

THE
Canadian Contract Record

A Weekly Journal of Advance Information and Public Works.

Vol. 1.

Toronto and Montreal, Canada, May 31, 1890.

No. 16

THE CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD,

*A Weekly Journal of Advance Information
 and Public Works.*

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

As an Intermediate Edition of the "Canadian Architect and Builder."

Subscription Price of "Canadian Architect and Builder" (including "Canadian Contract Record") \$2 per annum, payable in advance.

C. H. MORTIMER, Publisher.

14 KING ST. WEST, TORONTO, CANADA.

Telephone 2367.
 Temple Building, Montreal.
 Telephone 2729.

The purpose of this journal is to supply Contractors, Manufacturers and Dealers throughout Canada, with advance information regarding contracts open to tender, and to furnish Architects, Municipal and other Corporations with a direct medium of communication with Contractors.

Information from any part of the Dominion regarding contracts open to tender will be gratefully received.

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

At its Convention held in Toronto, Nov. 20 and 21, 1889, the Ontario Association of Architects signified its approval of the **CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD**, and pledged its members to use this journal as their medium of communication with contractors with respect to advertisements for Tenders.

The publisher of the "Canadian Contract Record" desires to ensure the regular and prompt delivery of this Journal to every subscriber, and requests that any cause of complaint in this particular be reported at once to the office of publication. Subscribers who may change their address should also give prompt notice of same, and in doing so, should give both old and new address.

DEADENING FLOORS.

Visiting the devastation and ruin of cyclones and tornadoes, the chicanery and charlatanism of contractors and builders is very apparent, and the ways and means devised to save lumber as well as to make rather poor stuff supersede what the specifications demanded, should be good sound lumber are ingenious in the extreme.

Now, any one possessing a nuclei of common wooden sense, knows that by placing old, sappy, semi rotten and worthless lumber on the joists, and then covering with flooring, does not, cannot, add to the permanency and solidity of a floor. To the contrary, the dry flooring and joists will soon absorb the influence of rot and the moisture from the lining, and the whole will be of the rot rotten.

Such evidences of criminal fraud and chicanery are apparent in many instances where buildings are partially demolished by the winds, and stand in all their mutilated grandeur an enduring monument to the avarice and miserly characteristics of men who, for paltry gain, make man traps and deadfalls for the unwary tenant of store and dwelling.

Again, it is quite amusing to notice the many devices used for making one floor a means of non communication with another, by placing some non-conducting material between the joists or beneath the respective floors, and between the partition walls. The transmission of sound between rooms in two contiguous stories of buildings oftentimes becomes very annoying to those occupying the adjacent stories.

Inasmuch as the power of a solid body to transmit sound is

in proportion to its density, this deadening of floors is not a difficult matter by any means, and this great drawback to large buildings, with its diversified industries and variously disposed tenants, seems a matter of easy correction if taken in time, when the building is in process of construction; but after this the difficulty is practically irreparable, permanently, at least.

The old and primitive method of depositing a quantity of wet mortar on rough boards between the floor beams, and the like, has, in a great many cases, been a cure much worse than the disease, besides which, when the cure had become worse than the disease, the original condition of things appeared, but in an aggravated form.

While the floors were new the transmission of sound was lessened to a limited extent, but the dampness of the mortar being absorbed by the contiguous lumber, and, sooner or later, the inevitable results, decay and dry rot, followed.

In some of the ruined buildings of Louisville, Kentucky, when the late cyclone partially razed them, one can see this argument in practical application. One instance in particular, where the end of a house was blown outward, leaving the joists to fall on the respective floors below, one part of the building, and that, too, where the walls had been the most weakened, the floor timbers held the wreck, the lower rooms being intact; in fact, two old people escaped without a scratch, and were asleep below when the crash came. While on the north side, with apparently very strong walls, the floors gave way beneath floors falling, and the wreck was indeed complete, close observing revealing the fact that the two upper ones had been deadened in the manner suggested in the foregoing.

Some instances, particularly in smaller towns where there are no fire limits, the use of sawdust used to be quite general. This, however, is only a palliation, for it being in such a fine state of division will absorb moisture after a time, and being encased between tight boards, is subject to no influences tending to dry it.

It also furnishes rats, mice, and all household vermin and pests one of the finest hiding places and safe retreats known; and any building containing sawdust between the floors, when once thoroughly infested with vermin, cannot be ridden of them thoroughly by any of the known powers that be.

With the advent of mineral wool it was found that the one thing needful had been discovered, and as its properties became better known, it was found to be not only the most perfect non-conductor of sound, but being a mineral substance, it was also indestructible by heat, and this fact has also caused it to be used for fire-proofing to a certain extent, while the irritating fibers of which it is composed prevent rats, mice, and other vermin from making it their nesting places.

The method of interposing a thin layer of mineral wool between the under and upper floors is a good one. On top of the first floor narrow strips two by two inches are placed, say from 16 inches to 2 feet apart. This leaves the intermediate spaces to be filled with mineral wool. This should be placed in very loosely, not packed, this being an unnecessary consumption of material, and the top layer of flooring nailed in position.

By this method a very warm, muffled, and partially fire-proof floor is secured without the use of any materials to produce dry rot, or become the nesting place and rendezvous of vermin.

All fine passenger coaches are built on this plan. Some of them are wholly incased in mineral wool on the inside. *Lumber Trade Journal.*

The "Canadian Contractors' Hand-Book," 50 cents to RECORD subscribers.