

# Vancouver's Unique Hotel

The Hotel Beautiful of The Canadian Pacific Railway at Vancouver

**P**IERCING the skyline as its sixteen stories soar upwards from the crest of the Granville street incline, the new Hotel Vancouver, the largest building in Canada, stands an architectural triumph of development on the Pacific Coast. The palatial building is an indication of what Vancouver has risen to be and what she is expected to be; proof conclusive, also, of the enterprise of the company operating the greatest transeontinental railroad on the American continent. The hotel is the central edifice dominating a fine group of lofty and substantial buildings—the Vancouver Block, the ornate Birks Building and the massive new store of the Hudson's Bay Company. It stands pre-eminent among the city's skyscrapers, now becoming quite numerous. During the past decade Vancouver has developed a metropolitan skyline which is the pride of residents, and which immediately thrusts itself upon the attention of the stranger arriving by sea, as the boats emerge from the Narrows and enter the spacious natural harbor of Burrard Inlet. Towering above all else is the huge hotel building, a monument of optimism; a trifle quaint, perhaps, in architectural design, it is beautiful indeed in its entirety. The design is unique, the object being to give all the rooms outside light. With seven hundred and fifty odd rooms, this was quite a task, but from the photo it will be seen that in this case the architect achieved his desire.

Certain features in connection with the building stand out with prominence. Throughout all, the aim has been to utilize in the building, as far as possible, material to be obtained in British Columbia, or, failing that, in the Dominion or other parts of the British Empire. The fine grade of pressed brick used on the exterior was manufactured at Clayburn, only a short distance from Vancouver. This brick, of which a huge quantity was needed, is declared by the architect to be equal in quality to the best Scotch

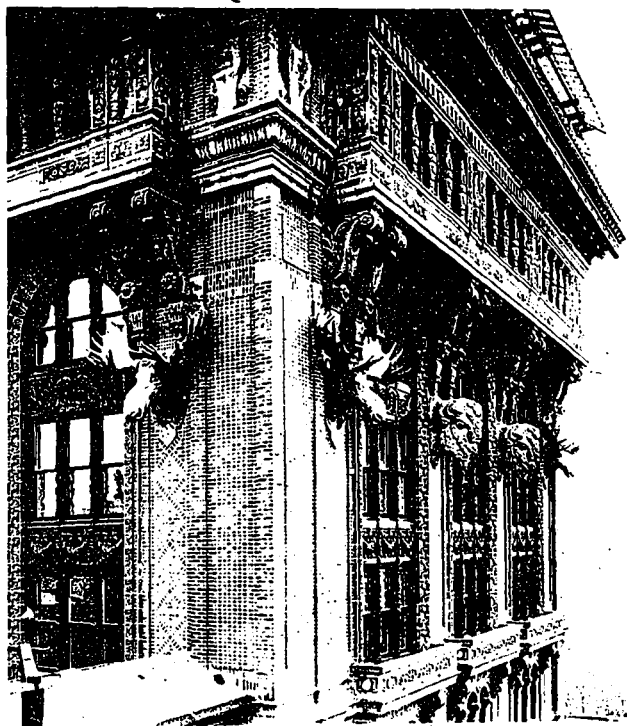
brick, acclaimed the world's standard; this statement is of considerable import in view of the fact that Mr. Francis S. Swales, the architect, has had prolific experience in building in the great centres of the world. British Columbia fir and cedar is used in the upper stories; the structural steel for the framework was supplied and assembled by a Vancouver firm. British Columbia granite was used in the construction of the basement story. Belgian, Italian and African marbles were used in parts of the interior, but were all worked in the city. All interior woodwork, oak and mahogany, in the lower stories, was executed by local firms; the kalameined bronze work and practically all of

the electric fixtures were also manufactured in Vancouver. In brief, it is a Made-in-Canada building throughout, and is striking evidence of what can be achieved in the Dominion. One of the best views of the hotel is that obtained from the Hudson Bay store, in Granville street, of the north-west corner. From this vantage point the great height and massiveness of the building are very apparent, while its varying skyline appears to advantage. Its size alone would render it impressive, but the architect has risen to his opportunities and has skillfully handled its large

masses in a way that appeals to the aesthetic taste of the observer. Jointly with Lord Shaughnessy, President of the C.P.R., and Mr. George M. Bosworth, the Vice-President in charge of the Hotel System, credit for the undertaking and completion of this great enterprise at the present time of financial stringency is due to Mr. Richard Marpole, the C.P.R. executive at Vancouver.

THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE HOTEL.

Approaching the hotel from Granville street, one sees first the adequate carriage entrance, with a nicely curved driveway. This entrance has been made a prominent feature, and the



ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL OF FRONT FACADE, HOTEL VANCOUVER.