

CONTRACTS OPEN.

PRESBURY, ONT.—The subject of drainage and waterworks is under consideration.

EAST SELKIRK, MAN.—The Methodist denomination has chosen a site for a new Industrial School.

SHEMBROOKE, QUE.—The Jenckes Machine Co. proposes to erect a large machine shop, foundry, boiler and pattern shop.

KINOSTON, ONT.—The local architects are to be asked to send in competitive designs for a proposed new Y.M.C.A. building.

LONDON, ONT.—Tenders will be received by Alderman John Boyd until noon on Monday, the 22nd inst., for electric fire alarm supplies.

NEW MARKET, ONT.—The Town Council has passed a by-law to issue on behalf of the Public School Board debentures to the amount of \$10,000.

PETROLIA, ONT.—Mr. Geo. McCormack will build a brick terrace early in the spring. Mr. G. Palmer intends to erect a large 2-story business block.

WARRWORTH, ONT.—A by-law granting \$25,000 to aid the construction of the Cobourg and Pacific Railway has been approved by the ratepayers.

OTTAWA, ONT.—A company composed of business men has been organized for the purpose of supplying electric motor power and light throughout the city.

PICTON, ONT.—The County Council of Prince Edward County has instructed the County Clerk to advertise for a suitable piece of land on which to erect an Industrial Home.

HULL, QUE.—The City Council has arranged with one of the local banks for the purchase of 4 per cent. bonds to the amount of \$15,000 for the purpose of building a new city hall.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.—A site has been purchased for a grain elevator. The first consignment of steel rails for the proposed electric tramway has arrived and construction will shortly commence.

QUÉBEC, QUE.—The Roads Committee has decided to erect a solid wall, 300 feet long, 70 feet high and 30 broad, at the place where the catastrophe occurred in Champlain street in September, 1888.

CHATHAM, ONT.—Subscriptions to the amount of about \$5,000 have been given for the erection of a public hospital. Plans have been prepared, and several suitable sites for the proposed building are under consideration.

DARTMOUTH, N. S.—The Dominion Parliament will be urged to proceed with the erection of the post office building in accordance with the vote of Parliament at last session. A suitable site has been chosen for the building.

COLLINGWOOD, ONT.—The citizens have subscribed \$250 to pay the expenses of a deputation to New York to urge capitalists who are interested in the Collingwood and Bay of Quinte Railway to proceed with the construction of the line.

SARNIA, ONT.—At the municipal elections, in January, the electors of the County of Lambton will be asked to authorize the County Council to issue debentures to the extent of \$20,000 for the purchase of a site and the erection of a House of Industry.

NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.—The C.P.R. Co. is asking for an Act of the Dominion Parliament to incorporate the Ontario and New York Bridge Co. with power to construct a bridge for railway and other purposes across the Niagara river, at or near the Falls.

HALIFAX, N. S.—The Council will shortly ask tenders for a supply of 2,000 barrels of cement. The Engineer has been asked to prepare specifications for a supply of granite gutting to be used instead of cobble-stones in construction

with two or three miles of street paving. The Engineer is to be asked to report on the best material for paving Baffin's street.

ST. THOMAS, ONT.—An offer has been made by Mr. A. M. Hutchinson to erect a Presbyterian Church which will seat 400, and present it to the east end free from debt. Mr. N. McDonald, barrister, will give the site, and other generous citizens will furnish and equip the edifice.

CORNWALL, ONT.—The Minister of Railways and Canals has ordered a survey for the enlargement of the Furrans Point canal above Cornwall to the standard of the St. Lawrence system. The canal, which is 1½ miles long, will be widened to 90 feet. The estimated cost of the work is \$750,000.

VICTORIA, B. C.—A By-law for the erection of a new market building and garbage crematory has received the approval of the ratepayers and the work will be proceeded with at once. The western Superintendent of the C.P.R. states that early next spring a three wire telegraph cable will be laid across the Gulf of Georgia.

TORONTO, ONT.—The new building which it is proposed to erect for the use of the Atheneum Club will probably be situated in the vicinity of Church and Adelaide streets. Plans for the building are being prepared and will be submitted to the shareholders at a meeting to be held at an early date. Richard Ough, Adelaide street east, will receive tenders up to the 25th inst., for all trades required in the erection of a block of stores on King street. At the next meeting of the Board of Works, the City Engineer will bring in a report regarding the proposed widening of the Queen street subway. The sum of \$111,000 has been placed in the 1891 estimates of the Public School Board for the erection and enlargement of school buildings. The following building permits have been granted: F. R. Stroud, six attached 2-storey bk. dwellings, Marlborough ave., cost \$8,000; Thos. Hiscock, det. 2-storey and attic bk. dwelling, College street, cost \$3,000; I. C. Sheppard, alterations and additions to 86 Isabella st., cost \$1,800; C. J. Longly, 1-storey bk. add. with basement, Yonge and Yorkville avenue, cost \$800; John O'Neil, three attached 3-storey bk. stores, Queen and Seaton streets, cost \$6,900; J. McClandish, 1-storey bk. work shop, 40 William street, cost \$600; R. Vanell, 2-storey extension, Logan avenue, cost \$200.

MONTREAL, QUE.—The Montreal Safe Deposit & Trust Co. has had plans prepared for vaults, to be placed in the basement of the Royal Insurance Building. The safe deposit vault will be 30 feet in length, with a capacity for 3,000 safes. The silver storage vault will have a capacity for over 500 parcels. The vault laid with steel and fitted up for the storage of trunks will occupy space under the pavement. Tenders will immediately be invited for the construction of these vaults. Messrs. Perrault & Mesnard, architects, are preparing plans for the new Roman Catholic Church to be erected in the spring at St. Gabriel. The High School Board has decided to prepare plans for the re-construction of the High School building recently destroyed by fire, to include improved methods for lighting, heating and ventilation. A local company proposes to open up the Boulevard from the head of St. Denis St. to the Back river. The intention is to build a tramway over this Boulevard and divide the farms bordering on it into building lots. Half the money required to build the tramway has been subscribed. The congregation of the Dominion Square Methodist Church has received subscriptions to the amount of \$11,530 towards the erection of a Mission Room at the junction of Little St. Antoine and Craig streets, and so soon as this amount shall have been supplemented by a further sum of \$6,970 the erection of the building will be proceeded with. The Montreal Exposition Company will expend about \$6,000

in repairing and painting the present exposition buildings which are to be used next year.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

CARLTON PLACE, ONT.—Mr. Robt. Cameron, Almonte, has been awarded the contract for building the new post-office. The price is between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

OTTAWA, ONT.—The contracts for the work of enlarging the Rapide Plat Canal at Morrisburg have been awarded as follows: Section 1, D. O'Brien & Son, Montreal; section 2, Weddell, McCulliff & Grass, Trenton; section 3, H. W. J. & J. G. Poupore, Ottawa. There were 57 tenders put in. The contracts go to the lowest tenderers in each case. The aggregate amount of the three accepted ones is slightly over \$1,000,000.

TORONTO, ONT.—The Board of Works has recommended the acceptance of tenders as follows: Sewer on Garfield ave. from Christie st. to terminus of street, G. H. Clarke & Co., \$11,034; on Lisgar street from Queen to Blair street, Blair st. from Lisgar to Armour street, from Blair st. to north side King street, \$13,160. Spikes and nails—F. W. Unitt, price, three inches and over, \$2.38 per 100 lbs., pressed spikes, 7 in. by ¾ in., \$3.70 per 100 lbs., pressed spikes, 8 in. by ¾ in., \$2.60 per 100 lbs. Lumber—W. Leak & Co., price, gang sawn, 2 in. thick, \$12.37 per M. feet B.M.; scantling for sleepers, \$12.57 per M. feet B.M. Cedar and tamarac posts and cedar kerbing—A. W. Godson, price, cedar paving posts, per cord, \$5.95; cedar plank, as per specification, \$13 per M. feet B.M. Gravel and Loam—Taber Bros., price, east of Yonge street, fine gravel, per cubic yard, \$1.03; screened gravel, per cubic yard, \$1.05; good loam, per cubic yard, 70c. West of Yonge street, fine gravel, per cubic yard, \$1.15, screened gravel, \$1.23; loam, 75c.

USEFUL HINTS.

An exchange points out that air-flues should be built in interior walls, and the flues themselves should be either circular or square, or as nearly such shapes as possible. The flat flue is very objectionable. The registers should be about twice as large as the flue section. The smoke flue should be near the furnace; it should be large, square and smooth, and the chimney top should be a little higher than the highest part of the house. There should be no contraction of the flue at the top. A chimney pot smaller than the flue is an injury, while one full size is no better than a regular extension of the chimney.

A new method of preserving fence posts from rotting is described by a German paper. The posts to be treated are allowed to get thoroughly dry and are then placed for several days in a tub of lime water, so that the ends to be set in the ground may get thoroughly saturated. After removing them from the lime water they are to be dried, and then painted with dilute sulphuric acid. This treatment makes them very hard and they last far longer in the ground than posts charred at the end, or treated with tar. The philosophy of this process is not very evident, since the sulphate of lime, which would be formed on the surface by painting the posts with sulphuric acid, after the lime water treatment, is quite soluble in water. Probably the good result is due chiefly to the lime water, which is known to be an excellent preservative for wood.