

**The
Canadian
Bank of
Commerce
LONDON**



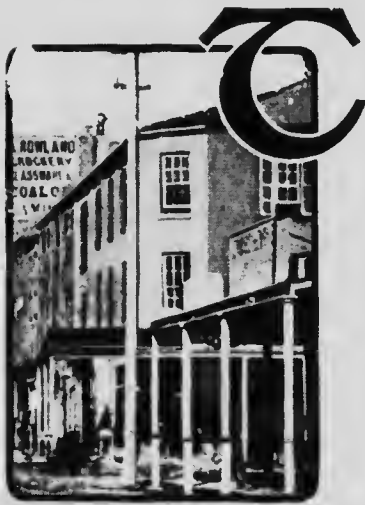
AN INVITATION IS EXTENDED
TO ALL INTERESTED TO CALL AND INSPECT
THE NEW PREMISES OF THE
LONDON BRANCH!

OF

THE CANADIAN BANK
OF COMMERCE

AT THE CORNER OF DUNDAS AND
RICHMOND STREETS

HISTORICAL SKETCH



A. D. 1864

THE minutes of the proceedings of the fourth meeting of the first Board of Directors of The Canadian Bank of Commerce contain the following entry :

“ It was resolved, after consideration, that offices be opened without delay at London, St. Catharines

and Barrie, and that Mr. H. S. Strathy be manager at London.

At this meeting of the Board were present :
—Hon. William McMaster, President of the Bank, Messrs. H. S. Howland, John Taylor, James Austin, T. Sutherland Stayner and William Alexander, and the Cashier, Mr.

Archibald Greer. It was held on Tuesday, 14th of May, 1867, just a day before the Bank was first opened for business. The London branch is therefore one of the first branches opened by The Canadian Bank of Commerce, and it has carried on business without interruption for thirty-nine years.

Mr. Strathy remained at London as manager until November, 1869, when he was removed to the head office as cashier, this being at the time the title of the chief executive officer of the Bank. He is now, as is well known, general manager of the Traders Bank of Canada. His successor at London was Mr. W. Simpson, who held office until February, 1872, when he was made manager at Montreal. Mr. E. W. Syer followed Mr. Simpson as manager at London and remained at the branch until early in 1875, when he received the appointment of agent at Chicago. Before this took effect, however, he resigned from the Bank's service. On 3rd February, 1875, Mr. R. W. Smylie, then manager at Peterboro', was ap-



RICHMOND STREET. LOOKING NORTH

pointed to succeed Mr. Syer. He resigned on 1st May, 1878, and was succeeded by Mr. B. E. Walker, the present general manager of the Bank. Mr. Walker came to London from Windsor, of which branch he had been manager for some years, and remained there until June, 1879, when he was appointed inspector. He was followed by Mr. D. Just, formerly manager at Walkerton. Mr. Just retired from the Bank in July, 1884, owing to ill-health, and Mr. H. A. Nicholson, the assistant inspector, who had for some time been acting manager of the branch

received the appointment. He also resigned in October, 1891, when Mr. D. B. Dewar, manager at Berlin, took his place. Mr. Dewar remained in London until October, 1900, when he assumed the management of the Hamilton branch, which position he still holds. His successor in London was Mr. G. de C. O'Grady, manager at Woodstock, who resigned at the close of 1903 to accept the general management of the Crown Bank of Canada. Mr. Jeffrey Hale, manager at Brantford, was appointed to succeed Mr. O'Grady on 14th January, 1904, and is still in charge.

The building in which the branch was first opened still stands on the north-west corner of Dundas and Richmond Streets, across Richmond Street from the new office. It has not changed much in appearance since the time of its occupation by the Bank, as may be seen by the view of Richmond Street, looking north, given on page 7, which shows the first Canadian Bank of Commerce office on the left. On the right hand side of the same picture is shown

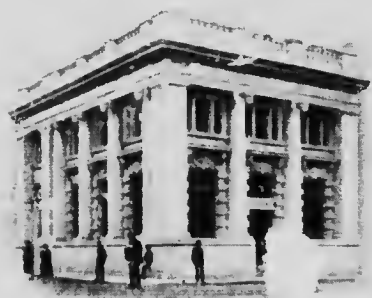
the building then occupied by the Federal Bank of Canada, which has just been pulled down to make room for the new office of The Canadian Bank of Commerce. This building was erected in 1872 by the Federal Bank of Canada, and at the time of its liquidation and retirement from business was purchased by The Canadian Bank of Commerce, which occupied it until last April, when temporary premises were secured during the erection of the new office.



OLD OFFICE OF THE BANK

The view at the commencement of this sketch is a reproduction of an old print of Richmond Street, showing the north-east corner of Dundas Street, as it appeared in 1864 prior to the erection of the Federal Bank building. The site was at that time occupied by Rowland's grocery store. The verandah projecting over the sidewalk on the south-east corner somewhat obscures the view of Dundas Street.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BUILDING



THE new building, the ground floor of which is occupied by The Canadian Bank of Commerce, is two storeys in height and is constructed of Roman stone. The architectural design is free classic, a

style which has been adopted for a number of handsome buildings recently erected for the use of the Bank. The main entrance is on Dundas Street, and is flanked by two massive columns. It is but slightly raised above the level of the sidewalk, thus affording easy access to the banking room from the street.

The massive front doors of quartered oak open into a spacious marble-lined vestibule. Passing through the plate glass door at the inner end of this vestibule a view of the whole of the main banking room is obtained. The absence of the customary grille work characteristic of a banking room will at once be noticed, together with the pleasing effect of the colour combination produced by the rich red mahogany of the counter against the soft green tints of the walls. The space reserved for the use of the public occupies the centre of the room and is surrounded on three sides by the counter. It is floored in light-colored marbles bordered with mosaic, and in the centre stands a mahogany cheque desk with brass mountings. The counter is of the ordinary height and is finished at the top by a low curved screen of chipped glass, surmounted by decorative electroliers. This screen answers every useful purpose of the usual railing, and at the same time permits the uninterrupted view which has been made a feature of the room. The desks and other office furniture are finished in mahogany

in keeping with the counter and woodwork of the banking room, and the tellers' cages are of antique copper with brass mountings. Ample light for the clerical staff is obtained from two large windows on Richmond Street and from ceiling lights of chipped glass on the east or inner side of the building. The walls are finished below in burlap painted a dark green, and above in sand stucco done in a lighter shade of green, which blends well with the old ivory finish of the



BANKING ROOM

handsome ceiling. The ceiling is heavily beamed and coffered, the strength of these features being modified by ornate mouldings.

On the right hand side of the entrance is the writing room for women. This room is



WOMEN'S WRITING ROOM

separated from the main banking room by a low mahogany railing, and is provided with every facility for the use of those women who prefer to transact their banking business in its retirement. The floor is covered with a rug and

the room is furnished with writing desks and every possible convenience.

The manager's room occupies the corner of the building immediately on Dundas and Richmond Streets. The woodwork is of mahogany, and the walls are finished similarly to those of the main office. A handsome mahogany mantel and fireplace occupy one corner of the room which is suitably furnished in the same wood.



MAIN DOORWAY AND MANAGER'S ROOM

The upper storey of the building is laid out in offices, access to which from the street is gained by a door on Richmond Street at the north end of the building. The stairway leading to the offices is of quartered oak, and the walls are handsomely decorated. The offices themselves consist of five spacious rooms, well lighted and airy, and provided with ample fireproof vault accommodation. They are finished in quartered oak and suitably decorated.