Industrial Trust Company Opens Great Skyscraper

Beautiful Structure Merits Praise of Thousands of Visitors During Gala Opening Ceremonies

On Monday, October first, promptly at 9 o'clock, occurred one of the epochal events in the life of this community, for on that day and hour the Industrial Trust Company made good a promise of more than two years standing and opened its fine new home on Westminster street and Exchange place. The magnificent 420-foot structure shifted from a scene of moving and confusion in the short space of twenty-four hours and greeted a public that was wholly unprepared for the beauty of the appointments and finish, and the praise that has been showered on the building, the bank, the officials and all that had a part in the passing pageant of building, then and since, has been far beyond that meted out on any previous occasion. The completed structure is a striking demonstration of the company's confidence in the growth and enduring soundness of the City, the State and Country.

Indeed, Providence and its environs is more than passing proud of her latest skyscraper, and the Industrial Trust Building, completed less than a month has already taken a place in the heart and life of the community. From the moment the visitor catches his first glimpse of the imposing tower that lifts its proud head over the towering hills that shelter our city, until he stands at the foot of the awe-inspiring reach, then finds his way up through the maze of floors, stairways, offices, banking quarters, and elevators until he stands inside the structure at the top-most level, he is surprised beyond expression.

Some years ago, the idea of the building had its inception in the brains of the officers and directors of the company, and when the Butler Exchange was razed and the plan for the new structure announced, Providence was aware that here and now was an event of no small consequence. Since that time, from the razing of the historic building that formerly stood on the site, through the successive stages of digging out the lower level, to the setting of the steel, the pouring of the concrete and setting of the final exterior features, the building has been followed by thousands of eager eyes, for it is to be remembered that this building is visible through no small part of all Rhode Island.

The promise that the bank would open in its new quarters at 9 o'clock on Monday, October first, brought some wonder, but only from those who had failed to notice the business-like punctuality that had marked every phase of the work. The close of banking hours
on Saturday brought a shifting of interest from the new building back to the old building that has housed the company since 1894. A cordon of alert-looking policemen, armed with rifles and carbines and equipped with motorcycles and armored cars, threw a line around the two buildings and the moving of some $250,000,000 and the office records and equipment was begun.

The work continued over the week-end with such precision and orderliness that few were aware that the moving was going on, and by the time for the opening of the bank on Monday, every clerk was in his place, every record in its file, and the work went on as though nothing had occurred, despite the fact that one of the greatest transfers of property in the history of local and New England banking circles had been made in record time.

For weeks the moving of some of the tenants that are occupying the building has been going on and when business opened October first many of the offices in the building were occupied.

The building rising compactly from its place on Westminster street and Exchange place is 26 stories in height, and is topped by a dome guarded by a circular row of 7½-ton eagles. Standing 420 feet from the street level to the highest pinnacle, the building exceeds in height the tallest structure in New England and is one of the show places of this section. For all of the stately beauty of its exterior view, the building meets the expectations of even the most expectant, for the simple and dignified beauty of the interior, the generous and artistic appointments, and the quiet magnificence of the features strikes one as being the last word in careful mingling of beauty and utility.

The main banking room extends from Exchange place through to Westminster street, just as the corridor for the use of the tenants extends through to both streets. Six floors are used in the banking quarters, although there is no such numbering arrangement in use by the bank. Leaving out the lowest level which is given over to the heating arrangements and boilers, the bank has the lower banking level, the upper banking level, the first and second mezzanines and the second and third floors, so that while the numbering of the floors gives only three, there is actually six floors in use.

The banking room has 40 tellers' windows, and the counter space takes up 21,300 square feet of the floor space in the room. The main floor space between the two counters is 31 feet wide.

As one enters the building from either side through the massive bronze doors, he finds himself facing a short flight of stairs that lead to the main banking room, although the spacious ante-room has no tendencies of hurrying one either in or out of the building. Warmth of expression in the appointments and features of the building extend a warm welcome and one can linger long over any of the hundreds of interesting and intriguing details that embody the parts of this building.

The broad Roman Travertine marble stairs lead into the main banking room, and there one is greeted with the most magnificent scene, excepting possibly the inspiring scene of the entire building from a distance, of the entire project. Rising high above the floor is the vaulted ceiling, richly appointed and decorated with symbols that make the expression of the banking room more than a mere counting house. A row of tall massive pillars of Belgian black marble stand out against a light and attractive background and support the spacious dome with a firmness that may be symbolic of the bank and its financial fabric that has made this structure possible. Brown, red and gray, softened to blend quietly with the dully burnished bronzes and the black marbles, give the entire room a soothing appearance, and the color scheme leaves nothing to be desired as one pauses for a moment while transacting banking business to enjoy a moment from the workaday world of rush and turmoil. One is reminded that the return of the period when classic beauty had its part in business building interiors may be returning, for this structure has none of the blasé touch of interior that has laid its unfeeling hand on so much of our business effects in the past few decades.

Lined by the tellers' windows and the counters, the main room is shielded by two fireplaces, with the glowing logs casting the same spell of welcome and cheer that has gone unsurpassed through all the ages. On either side is a lounge, one given over to the women patrons, and the other devoted to the use of the men, while convenient rest rooms open off from the lounge. Balconies hang low and artistically line either end of the main room, the room being topped by three domes that form one of the most beautiful and artistic phases of the building.

The dome nearest the Exchange street side carries the pictured epic of the days of the week, the centre panel has the four winds and the seasons as its motif, and the dome nearest the Westminster street side has for its study the zodiac and the months of the year. Each dome supports a chandelier hung from its centre.

The floor and walls are of gray and white, the floor being finished with set-in squares of black and red, and the walls, plain. The ceiling and frieze are relieved by red and gold, and the counters are of tan, black and red, with the walls offset by the black pillars.

It is interesting to note in passing that the Industrial Trust Company has outgrown four banking houses, and the scene of the activity today has been built with an eye on future development, and expansion for many years has been allowed. Incorporated in 1886, the bank opened for business on August 1, 1887, on the second floor, at 9 Custom House street. That was meant to be temporary headquarters, for quarters were to be ready at 57 Westminster street within a few weeks. The resources of today which exceed $100,000,000 is in sharp contrast to that of $60,000 of November 15, 1887.

The list of friezes and decorations follows:

Friezes—Beginning at east end of Exchange place front over the door, which is the entrance to the building, there are five panels as follows:
1. Indian women pounding corn.
2. Roger Williams Landing at Spring.
5. Preaching to the Indians.
On Arcade street, beginning at the corner of Exchange place, there are three panels as follows:
6. Hunting.
8. Fishing.
On Arcade street at the corner of Westminster street—Three panels, beginning on Arcade street and running to the corner, as follows:
The panels in the lower banking room are Loredo Chiaro. The trim to these panels and the dado in the lower banking room are Tabernacle Glaire.

The treads of the stairs are Roman Travertine.

Missouri Gray and French Gray have been used in the barbershop and black and gold marble has been used for mantels on the second floor.

The description of sconce domes in the upper banking room follows: the dome at the south end near the Westminster street entrance represents the Signs of the Zodiac, Zodiac meaning "Belt of Animals." This name was given to the annual path of the sun through the heavens, because some five thousand years ago the constellations lying along it were named for living creatures.

The names of the constellations in the Zodiac may be easily remembered by a rhyme written by Isaac Watts, the English hymn writer:

The Ram, the Bull, the heavenly Twins, And next the Crab, the Lion shines, The Virgin and the Scales, The Scorpion, Archer, and Sea-Goat, The Man that bears the Water-Pot, The Fish with shining tails.

These names appear with their Latin equivalents in the painting in the dome. They are also represented by certain symbols which appear in the painting.

The following table gives us the theoretical position of the sun by months in the various signs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign</th>
<th>Portion</th>
<th>Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aries</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>April</td>
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<td>Taurus</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>May</td>
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<td>Gemini</td>
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<td>Aquarius</td>
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<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pisces</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Days of the Week:

- The marbles are as follows: The sixteen columns in the upper banking room are of French Gray, a Vermont Marble.
- The gray marble in the upper bank screen, the field of the upper bank floor, and the dado in the bank is Istrian.
- The dealt plates on the counter screen, and the bases to the columns on the upper banking room floor are Belgian black.
- The reddish brown below deal plates in the counter screen and the large squares in the floor in the upper banking room are Rouge D'Autumn.
- The Trust Department floor and base are of Blue Belge with alternate tiles of Istrian.

The south wind which is pouring water from a jar, typifying rain and balmy atmosphere.

Autumn is represented by a male figure holding a cup and standing amid autumn fruits. This figure is accompanied by Eurus, the east wind, who is carrying clouds in his arms.

Winter is represented by a male figure with a cloak which is being blown by Boreas, the north wind, typifying storms, etc.

The painting in the North Dome near the Exchange Place entrance represents the seven days of the week.

Sunday, designated by Latin word Sol (Sun), is represented by Apollo, sometimes known as Phoebus Apollo, who, representing the sun in mythology, was reputed to drive his chariot across the heavens daily representing the course of the sun.

Monday, designated by Luna (Moon) is represented by Diana, the Goddess of the Chase. She is carrying the bow and holding hounds in leash. This goddess had two names; in heaven she was known as Luna and on earth as Diana.

Tuesday is designated as Mars and is represented by the God of War with war steeds and chariot. The French for Tuesday is Mardi.

Wednesday is designated by Mercury, who is represented by the figure of that God who acted as messenger to the gods and carries his accoutred wand. The French word for Wednesday is Mercredi.

Thursday is designated as Jupiter and is represented by the King of the Gods in his eagle-drawn chariot, the god being reputed as holding thunderbolts in his hand. The French word for Thursday is Jeudi.

Friday is designated as Venus and is represented by a figure of the Goddess of Love rising from the foam of the sea riding on a shell and holding her famous mirror. The French for Friday is Vendredi.

Saturday is designated as Saturn, the name of the Roman God who was associated with time, also known as the God of somber thoughts and as the reaper; hence he is pictured as carrying the scythe.
Great Banking Centre Has Many Unique Features

Building Undertaking a Great Engineering Feat; Problems in Construction Admirably Solved

ONE hears enthusiastic comment on the features of the new Industrial Trust Company building, but few outside the intimate circle in the bank realize the gigantic undertaking that building the structure has been. Some of the figures of the materials, the service that has been placed into the building and its equipment, and the other factors that give one a more intimate knowledge of the building have been gathered by the soil within them having been blown out by explosions of compressed air and the steel tubes then filled with cement.

On top of these piles a thick mat of cement concrete was placed and at short intervals five feet thick concrete piers were erected to support the steel beams. The total amount of steel in the framework of the building is 7000 tons, and the building complete with the stone and brick walls, floors and all equipment will weigh approximately 68,000 tons.

The foundation was designed to carry double this weight, and in the erection of the steel work one inch was allowed, in accordance with the usual custom in buildings of this kind, for settlement. A careful inspection has been made regularly, and the building has not shown even a fraction of an inch of settlement.

THE MAIN BANKING ROOM, WHICH EXTENDS FROM WESTMINSTER STREET TO EXCHANGE PLACE, COMBINES RARE BEAUTY OF APPOINTMENT AND EQUIPMENT WITH UTILITY AND BANCS AS ONE OF THE SHOW PLACES OF THIS SECTION.

The type of architecture of the building, although harking back to Gothic tradition, has come to be known as "American Perpendicular." Owing to the Providence Zoning Ordinance (which by the way is peculiar in that only one other city in the United States requires set-backs on all four sides) the building is recessed at the ninth, fifteenth, sixteenth and the twenty-second stories. While there is a general impression that the Zoning Ordinance forbids the erection of a building more than 125 feet in height, the fact is that the Ordinance permits the erection of buildings to a greater height than this, but requires that there must be a set-in of one foot for every three feet of additional height on street and lot lines, so that if the ground lot is broad enough or long enough, a building may be erected which will taper to a height very much in excess of this building. The plot of ground beneath us contains 28,000 square feet. The top rental floor of this building contains 1,700 square feet of rental area. This difference between 28,000 square feet at the bottom and 1,700 feet at the top gives a striking idea of the effect of the zoning plan on the upper rental space.

The adoption of the plan of this building was made only after much study and the consideration of many plans. The final one on which the building was built is designated as Scheme T and, while not all the letters of the alphabet were used in plans that were previously considered, a large majority of them were discarded for one reason or another. The Providence Magazine. [October, 1928.]
dence Zoning Board insisted upon a strict observance of the ordinance, but cooperated with us to the fullest extent of its legal possibilities.

The Building Committee gave considerable study to the material of the building and inspected a number of structures in other cities, finally deciding to use Indiana limestone, 210 carloads of which were employed in the structure, with Deer Island granite for the base, 10 carloads being used for the latter purpose. Incidentally, the eagles at the extreme top of the building are of carved limestone and weigh 75 tons each.

In the construction of the building 3,500,000 bricks have been used and about 3,000,000 barrels of cement.

The electric light and power wires throughout the building have a total length of about 130 miles, equivalent to the distance from Providence to Bridgeport, while the telephone wiring is in excess of 1,000 miles in length, or equivalent to the distance from New York to Chicago.

There are ten miles of steam piping in the heating system.

In the windows of the building are about one and a half acres of glass; over half a million hollow tile blocks are used in the partitions. There will be more than 600 plumbing fixtures.

At the highest points of the various recesses in the building are thirty-nine conductor rods for protection against lightning.

In the basement, which is one of the largest in the city, are 2,000,000 gallons of water, all of which will be used in case of fire, with more than 1,000 fire extinguishers in the building. The total labor of 1,500 men will be expended before the building is finally completed.

On each floor of the building there are to be drinking fountains with a constant supply of chilled water which will avoid the necessity of water coolers in the various offices.

There will be eight elevators in the building, besides five others which will be used exclusively for the banking room floors and the safe deposit company.) Four running express to the fourteenth floor (incidentally there is no thirteenth floor in the building). These elevators are the latest type, and it is the claim of the Otis Elevator Company that the installation is the most advanced of any elevator equipment in the world. These elevators will have a possible speed of 800 feet a minute. The system is known as the signal control system, which is so completely automatic that the operator of the car is concerned only in the throwing of the switch and pressing of various buttons. The cars automatically stop at each floor either in response to the buttons pressed by the operator in the inside of the cars or the buttons pressed by the tenants or their visitors in the corridors. The car

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**SONG OF THE BEACONS**

**By Grace Sherwood.**

This is a place called Providence, a city founded by a band Of worshippers for conscience’s sake. They came to shelter in this land Where Roger Williams found succor from persecution and distress, Giving in gratitude to God for providence this name to bless Their children’s children.

We are the lights, the beacon lights, Night beacon lights that, lifting high Their shining lamps, shall mark this place For mariners of sea or sky.

This is a city beautiful where temple, turret, home and heartshave commons share for Pilgrim stock and immigrant from Old World paths, Into the crucible of years we’ve blended from the Old and New All that was staunch with fibre and the essence of a soul shines through This city’s spirit.

We are the lights, the beacon lights, Night beacon lights that tow’ring wait To welcome with warm friendliness The stranger at the city gate.

This is a growing entity, this city with its dreams in stone, For beauty has a presence here abiding. Not for self alone We strive to climb from lowliness to loveliness as Art inspires A civic pride to fashion here the finest altar to the fires That burn for beauty.

We are the lights, the beacon lights, Night beacon lights. (A city nod’s In peaceful slumber,) and this place Commemorates God’s Providence.

On the fifteenth floor are two water-tanks of 10,000 gallons capacity and above the twenty-sixth floor is a water-tank with 15,000 gallon capacity.

The entire basement and the interior of the walls throughout the whole build-
outside light in the daytime.

The bank will occupy three floors. The banking room proper will be in two stories, the upper room having an approximate ceiling height of forty feet with simple but effective decoration.

The vaults, both for the safe deposit company and for the bank's own use, will be located in the basement below the lower banking room and will have an equipment unsurpassed in vault engineering with space for 18,000 boxes and over eighty coupon booths.

The Trust Department will occupy practically all of the second floor at the present time with ample provision for its expansion. Various departments of the bank will be reached by easy stairways or by convenient elevators spoken of heretofore.

The entrances to the building itself which are entirely distinct from the bank entrances will constitute a thoroughfare between Exchange place and Westminister street, and will be opened for public passage the same as the Old Butler Exchange during ordinary hours.

The ventilating system of the building is as thorough as a modern ventilation engineer can make it, and the large stack which runs through the building to the very top is largely a ventilating stack, the smoke flue being in the centre of this stack and constituting only a part of its area.

The heating plant consists of four international boilers of 200 horsepower each. These furnish a capacity with an estimated excess margin of 100% over the extreme requirements of the building. Oil will be used as fuel and this will be supplied from two tanks located in Arcade street which have a capacity of 15,000 gallons.

The building is fireproof in the strictest sense of the word, even the six stratuses which extend over the banking room ceiling and which are equipped to carry a load of 15,000 tons each, are covered with fireproofing cement so that even in an extreme case they would still carry their weight and would not buckle or twist. There are two stand-pipes running through the building with hose outlets on each floor. Beside this equipment, the building is aptly fitted with its various set-ins for fighting fire in adjoining buildings. Not only will the water-tanks throughout the building furnish a supply of water, but from the various heights of the setbacks water can be poured directly on top of flames in an adjoining building.

In the so-called lantern at the top, a permanent light will be displayed at night, the color and intensity of which have not yet been determined.

Walker and Gillette of New York and the late George Frederic Hall of Providence were the architects and Starrett Brothers of New York and Providence were the builders of the structure.

Changes and Improvements Made at Narragansett Hotel
Artistically gotten up invitations have been sent out by the management of the Narragansett Hotel for inspection of several important changes, improvements each of them, in their newly decorated mezzanine and lobby. The parlors have newly laid floors, and here dinner-dances, bridges and afternoon teas will be held. The new crystal ballroom is for the holding of social functions, dances and banquets. The Spanish dining room is picturesquely decorated and arranged.

Brown & Sharpe Produces Two More Micrometers
The Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company has added two more of its special makes of tools to its extensive line of productions designed to secure absolute accuracy in the machine shops of the world. They are micrometers for measuring forming tools. One is of the disk anvill type for measuring the thickness of forms; the other, of the blade anvill type, is for measuring the diameter of forming tools between the depths of narrow grooves. The first-mentioned micrometer caliper measures from 0 to 7 inches by thousandths of an inch; the second one measures from 1 inch to 4 1/2 inches by thousandths of an inch.

Farmers Get First Hand Information by Radio
The United States Department of Agriculture announces the opening of a five-day-a-week broadcast direct from Washington to the radio audiences of a network of fourteen stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

Stations associated in the network are audible over an expance of farming territory reaching from the Alleghenies to the Rockies, and from the Canadian border to the Gulf Coast. It is estimated that 400,000 farm houses within good reception radius of the fourteen stations are equipped with radio receiving sets.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week Federal workers in charge of investigations in farm production and farm economics will give the most timely farm facts of the day to this audience. The new broadcast is established, at the invitation of the National Broadcasting Company and associated stations, as a unit in the radio information service of the department.

It is considered a valuable supplement to the already existing arrangements with more than 200 radio stations for transmission of weather, markets, and general agricultural knowledge.
A remarkable picture, showing the new down-town section of Providence, with the new Industrial Trust Building rising high above the surrounding buildings. The picture, taken by Arthur Rossi, accompanied by several of the officers of the Industrial Trust Company, is one of the most remarkable ever taken of down-town Providence, and offers a striking view of part of the East Side, the Seekonk River, the upper harbor, Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design and the down-town section. The view was taken from an aeroplane while Mr. Rossi and the bank officials were making the flight on a tour of inspection of their building as it appeared from the air.

In the immediate foreground are shown the Union Station, the Civic Centre, known as "The Mall," and the City Hall and Federal Buildings facing each other across "The Mall." The tall structure in the right foreground is the Hotel Biltmore, and the tall building to the centre right is the Union Trust Building, as it appears to-day with its recently completed addition. The new Industrial Trust Building is shown in the centre, and to its left the old Industrial Trust Building, the Hospital Trust Building and Federal Building, grouped. Only a corner of the Turks Head Building shows from the left corner of the new Industrial Trust Building. The Old Colony House, the home of the Old Colony Co-operative Bank, is shown to the right rear of the new Industrial Trust Building, and just beyond that lies the upper harbor. On top of the hill in the left background is shown Brown University, and beyond and to its right the East Side residential section and the Seekonk River.
Now Doing Business in Our New Banking Quarters

The modern office building was not dreamed of when Roger Williams acquired the site of the New Industrial Trust Building from the Indians three hundred years ago.

In this great home office and branches in every section of Rhode Island, our customers will find banking facilities unsurpassed anywhere in the United States.

We cordially invite inspection of our new quarters and inquiry about our banking services.

INDUSTRIAL TRUST COMPANY

Resources More Than $100,000,000

Five PROVIDENCE Offices
111 WESTMINSTER ST. — 63 WESTMINSTER ST.
1475 BROAD ST. — 220 ATWELLS AVENUE
602 ELMWOOD AVE.

Member of Federal Reserve System

E. PROVIDENCE PAWTUCKET NEWPORT
WOONSOCKET BOSTON WESTERLY
PASCOAG WARREN WICKFORD

Kindly mention The Providence Magazine when you write.