

*The Dominion Bank building as an example of esthetic character and internal arrangement both in respect to allotment of space and kind of furnishings.*

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At the corner of King and Yonge streets, Toronto, three lofty edifices give expression to the marvelous advance made in twentieth century architecture. The Dominion Bank, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and the Royal Bank, all stand as living testimonials to the great commercialistic tendencies of the present age. To some they breathe the spirit of prophecy, foretelling the dire result which must come if we insist on letting the greed of gold continue its ruthless devastation of all the finer sensibilities of our true nature. To others they express the acme of all that can be summed up in the word success. More wonderful than the Pyramids of Egypt, more attractive than the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, more beautiful than the Parthenon at Athens—they seem to these people at least to combine the characteristics of all that counts in life. And while this small space contains three buildings of greater height within a limited area than any other city with the possible exception of New York; in spite of the prejudice which exists against the erection of skyscrapers in cities of unlimited area; and acknowledging the various arguments advanced as to congestion, sanitation, etc.; the consensus of opinion still holds favorable in regard to their esthetic character and structural attainment. In the Dominion Bank one other phase should be considered carefully, viz., the practical arrangement of the various floors—and the amount of study given to the equipment and furnishings. The vault, for instance, embodies features which are a guarantee in themselves of absolute protection; the lighting of the main banking room is as nearly perfect as the man of imagination might picture; the working desks and tables ingenious in every part and detail. In fact the whole structure throughout has been considered from one standpoint—the economic arrangement of space and labor. That the Dominion Bank building ranks among the finest institutions of its kind in America is unquestionable, and should be held in high esteem by the Canadian people. It is one more monument erected through the hearty co-operation of architects, engineers and contractors in an effort to reach a lofty degree of perfection. And by a proper appreciation of such work can we only hope to attain the highest state of excellence in the realm of architecture and give to our cities a stately, wholesome and dignified appearance along natural lines.

*The present conditions and what our attitude should be on the basis of natural resources and our future relations to foreign as well as home consumption.*

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The draftsman finds himself without a position; the architect is compelled to cut his force in half and sometimes close his office temporarily; the contractors in turn find a dearth of building projects and practically suspend operations or continue to manufacture their goods on the basis of future possibilities; the client fearing an oncoming depression, refuses to continue the projects already started. What is the result? Business stagnation and cruel suffering among our people. The question naturally arises, under the existing circumstances should such conditions prevail. In making an analysis we must not forget the natural resources and inherent wealth of Canada. We have to bear in mind continually that our country is self-supporting. All of which reduces itself to one important fact, viz., that in the direst extreme we could not only exist within our own boundaries, but could also work out an economic solution which would enable this country at least to eliminate the causes of so much wanton destruction to the progress of civilization. Let us ask again, are our policies right and are we taking the true perspective? In view of past progress, our present development and future possibilities, should not the Government carry out all schemes of internal improvement contracted for, and in addition plan even greater projects for the benefit of our unemployed? Should not the corporations and institutions continue the work on buildings started but not completed? Surely so and for several reasons. In the first place we are not a poverty stricken nation. Again, we are one of the few countries which will receive thousands of immigrants immediately after the conclusion of the present war. We must open up new territories and make ample preparation for their coming. Our industries will be called upon to help meet the deficiencies of other nations for foreign as well as home consumption. The present time should be utilized in enlarging our existing factories and building new ones. It is our one great opportunity—are we broad enough to grasp it? Building material can be secured at an average reduction of twenty per cent. over the cost six months ago, while labor is begging employment at greatly reduced prices. It behooves us to arouse ourselves and get ready for the largest business boom ever experienced in the history of the world's progress; a boom which will make of Canada one of the great commercialistic centres.