

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

MIDWAY, B. C.—The contract for a water supply has been given to Mr. Glazer, of Greenwood City.

DASHWOOD, ONT.—H. Willert has secured the contract for erecting a new school house, at the price of \$1,756.

TORONTO, ONT.—The contract for dredging Toronto harbor has been let to Simpson & McNamee, at about 11 cents.

AMHERST, N. S.—The contract for castings for the Intercolonial railway has been let to Rhodes, Curry & Co., of this town.

WOODSTOCK, ONT.—Schultz Bros., of Brantford, have been awarded the contract for the inside finishing of the new Knox church, at a price about \$3,000.

MOUNT FOREST, ONT.—Contracts for a red brick cottage for Wm. Nichol have been let as below: Mason work, T. Trout; carpenter work, Duffield & Till.

HARRINGTON, ONT.—The successful contractors for the Presbyterian manse are: Stonework, Geo. Murray; carpenter work, Jas. McKay; brick and plastering, Chas. & Wm. McKay, of Embro.

HULL, QUE.—The following tenders were received for erecting the new school. Fortin & Gravelle, \$13,728; Chatillon & Lapensee, \$12,010; Richard & Back, \$11,478; Jos. Bourque, \$11,275 (accepted).

HUNTINGDON, QUE.—The contract for the new steel bridge to replace the present Murray bridge has been let to A. Rousseau & Co., of Montreal, for \$1,225. The only other tender was that of the Dominion Bridge Co., at \$1,360. The length of the new iron bridge will be 111 feet.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—Tenders for debentures to the value of \$140,225 were opened by the Finance Committee last week. Those submitted by Osler, Hammond & Nanton for \$121,222, seven years, 100.63 per cent., and their bid of 102.23 per cent. for \$10,000, 35 years, were accepted; also the tender of S. T. Bartlett, Montreal, of \$8,724.30 for \$8,603, 15 years' debentures.

KINGSTON, ONT.—W. Newlands, architect, has let contracts for the erection of a dwelling for Sergt. Snodden, as follows: Masonry, A. Newlands; painting and glazing, A. McMahon; carpentering, T. Brooks; plumbing and tinsmithing, Simmonds Bros. & Pollie.—Arthur Ellis, architect, has let contracts as follows for J. C. Hamilton's brick residence: Masonry, Watts & Langdon; carpenter work, R. N. F. McFarlane; plumbing, hot water heating, metal work and gasfitting, C. D. Chown; painting and glazing, Thos. Orrell.

MONTREAL, QUE.—Contracts have been awarded as follows by Wells & Reaside, architects, for a factory at St. Jerome for the Boston Rubber Co., Ltd.: Brickwork, P. C. Gratton; carpentry, F. Fillion; plumbing, R. Mitchell & Co.; roofing, F. F. Powell; ironwork, Dominion Bridge Co.—Walter Livermore, architect, has awarded contracts as below for a tenement house to be erected for William M. Laurie, 60 Anderson street. Stonework, A. Charette; brickwork, A. E. Wand; carpenter work, A. & D. Kneen; roofing, D. Nicholson & Co.; plumbing and heating, J. W. Hughes; plastering, H. Contant; painting and glazing, W. J. Ryan. Same architect has let contracts as follows for a cottage for Samuel Conroy, 127 Abbott avenue, Westmount: Stonework, Robert Sharp; brickwork, W. H. Boon; carpenter work, R. Sharp; roofing and flooring, D. Nicholson & Co.; plumbing and heating, J. W. Hughes; plastering, Knott & Gardner; painting and glazing, G. E. Blackwell. The same architect has also awarded the following contracts: Tenement houses for Henry Shippel, Wolfe street—stonework, Jos. Roch; brickwork, J. W. Peel; carpenter work, J. A. Anderson; roofing and flooring, G. W. Reed;

plumbing and heating, J. Date; plastering, Knott & Gardner; painting and glazing, C. A. Houghton. Tenement house for John Parish, Conway street, Point St. Charles—Stonework, John Matheson; brickwork, A. E. Wand; roofing, G. W. Reed; plumbing and heating, Carroll Bros.; plastering, Knott & Gardner; painting and glazing, H. W. Boon, carpenter work not let.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRESSURE IN PIERS.

Herr Rudolf Mayer, of Vienna, contributes a valuable article to the Zeitschr. des Oesterr. Ing. u. Arch. Vereines, showing that the customary idea that the pressure of a pier upon its foundation is uniformly distributed over the entire area is subject to revision.

If we imagine the foundation of a pier to be composed of some elastic, yielding material in layers or courses of constantly-increasing area, we see that the weight of the pier would cause the sole of the foundation to bend down in a convex shape, the pressure being at a maximum directly beneath the axis of the pier and diminishing outward in all directions. When the foundation is composed of a rigid material, this diminishing distribution of pressure still exists, and Herr Mayer shows by diagrams the rate at which it diminishes with each course of the foundation masonry. Thus, for a foundation of 10 courses of stone stepping out uniformly from the base of the pier downwards, it is shown that 75.4 per cent. of the load is borne by that portion of the foundation directly beneath the projection of the base of the pier, while 12.3 per cent. is carried by the outer portion.

Following out the same analysis, it is

shown that, no matter how deep the foundation is carried, the minimum pressure carried by the lowermost course directly under the axis of the pier is 50 per cent. of the pressure at the top of the foundation.

Finally, the author reduces the law that, for tall piers, the point at which the relative load upon that portion of the foundation which lies directly under the vertical projection of the pier reaches the minimum of 50 per cent. is found at a depth of foundation equal to one half the height of the pier.

USEFUL HINTS.

CLEANING MARBLE.—It is often the case that handsome marble becomes almost hopelessly soiled and there is a demand for a simple, practical recipe for restoring it. The following, from an excellent authority, is highly commended: Take equal parts of ox gall, powdered soap and pipeclay, and add a little turpentine. Apply a coating to the marble, and when thoroughly dry rub it off and wash with warm water. This will cleanse without destroying the polish. If the marble is badly stained a second application may be necessary.

GOLD SIZE.—The following is an old-fashioned formula for making gold size: Put 10 gals. of oil into an iron-set pot, make a good fire under it, boil for two hours, then introduce 7 lb. of red lead, 7 lb. litharge, and 3 lb. white coppers. When the oil has boiled about three hours and the driers are all in, fuse in the gum pot 10 lb. of gum anime, and while fusing heat 2 gals. raw linseed oil, mix; when boiled clear pour it into the oil in the set pot. Fuse another 10 lb. gum anime, and treat exactly as before, also running the result into the oil in the set pot. Boil until it can be rolled into pills on cooling, and thin with 30 gals. of turpentine.

THE Authorities at Ottawa have been investigating the merits of the new Wall Plaster, known as

“ASBESTIC”

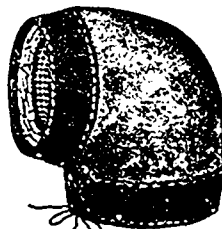
which is nearly the pure product of Asbestos, and possesses all the remarkable qualities of that mineral, being Absolutely Fire-Proof, and as a Plaster, Cohesive and Elastic, besides allowing a Perfect Surface Finish. The result of such examination and investigation, from actual work done in Ottawa, and the opinions of eminent Architects, is to prove that it is all that it is claimed to be. A large order has been given for this material, which is to be used in the reconstruction of the Parliament Buildings, lately destroyed by fire.

The Authorities have shown great wisdom in their choice, as the cost over ordinary plaster is very trifling, and the advantages so manifest to every Architect who has given this remarkable production careful attention, that it cannot fail to commend itself as a positive assurance of safety against fire risk, entailing the minimum of cost for such an object.

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