

PIANOS.

The following letter appeared some time since in one of the Montreal papers, and may be read with interest again. It would have been still more interesting had the writer been able to give any quotations for prices obtained at public competitions for the Weber pianos, but these instruments appear to have been kept entirely from auction sales, their owners being unwilling to sacrifice them, or under no necessity of doing so. From whatever cause no N. Y. Weber pianos have as yet been sold at auction in Montreal. The strike among the piano-makers in New York last week brings out the fact that the great house of Weber, on Fifth Avenue, have been paying all along the highest wages of any in New York.

The writer says:—
 "The number of pianos sold at auctions this year in Montreal is something astonishing. Almost every other sale has a Chickering or Steinway piano offering, which in some instances are sold at less than a-third of their cost. This is an indication of the general retrenchment among classes hitherto indulging their luxurious tastes without stint. It was pleasant for little Miss to be able to boast that papa paid \$800 to \$1,000 for a Steinway piano, which cost not more than \$175 to \$200 in its construction, while her unpretending companion could only answer that her piano, from which she drew just as good music, only cost \$250 or \$300. In those plucky auction sales, where the purchaser, not the 'sole importer,' makes the price, it is amazing how near the two classes of instruments approach each other in value—almost as near as they were when started from the factory, or before the names were placed on the key board. I have not heard in a single instance this season of the Steinway piano being sold at public competition as high as \$300, though several other makers have sold over that figure. Before the Albert Weber piano became the rage with the wealthy and musical classes, the Steinway piano was carried up all the way from \$650 to \$1,750, its lowest price being the first and its highest the latter figure. Though these may well be said to be war prices, they were kept up pretty well for ten years, until the now celebrated Joseph P. Hale showed the people of the United States that he could turn out a good piano and sell it at one-fifth of the price charged for the Steinway. Nay more, gives his personal guarantee with every instrument, and stands to-day acknowledged the wealthiest manufacturer in America. So completely has this wonderful man succeeded in his task of producing a good instrument at a moderate price, that from the Island of Prince Edward to Santiago, and from Maine to California, his pianos are demanded by the people. Thus while Hale supplies the popular demand for moderate priced good and durable instruments, his Fifth Avenue neighbour, the stately and sonorous Weber, enters the palaces of the wealthy and the conservatoires of the musical aristocracy where their great price is no barrier to their entrance. While listening to the celestial tones of a *Neilson, Albani, Patti* or *Thursby*—we are less likely to complain of the price of our own admission than to grieve over the absence of those we left behind. So with the Weber piano in the beauty of its finish, captivating the eye, the grand roll of its majestic tones, or the sweet, soft, lingering melody poured on the ear, speaking to the mind, makes one intoxicated as it were with the power of sound, and incapable of disputing about the price of an instrument brought almost to perfection by the genius and skill of its manufacturer. I have heard the gifted manufacturer himself perform on his pianos at the Centennial three years ago, and was amazed at their power and capabilities. I have heard the tones of his grand piano at the Windsor Hotel, under the nimble fingers of Lavallee and Bohrer, and must agree with Strauss when he wrote, 'I have never yet seen any piano equal to the Weber.'

"PIANIST."

All styles of these magnificent Weber instruments are now to be found at the
DOMINION AGENCY.
 183 ST. JAMES STREET,
 Where the prices will be found as moderate as is consistent with the highest excellence, and, in fact, little, if any, above the so-called first-class pianos.
 Send for catalogues to the
NEW YORK PIANO CO.
 183 ST. JAMES STREET,
 MONTREAL.



SAINT ANNE, OTTAWA RIVER.

Notice to Contractors.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Secretary of Public Works, and endorsed "Tender for Canal and Lock at St. Anne," will be received at this office until the arrival of the Eastern and Western mails on **FRIDAY, THE 10TH DAY OF OCTOBER** next, for the construction of a Lock and the formation of approaches to it on the landward side of the present lock at St. Anne.

A map of the locality, together with plans and specification of the work to be done, can be seen at this office and at the Resident Engineer's office, at St. Anne, on and after **SATURDAY, THE 27TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER** next, at either of which places printed forms of Tender can be obtained.

Contractors are requested to bear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed forms, and—in the case of firms, except there are attached the actual signatures, the nature of the occupation and residence of each member of the same; and further, an accepted Bank cheque for the sum of \$2,000 must accompany the Tender, which sum shall be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works, at the rates and on the terms stated in the offer submitted.

The cheque thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

For the due fulfilment of the contract, satisfactory security will be required by the deposit of money to the amount of *five per cent.* on the bulk sum of the contract; of which the sum sent in with the Tender will be considered a part.

Ninety per cent. only of the progress estimates will be paid until the completion of the work.

To each Tender must be attached the actual signatures of two responsible and solvent persons, residents of the Dominion, willing to become sureties for the carrying out of these conditions, as well as the due performance of the works embraced in the Contract.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
F. BRAUN,
 Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAY AND CANALS,
 OTTAWA, 29th August, 1879.



Department of Militia and Defence.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE above Department invites tenders for the purchase of a quantity of arms not now required for the service of the Department. Tenders to be received until Noon on the 6th day of **OCTOBER, 1879.**

- Quantities and descriptions as follows, viz. :—
 2,933 Peabody Rifles.
 226 Starr Carbines.
 176 Colt's Revolver Pistols.
 34 Allan's Pistols.
 76 Artillery Carbines, O.P.
 219 Cavalry do do.
 107 Spencer do.
 5 do Muskets.
 1,840 Long Enfield Rifles, M.L.
 187 Short do do do.

Any information required in regard to the above can be obtained on application to the undersigned.

THOS. WILY, Lt.-Col.,
 Director of Stores, &c.

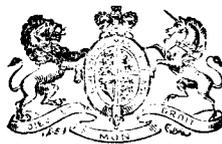
Ottawa, September 1st, 1879.

NOTMAN & SANDHAM,
 PHOTOGRAPHERS TO THE QUEEN,
 17 Bleury Street, Montreal.

BRANCHES AT TORONTO AND HALIFAX,
 ALSO AT
 BOSTON, MASS., ALBANY, N.Y., AND ST. JOHN, N.B.

Medals awarded LONDON 1861, PARIS 1867, CENTENNIAL, PHILADELPHIA, 1876.

HAMILTON & CO.,
 Fancy and Staple Dry Goods,
 105 ST. JOSEPH STREET,
 (Opposite Dupre Lane)
 MONTREAL.



Department of Militia and Defence.
GREAT COATS.

TENDERS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE above Department until Noon on the 6th day of **OCTOBER, 1879,** for the manufacture in Canada and delivery into the Stores at Ottawa, of **5,000 GREY GREAT COATS,** according to sealed pattern, which may be seen on application to the Director of Stores.

One-third of the Coats will be required on the 1st **FEBRUARY,** one-third on the 1st **MARCH,** and one-third on the 1st **APRIL, 1880.**

Tenders are to be addressed to the Adjutant-General, marked on the upper left hand corner, "Tender for Great Coats."

The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

W. POWELL, Colonel,
 Adjutant-General of Militia.
 Ottawa, September 1st, 1879.



TENDERS FOR PRINTING, &c.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Secretary of State, Ottawa, and endorsed respectively,

- "TENDERS FOR PRINTING PAPER,"
 "TENDERS FOR PRINTING," AND
 "TENDERS FOR BINDING,"

will be received until **THURSDAY, the 9th day of OCTOBER** next, inclusive, for the performance, during a term of five years, from the first day of December next, of the following services, viz. :—

1. Furnishing Printing Paper for the Printing of the *Canada Gazette*, the Statutes and Orders in Council, and for Pamphlets and other work required by the several Departments of the Government.

2. Printing the *Canada Gazette*, the Statutes and Orders in Council, and other Books, Pamphlets, Blank Books, Forms, Blanks and such other printing as may be required of the Contractor by the several Departments of the Government.

3. Binding the Statutes and Orders in Council and such other Books or Blank Books, and such other Binding, Map Mounting, &c., as may be required by the several Departments of the Government.

Blank forms of Tender and Specifications will be furnished on application to the Queen's Printer on and after Wednesday, the 24th inst.

Good and sufficient security in the sum of five thousand dollars, approved by the Government, will be required from the contractor for the due fulfilment of his contract. The Secretary of State will not bind himself to accept the lowest or any tender.

EDOUARD J. LANGEVIN,
 Under Secretary of State

Department of the Secretary of State,
 Ottawa, 22nd September, 1879.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

THE
Burland-Desbarats Lithographic Co.,
 5 & 7 BLEURY ST.,

Beg to inform the BANKERS, MERCHANTS and BUSINESS MEN of the Dominion, that their large establishment is now in full operation, and that they are prepared to do all kinds of

ENGRAVING,
 ELECTROTYPING,
 STEREOTYPING,
 LITHOGRAPHING
 and TYPE PRINTING,

Photo-Electrotyping & Wood Engraving

IN THE BEST STYLE, AND AT LOW PRICES.
 Special attention given to the re-production by

Photo-Lithography

OF
 MAPS, PLANS, PICTURES OR BOOKS
 OF ANY KIND.

From the facilities at their command, and the completeness of their establishment, the Company feel confident of giving satisfaction to all who entrust them with their orders.

G. B. BURLAND,
 Manager.

**VICTORIA MUTUAL
 FIRE INSURANCE CO.,**
 OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE, *Hamilton, Ontario.*

W. D. BOOKER, Secretary, **GEO. H. MILLS** President.

WATER WORKS BRANCH

Continues to issue policies—short date or for three years—on property of all kinds within range of the city water system, or other localities having efficient water works.

GENERAL BRANCH:

On Farm or other non-hazardous property only.

RATES—Exceptionally low, and prompt payment of losses.

MONTREAL OFFICE: 4 HOSPITAL STREET.

EDWD. T. TAYLOR,
 Agent.

GOVERNMENT SECURITY
 FURNISHED BY THE
ÆTNA LIFE INSURANCE CO.

This Company having transacted business in Canada so acceptably for *twenty-seven* years past as to have, to-day, the largest Canada income of any Life Company save one (and a larger proportional income than even that one),

NOW ANNOUNCES

that it will deposit, in the hands of the Government of Canada, at Ottawa, the whole RESERVE, or RE-INSURANCE FUND, from year to year, upon each Policy issued in Canada after the 31st March, 1878. Every such Policy will then be as secure as if issued by the Government of Canada itself, so far as the safety of the funds is concerned.

The importance of having even a strong Company, like the ÆTNA LIFE, backed by Government Deposits, will be appreciated when attention is directed to the millions of money lost, even in our own Canada, through the mismanagement of Directors and others during a very few years past.

Office—Opposite Post-Office, Montreal.

MONTREAL DISTRICT BRANCH,
J. R. ALEXANDER, M.D., Manager,
EASTERN CANADA BRANCH,
ORR & CHRISTMAS, Managers.

THE
STANDARD

LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

(Established - - - 1825.)

HEAD OFFICES: EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND,
 and MONTREAL, CANADA.

Total Risks, over - - - -	\$90,000,000
Invested Funds, over - - - -	26,000,000
Annual Income, over - - - -	3,750,000
Claims Paid in Canada, over - - - -	1,200,000
Investments in Canada, over - - - -	900,000

This well-known Company having

REDUCED THEIR RATES

for Life Assurance in the Dominion, which has been accomplished by the investment of a portion of their funds at the higher rates of interest to be obtained here than in Britain, beg to direct the attention of the public to the fact that these rates now compare favourably with those charged by other First-class Companies.

Prospectuses with full information may be obtained at the Head Office in Montreal, or at any of the Company's Agencies.

W. M. RAMSAY,
 Manager, Canada.

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE CO.
 OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

Capital - - - - - \$12,500,000

Fire and Life Insurances granted on easy terms. A call solicited.

OFFICE: 43 ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER STREET, Montreal.
FRED. COLE,
 GENERAL AGENT.