To The Provincial Government of British Columbia.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Gentlemen,

In making our Report and Award in this Competition, we are conscious of the great responsibility devolving upon us.

The opportunity is unique, and is well referred to in the Instructions as "a great one". If we look back to Great Britain as an example it is quite impossible to guage the influence for good upon busy centres which the recent establishment of Universities has had. So much the more is it of importance that the buildings, to be erected upon such a site as is available, and likely to form such a precedent, should be in all respects of the highest order of design, planned and fitted in every detail to meet the needs and to be worthy of their destiny.

The buildings will remain as a standard of the taste of today in British Columbia for all time. They are likely to be commented upon or criticized the world over, and we feel it has been imposed upon us to spare no pains in reaching our conclusions and to permit no considerations of any kind to influence us other than those of the merits of the designs submitted.

The site may justly be described as ideal. It is so in its commanding situation upon the bay, in its natural beauty and contours, which permit the most to be made architecturally of its great possibilities. It is so in its comparative seclusion, so suitable to a home of learning, and at the same time in its accessibility to the City.

The prizes offered are almost on a scale of lavishness, and the competition ought to have attracted all the best talent of the country. It was therefore a matter of disappointment

as well as of some surprise that only nineteen sets of designs were submitted, and of these, one could not be considered as a serious effort. Five others were merely tentative, and of these one was out of order as being signed by the competitor's name.

We were therefore reduced to the consideration of thirteen schemes and one of these we had to reject as having marks of identification upon it, which are disallowed by the instructions. It was therefore disqualified, even if otherwise satisfactory, which was far from being the case.

Twelve sets were left from which to make our selection. In other words one third of the whole number submitted could claim prizes.

We are not able to point very clearly to the reasons why the response has not fulfilled our expectations. It may possibly rest with the fact that design of this kind is of a very technical character, and in the instructions, great latitude was left to the individual architect.

The procedure adopted in dealing with the plans and documents submitted was as follows.

The parcels were opened in the presence of two of the Assessors, and to each document disclosed was immediately attached a number and the same number to the wrappings of each set of plans submitted.

The sealed envelopes were then deposited in the Government safe and were finally procured thence and opened in the presence of all the Board of Assessors.

During the examination of the plans they were consistently kept under a special lock fitted with keys held only by the Assessors. Even the servants within the Building had no access to the room.

In dealing with the site, the Government have very clearly laid down in their instructions their desire to make the most

of the beautiful views which it commands. We concur entirely in the soundness of this decision as to the treatment most desirable. The best vistas have been correctly laid down upon the site-plan which was carefully prepared to give in full measure the various levels and gradients. There was one slight error of a single figure on the plan, but this could not affect the problem or the competitors.

We think therefore that those competitors who have failed to give attention to this point, but who have designed buildings suitable to be set down upon any comparatively common-place level site, possessing none of the distinctive attributes of this one, have failed to make the best of the opportunity.

In this respect, one of the most elaborate sets of drawings submitted has failed entirely to grasp the essentials of the treatment desired and desirable.

Again, while freedom is given to the competitors as to style, a definite suggestion is made as to the appropriateness of three distinctive styles, viz., A free rendering of late Tudor or Elizabethan or Scotch Baronial.

Whatever our individual feelings may be on the question of style, we were bound to consider the additional claim of those competitors, who have, in this respect, as well as in other points, reflected the spirit of the Instructions.

A dignified Simplicity was also asked for. Here again as well as in style, only one competitor has disregarded the suggestions and has struck out a line of his own in producing a Classical scheme of a grandiose and palatial character. It is quite clear that the Instructions had in view the dignified but simpler and often domestic types of the older English Universities, rather than the more grandiose and modern American examples.

We concur in this preference.

Another competitor, who claims to work in "the Grand Manner" has produced a curious medley of design, which passes from severe Columniated Classic through a lighter Italian

Renaissance to Tudor and thence Ecclesiastical Gothic.

With one exception, in which the minor axis of the site is made to predominate, all of the twelve competitors referred to/ deal with the site as dominated by the North and South axes, although in the one case of the Classical design above mentioned the axes is comparatively immaterial, inasmuch as the vistas are ignored.

We have examined in great detail each of the designs submitted, and append herewith some short notes upon each.

We conclude

After mature deliberation that Number XVI has best succeeded in laying down a well-devised and workable plan suitable to the site. There is much to be said in commendation of the straighforward and direct scheme which the author has devised. The buildings fit themselves naturally and in a simple and well-balanced manner upon the site, and culminate in the dominating block of the Administrative Group, which forms a feature seen from all points of the compass.

The type of architecture adopted is a free rendering of the late Gothic. It is rather hard in manner and the author has missed in his drawings some of those refinements in the use of material inherent to a really scholarly adaptation of the style.

When we come to the individual planning there is a good deal to be desired, as will appear in our more detailed remarks. The cost of the first four buildings to be erected is within reasonable limits, and we set this design first in the competition.

We think that Number XVIII deserves to be placed second in order of merit.

This scheme is also well laid out on the site but has defects to which we refer more particularly in our detailed remarks. The requirements generally are not so successfully met in some particulars, although in others there are effective

points.

The style adopted is Scotch Baronial without some of its defects, but in other respects the treatment is somewhat hard and mechanical, and the author has missed some of the opportunities which the style affords in dealing sympathetically with the materials of stone and roughcast adopted by him. There is however, a distinctive character of unity and some dignity in the whole architectural scheme. The estimate of cost is satisfactorily stated.

We place XIX third in order of merit.

We place XX fourth in order of merit, on the ground that the author has shown in his detail an appreciation of Collegiate work of quiet character.

In concluding this report which we assume will in due course be made public we must refer to the erroneous and premature publication in the press of the result of the competition as stated to have been reported.

The reputed successful competitor's name was given and such information as could not fail to identify the set of plans, referred to in the press notice in some detail.

We regret that so irregular an incident should have occurred, more especially when we had taken such precautions that no information of an official character should leak out.

The plans in question were not, in our estimation, deserving of a prize in the competition, but it is important to state that our decision and report upon them in detail was completed before the announcement occurred, and we have purposely altered no word of it since.

We have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient servants,

W. Douglas Caröe.

Aston Webb
Thomas E. Collcutt
F. Cater-Cotton
Chancellor
G. Arthur Cox
Samuel Maclure

P.S:- Appended are our detailed notes, which need not necessarily be made public.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

To the Provincial Government of British Columbia.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Gentlemen,

We think it advisable to add to our open report a confidential communication, which we hope may be of advantage to the Government in carrying forward the great scheme they have initiated.

We feel that the opportunity is such an important one for bringing special distinction upon this Province and those who are guiding its destinies, that no apology is needed from us for taking this course.

It seems necessary to dwell further upon the fact that the response to the invitation was not by any means so full as might have been expected. We cannot but think that the drafting of the Instructions to Architects may have had something to do with this. An official answer to one of the questioning competitors states that the Instructions were drawn up by an architect, and he hardly seems to have drawn them so concisely or logically as is usual or desirable in such work. When Instructions permit too wide a latitude, experienced competitors are apt to fear that the plans they submit may not be judged upon an equal basis, and are shy accordingly of submitting their work to the additional chances involved. Moreover it is obviously impossible, under the circumstances of an open Competition, to answer the inevitable questions arising from Instructions of an indeterminate character. This appears in the correspondence where it is properly stated that special additional information could not fairly be given to individuals.

In looking through the Instructions, we found that the Agricultural Building, although mentioned in the introduction as one of the Buildings first to be erected, is ignored when the details of The Problem to be solved are given. Its specific requirements were thus left entirely to each competitor's own

judgment, and obviously a wide diversity resulted.

There was some doubt as to the area to be provided for the Administrative Group, and also as to which of the Buildings in the detailed list was specially to be set apart as the Arts and Science Building already authorized to be erected.

It may also be pointed out that unless the number of storeys be defined, the area a building will occupy upon the ground is not a guide as to its capacity.

No instruction was given as to the number of students to be accomodated in any individual School.

These circumstances necessarily rendered our own task a much more laborious and difficult one than is usual. It was obviously our bounden duty, in accordance with the conditions and Instructions to select four competitors in the order of merit for the award of four prizes. No less do we feel it our duty to add that we do not consider any one of the designs premiated or submitted of sufficient merit, taking all in all, to warrant its adoption for erection, in the form in which it has come before us. Undoubtedly the laying out of the ground in the first premiated design is of a high order of merit, but when it comes to the details of planning of individual buildings, this competitor's work, as that of others, falls short of what we consider essential for the needs of University Buildings, necessarily in this important case embodying the best modern achievement.

The same applies to the Architecture submitted by this competitor. This has merit and character of its own, which we have duly considered and acknowledged in making our award. It meets fairly what is asked for in the Instructions as to style, but at the same time it has not the full measure of that scholarly touch and charm which we should desire to see when the occasion is of such far-reaching importance.

If the author of the first premiated design proves to be a thoroughly capable and experienced architect, with which qualities that of receptivity is bound to be associated, and if he has the ability to do justice to the occasion, we venture to suggest that

before elaborating his reconsidered designs, which, as already stated, must be remodelled in the details of their planning, and therefore to a large extent of their elevation, he should be directed to visit and study the best extant examples of the style adopted. No text-book can teach the freer and flexible Northern styles, nor can any School of Art. These have to be learnt from the stones and from the craftsmen; and to adapt them, as a living growth, to present needs is a work for the trained imagination of the architect.

We deem it of importance that the Principal of the College and the various heads of Faculties should be appointed before the architect's final plans are made, so that he may work out his detailed schemes in collaboration with those who will be responsible for organizing the new buildings in their incipiency.

Another form of procedure suggests itself.

As the response to the Government's invitation has been so much more meagre than was anticipated, and as no one design submitted is wholly successful, it would not be unreasonable to regard this as only a preliminary competition.

Another competition might be instituted, and, if this course were decided upon, we suggest that it should be open to architects practising in the British Empire. This, we understood, was really the intention in this case, but the Instructions and the accompanying circular make it quite clear and definite that the Competition was strictly limited to the Dominion.

Such a course as here suggested would entail additional expense, perhaps some delay, and a rejudging of plans, although as a matter of fact it might be proceeding concurrently with the appointment of the College officials which must be a matter of some time. We venture to think that in a matter of such import the comparatively small initial expenses, which might be saved over and over again if the actual execution of the works were in the most competent hands, need not be considered as against the issues at stake, nor should a narrow view be taken as to the limiting of the competitors.

We ought to add that in the event of a second Competition being initiated, either now or in the future, it would be better and fairer to those who have responded to the present invitation that their plans

should not be publicly exhibited, unless a special request be made for such an exhibition by the architects themselves. In that case each competitor should have the opportunity of giving his permission for his plans to be exhibited.

We have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

Henry Esson Young
Minister of Education
F. Carter-Cotton
Chancellor
A. Arthur Cox
Architect
Samuel Maclure
W. Douglas Lowe

Victoria, B.C.,

November 15th, 1912.

For Confidential use.

REPORT UPON INDIVIDUAL PLANS.

XVI, First Premiated.

This scheme represents an effective as well as practical lay-out of the grounds. The Buildings are placed somewhat symmetrically in blocks of three along the main axis and the vista culminates in a prominent block containing the Administration Offices and Assembly Halls across which the minor axis, continuing one of the streets leading from the City, passes and forms a fine conception. To the South of the central block, but still laid out on the major axis, is the Chapel grouped on either side of which are the Dormitory Blocks, Students' Clubs and Gymnasium set out in architectural relation.

Law and Philosophy are in thenposition of flyers on either side of the Main Northern Entrance.

The Theological College is set on a lower level in the form of a semi-circle towards the West and in a similar position towards the East the Women's College fills in the rounded angle of the site, the whole being within the perimeter of the University Boulevard.

The Alumni Garden is well-placed at the foot of the slope on the transverse axis and beyond it amid the belt of trees, and conveniently excavated out of the bank in this position, is the Outdoor Theatre.

The Author has provided a Stadium, which is not asked for and interferes with the area of the Athletic Field which is in itself well-placed but insufficient. Were the Stadium entirely omitted or turned round with axis East and West the Athletic Field would suffice and is better given than on any other design submitted. The Women's College also which is separated from the Main Buildings by a well-schemed boulevard parallel to the main axis has space for tennis or minor games about it.

The bounding area East of the boulevard is devoted to cottages for the working staff, Faculty Houses, Hospital, etc., the whole with the various Entrances making a workable scheme

As regards architecture the author shows too much hardness and regularity in the treatment of his stone bonding, which makes the work look mechanical and hard, and is somewhat out of character with the style. If a little more tenderly and artistically treated the elevations would be greatly improved. One would like to have seen the work brought a little more into line with the typical traditional Collegiate type of the Seventeenth Century in England without in any way suggesting that it should be made more elaborate in detail than is shown.

Referring now to the four buildings already authorized, a portion only of the Arts and Science Building indicated under heads (I-, (2), (3), and (4) of Page 4 of the Instructions, can be provided for the sum now at disposal and the author has elected to design the Chemistry Block (2). He would probably have been better advised to allocate the building shown in detail to the College of Arts, etc., with some revision of planning. This latter he shows as of the same outline on his block plan. In either case there is an insufficiency of large rooms for laboratories on the one hand or for lecture theatres on the other. There is insufficient Cloak-room and lavatory space, which must be provided for both sexes. The Office and Professors' Room might have been better devoted to these uses. The Lecture-Theatre is not well schemed either as to the approaches or lighting, while the vestibule space is inadequate. Some of the Research Rooms have South light which is inapplicable and the general provision of Balance Rooms, Professors' Rooms, etc., is not sufficiently considered.

On the First Floor the buildings are broken up into unnecessarily small rooms. The Ante-room at the head of the stairs absorbs too much of the upper part of the Lecture-theatre.

THE AGRICULTURAL BUILDING.

This Building is devised on three floors in a block with East and West alignment. There are entrances upon two sides to a central hall with corridors lighted from both ends and from two staircases.

On the Ground Floor are two Lecture-rooms each for 150 with Preparation Rooms, two Laboratories for 60 each, with apparatus rooms

six Lecture-rooms, for from 20 to 25 each, space for Porter and Professors' Cloak-rooms.

On the First Floor are two Laboratories for 60 each with Balance rooms and Professors' rooms, two Research Laboratories, four Professors' Rooms (two of them small), Library, and Museum.

On the Third Floor are two Laboratories for 60 each with Balance and Dark Rooms, two Laboratories for 30 each, four Research Laboratories and two small Lecture Rooms.

No basement is shown, and no segregated space for animals under treatment, for machinery and other necessary equipment and storage. No Greenhouse is provided.

Apart from the necessary Basement, Cloak Rooms etc., the equipment is well-thought-out, although it would be found essential in operation to provide at least one more comprehensive Theatre, and to increase the accomodation of the two large Laboratories.

THE DORMATORIES.

These are planned in two CourtYards each having a Dining Hall with a common Kitchen, the last top-lighted with servants' quarters over them comprehensively schemed. The Dormatories have corridor planning on the Ground Floor, but independent rooms on the upper Floors. In the latter two Bedrooms, and in four cases as many as four Bedrooms, are made common to one Sitting Room. A groined corridor with projecting porches is schemed flanking the Dining Room towards the Court. With some revision the plan lays down a scheme which could be made workable and convenient. A single Sitting and Bedroom for each man approached from a staircase on the Oxford and Cambridge plan is in our view essential.

THE POWER HOUSE.

This is masked by and made the centre of the Engineering School with the Buildings of which it is entirely surrounded. From the centre rises a smoke-stack matched by another, which would not be necessary, in the Mining School. These two stacks would be a block in the scheme in so prominent a position. The Power House should

and could, in our judgment, be placed away altogether on the sea side of the Marine Drive where fuel could readily be brought to a jetty by water carriage. This could be done in this case without in any way affecting the plans.

As regards cost it is somewhat difficult for us when no instructions are laid down as to the equipment of the Agricultural Building to make comparative estimates of the four buildings now authorized. The individual buildings as planned by the several architects vary sometimes nearly fifty per cent in cubical content. In the present case we estimate that the cost of these four buildings as planned will work out at something less than $1,700,000.00. The author has fairly interpreted the Instructions as regards the area of those buildings where it is specified.

XVIII. Second Premiated.

This is on the whole a thoughfully devised and practical scheme in which the author has carefully considered the Instructions and areas. It could be improved by some transposition of buildings, but is nevertheless among the best submitted.

Although the author has considered the gradation of the site he has to some extent overlooked its inherent difficulties. To meet these, he proposes a large scheme of earth removal.

The forecourt at the Northern Entrance is appropriated to the purposes of the segregated Gardens, which would place this in a too prominent and public position. The general treatment of the Gardens is generally not so well contrived as the layout.

As in several other instances no Athletic Field is provided, nor is space left for it.

A Stadium, however, excavated out of the ground, occupies a position on the site overlooked by the Women's College for which no provision for games is made.

The Crossroads are rather too narrow for effect.

The Theological College is arranged as one of the important buildings flanking the Main Avenue on the East and corresponds with the Medical Block on the West. A common Assembly Hall is planned but no space for individual Chapels.

The Power House is well disposed, and the Entrance Lodges and Approaches at the North end well schemed.

THE ARTS BLOCK.

Referring in detail to the four authorized buildings the Arts Block is subdivided into a number of small Lecture Theatres with raised stages and studies, and would require entire reconsideration for practical use.

The Main corridor on the Ground Floor is too narrow and confined and without external lighting.

Provision is made for cloaks for men and women on each floor, but no sanitary conveniences. These will be essential for each block.

AGRICULTURE.

As is the case with other competitors a large Theatre an essential equipment in an Agricultural School is not given. The building is a detached one and could readily be replanned in much the same form to meet the required needs. Generally speaking this competitor has thought the matter out carefully.

THE DORMATORIES.

The Dormatories are planned in three symmeterical E-shaped blocks each for 124 residents. There is one court with wings and three other blocks conveniently located. The plans are on the system of Oxford and Cambridge with separate staircases. These are carried down to the basement where two baths, two W.Cs., and a lavatory are provided for each staircase.

A complete bathroom and offices is a better arrangement. The planning of the angle blocks breaks down on the important question of light. The Kitchens shown are somewhat too small. The general design is satisfactory.

THE POWER HOUSE.

The Power House would require replanning in association with an engineer. It is clothed in a suitable exterior. The author gives a correct estimate of $1,400,000.00 for these four buildings in his report.

XIX - Third Premiated.

This scheme indicates a layout with a large open and expanding area devoted to lawns along the axis of the site.

The author has endeavoured with some skill on plan to adjust the alingment of his buildings so that they fill in the recesses of the site along the East and West boundaries.

A defect of the plan consists in the apparent resultant spreading of the buildings over nearly the whole site, and an insufficient area is left for athletics. The special garden capable of segregation has not been provided. The levels of the site which are advantageous to a fine treatment are ignored, and the consequent development would not be possible in actuality without large initial expense.

Planning in detail

The Arts Department consist of.

6 lecture rooms	for	50 each..	300
4 large class rooms	"	about 40.....	160
39 class rooms	"	about 25.....	975

No studies are wanted but locker - room accomodation for men and women.

Absence of common-room. Library insufficient.

Museum not required.

Area of buildings correct.

Planning of tower area not good, tower unnecessary and extravagant. Museum and library could usefully have been combined.

The Power house badly placed, would be better in south east corner of sea belt of trees. No architectural detail supplied. Keeping rooms too small. Planning of kitchen, butteries and corridors is on the immemorial English system of an entrance under the Hall gallery, separating the Hall from butteries and kitchen. Objection is taken to this system here owing to difficulties of service which do not occur in Britain.

No details or drawing of Agricultural Building.

XX - Fourth Premiated.

The author in this case submits alternative schemes butboth layouts are of a somewhat confused nature.

He has however considered the levels pretty well, but a good many of the buildings are arranged in small courtyards, often less than 100 feet across, which is not a type of planning well suited to this open site.

The work is suggested to be erected in red brick, which seems wasting an opportunity in an essentially stone country.

Here and there are some pleasant pieces of design in a quiet Tudor Domestic manner, but allied to others that are ppor and tame, and notably so in the scheme for the Chapel.

Both Power House and Agricultural Buildings are inadequate, and the planning of other parts of a somewhat elementary nature.

Notes on ~~[illegible]~~ not premiated.

#1 with Architect's Report but Confidential

The author of this scheme has produced some very elaborate drawings, and covered a large area of paper.

He has however paid no attention to the boundaries of the site and has freely spread his buildings far beyond the restricted area. The levels have been ignored.

As the conditions have not been complied with, and the necessary college requirements ignored, we have felt compelled to set this scheme aside, apart from any intrinsic merit it may posess.

#2

X This is submitted ~~[illegible]~~ without report. The planning is confused and illogical and it is difficult to follow the designer's intentions.

He seems to have drawn an ellipse with its main axis along the axis of the site, and to have jammed his buildings inside and outside this ellipse as best he could. The result is a somewhat zig-zag medley. The style is an ~~[illegible]~~ example of American Gothic and is not satisfactory as a type of work of this kind.

As in so many of these buildings lighting of interiors has not been well considered. In the Agricultural college ~~the~~ One enters directly into a perfectly dark central hall.

#3

No report is submitted with this design which is not fully worked out. The site is treated as a flat one and could not be executed as shown without a vast moving of earth.

A few sketchy drawings of an American Gothic type only are submitted in addition to a site plan and a bird's eye view.

X. A short report was found in the sealed envelope opened on Nov. 4th 1912.

#4

This scheme is different from any other submitted. The main axis is well observed, but all the buildings are laid out diagonally to it and culminate in a large tower which is set diagonally across a double-winged chapel.

Like so many of the competitors the success of the scheme depends upon the site being level. more so perhaps in this case than any other. The architecture is an attempt at Tudor but is mere student's work and could not be considered for erection in a building of the importance of the one under consideration. The detailed schemes of planning are very unsatisfactory. The suggested piece of sculpture in the medical court suggests a note of inability to,deal with a scheme of this importance.

#5

This is a signed scheme by an engineer and could not be considered even if worthy, which it is not.

#6

This is a case where the author has blocked all the vistas, but has otherwise laid down on plan a possible scheme of a second-rate order. The type of architecture is however poor and uninteresting, and shows neither scholarship refinement nor quality.

#7

This is an immature set of plans. The whole scheme is unworthy and impossible.

#8

This is a set of drawings undeserving of consideration.

#9
This set of plans is submitted on three sheets only, and the author admits that in point of number they do not fulfill the conditions. The Northern axis is adopted and the scheme is laid out somewhat skilfully around the main vistas and an inner boulevarde forming a symmetrical pear-shaped figure, But the women's club has been ignored, as also the botanical gardens. The playingfield is given the most prominent position in the site, the scheme ismin fact a mere prelimimary study. The architecture is of the collegiate Tudor type, and as such is among the quietest and more reserved submitted, but fails in some important points of scholarship. The dormitories are planned so that two men occupy each sitting-room, which is not a good arrangement. It did not seem that this prize could be awarded to an architect who had done so little to fulfill the conditions, even thought what is done has merits of its own.

#10
This appears to be an architectural joke on the part of some hot-water fitter or plumber.

#11 II in Roman figures was mistaken for II.
Not at all.

#12
This is a pseudo Gothic scheme of an essentially American type. In his general drawings the author introduces some indefinite detail which might or might not be interesting, but when this is carefully set down on paper it is found to be of an [illegible] order, quite unworthy the occasion. The buildings are moreover much cramped upon the layout scheme with numerous small courts or narrow lanes between them. The detail of the windows and other features is very poor and belongs more to a sea-side villa rather than a monumental building, and this is set against massive towers and turretted gate-ways etc. The architecture(in brick) would seem to have been studied from the work of Essex or Wilkins or Wyatt, or other of the Gothic pioneers of the early part of the 19th century,(whose work)

#12(contd) not accepted.
whose work is now universally ~~accepted~~. The curious and wasteful planning of the individual lecture rooms is quite inexplicable.

#13 see other sheet.

#14

This scheme has a mixture of Roman, Renaissance and Gothic buildings and is generally impossible. A narrow processional road only 100 feet wide on such a site would be wasting a great opportunity. A dignified whole, and not a sample of architectural styles is wanted.

#15

The author of this design has been to an amazing amount of trouble which deserved better results. He submits about thirty sheets of drawings, two birds' eye views, besides other perspectives of a scheme, which it would be impossible to recommend.
The buildings are set upon the ground in an irregular and confused manner which seems to be founded upon no logical basis. The vistas are blocked by lofty buildings in glaring red brick of the general character called Elizabethan or Jacobean, but a versions of it which is found in many lunatic asylums, poor-houses or railway-stations erected fifty or sixty years ago. It is wholly devoid of the real genius of the Elizabethan style in England, which is capable of so many beautiful effects and has so many qualities.
On these grounds it seems hardly possible to consider this scheme even for one of the ppizes.

#16

~~#17~~
~~#18~~

13

This is one of the two sets of plans in the Scottish Baronial style, and although it shows a better appreciation of architectural designs than some others submitted, its character is somewhat fussy and somewhat bizarre. The author seems to be obsessed by the use of circular forms in planning which are difficult as regards seating and are acoustically bad, while he has also adopted systems of long corridors which would be dark and unsatisfactory. The agricultural building is planned without any lecture hall, which should be one of its essential features. The ppints of the plan are lost by some executive planning in the central group and the whole site cut up by wandering and badly devised paths and walks. No area is reserved for athletics.

The planning of the Administrative Offices is confused and here as elsewhere are unlighted central corridors. There are unlighted staircases leading to the upper floor. The Clerks offices and Information Bureau are not well schemed. In going carefully into the plans for the blocks now to be erected we found so many points in which they are impracticable that we feel it unnecessary to discuss them in elaborate detail.

XVII

This is a somewhat grandiose scheme, The author has gone to quite unnecessary trouble and expense to provide a sumptuously produced set of drawings set forth in such a manner as to attract attention as pretty pictures if on no other ground.

In a competition when no rule has been laid down as to the form of drawings to be submitted, it is all the more important to be guarded against being led away by quite unnecessarily elaborate or meretricious drawings. It is fine planning and fine architecture that is wanted as a permanency not only sumptious drawings which are merely ephemeral. The scheme in the concrete of building material and not on the abstract of paper is what has to be dealt with. It breaks down in many places owing to the intricacies of its planning and is in some case misleading. In fact the scheme abounds in pitfalls which would make it unworkable and is so devised that it allows hardly any margin of revision to bring it within workable limits.

Outlooks and vistas are ignored entirely and the site treated as a level one in which these did not exist. The scheme is on an elaborate and costly scale.

We have as special ornaments two important domes, (2) two major axial towers, (3)five lesser towers, (4) six smaller domed turrets.

All these are grouped fairly closely together and yet in one of the most important spots there rises among them an iron smoke stack from the engineering shops.

This is the more remarkable because the smokestack from the Power House which is not far away is masked by one of the lesser towers enumerated above.

XVII.

The general scheme is a system of five courts arranged across the main axis one of them, the great court, being about 600 feet square, but another barely 100.

There are other minor courts off the great court, while most of the buildings are planned ar und small internal courts diminishing in some cases to mere areas.

In a great open site of this nature such planning is inappropriate. Moreover, some of the important schools are planned to a centre round a fairly sharp curve. This is a form of planning often very awkward in the buildings themselves.

The author schemes a great water approach to the College upon land which is alienated property and upon which a new villa is now being erected.

In regard to style, it is definitely laid down in the Instructions that it is not desired to erect palaces. A suggestion is made that a free rendering of late Tudor or Elizabethan or a species of Scott Baronial would be appropriate and a distinct preference is expressed although it is not made binding.

The Theological square is especially asked for in the same manner, but with ecclesiastical feeling.

The style adopted by this competitor is frankly classic of a palatial order. He claims to have suggested the atmosphere of the older Universities of England, but has, of course, done something entirely foreign.

As a matter of scholarly composition the grouping is more effective when the buildings are seen at a distance. When we come to examining them more closely various faults of eye and scholarship come to light.

The central tower of the administrative building is much too thin for its position in the whole group. It suffices for the central feature for the central building when we see this drawn alone without its surroundings. The detail of the upper

XVII.

part of this tower fails in several particulars and it may be noted that the whole construction is a false one and would be expensive and difficult to carry out.

The side pavilions flanking the main end facades of the Halls are ungainly and unfortunate and it must be noted that a row of very important windows needful to the upper storey of the administrative building are entirely omitted upon the views for the sake of architectural effect.

The facades of the Liberal Arts, Engineering, Chemistry and Physics blocks have an elaborate central feature with coupled ~~mutilated~~ columns which have a height about 14 times their diameter.

The domical turrets which surmount these and other features are poor in design and remind one somewhat of these much abused similar features upon the National Gallery in London which are, however, better in design than these. A similar turret flanked at its base by 8 vases surmounts the Agricultural College, which is a somewhat tame piece of design although ornamented by a cleverly drawn frieze.

We have here a very unsatisfactory experiment adopted by some of the commercial buildings in the United States - an attached order of columns with a bronze wall behind it pierced for windows. The effect is far from happy.

The Chapel has a colonade entrance surmounted by atower which is poor in design and very awkward where the square becomes octagon.

The domed Library and Museum are the most imposing features of the scheme. They occupy, however, very much larger ground area instead of the maximum [redacted] asked for.

There is a crudity of design in the console buttresses to the dome which are adapted from those of Palladio at the Della Salute at Venice - which are a unity in the design.

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Here however, they occupy a merely casual position - unrecognized on the octagon from which the dome rises. While again this feature has no position or relation in regard to the internal planning.

There is often a heaviness and coarseness of detail in the scheme suggestive of a study of Vanburgh, Archer, or Smith.

Touching upon the buildings outside those now to be erected, the administrative building occupies the prominent position in the Northern approach and is flanked by the large and small halls of the Faculty Club, the latter and the small hall occupying the same space and matching the large hall.

The small hall and Faculty Club roof is however broken for a length of 68 feet & an area formed in which nestles an Italian garden 68'x38', the buildings around it being over 90 feet high.

The breaking of this roof and the piercing of the walls accompanying it are carefully omitted in the bird's eye and perspective views. indicated nowhere except on the plans.

The planning of the Halls and Administration blocks is in many ways thoughtful, but confused and intricate and little regard has been had to the importance of lighting in a district which needs so much in winter.

The crush hall planned at the entrance to each of the main halls is an instance.

The monumental staircases in various parts of the building have narrow treads and steep risers even in such important positions as the great entrances to the Museum and Library. This is a fault very common in America, the Capitol at Washington being an instance.

The planning of the Administrative Offices is confused, and here and elsewhere are poorly lighted central corridors. There are insufficiently lighted staircases leading to the upper floor, The clerk's offices and information bureau are not well schemed.

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In going carefully into the plans for the blocks now to be erected we found so many points in which they are impracticable that we felt it unnecessary to discuss them in elaborate detail. For instance, in the planning of the Dormitories the kitchen appears to have been wholly overlooked.

The plans are set round large dark halls on every floor in some of the blocks and long corridors some lighted by areas and some without

No block is schemed for 100 to 150 as asked but for 90 and 180, and it is therefore difficult to compare the cubical contents for cost.

There is confusion of planning in the placing of servants' and masters' quarters. The best portion of the frontage on the ground floor is occupied by W. Cs and bathrooms which last are large rooms containing twelve baths side by side without privacy or subdivision.

In other respects the planning is dark and confused and impossible. In the power house [redacted] the flue is entirely omitted, although shewn upon the perspective view. The area allowed is [redacted] insufficient to meet the demands. [redacted]ss The whole of the four buildings now proposed to be erected worked out at a total of $2,692,556.00 nearly 1,200000 more than the sum appropriated.

It appears, therefore, that the practical issues such as appropriate planning and cost of erection have been sacrificed to grandiose and pictorial effects.

List of Competitors.

THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

VICTORIA, Nov. 14th 1912

Opened in presence of
Hon Dr. Young
Hon Mr. T. Taylor
Chancellor Carter Cotton.
Mr. Maclure } representing Dr. Cox.
Mr. Carroll

1 { Twistle & Twistle Van Siclen & Macomber.
1019 Metropolitan Bdg. Vancouver.

x 2 { David R. Brown. Canada Life Bdg. Montreal.
Hugh Vallance

3 { James S. Smith 779 Sherbrook St. W. Montreal
J. J. Lawson

4 { W. D. O. H. Rochfort } 217 Pemberton Bdg. Victoria
E. W. Sankey.

5. Wilson. Lake & Bentall. Vancouver

6 McConnell & Makepeace. Kent Bdg. Toronto.

7 Andrew Dewar. 84 Lonsdale Av. N. Vancouver

8 C. L. Morgan. 85 Hutchin Bdg. Vancouver.

9 { J. C. Clemesha Regina. Sask.
F. H. Portnall

10 William Stewart Duncan. (no address)

11 number in error. (no plans).

12 H. S. Griffith. Victoria & Vancouver.

13 Wilson & Herald. Credit Foncier Bdg. Edmonton.

14 Arthur Bartlett. Canada Permanent Bdg Edmonton.

15. Edgar C. Hrubb. Kamloops. B.C.

(1) 16 Sharp & Thompson. 11. Old Safe Block Vancouver.

17 Thomas Hooper. Victoria & Vancouver.

(2) 18. Douglas Scott Bow. 1787 Powell St. Vancouver.

(3) 19 Philip J. Turner & partners. { 116. Board of Trade Bdg
Montreal

(4) 20 Symons & Rae. 15 Toronto St. Toronto.

W. D. Carroll
F Carter Cotton
Samuel Maclure
H. E. Young

x The sealed envelope enclosed a short report.