

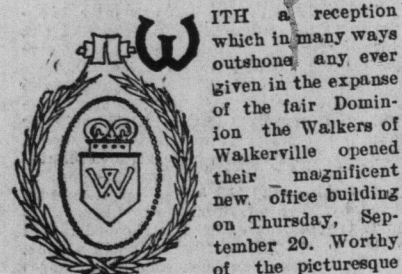
'TIS A PALATIAL OFFICE BUILDING.

The Beautiful New Headquarters of the Walker Firms.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

Guests Come From All Parts of the Country to Walkerville.

The New Edifice in Which the Immense Business Interests of the Various Walker Firms Are Looked After Formally Opened to the Public on Thursday of Last Week—An Office Building Without a Superior on the Continent—Modelled After the Palazzo Pandolfini in Florence the Structure is a Revelation in Modern Architecture and Furnished in Keeping—Fifteen Hundred People Visit the Buildings and Partake of the Hospitality of Their Hosts.



reception which in many ways outshone any ever given in the history of the city. The Walker firm opened their magnificent new office building on Thursday, September 20. The picture of the building and the progress which it marks is the function, and the visitors were loud in their praise of the structure and of everything connected with the ceremony.

In perfect accord with the occasion as the new offices are in harmony with artistic taste was the manner in which the visitors were received and entertained. The arms of hospitality were wide extended and a grand welcome given to the guests. The question of expense was the last to be considered, for evidently no effort had been spared to make the day a delightful memory to all who might be present. Another thing which was most pleasantly manifested was that the Walker firm had invited their humble friends and neighbors equally with those of prominence in business and social circles, and that the former received as much or more attention than the latter.

The reception was without doubt one of the most costly and elegant functions that has ever taken place in Canada. New York's millionaires vie with each other in lavishing money upon costly entertainments, but never was there a public reception arranged in more perfect style. Everything was beautiful and rich without even a suggestion of ostentation. The occasion was one notable in the history of a house which is one of the most powerful in the Dominion, and the guests were representative business men from the great commercial centers of the continent. Nothing was lacking, even to the smallest detail, and when in the evening the employees of the firm, with their families, were the guests of the occasion, they received the same cordial greeting and the same generous hospitality, as the more distinguished guests.

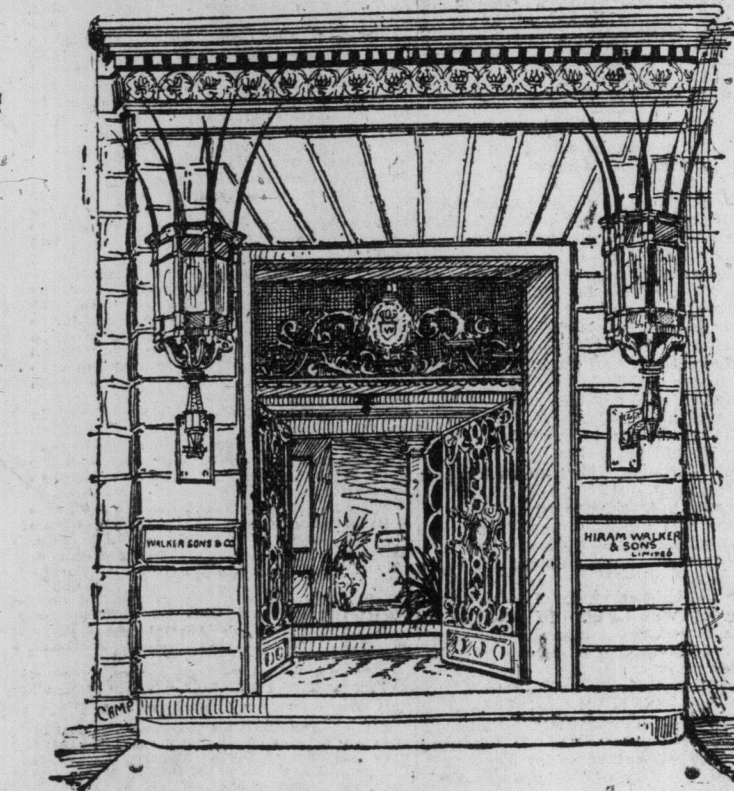
The clerk of the weather was kind and provided a beautiful day. The offices were decorated with flags and in every corner were huge banks of palms. Vases filled with hot-house flowers made fragrant the air.

Flags were gallantly flying from every tower of the thriving little town to celebrate the day. Open house was kept, and there was nothing too good for the guests and in every corner were huge banks of palms. Vases filled with hot-house flowers made fragrant the air.

Over four thousand invitations were issued to gentlemen in the United States and Canada, all acquaintances of the Walker firm or their chief employers. Bountiful of course a very large proportion of those invited could not possibly get away, but over one thousand dropped business cares and came from far and near. Special cars on the Grand Trunk train from Toronto, Hamilton and other points on the line, and about 200 dragoons assembled in convention at Detroit attended in a body. Carriages and cabs and the electric railway brought hundreds more from Windsor and the surrounding country.

The train bearing the Toronto contingent arrived shortly after 2 o'clock. It was met at the station by Mr. F. H. Walker and Mr. William Robins, the manager of the company, and the guests escorted to the music hall, which had been transformed into a banquet hall.

At the main entrance they were received by several of the officials of the company and escorted to the central lobby, where Messrs. J. H. B. and F. H. Walker welcomed them. So great was the crush that at times the line of visitors waiting to greet their hosts extended



tiful banquet room. Hung with flags and decorated with flowers it looked exceedingly refreshing to the weary ones who had just finished their long journey by rail. They were entertained at lunch, and after they had selected themselves with good things and drunk the health of their hosts the party adjourned for an inspection of the new offices and grounds. This completed they were taken for a sail upon the river in the Messrs. Walker's pretty steam yacht, the Pastime. Many of them went through the distillery and saw the huge storage warehouses, in which 50,000 barrels of whisky are piled up ready for the market or in process of maturing; also the bottling department, with its small army of men, girls and boys putting up the whisky for almost every civilized country on the globe. When they took the train for home they gave three hearty cheers for the hospitable hosts and were whirled away still praising the beauty of the offices and the good will of the owners.

The other guests were accorded the same treatment. Dozens of employees were told off to act as guides and plotted many parties of inspection through the manufacturing establishment. Both the Walker's steam yacht, the Lurline and Pastime, gallily decorated with flags, were plentifully supplied with the most delicious of the victuals and took many a party for a trip up the river.

In a mammoth tent, the sides formed of huge Union Jacks, a handsome luncheon was spread. Mr. J. H. Walker, the manager of the company, was in charge, and he brought with him in two special cars a small army of expert waiters and enough china to stock a

monio, there is no one on the continent with a greater reputation in his business. It was an occasion on which the best was not too good, cost what it might or wherever it had to be procured. Across the lawn strolled men well known in every walk of life. Roland Reed, who was filling a Detroit engagement, was among them, and when called before the curtain for a speech at the evening's performance referred in glowing terms to the magnificence of the reception and the beauty of the new structure. Many guests brought up at the dock and discharged parties of guests.

But it was when the mantle of night had fallen and the stars mirrored themselves in the placid river that the full beauty of the scene was brought out. On the American side sparkled the countless electric lights of the city. Along the river there was silence, broken by the hoarse whistle of some huge propeller, her red and green lights twinkling a salute as they passed. From the terrace the sweet music of the mandolin orchestra floated on the evening air like the echo of a Spanish serenade. The beautiful building in the background might well have served as a model for the palace of a poet's dream.

There were present from all over America agents of the company. They were not all there, for a great many of them are in Japan, China, South America, Mexico, Great Britain and all the European countries. In fact the fame of "Canadian Club" has reached every corner of the whole civilized world and in every part of its domain of enterprise has been planted. In countries where the name of Canada is almost unheard the "W" surmounted by a crown is a trade mark that is well known. The company has made its reputation and won its success by looking after the little things—the importance of carrying out every detail is fully appreciated by them. In the building of the palace-like construction

the family and the various officers, nevertheless it all centres more or less in the magnificent structure just opened, and which is one of the finest executive buildings on the continent.

It is rather low in elevation, in no part more than two stories high, of Florentine style, built of pressed brick, terra cotta and stone and occupying a magnificent site on the Detroit River at Walkerville. Over \$100,000 has already been spent in the building and furnishing of these offices.

Besides all the other enterprises in which the Walker firm are interested they practically own the town of Walkerville and all the houses in it, the population of which exceeds 1200. The town itself is a model one. The taxes are very low, there is only one shop and one hotel license. The churches and schools are all excellent, and the streets are well paved and lighted, and there is abundant and cheap water, and in the way of architecture and accommodation, all the houses are superior. There is an excellent electric car service between Walkerville and Windsor.

The new building forms without doubt the most magnificent suite of offices in Canada, if not on the continent. Standing on a gentle slope, with grassy lawns leading to the Detroit River, the new offices have a commanding situation. The two fronts—both the river and street facades are equally striking—simple and stately.

The building is more like a palace than a plain office building. From either front it presents an appearance at once striking and attractive. With the grounds decorated with flowers, it looks like an Italian villa. The Palazzo Pandolfini, which serves as its original model, is one of the best-known examples of the Florentine school of architecture. Graceful, simple and without a substantial appearance, the Florentine style has won much favor with architects in both the old world and the new. The pale pink of

the walls is especially appropriate to the general design. An inspection of the building was made by a world reporter in company with Mr. M. J. M. and Mr. B. R. the architect who designed and carried to completion the plans for the erection of the edifice. The front is on a high level, and the buildings cover a space 96 by 130 feet. From the outside there is a view of a one story building of a pinkish brown brick, with arches and trimmings of terra cotta and sandstone. The attic story is recessed about 15 feet from the front of the wall, and forms the second story. Around the outer wall runs a balustrade in plain, simple Florentine style. The architectural treatment of the doors and windows is copied from the Palazzo Pandolfini in Florence, one of Raffaele's works. The whole building is after the 16th century Italian Renaissance, and in many parts exact duplicates of famous pieces of architecture of this school have been introduced.

Around the top of the walls is a terra cotta ornamentation, the models for which were made especially by Julius Melchers of Detroit. By this means every bit of ornamental work is just as perfect as if modelled by the sculptor himself.

In the centre of the building, approached by a granite pavement, is the main entrance. Red sandstone steps lead to the huge bronze gates which are one of the decorative features of the exterior. Cast in the Renaissance style of grill work by the Empire Metal Working Company of New York, with the trade mark of a paucy of New York, the gates are a wreath above the centre, they are both handsome and massive. Two side doors, one at the extreme left leading to the general and private offices of Mr. Hiram Walker, and the other to the right leading to the shipping office of the distillery, break the even appearance of the front.

At each side of the main entrance is a small vestibule, the originals of which are in the Palazzo Strozzi at Florence. The vestibule, lined with faience, is a copy of one of the Florentine Palazzo Vecchio. The floor of ceramic mosaic is a copy of the same pattern as that of the Church of San Miniato in Florence. In fact, wherever possible the

designs of the building are in artistic keeping with those of old and recognized models. Leading to the inner vestibule are steps of polished Numidian marble, mounted by capitals in stucco of Renaissance style. The old ivory finish of the capitals harmonizes beautifully with the magnificent coloring of the marble columns. Handsome electroluxes branch out to shed light through the lobby. The floor is a mosaic of vitreous tile. Adjoining this lobby is another of similar description where the business is transacted to the shipping department is transacted. The different departments—sales, bookkeeping, stenographic and telegraphic—are divided by massive oak railings eight feet high. The openings above the counter are filled with antique brass grilles in regular bank style. Down the centre is a wide corridor leading to the private offices in the rear.

On the left or east side of the main entrance are the offices of the corporation controlled by the Walker firm other than the distillery. The fittings of these correspond with those of the distillery offices.

But it is on the arrangement of the private offices that the greatest care has been exercised. Every room is a complete example of the furnishing of the period which it represents. Mr. Hiram Walker's is in the style of Francis I.—heavily beamed ceiling—chairs and furnishings of antique unvarnished oak. On the back of each chair is carved the trade mark of the Walker firm. Huge fireplaces in violet breche marble from Egypt fitted with antique andirons and firepot fittingly completes this office.

E. C. Walker's private office is finished in old English oak. The fireplace of Nuremberg marble, surrounded by a frieze of hand-carved oak, is taken from a model in the Palace of the Doges at Venice.

J. Harrington Walker's private apartment much resembles that of his brother. There is the same dark oak in Renaissance method, with waxed floor and rugs of harmonious tints. The fireplace is marble mosaic with carved frieze has its original in the Ducal Palace at Urbino. In the centre of the building is the reception room, a marvel in dainty finish and furnishing. Bokhara and Turkestan rugs cover the waxed floor. The room is in the period of Francis I., the ceiling being copied from that of the Chateau Blois. A red mahogany mantel with richly carved pilasters reaching to the ceiling is taken from one in the Chateau Chantoux. An oil painting of Hiram Walker, a copy of Carl Meißner's portrait, surmounts the mantel. Much of the antique furniture is original, it having all been manufactured in Venice and secured from the Italian World's Fair exhibit.

Mr. Frank H. Walker's office, the next on the right, is finished in red mahogany throughout in Francis I. style. A fireplace of dark yellow Mexican onyx is an attractive feature.

At the northeast end is the office of the manager and secretary, Mr. William Robins. Gunwood of a dark red shade fashioned in Elizabethan style is used in the fittings and furniture. Mr. Robins' desk is littered with correspondence, and a photograph is used by him in dictating his replies. The fireplace is of green serpentine marble.

In a bay window between the apartments of Mr. F. H. Walker and Mr. Robins is a room which in the opinion of many is the particular gem of a brilliant collection. This is the sample room, a copy of an ancient Nuremberg beer hall. Around the sides are cupboards with quaint windows of leaded glass. Ancient looking German chairs, a ceiling of dark smoky wood and the hardware trimmings of wrought iron all are in true Nuremberg fashion. From the centre swings a German lamp in bronze. A genuine antique it is but in the antlers which form its base is concealed an incandescent lamp.

On the second floor is a kitchen, dining room, gymnasium, barber shop and toilet rooms, and the board room, where the directors of the Walker corporation meet, and on its massive oak table were displayed some of the many cups and costly prizes with which the firm has ever been so ready to encourage the cause of honest sport.

The lighting of the main offices in daytime is accomplished by a magnificent skylight. Handsome electroluxes light the lobbies and corridors and at every desk there is an incandescent lamp. The heating and ventilation is on the fan system, air cool or warm according to the season, being distributed throughout every room. The telephone system is the most complete, each private office being connected with the entire staff under the control of its occupant as well as with the central exchange.

The river view of the building shows its two stories high. From the flagpole surrounding the centre the flag of the firm is flung to the breeze. On a yellow flag with red and blue are the letters of blue and yellow with the Walker trademark.

The first work was done on the new building about two years ago. As completed to-day it represents an outlay of over \$100,000. Situated as it is, with all the commerce of the great lakes passing within 200 feet of its doors, it indeed is a worthy centre of such a system.

The whole of the woodwork with the exception of the chairs and the antique furniture of the reception room, was done by the Globe Furniture Company of Walkerville, and it could not have been better done anywhere.

FRANK H. WALKER'S PRIVATE OFFICE.

HIRAM WALKER'S PRIVATE OFFICE.

A CORNER IN THE RECEPTION ROOM.

HARRY WALKER'S PRIVATE OFFICE.

MANAGER ROBINS' PRIVATE OFFICE.

EDWARD WALKER'S PRIVATE OFFICE.

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