

“Catholic National Shrine in Marble”

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Catholic National Shrine in Marble

NATURAL stone and marble and granite are the materials used by the builders of cathedrals and churches for ages and authorities on church architecture urge the use of these materials, even recommending the postponing of building operations until such time as they can be used. Church boards, building committees and congregations look with longing eyes on prospectuses of marble edifices, but frequently the necessary funds cannot be collected and less beautiful and durable materials are substituted with the result that the same congregation is making plans within a few years to correct the error of their haste. That the American people are demanding better and more ornate houses of worship is evidenced in every city where cathedrals and churches are being erected of stone, marble and granite and with added care as to interior arrangements for both worship and other church activities. This magazine has published many articles on the need for better church architecture, making use of material and illustrations recommended by church committees appointed to lead the public to an appreciation of religious art in architecture. The new church of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Victory's Care, Lackawanna, New York, a suburb of Buffalo, is truly an example of beauty of church architecture and in the selection of a material to retain that beauty.

The Lackawanna church, a structure of great size, almost massive in its proportions and resembling more the styles to be found in Europe than America is nearing completion after being under construction since 1922. The entire exterior of this Romanesque structure, which is 258 feet long by 185 feet wide and with its dome and twin towers each 185 feet high, is White Georgia Marble furnished and fabricated by the Georgia Marble Company of Tate, Georgia. All of the marble, more than 60,000 cubic feet, was fabricated in the company's Kennesaw plant at Marietta, Georgia. The surface finish is axe and brush hammered, except for the decorative details and carved work, columns and trim. The Church is Romanesque in general style, although no particular school seems to have been followed by the architect, Mr. Emile M. Ulrich of Cleveland, Ohio. A decorative feature that enhances the front of the edifice consists of two colonnades of thirty columns, forming a half circle with the main entrance in the middle. Each of these columns of White Georgia

Marble is fourteen feet high by two feet wide. In contrast with the main entrance and the twin towers



Rear of National Shrine of Our Lady of Victory's Care, showing massive proportions of structure and height of dome and twin towers rising 185 feet above level. Exterior entirely of White Georgia Marble furnished by the Georgia Marble Company. Architect: Emile M. Ulrich.

the view from the rear resembles a massive marble pile with the dome rising above it. The marble was shipped



New Church of The National Shrine of Our Lady of Victory's Care, Lackawanna, N. Y. Exterior of White Georgia Marble furnished by the Georgia Marble Company. Architect: Emile M. Ulrich, Cleveland, Ohio.

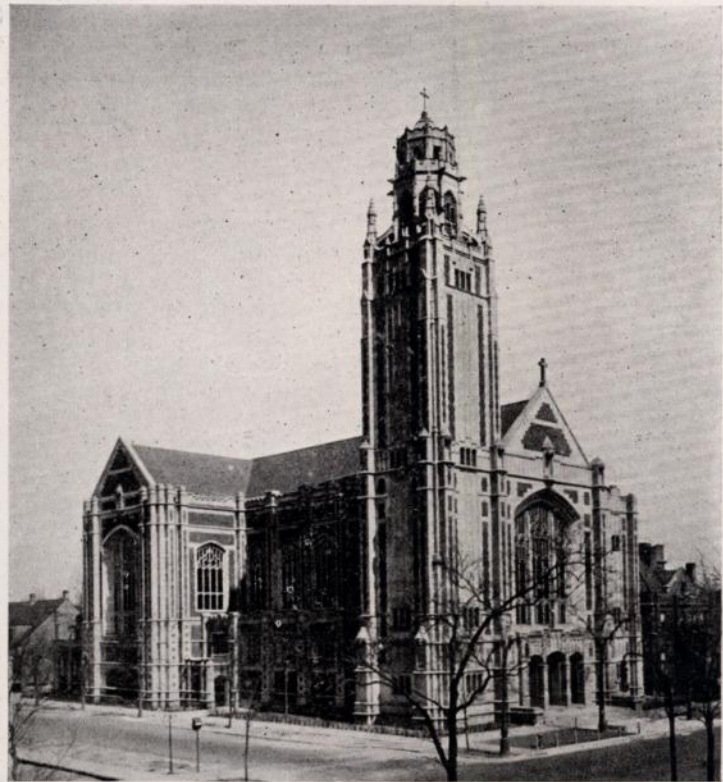
by the Georgia Marble Company from Marietta as it was required on the job. In a similar manner this company is now forwarding fabricated marble from its Georgia plants to Porto Rico by boat for the new territorial capitol being erected at San Juan. When dedicated within the next few months the church of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Victory's Care will be one of the largest marble houses of worship in the country and a monument, both to the church and to the material of which it is constructed.

Indiana Limestone and Its Formation

Interesting facts about the Indiana Limestone formation of Lawrence and Monroe counties, Indiana, were given in an address before the Bedford Rotary Club on June 12 by Dr. Clyde A. Marlott of the Geology Department of the University of Indiana. In language devoid of geological terms that mean little or nothing to the layman, Dr. Marlott explained why the construction industry looks to this district for fully 65 percent. of its superstructural stone. It would be difficult, he said, to realize that if an augur or drill was used to go down into the earth for a distance of a mile or more it would pass through several series of limestone ledges, penetrate rock, shale, sandstone and perhaps strike granite which marks the base upon which the sedimentary animalcules were deposited in the past. This deposit of limestone, Dr. Marlott said, extended both east and west of Bedford, exposed in some places towards the east, but covered over by other rock formations towards the west. This, he said, explained why the limestone to the east lay in layers like the leaves of a book.

Indiana Limestone, the speaker said, was unique among limestones, in that it existed in a single ledge in the two counties, a ledge fully sixty feet thick. In time, he thought, it might be possible that this very desirable stone would be mined after the present outcrop becomes exhausted. He told of having seen as much as forty feet of over-burden being removed before the marketable limestone was reached. This upper stone is discarded. The Indiana Limestone ledge was described as such in comparison to occasional pockets of limestone found in other parts of the country. An instance cited was in Oklahoma where an enthusiastic producer spent \$300,000 developing such a pocket before the error was discovered. It was unfortunate, Dr. Marlott said that there was nobody to tell him that it was a pocket before he had spent his money. The name "Oolitic" frequently associated with In-

diana Limestone, Dr. Marlott explained as being due to its formation from animalcules of about the size of oolites, or about as big as a pin head. The tiny shells of which Indiana Limestone is composed appear upon superficial examination to be oolites. These shells, instead of being calcified are still shells and still hollow. This stone is nearly alike from top of ledge to bottom and, like all geological formations has certain flaws that cause discarding to obtain unblemished stone such as is marketed. Geologists, he said, like to conceive of a formation alike from top to bottom, but as yet none had been discovered, the Bedford-Bloomington ledge coming as near to perfection as he had yet seen. Another way in which this stone is different from other limestones is that it is softer and more easily worked. This degree of softness was once tested by a small boy, Dr. Marlott explained, who upon being told that it was a soft stone kicked a block with the result that the



St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Chicago, Ill. Exterior of Indiana Limestone. Architects: Witzthum & Burns.

end of his toe came off and now he cannot be convinced that it is other than very hard.

Bush House Statue Unveiled

On July 4th Earl Balfour unveiled in Kingsway, London, the Bush Building statuary group in Indiana Limestone symbolical of friendship between the two English-speaking nations. The group was the work of Malvina Hoffman, the American sculptress.