

City's Memorial Library Building, Grounds Praised

The Halifax Memorial Library building, which opens today, is a fitting structure for a growing and progressive city.

Erected by the Standard Construction Company, Limited, from plans of Leslie R. Fairn, architect, the new building will in years to come be a reason for pride among the citizens of Halifax.

The exterior of the building, which stands across the north-east corner of the historic Grafton Park, is of Queenston limestone. It is of contemporary architecture, strongly influenced by classic design.

Over the main entrance there is the city's coat-of-arms, carved into the stone. The entrance itself has a wide cement concourse, with steps all around.

The building has three floors, two of which will be for public use, containing the circulation, reference and children's libraries, the art display room and a small assembly room. The ground or basement floor is devoted largely to the library's administration offices and maintenance. In the basement also are two tiers of book stacks providing for a limited future expansion of the library's facilities.

On first entering the library one is impressed with the grandeur of the main hall. Here are placed the plaques commemorating those from Halifax who died in both World Wars, the standards and cross of the Silver Cross Women of Canada.

All the interior of the library is done in soft green, while the wood trim is of mahogany and birch. All of the wood is beautifully finished and polished, and adds greatly to the beauty of the library.

The entire library is provided with Venetian blinds and an electric clock has been placed in each of the reading rooms.

The Children's Section has, in ad-

dition to the regular reading room, a small story hour room where children will gather for special story telling periods. This section of the library has its own entrance, on the south south-west side.

Already landscaped, the park in which the library stands has been enclosed with a stone wall and the old benches have been put back so that Haligonians can still sit under the trees. As many of the original trees have been left in their places to provide a fine setting for the fine building.