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New Home For Huge Bank Merger

Illinois Merchants Structure, Monarch of Chicago Buildings, Is Monument Commemorating Work of Great Pioneers in Building of Chicago—Billion Dollar Union of Illinois Trust, Merchants Loan and Corn Exchange Bank Forces to Open New Era of City Greatness—Romance of Business Told in Story of Service-Built Giants of Finance.

CHICAGO'S most impressive building! Rising 260 feet above the flagstones, ranking first among Chicago office buildings and second in the world, the new home of the Illinois Merchants Bank interests is challenging national attention in building and banking circles. Its twenty-one stories will bulk in massiveness and dignity, dominant over the heart of financial Chicago.

Three great financial institutions—each of remarkable history and each holding unique place in a long record of service to Chicago's people—have been united that Chicago may have this new building. They are the Illinois Trust & Savings Bank, The Merchants Loan & Trust Company, and The Corn Exchange National Bank. The two first named will consolidate physically and operate as the Illinois Merchants Trust Company. The Corn Exchange National will have a common interest with the merged state banks, but continue business under its national name and charter.

Nearly a billion dollars will be represented in the merged interests having ownership of the new \$10,000,000 building. They will cater to the biggest family of bank depositors in the west. Their union of forces gives capital, surplus and undivided profits of \$50,000,000, savings and commercial de-

BY JOHN E. McELDOWNEY,
Editor Real Estate News.
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posits over \$325,000,000 and trust funds exceeding \$500,000,000. More than 200,000 savings accounts and over 20,000 commer-

cial accounts are served. A directorate of thirty-six leading men of Chicago will govern the consolidated banks.

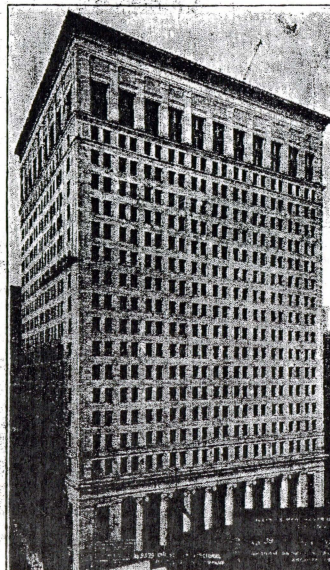
Proud History of United Banks.

The banks thus united have a proud history of constructive effort in the upbuilding of Chicago and of western financial integrity. The really great men of Chicago and of Illinois helped to found and guide them in past generations. These men worked into the spirit and policy of the banks in the early days a purpose of community helpfulness which has survived and grown stronger with time. Interpretation and expression of this purpose and of its results has been the task of the architects of the great skyscraper. This has been done admirably, yet with a simplicity of treatment which serves to heighten the effect.

Viewed against the background of city history, this great building takes on unusual interest for the entire community. As the culminating step of three generations of progress it takes on the character of a monument to commercial and civic achievement. It seems in itself to be an epitome of the greatness of Chicago and the west.

Building Destined for Distinction.

Even the briefest scanning of the history of the banking powers thus given a fitting

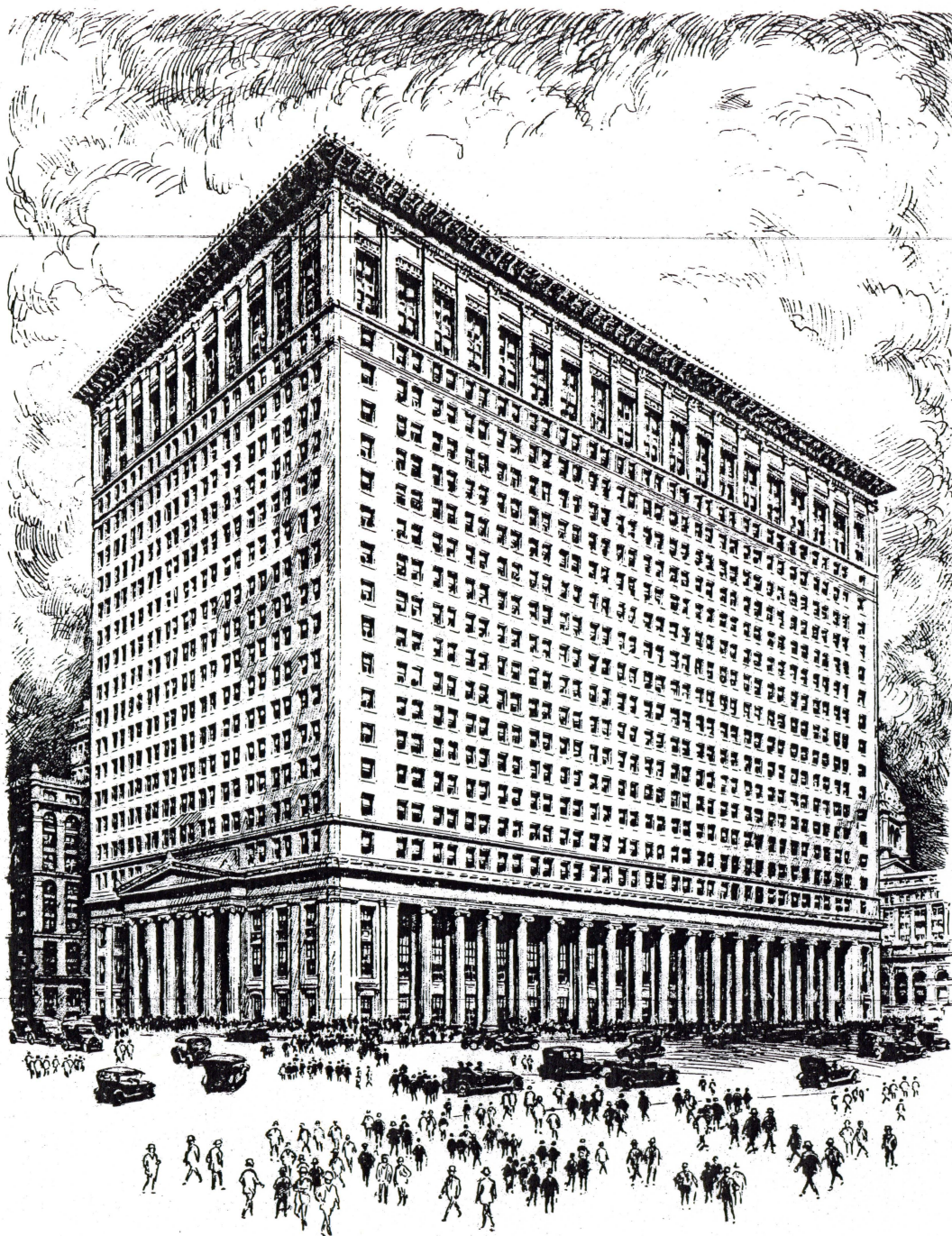


First Unit Nears Completion.

Illinois Merchants Bank Building

Pending completion of
building all inquiries and
applications for space
should be made to

J. Alexander Waller, Manager
134 South La Salle Street
Telephone Main 5111



The Illinois Merchants Bank Building as it will look when completed. The view is from the Board of Trade Building at the head of La Salle street, looking northeast. The sketch shows a section and part of the dome of the Federal Building at the right and a corner of the Rookery Building at the

left. Stanley Field, who headed the committee that built the Field Museum, is chairman of the committee of bank directors in charge of this project, the other members being Chauncey Keep, James P. Soper, Martin A. Ryerson and Charles L. Hutchinson.

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The Illinois Merchants' Bank Building

place for growth and service makes clear the fact that this huge structure must attain permanent distinction in Chicago. Not because of its size or beauty alone will this be so. It will be more because the story of the men who made Chicago great is voiced by it; because the hopes and successes of the millions their work has served are reflected by it; because in it is concentrated a marvelous past as a promise and token of a wonderful future for Chicago.

This huge building will cover a site 174 by 325 feet, of a total area of 59,000 square feet. It will loom above Jackson boulevard along the entire block between Clark and La Salle streets, with imposing entrances from each of those thoroughfares. The his-

effect upon simplicity, dignity and massiveness rather than striking use of ornamental detail.

In fixing upon the character of architectural treatment the designers followed the traditions established with the building of the United States Treasury Department at Washington. In fact, the long colonnaded front of the treasury supplies the inspiration for one of the main features. This is the long colonnade of Ionic character stretching unbroken from La Salle to Clark street. The treasury building motif is again suggested at the La Salle street frontage, where a central portico of free standing columns projects from the face of the building, making a pediment above.



Finishing Exterior Work on Huge Bank Structure.
(Courtesy American Contractor.)

toric site of the Grand Pacific Hotel already bears one unit comprising half of the structure. This will be ready for spring occupancy. Then the adjoining half, bearing the Illinois Trust building, will be cleared and the second half of the new building will be erected.

Structure Features Mass and Dignity.

The building is to be of Indiana limestone exterior, as is the new Federal Reserve Bank which faces it across La Salle street. Use of this very white material gives added effects of height and impressiveness. In structural design the new bank is severely plain, the aim being to depend for

Magnificent Cornice a New Idea.

The crowning feature of the new structure, and something entirely new in Chicago, is the main cornice constructed of heavy cast burnished copper. This is to be decorated discreetly under the shadows with gilt and color to bring out and express the regular repetition of brackets which carry the overhanging members. This beautiful cornice will surmount and bring to notice the handsome pilaster treatment accorded the three top stories. This pilaster embellishment is in very low relief as emphasizing simplicity, and harmonizes well with the Ionic colonnade of the lower stories.

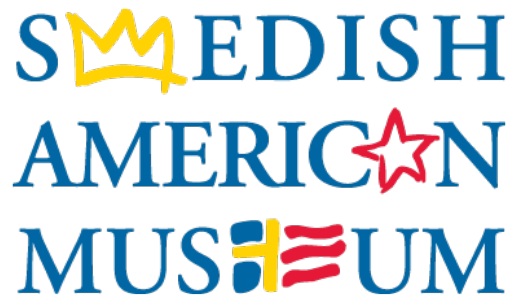
Men to Direct Bank Destiny.

The united financial institutions have as their president Edmund D. Hulbert, with John J. Mitchell as chairman of the board of each of them. Messrs. Hulbert and Mitchell serve as directors of each bank. The other directors are:

Henry A. Blair, President, Chicago Surface Lines.
Watson F. Blair.
Chauncey B. Borland, Manager Borland Properties.
Clarence A. Burley, Attorney and Capitalist.
Edward B. Butler, Chairman, Board of Directors, Butler Bros.
Robert W. Campbell, Knapp & Campbell.
Benjamin Carpenter, President, Geo. B. Carpenter & Co.
Clyde M. Carr, President, Joseph T. Ryerson & Son.
Henry P. Crowell, President, Quaker Oats Co.
Marshall Field, Marshall Field, Gore, Ward & Co.
Stanley Field, President, Field Museum of Natural History.
Ernest A. Hamill, Chairman, Board of Directors, The Corn Exchange National Bank.
Frederick T. Haskell, Vice-President, Illinois Trust & Savings Bank.
Hale Holden, President, C. B. & Q. R. R. Co.
Marvin Hughitt, Chairman, C. & N. W. Ry. Co.
Charles H. Hulburd, President, Elgin National Watch Co.
Chas. L. Hutchinson, Vice-President.
Chauncey Keep, Trustee, Marshall Field Estate.
Cyrus H. McCormick, Chairman, International Harvester Company.
Charles H. Markham, President, Illinois Central Railroad Company.
John S. Runnells, Chairman, Pullman Company.
Edward L. Ryerson, Chairman, Joseph T. Ryerson & Son.
Martin A. Ryerson.
Charles H. Schweppe, Resident Partner, Lee, Higginson & Co.
J. Harry Selz, President, Selz, Schwab & Co.
John G. Shedd, President, Marshall Field & Company.
Orson Smith, Chairman of Advisory Committee.
James P. Soper, President, Soper Lumber Company.
Albert A. Sprague, Chairman, Warner & Co.
Frank D. Stout, President, Missouri Southern Railroad Company.
Edward F. Swift, Vice-President, Swift & Company.
Robert J. Thorne.
Charles H. Wacker, President, Chicago Heights Land Association.

The three banks which have created this impressive financial combination will occupy all the space from the sub-basement to the fourth floor. The savings, farm loan, bond, trust and foreign business will be done by the Illinois Merchants Trust Company, as the merged state banks are now known. Both the Illinois Merchants and Corn Exchange National will do commercial business. They will occupy the second, or bank floor proper, jointly. The full length, from La Salle to Clark street, on Jackson boulevard side will be used by the commercial department of the Illinois Merchants Trust Co. The Corn Exchange National Bank will occupy the north half of the floor overlooking Quincy street. Executive offices will occupy part of the space here also. The mezzanine floor at the two ends of the building will contain offices for executives, including those of Messrs. E. D. Hulbert, John J. Mitchell, E. A. Hamill and Orson Smith, and the credit department.

The first floor will house the savings, farm loan, bond and foreign divisions. The trust department will occupy the third floor. On the fourth floor half of the space is to be used by the legal department and various working sections of the bank.



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