

# Dominion Houses of Parliament

Ottawa, Canada.



A Dominion Series View Book.



Canadian Houses of Parliament, Ottawa,

# Dominion Parliament Buildings Ottawa, Canada

Very few people are aware of the incidents leading up to the final selection of Ottawa as the permanent capital of the Dominion. Ottawa had a long and desperate fight for recognition and victory only came at the end of several years bitter controversy, during which many political revolutions occurred. Toronto, Quebec, Hamilton, Montreal and Kingston worked strenuously alongside with Ottawa to be selected as the premier city of the Dominion. The choice of selection was left in the hands of Queen Victoria, who chose Ottawa to be the capital of Canada because, as the official letter said: "the city of Ottawa combines more advantages than any other place in Canada for the permanent seat of the future Government of Canada."

The corner-stone of the old buildings was laid by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, in 1860, and in 1867 the initial session of Parliament was held in the new buildings, the Government of the day having Sir John A. MacDonald as the first Premier of the Dominion of Canada.

These beautiful gothic buildings were destroyed by fire on February 3rd, 1916. The buildings were rich in historic memories, bound up with much patriotic sentiment and were saturated with all the traditions usually associated with very dear national possessions.

The work of reconstruction of the Houses of Parliament began soon after the fire, and to Mr Pearson, an architect of Toronto, the great task was allotted of bringing to the new buildings the semblance of the old buildings, but embodying all the best features of modern architecture and construction while at the same time adding an additional story to the building. The corner-stone was laid on September 1st, 1916, by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and on the 2nd of July, 1917, His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire dedicated the central column of the main inner hall while the corner-stone of the Tower was laid by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on September 1st, 1919. The materials used in the building and the workmanship which has gone to its erec-

tion have been drawn not completely, but in great measure from Canadian sources, about 90% of the building and furnishings are Canadian.

The entire exterior is faced with Nepean sandstone, a material quarried near Ottawa. The entire weight of heavy masonry employed rests on solid rock, so that the steel structure which has been used has only been the framework. The greater portion of the very beautiful interior stone-work is of Tyndal limestone from the Winnipeg district—a material which has lent itself admirably to the purposes of the architect.

The Victory Memorial Tower, two hundred and ninety-five feet high, is an imposing feature of the new Houses of Parliament at Ottawa. In it is a carillon of fifty-three bells. The clock is sixteen feet in diameter. The walls of the Memorial Chamber, directly above the entrance arch, are lined with Chateau Galliard marble, a gift from France. The floor is paved with stone from Belgium and France. The Altar of Sacrifice, a block of English marble will stand in the centre of the chamber, and on it will repose the Book of Remembrance. This book will contain the names of more than sixty thousand Canadian citizens who died in the Great War.

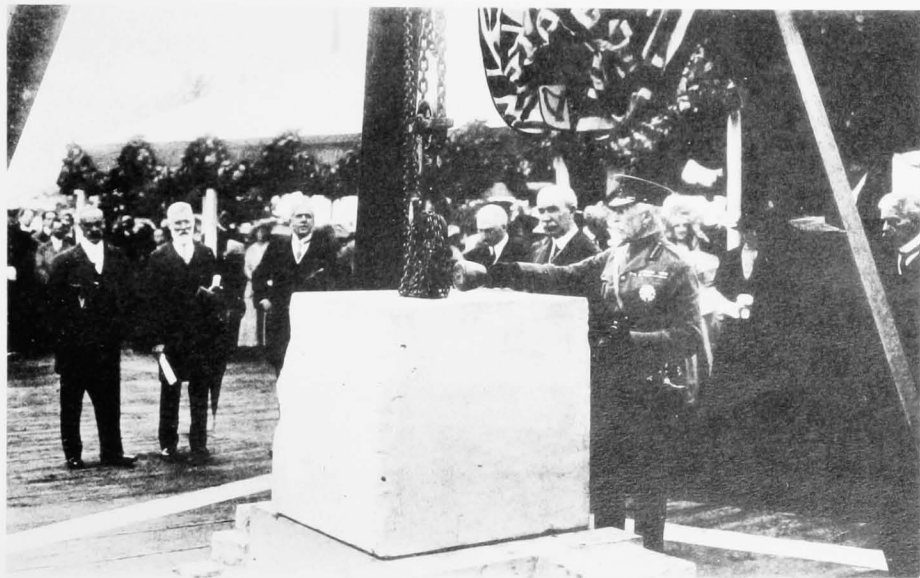
The Belgian marble bases, in the four corners of the Chamber, were set in place at different times with simple ceremonies by Field Marshal Earl Haig, late Commander of all British Forces in France and Belgium; by Baron Byng of Vimy, Governor-General of Canada, and at one time in command of the Canadian Army in France; by the Right Honorable W. L. Mackenzie King, and by the Right Honorable Arthur Meighen.

Inside the Commons Chamber is a magnificent example of the wood-carver's art as seen in the Speaker's Chair, which is a replica of the one in use in the British House. It overlooks the chamber and seems symbolic of the dignity of democratic Government. The Royal Arms, which surmounts the canopy, are carved from the old oaken beams from the roof of Westminster Hall. This chair is thirteen feet six inches high and is the gift to Canada of the United Kingdom Branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association.

The Maces presented to the Canadian House of Commons are copied from the famous old Maces of the Ancient Town of Rye. The mace is the symbol of power and, when laid on the table of the House, the Commons are then in session.



Fathers of Confederation.



The Duke of Connaught, relaying the Corner Stone of the destroyed Houses of Parliament, September 1st, 1916  
which was originally laid by King Edward VII his brother, September 1st, 1860.



Old Houses of Parliament destroyed by fire February 3rd, 1916.



The Burning of the Houses of Parliament February 3rd, 1916.

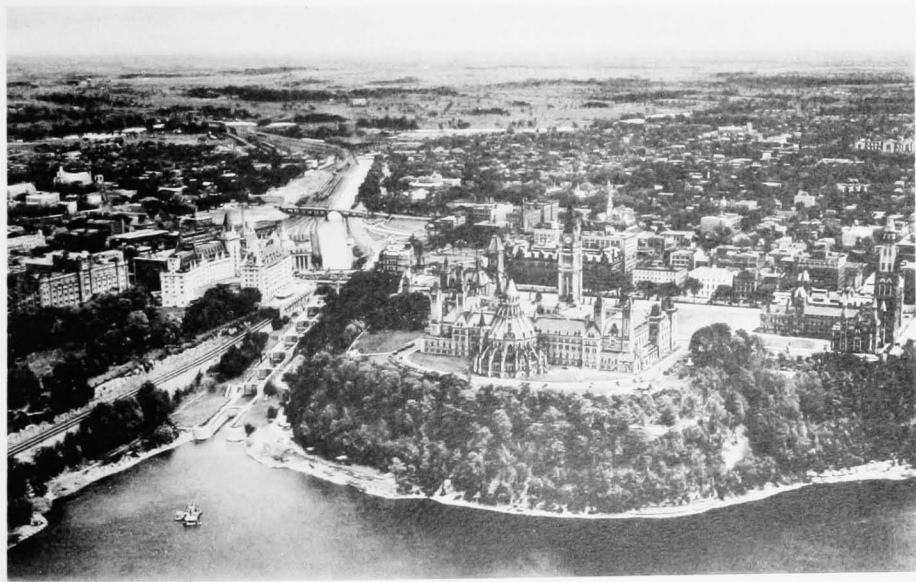




Aerial view of Ottawa, showing Parliament Buildings



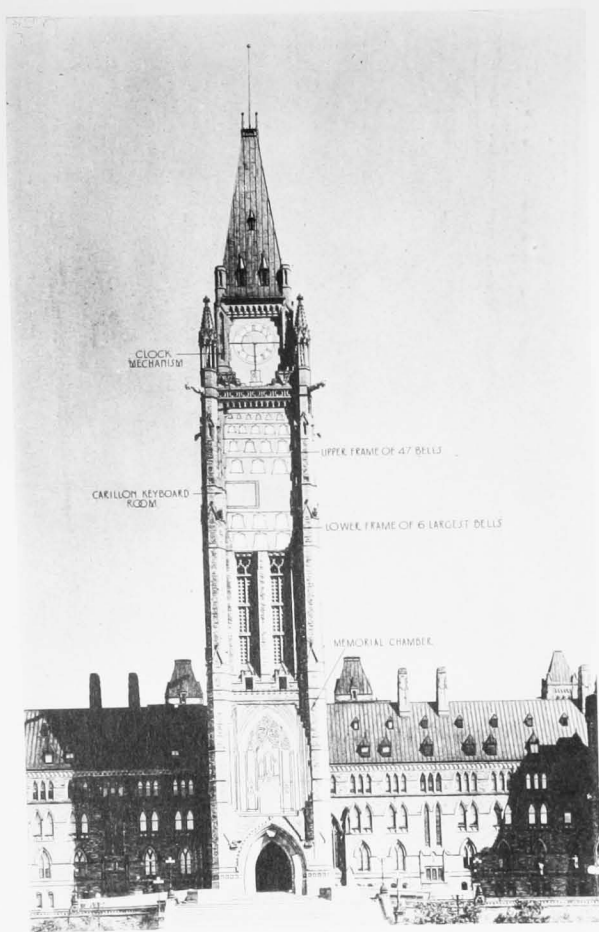
East Entrance Parliament Buildings.



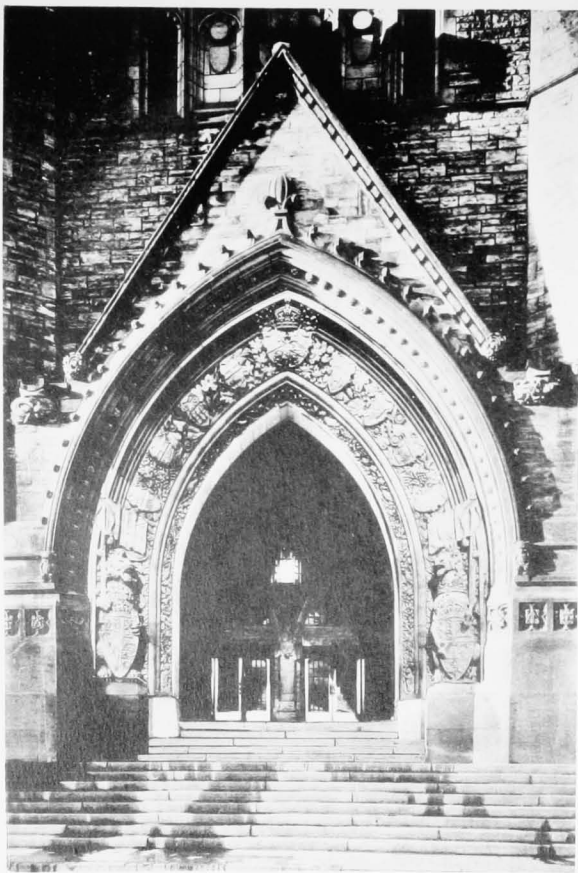
Aeroplane View looking from Hull, P.Q. and the Ottawa River.



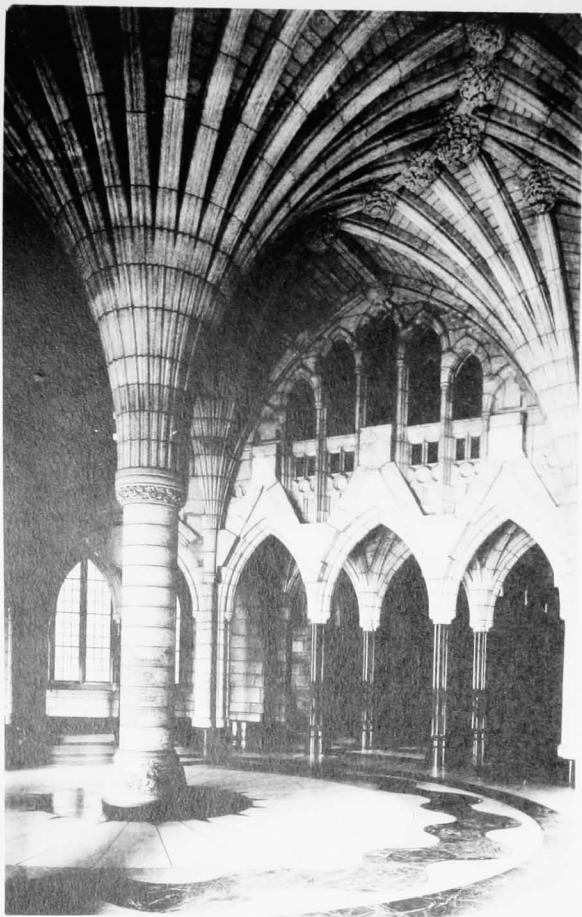
Canadian Houses of Parliament from Major Hill Park.



Peace Tower showing position of Bells and Memorial Chamber.



Main Entrance under Peace Tower. On either side is a lion and unicorn chiselled in stone. On the keystone of the Arch is a crown with a background of maple leaves with the Shields of the Provinces. Surrounding is an ornamental band on which are designed leaves of Canadian trees together with the Rose, Thistle, Lily and Shamrock.

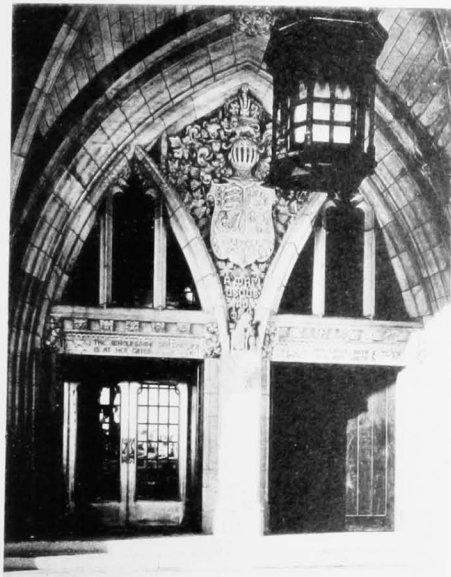


Confederation Hall.

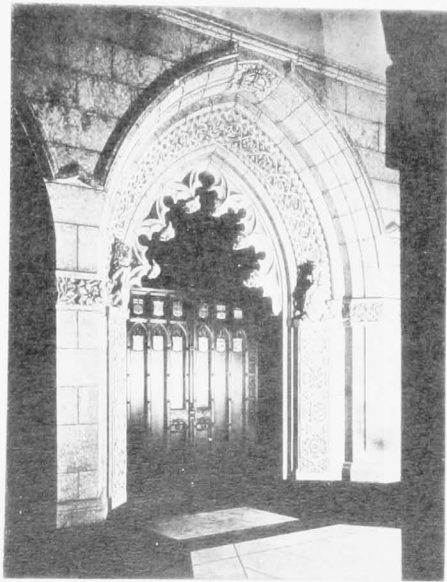


Hall of Fame.

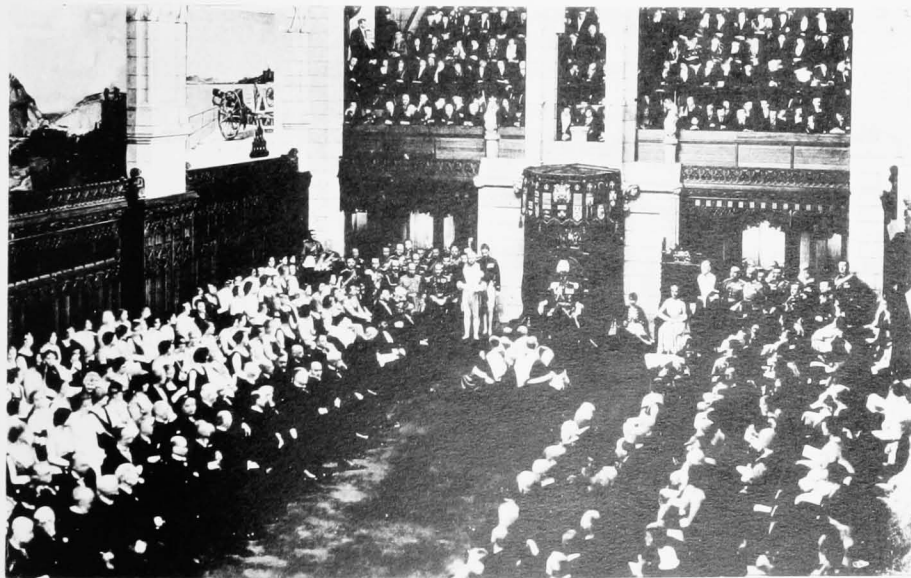




Main Entrance to the Houses of Parliament. Above is Canada's Coat of Arms with a panel below immortalizing the Beaver.

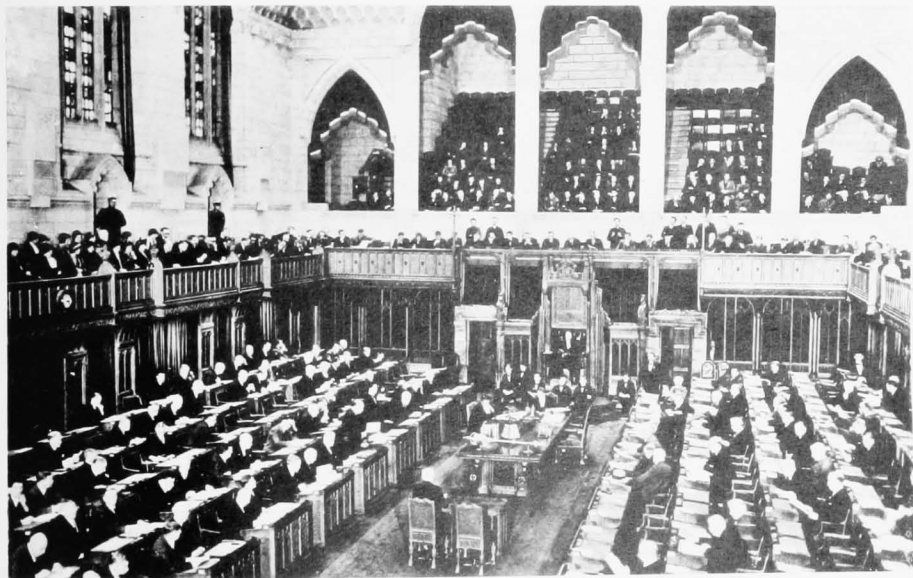


Entrance Gate to Senate.



Canadian Gov't. Photo

Opening Ceremony of Parliament, in the Senate Chamber.



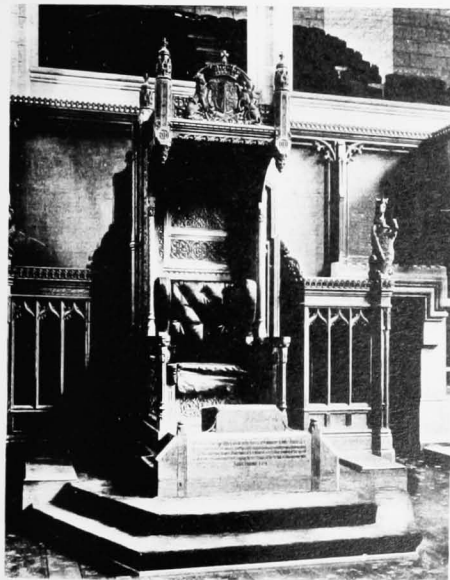
Canadian Gov't. Photo.

Commons Chamber during Session.

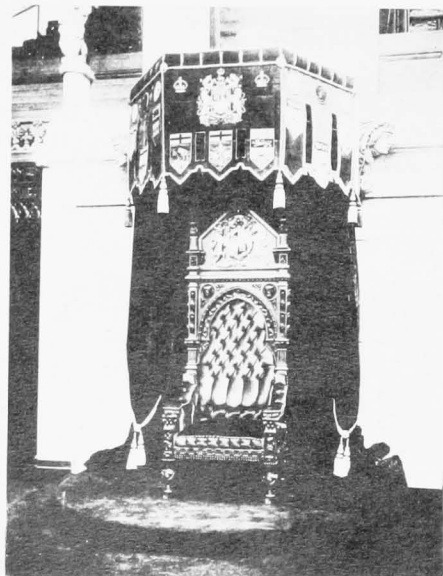


Canadian Gov't. Photo

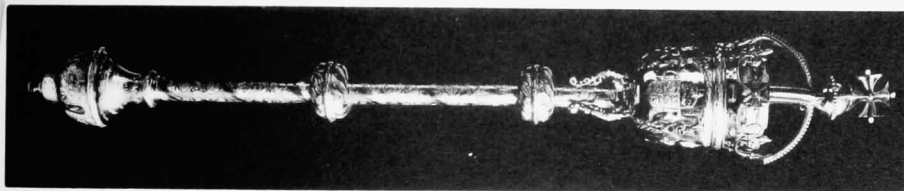
Speakers Procession. - House of commons Ottawa.



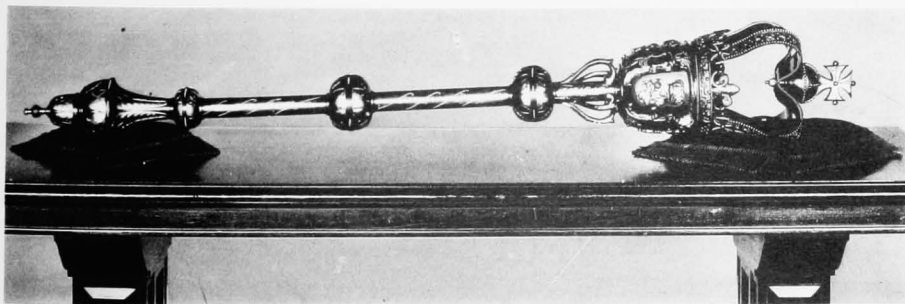
Speaker's Chair in Commons Chamber.



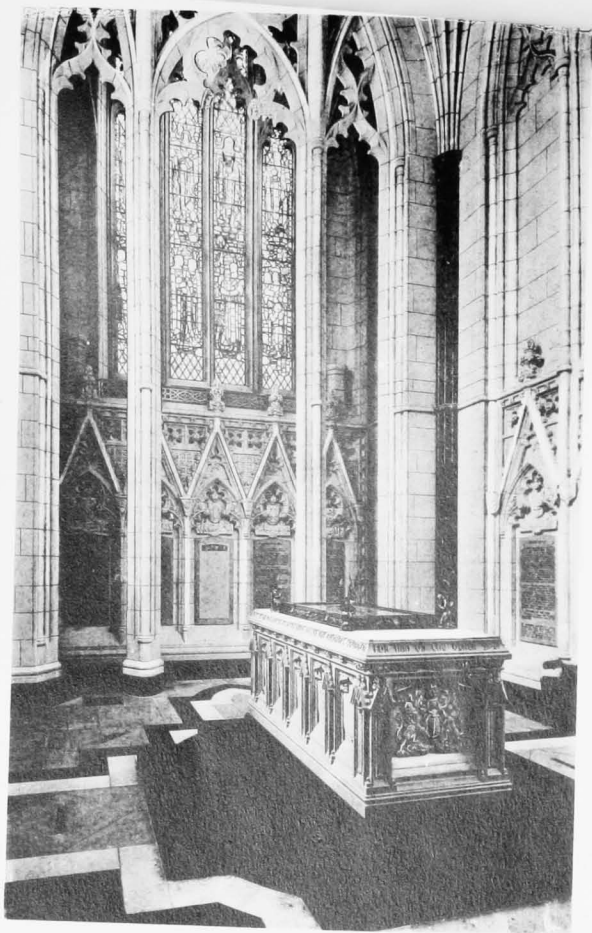
Senate Throne.



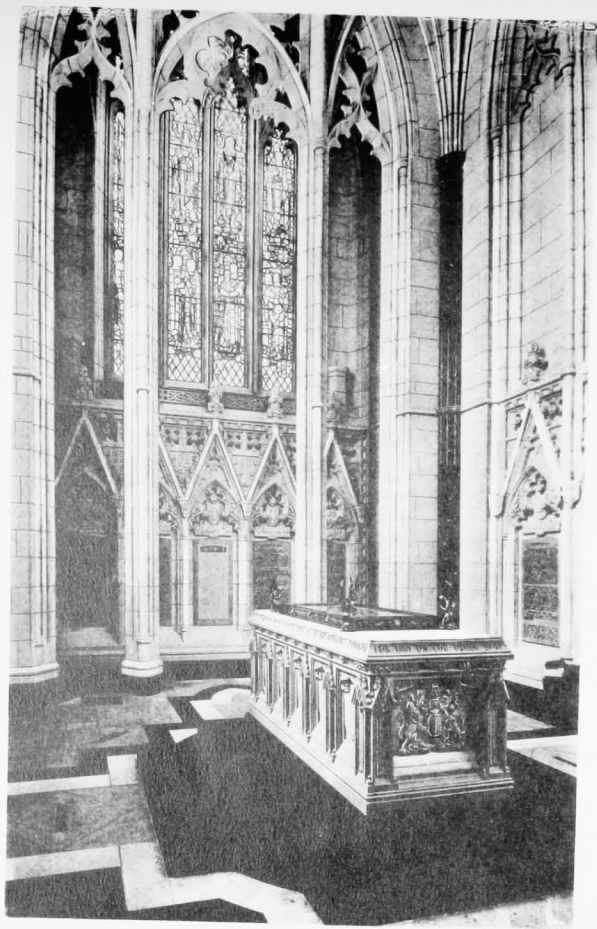
The Mace of the Commons Chamber.



The Mace of the Senate Chamber.

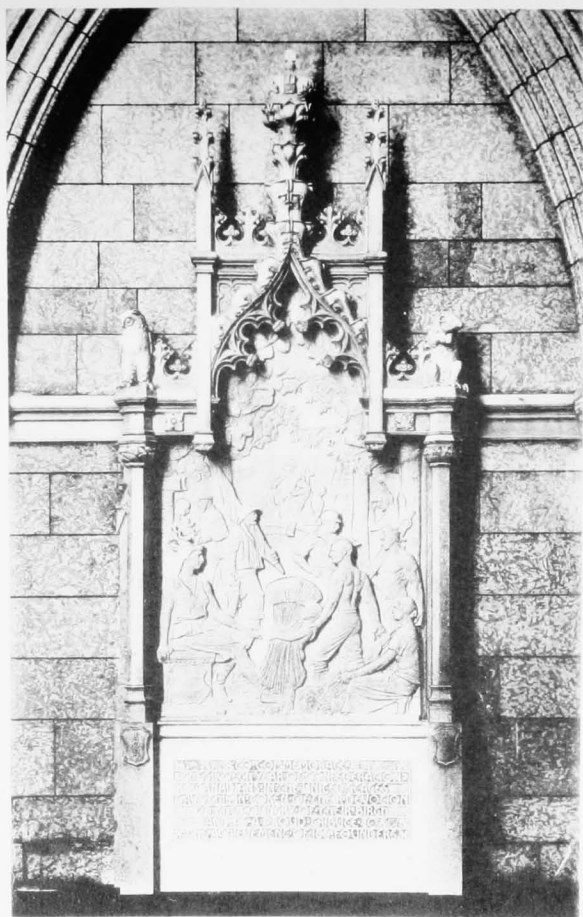


The Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower.

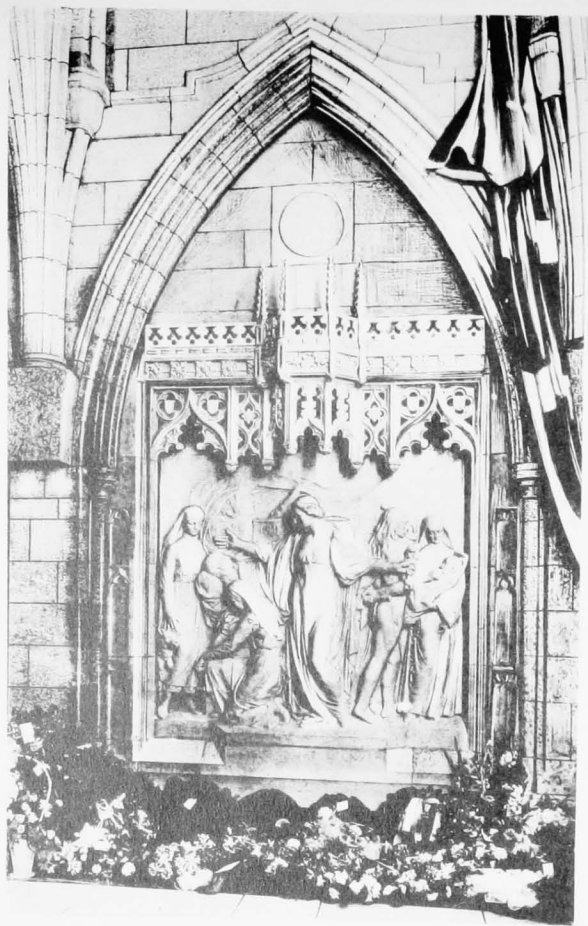


The Memorial Chamber in the Peace Tower.





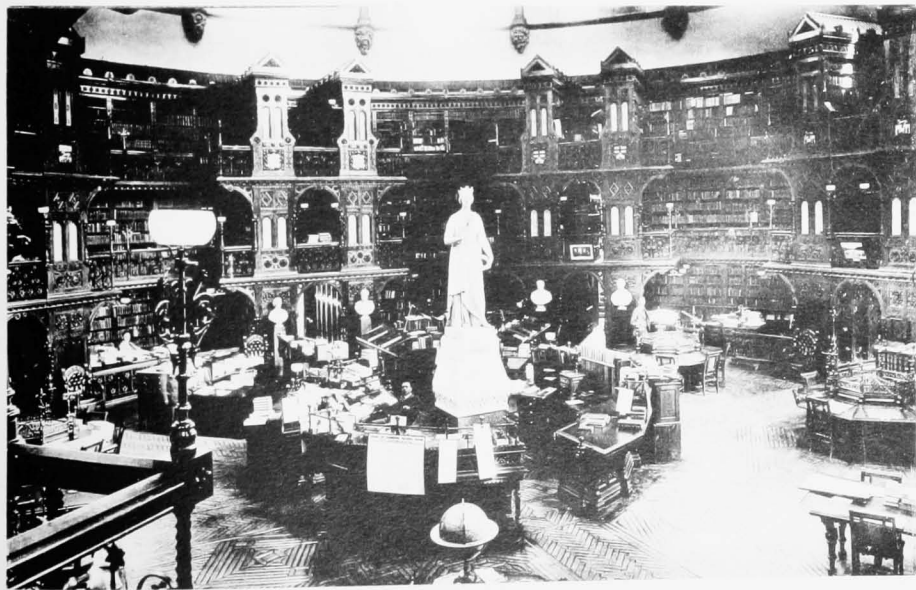
The "Dominion Memorial", presented by Canadians residing in the United States to commemorate 60 years of Confederation. Canadian Gov't. Photo.



Nurse's War Memorial.



Library Exterior.



Interior of Parliament Library.



West Block, Parliament Buildings.

DESIGNED AND PUBLISHED  
BY  
**PHOTOGELATINE ENGRAVING COMPANY, LIMITED**  
OTTAWA CANADA

