

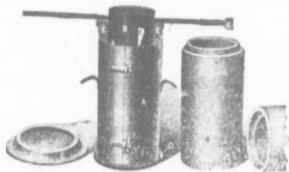
TIME LOST BY WORKMEN.

The last report of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor contains some interesting information on the matter of the amount of time that is lost by workmen, which, as things are, means an inevitable loss of income. The report presents the situation as a matter of averages only, and deductions are of value only when this fact is kept in view. It appears, then, that the average time lost by those who depend on weekly wages amounts to very nearly twenty-two per cent., of which loss a little more than half, or to be exact eleven and one-half per cent., is due to being absolutely out of work. These figures make it all the more astounding that workmen who must average a loss of nearly twenty-two per cent. of possible income should voluntarily lose still more through unreasonable and costly strikes.

BRICK BONDING.

One of the oldest subjects connected with brick laying is the style of bonding, and though so much has been written about it, and though every mason claims to know exactly what the various styles of bonding imply, it requires the closest supervision to obtain thoroughly bonded brick walls in ordinary practice. In late years the so-called Flemish bond has come largely into favor. We say so-called, says the Brickbuilder, for the reason that a wall is seldom laid up throughout in the regular old Flemish bond. Usually the headers are clipped so that an outer screen of 4 inches of brick face is carried up for at least seven courses and then full headers put in to tie to the backing. As the interior of the wall is composed simply of parallel rows of stretchers, it will be seen that the only tie, aside from the seventh course of headers, is thus afforded by the adhesion of the mortar. In many cases this is insufficient to give a very solid wall, but if anything but the very best of cement mortar is used and joints are not thoroughly filled throughout, the wall loses a great deal of its strength. The better way is to carry the bond up with every header full. This means carrying up the outer 8 inches of the wall solid through seven courses and then successively heading over through the wall to get a tie clear to the inside with headers, constituting thus practically a double wall 8 inches thick on the outer section and the balance on the inner. In the old style Flemish bond, however, each course is complete clear through the wall, and as it is impossible to carry up face work or backing in advance one of the other, it is for that reason very little used. Furthermore, with full Flemish bond the bricks of the backing and the face work must of necessity be the same size, and this is rarely possible in modern work; but for solidity of construction there is no method of building a brick wall so satisfactorily as a full Flemish bond carried clear through the wall in every course.

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Architects. Ontario Directory... III Quebec Directory... III	Contractors' Plant and Machinery Rice Lewis & Son... IV	Manila, Grates, and Tiles. Holbrook & Mollington i O'Keefe Mantel & Tile Co. vii Rice Lewis & Son... IV	Sash Cord. Samson Cordage Works.
Architectural Sculptors. Holbrook & Mollington i	Cements. Owen Sound Portland Cement Co. III The Rathbun Co. vii	Mouldings. Decorators' Supply Co.	Stained and Decorative Glass Crown Art Stained Glass Co. IV Harwood & Sons, H. v Mackay Stained Glass Co. v St. George, H. E. v Robert McCausland v Stained Glass Co. v
Architectural Iron Work. Canada Foundry Co. xiii Dominion Bridge Co. i Locomotive & Machine Co. iv	Creosote Stains Cabot, Samuel. i	Mortar Colors and Shingle Stains. Cabot, Samuel i	Sanitary Supplies James Morrison Brass Mfg. Co. xv
Blue Print Paper. Hughes & Co. IV	Drawing Instruments Thurston, A. G. iii	Ornamental Iron Work. Canada Foundry Co. xiii Dennis Wire & Iron Co. vii	Shingles and Siding Metallic Roofing Co. ix Ormsby & Co., A. B. i Roofers Supply Co. II
Barlows Richter Mfg. Co. IV	Drawing Inks Wagner, Gunther. ii	Ornamental Plaster Hynes, W. J. IV Freik Walton. IV	Soil Pipe. Toronto Foundry Co. II
Bridges Canadian Bridge Co. xl Dominion Bridge Co. i	Elevators Fensom, John. I Otis Elevator Co. I Parkin Elevator Co. I Turnbull & Russell Co. vii	Paints. Montreal Directory... xvi Toronto Directory... xvi	Sheathing and Deafening Material. Cabot, Samuel.
Builders' Supplies. Luxfer Prism Co. xiv Montreal Directory. xvi Morrison, T. A. xvi Ontario Lumber Association. xvi Rhodes, Curry & Co. xvi Robinson & Co. D. vi Rice Lewis & Son. IV Smith-Warren Co. i Sand & Dredging. xv Toronto Directory... xvi	Engravers. Alexander Engraving Co. v	Prisms. Toronto Plate Glass Co. viii	Tubing and Fittings Richmond Conduit Co. xiii
Building Stone Dealers. Amherst Red Stone Quarry Co. vi Credit Forks Stone Co. vi Froese, J. vi Hood & Son. vi Horsehoe Quarry. vi Hagersville Contracting Co. vi Kline, J. vi Myers, Oakley. vi Niagara Quarry Co. vi Rice Lewis & Co. D. vi Roman Stone Co. vi	Folding Partitions. Springer, O. T. II	Paints and Varnishes Berry Bros. xiv	Tiles. American Enamelled Brick & Tile Co. i Craven, Dunhill & Co. I Holbrook & Mollington i Permanent Decorative Glass Co. ii Toronto Plate Glass Co. vii Woolscroft & Son. ii
Builders' Hardware. Rice Lewis & Son. IV	Grilles and Railings. Dennis Wire & Iron Co. viii	Parquetry Floors Elliott & Son Co. vii	School and Church Furniture. Globe Furniture Company. v Can. Office & School Furniture Co. v
Bricks American Enamelled Brick & Tile Co. i Beamsville Brick & Terra Cotta Co. II Dan Valley Brick Works. x Toronto Pressed Brick & Terra Cotta Co. III Milton Brick Co. xv	Granite Brunet, Jos. vi	Plate Glass Queen City Plate Glass & Mirror Co. vii Toronto Plate Glass Importing Co. viii	Wall Plaster Albert Mfg. Co. II
Contractors. Toronto Contracting & Paving Co. III	Hardwood Flooring. Seaman, Kent & Co.	Plumbers Montreal Directory... xvi Toronto Directory... xvi	Wire Lathing The B. Greening Wire Company. xvi
	Heating. Sheldon & Sheldon IV Warden King & Son. iv	Roofers Duthie & Sons, G. xvi Douglas B. Co. xvi Forbes Roofing Co. xvi Nicholson & Co., D. xvi Rennie & Son, Robt. xvi Ormsby & Co., A. B. i Rinsham, George. xvi Stewart & Co., W. T. xvi Williams & Co., H. xvi	Window Cord. Samson Cordage Works.
	Interior Decoration Elliott & Son Co. vii	Rubber Tiling. Gutta Percha Rubber Co. II	Waterproofing for Brickwork Cabot, Samuel. i
	Lime. Ontario Lime Association. xvi Robertson & Co. vi	Rubber Mats. Dunlop Tire Co. vii	
	Legal. Quinn & Morrison. II	Reflectors Frank, I. P. xvi	
	Laundry Machinery Troy Laundry Machinery Co. IV	Roofing Material Metallic Roofing Co. ix Ormsby Limited, A. B. i Roofers Supply Co. II	
	Mail Chutes. Trotter Mfg. Co. i		