

adoption of the Federal Constitution." The building was to be equipped with the best desks, tables, chairs, etc. Finally every such act of the Commission was made subject to the approval of the Board of Public Works (Acts 1931, Ch. 487).

The sum of \$200,000 suggested by the Governor was appropriated. The name of the new building later became involved in some controversy but the Governor, who disliked the use of "Memorial" and wanted it omitted, finally won the point although, as some members of the Tercentenary Commission pointed out, the name had been fixed by law. The Board of Public Works exercised its authority in disapproving a contest of architects which had been recommended by the Commission. There was, however, no disagreement as to the qualifications of Laurence Hall Fowler of Baltimore who was finally selected as architect by the Board of Public Works shortly before March 9, 1932. By September 15 of that year Mr. Fowler had completed his plans and the memorials committee reported to the executive committee that it had made three suggestions: 1) an elevator be installed; 2) a room on the third floor be finished and used for assemblies and conferences; 3) the inscription read "Memorial Hall of Records." The first and second suggestions were carried out although later the Hall of Records Commission was to limit strictly the uses to which the Hall of Records might be put. As we have already seen, in the end the architect had nothing to do with the wording of the memorial.

Meanwhile the search for a site continued. As late as December 5, 1932 it was reported that this matter was still unsettled. Two weeks later, however, the Commission was informed by Governor Ritchie that the Board of Public Works had chosen the site on the St. John's campus offered by the College and that Mr. Fowler had been instructed to request bids. Apparently the Tercentenary Commission and its various committees had proved to be too unwieldy and had been clothed with too little authority to conclude so complicated and so expensive a task. As the time for the celebration approached the Commission concentrated its attention more and more on the other features of the program. Its Minutes reveal only a few more references to the Hall of Records. On January 11, 1933, it was resolved that the Hall of Records be dedicated on March 25, 1934. On January 30, it was announced that the completed design