have allowed procrastination to reign supreme, and like Felix, of old, put off for a more convenient season.

The architecture of Winnipeg is now in a transition state, and the wood, brick veneer and galvanized iron age, is passing away, and is being succeeded by the stone, brick and copper age. In former years the buildings here, with few exceptions, were entirely frame, or frame and brick veneer, with wood sills for foundations resting on the sod, or supported on wood posts or piles; but the public are beginning to realize that it is poor economy not to build for the future as well as for the present, and they cannot afford to immortalize themselves in blocks of marble, they can build in a substantial and durable manner, with less costly materials, which will not only give them a permanent investment, but will add materially to their comfort, especially during our winter months.

The school board is just completing two very fine 8 room school buildings, one in the south end of the city, and the other in the north end. They are constructed of stone and brick, two stories high with basement, and large hall in roof, which is well lighted by a large skylight. The school board is composed of some of the best men of the city, and deserve credit for the wisdom and foresight they have displayed in the performance of their duties as School Trustees, in purchasing, when increase of population demands more school accommodation, large blocks of land in desirable locations, which will give for all time ample play grounds for the children, and breathing places for the public when the city becomes closely built. On