

THE NATIONAL BUILDER

ONE of the natural, though at the same time surprising, results that have grown out of the building boom that the steel-construction high-building created, is the appearance of the national as distinct from the local builder. Until within a comparatively recent period the practice was to employ a local architect and local contractors and sub-contractors. This applied almost invariably to the early high buildings in this and other cities. The architect was the first to break away from this practice and to compete with local architects for plans, but the contractor was still more than likely to be a local man.

Once the architect got away from home and made the acquaintance of the contractors in other places, it followed that there would be a movement that would make the contractor as

whose members are prepared to undertake the construction of any building, no matter how extensive or in what part of the country the site may be located. It is hardly necessary to point out that the owner benefits from the fact that his choice is no longer confined to the local contractor whose experience, plant, force and means were limited in the sense applying to such things now, though they may have been extensive for their time.

Among the still small list of these great national architectural contractors, the name most familiar to New Yorkers is the George A. Fuller Company, which indeed stands at the head of the list, and in every respect is typical of the best response to the needs of the colossal industry that construction has become through the innovation of original methods of developing urban



GROUP OF BUILDINGS ON MICHIGAN AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILL.
Constructed by the George A. Fuller Co., Builders.

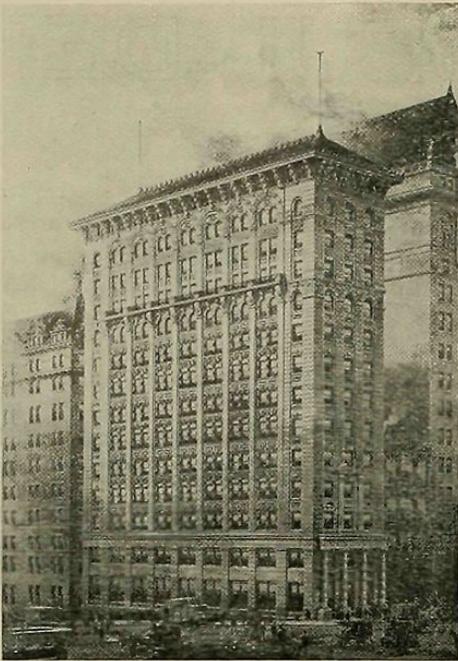
pervasive as the architect. This was assisted also by the movements of capital that desiring to participate in the profits of a new system of building, amounting almost to a revolution, and not always being able to secure a suitable opening at home sought other desirable fields. Capital named the architect and experience in one case, in a large measure, determined the contractor for another.

It became a fact, too, that the field opened by steel construction for the more profitable employment of land was so wide, and offered such attractive opportunities for money-making that large capital has come into the building business, so that new records have been established in that respect also; that is to say, that the contractor of twenty years ago offers no comparison to the contractor of to-day in either means, extent of plant or force, or of experience in the many difficult problems that the work of construction now presents. Even the building of the Pacific railroads, probably the largest individual work that could be cited, affords no parallel to this case, because they were more often than not the work of construction companies whose ownership was more or less widely distributed.

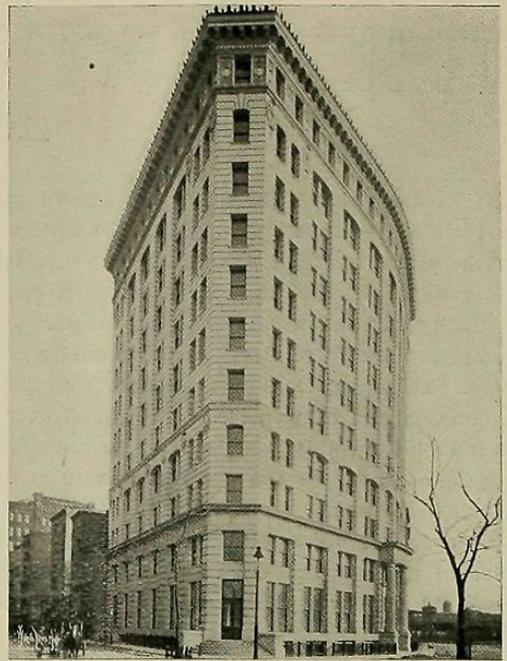
It has come to pass, then, that there is no select class of architectural contractors, which may be properly called national, and

really resources. This company was incorporated only ten years ago, but has in the interval carried out contracts to the amount of over \$60,000,000, and has this year alone work in hand representing an expenditure in round figures of \$12,000,000. These figures are certainly representative of a colossal industry and, in their extent, of up-to-date development. It would be impossible to find such another record in the archives of the old-time contract firms, even of those that lead the building movements of their day.

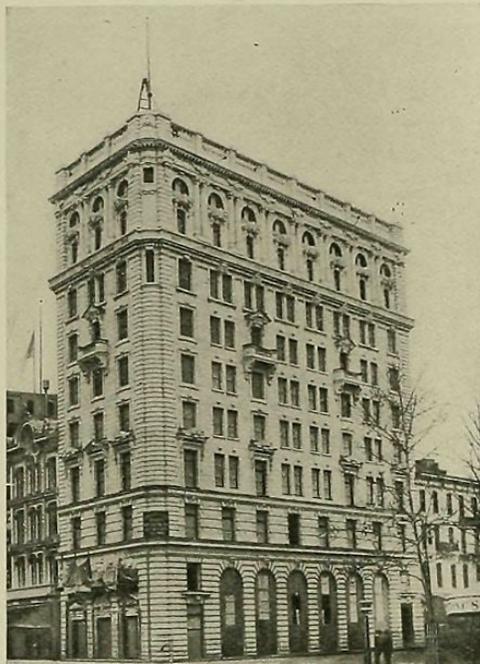
The George A. Fuller Company began their life in Chicago, and the secret of their success is in having at their head the gentleman for whom the company is named, who, previous to organization, had had a large experience as a contractor and builder, and who had the capacity to gauge the needs of the times and the means to supply them. The success of the company was rapid. They built most of the new high buildings in Chicago and, spreading out, secured contracts in all the important cities east of that point. Three years ago they found it desirable to move their headquarters to New York, where they have carried out numerous contracts with such success that they may be called the leading contract builders of the metropolis, and at the moment have underway the construction of the largest office



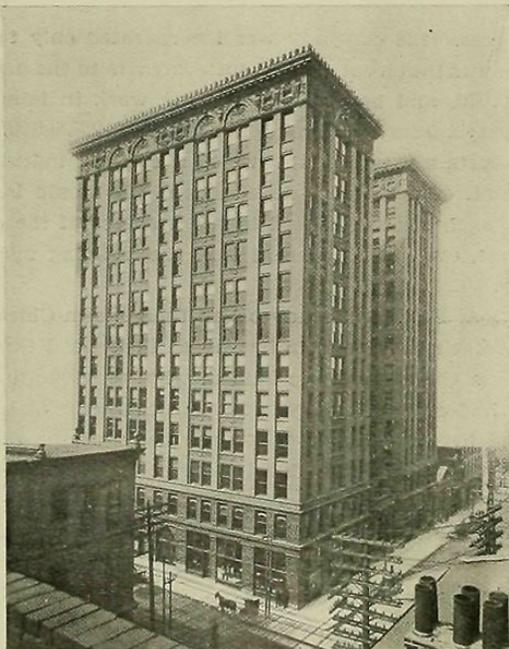
NORTH AMERICAN TRUST CO.'S BUILDING,
New York City.
Bruce Price, Architect.



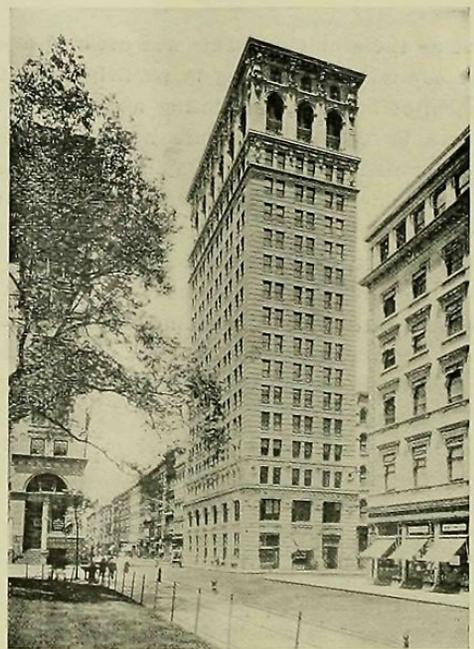
CHESEBROUGH BUILDING,
New York City.
Clinton & Russell, Architects.



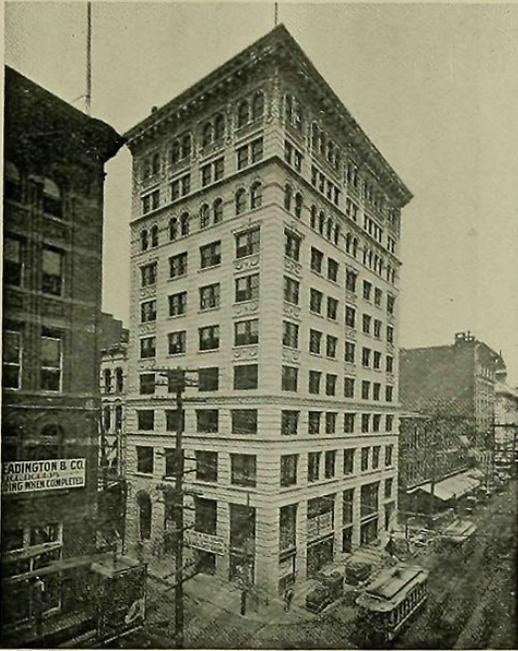
EVENING STAR BUILDING,
Washington D. C.



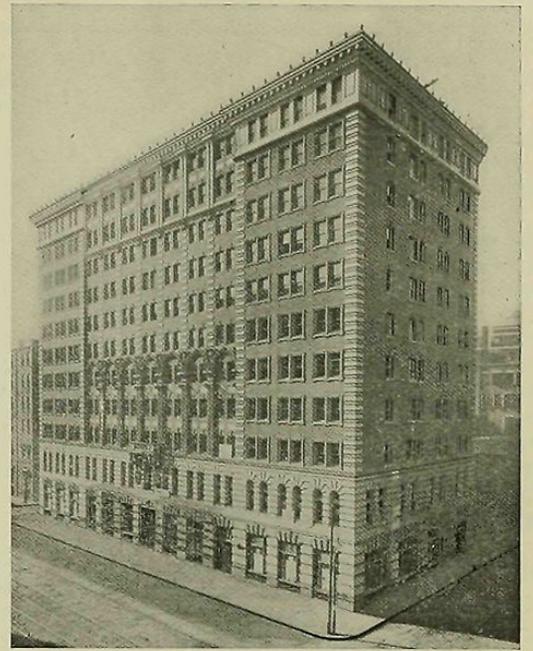
LINCOLN TRUST BUILDING.
St. Louis, Mo.
Eames & Young, Architects.



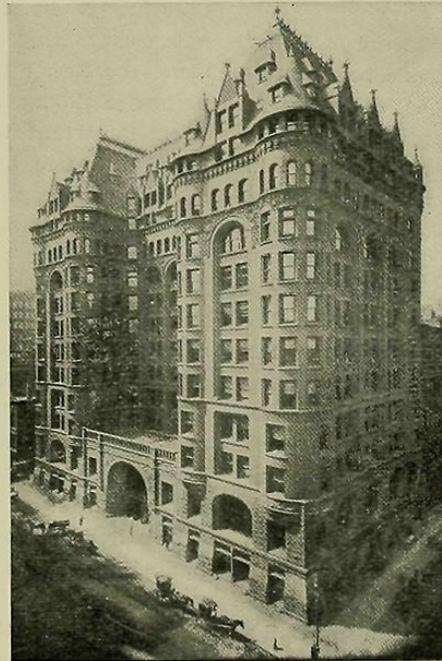
BROADWAY CHAMBERS,
New York City.
Cass Gilbert, Architect.



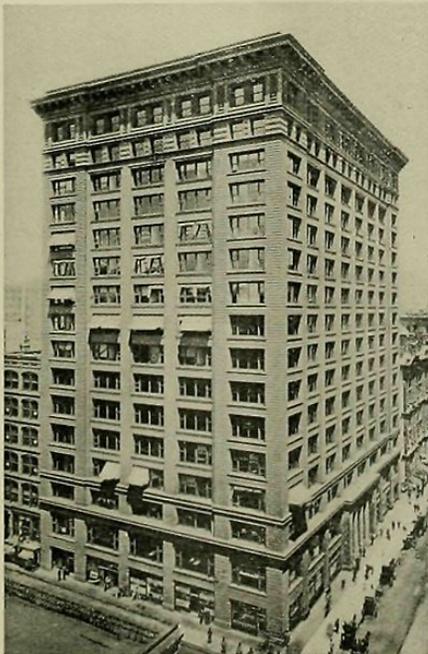
ATLANTIC TRUST CO.' BUILDING,
Baltimore, Md.



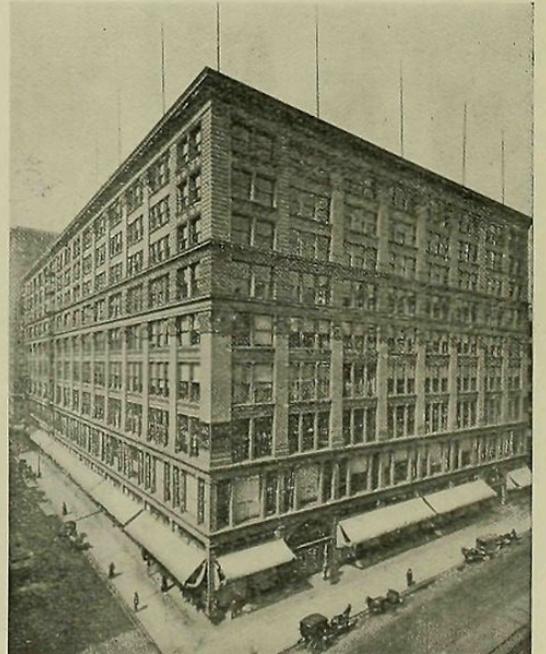
HOTEL ESSEX,
Boston Mass



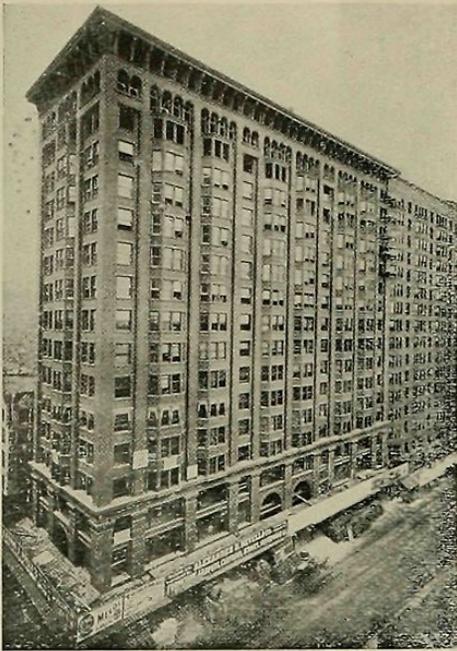
Chicago, Ill. THE TEMPLE.
Burnham & Root, Architects.



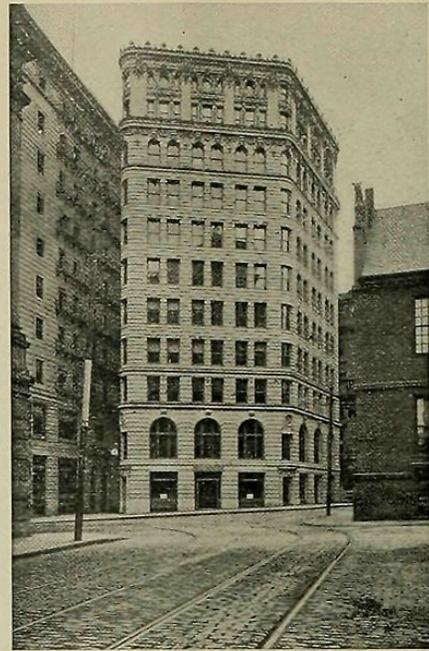
Chicago, Ill. MARQUETTE BUILDING.
Holabird & Roche, Architects.



Chicago, Ill. "THE FAIR."
Jenney & Mundie, Architects.



WACHUSETTS AND KATAHDIN BUILDINGS.
Chicago, Ill. Holabird & Roche, Architects



BRAZER BUILDING.
Boston, Mass. Cass Gilbert, Architect.

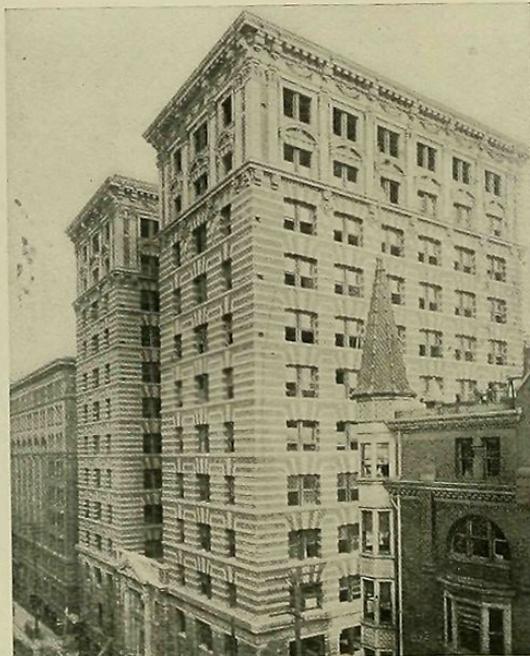
building ever planned in this city the Broad Exchange Building, which will also have the distinction of being the largest office building in the world, besides much other work.

An enumeration in detail of the buildings the George A. Fuller Company have erected in their ten years' life would be unnecessary, and consume too much space, but it may be interesting to note that the prominent ones only include 31 in Chicago, 5 in New York, 4 in Boston, 2 in St. Louis, 1 in Atlanta, Ga., 1 in Buffalo, and 1 in Pittsburg. The company has in hand at the present time 3 in New York, 3 in Boston, 2 in Chicago, 2 in Baltimore, 2 in Washington and 1 in St. Louis. These 61 are all really large and prominent buildings, and include designs from all the most prominent and best architects in the country. The designs of some are reproduced, and will serve to show the character of the work of the company. Besides these the company has built many smaller mercantile structures, schools, residences, etc. The minor work includes much that has the highest merit from an artistic standpoint of view, particularly that done in the World's Columbian Exposition grounds, among which it is a pleasure to recall the Victoria House, Great Britain, owner; New York State Building, "Puck" Building, White Star Building, all three from plans of McKim, Mead & White; Baker Pavilion, Carrere & Hastings, architects; Venetian Murano Building, and the French National Pavilion.

The principal buildings erected in this city by the company

are: Broadway Chambers, Cass Gilbert, architect; North American Trust Building, Bruce Price, architect; Battery Park and Chesebrough Buildings, Clinton & Russell, architects. They are now constructing, from plans of the last-named firm of architects, the Broad Exchange, and Viotor Buildings, and the Importers' Building, of which H. J. Hardenbergh is the architect. Their important work in hand in other cities consists of the Illinois Theatre and Montgomery Ward Building, in Chicago, the latter being one of the most massive buildings there, having a tower 385 feet high; the Hotel Lenox, Hotel Essex, Riverbank Court, an enormous apartment house; South St. Trust and Proctor buildings, Boston; Willard Hotel and "Evening Star" Building, Washington; Guardian Trust, Atlantic Trust and Calvert buildings, Baltimore; and the Lincoln Trust, the largest office building in St. Louis.

All this, of course, means a cumulation of experience in technical details of construction and in meeting the problems that sites and sales present that is of priceless value. It also means an acquaintance with and command of the market for materials that a builder whose operations are confined to one locality of limited area does not possess. And, finally, it means a permanent organization of plant force and money to handle the biggest jobs on the shortest notice. All these things the national builder places at the disposal of the owner, and hence his success.



CALVERT BUILDING,
Baltimore, Md.