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THE CHESTER BANK – The Handsome New Building Ready for Occupation – A View of the Interior

What is unquestionably the finest specimen of architecture of the Italian renaissance in Delaware County – the new Chester National Bank on Market Street near Fifth in this city – is now completed and will soon be thrown open for business. The architect whose fertile mind evolved this poem in marble is Isaac Pursell while the master builder who wrought the creation into being is Contractor William Provost, Jr., of this city.

The entrance to the building is through an arcade, with polished pillars supporting a Roman cycloidal arch bearing the name of the institution. Just inside the huge mahogany sliding doors is a vestibule of mahogany with beveled plate doors leading to the spacious banking room. The furniture in this, the main apartment, is of massive mahogany with beveled plate glass placing the entire marking corps in full view of the people in the area outside the counting room enclosure.

The banking room has a flooring of marble tiles, while the wainscoting is of white polished Italian marble. The steam radiators are set in embrasures in the wall with the fronts covered with grill work, giving a very artistic finish and materially heightening the effect of the marble walls.

A WORK OF ART – The crowning work of art in the building is the dome and the ceiling decoration. This dome is built double and through the tinted glass there streams rays of softened light that bring out clearly the beauty of the exterior and show the exquisite harmony of colors secured by the artist.

The walls above the wainscoting of marble show a prevailing tint of light green and above this the arches of the base of the dome rise in graceful semicircles, are boutons, equilaterals, lancets and segments. The decoration in each arc is of delicate tracery of medieval design with pale background, while above the arches towers the dome with its glass roof through which light in diffused to all parts of the banking room. On the north and south sides of the building are open arcades or dormers, which relieve the space between the walls and dome and give from lines of beauty to the arches beneath the lancet shaped dome.

Apartments for the president and cashier and a closet for the telephones are placed inside the counting room, while the president's private audience room is in the rear, adjoining the counting room and accessible from a corridor on the south side.

FOR THE DIRECTORS – The directors' room is in the extreme back part of the building and has been finished in terra cotta. A fire place on one end of the room is surrounded by a massive mahogany mantle supported by fluted Corinthian pillars with a large mirror. The apartment is lighted by blue candelabra with a cluster of six incandescent lamps enclosed in a cut glass globe. Touch buttons operate a three-drop enunciator, summoning the bank runner or any of the officials in the business apartment.

Toilet and cloak rooms, a bicycle house for the storage of wheels and other needed conveniences complete the arrangements supplied for the comfort of the officers and clerical force.

BURGLAR PROOF VAULTS – The vaults with which the bank is supplied are marvels of the safe maker's skill. They are absolutely burglar and fireproof and defy the powers of any cracksmen. A double inner door with a duplex combination is itself burglar proof, but added

security is given by a massive outer door, which is opened and closed by automatic pressure operated by mechanism in the front. A triple combination is supplied on the right door post and as the door closes it covers the knobs, fitting so closely that it would be impossible to inject any explosive and the time locks then shove the massive inside bars into their sockets, hermetically sealing the vault.

The safe deposit vault with its shelves of metal boxes adjoins the money vault and is supplied with doors of the same massive mechanism.

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