

## MANUFACTURING MATERIALS

### CANADIAN VS. IMPORTED SEWER PIPE.

THE editor of the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER is in receipt of the following letter from a gentleman in the United States, whose name we withhold for the present, having no authority to make it public:

"I am thinking of establishing a manufactory for sewer tile, etc. in Canada, if I can find a clay suitable for the purpose, and, I think I know where I can get it.

I write to you for information regarding the market for sewer tile, and to find out if the demand is all good; also if there is any manufactory in Canada at present, and to what extent. Of course, refer to a verified, salt glazed tile, and I understand the largest sale at present manufactured in the country is six inch.

Any information you can send me on the subject will be thankfully received.

Upon receipt of the above letter, we instituted enquiries, with a view to obtaining the information sought for. We were informed by the principal dealers in sewer pipe in this city that while fields open to the manufacturer of a first-class article in that line in Canada. There are at present two manufactories in Canada—one in Ontario, the other in Quebec. These, we are informed, supply but a very small percentage of the sewer pipe used in this country. The largest proportion is imported either from Scotland or the United States. We enquired whether it was owing to the limited capacity of the Canadian manufacturers to produce the goods that such a deficiency had to be imported. The answer was that it was due rather to the inferiority of the pipe at present manufactured in Canada as compared with the imported article. The clay of Ontario, it was said, would not allow the use of the native article, and that one dealer alone imported into Toronto last year 200 car loads of drain and sewer pipe. We give these statements to the public as they were given to us, with no desire to injure in any way the industry in Canada. We think you should have made enquiries from the manufacturers as well as dealers before making such a statement. Although not solicited, we hope you will excuse us for offering some statements respecting the making of pipe in this country. The factory in Hamilton established in 1860, and which was very weak in the beginning, has become a large business, making all sizes of pipes from 4-in. to 48 in., including junctions, elbows and tees. Our first business was to devote what it was to three years ago. We supply nearly all the pipe used in Ontario except in Toronto, where a prejudice has arisen against the use of Canadian pipe through the use of a slip glazed pipe which was used in the city for many years and was largely in Toronto, where of course it did not give satisfaction, and it is well known that slip glazed pipe is a thing of the past and will not answer the purpose. Years ago pipe was made at this factory in the same way, not having a clay that would stand the taking of a salt glaze. We have supplied and do at the present time supply all the pipe used in the following cities: Hamilton, St. Catharines, St. Thomas, Brantford and Chatham. London up to the present time, got part of their pipe from the States. And until this year we supplied Kingston, the St. Johns Co. supplying part. Then all the small towns, Sarnia, Strathroy, Dunnville, Guelph, Galt, Owen Sound, Brant, Niagara Falls, have got their pipe from us. Enclosed we have sent you a tabulated statement of the sewers in the city of Hamilton up to 1st January, 1888, and several miles have been laid this year.

At the lack of this statement you notice certificate from City Engineer, showing that the pipes were all from our factory, except the 24 inch pipes imported from the States, and which gave very poor satisfaction, a large pipe which was taken up. This matter is of great importance to us we will take the trouble to call on you the next time we are in your city. I have written Mr. Trotter, of the Standard Drain Pipe Co., of St. Johns P. Q., with whom I was connected for the sale of our pipe, the output of the two factories will not be far short of 3,000,000 per year. Trusting you have ascertained that pipe larger than 6-in. are made in Canada, we respectfully yours,

THE HAMILTON AND TORONTO SEWER PIPE CO., (LTD.)  
A. R. CARPENTIER,  
Pres.

The editor of the Canadian Manufacturer having solicited the opinion of Mr. Trotter, President of the Standard Sewer Pipe Co., of St. John, Que., regarding the statements contained in the article printed in this journal, that gentleman writes in reply as follows:—

"When our factory was started here in 1884, the question was at once raised by importers of Scotch pipe as to the strength and durability of our product, and of the pipe, while the Standard Scotch pipe has been used here for fifty years, and is known to be of good and durable quality. If you buy Canadian pipe you do not know what you are getting. Notwithstanding which opposition, some of the local dealers took the sale of our pipe, the article affording the utmost satisfaction. Pipe of our manufacture has been subjected to the most severe tests, and has proven to be of first quality in every respect. In a competitive test the pipe of our manufacture was subjected to crushing pressure, but far exceeding any possible requirement. For instance, our contract with the city of Montreal calls for twelve inch pipes which will sustain a crushing weight of 10,000 pounds, and the pipe of our manufacture, made by P. W. St. George, Esq., C. E., City Surveyor, shows that our twelve inch pipe withstood an average pressure of 5,666 pounds to the square inch, and the pipe of our manufacture, made by P. W. St. George as between Scotch pipe and that manufactured by this company, the results showed that our pipe absorbed but one unit in eighteen of its weight. This shows greater density of body and non-absorbing qualities two and a half times greater in our pipe than in Scotch pipe. Our pipe has been subjected to the same tests in competition with those brands of Scotch pipe most largely imported into Canada. The test was made in the Montreal corporation yard and conducted by R. P. Fleming, Esq., C. E., Engineer to the Sanitary Association

of Montreal. In Mr. Fleming's report he says: 'A drain consisting of eight lengths of straight pipe and three junction pieces, was submitted to the crucial smoke test, which the pipe withstood in a most satisfactory manner; while a second drain of inferior pipe from another factory, when submitted to the same test, showed numerous defects through which the smoke escaped in large quantities.' The drain of inferior pipe referred to was laid with Scotch pipe.

With a desire to do full justice to the manufacturers of Canadian sewer pipe, we have printed their statements and denials in full, and we cheerfully invite them to use our columns to any reasonable extent if necessary to sustain their position. Having thus we trust manifested our desire for fair play, we shall proceed to explain our own position in relation to this matter, and to publish such evidence as we have been able to obtain bearing on the case.

First of all, then, as to our own position. The reader will observe that the article in question states: "Upon receipt of the above letter, we instituted enquiries, with a view to obtaining the information sought for." The statements contained in the article are substantially in accord with the information supplied to the editor of this journal by the individual by whom he was recommended to apply for the facts required by our correspondent. That individual was Mr. Robert Carroll, a well known dealer in sewer pipe in this city. Mr. Carroll's statements were condemnatory of the quality of Canadian manufactured pipe, and tended to show that a profitable opening existed in Canada for the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of pipe more nearly equal in quality to the imported article. Upon the subject Mr. Carroll said, that so far as he was personally concerned, he found it more profitable to handle imported pipe, and that consequently the establishment of another manufactory in Canada, would not benefit him directly. He added, however, that as citizens of Canada, we should seek to develop the country, and by so doing we would as a matter of course, be conferring indirect benefit upon ourselves. With the view, no doubt, of still further encouraging our correspondent in his purpose of engaging in the manufacture of sewer pipe in Canada, Mr. Carroll asked us to accompany him to the office of a gentleman named Mutton, on Adelaide street east, who was the owner of a bed of clay which had been declared to be well adapted for the manufacture of sewer pipe. Mr. Carroll introduced us to Mr. Mutton, who explained to us the nature of the clay, and the location and extent of the deposit. He stated that a sample of the clay was among the exhibits from Ontario at the Cincinnati Exhibition, where it attracted considerable attention, and where, possibly, our correspondent might have seen it. At Mr. Mutton's suggestion we took a sample of the clay, and forwarded it with a letter, setting forth all the information we had received, to our correspondent.

We did not solicit the information with a view to its publication, but simply for the purpose of putting our correspondent in possession of it. In looking over our letter file last month, we came upon our correspondent's letter, and we then formed the intention of publishing it, together with the information received from Mr. Carroll and embodied in our letter replying to our correspondent's enquiries.

Upon reading the denials of the Canadian sewer pipe manufacturers to the statements contained in our article, we at once set to work to make a full investigation into the whole subject. We addressed the following enquiry to the City Engineers of the leading cities throughout Canada:

DEAR SIR,—Will you be kind enough to inform me what proportion of imported sewer pipe, and what of Canadian manufacture is used in your city? What proportion of the imported pipe comes from Scotland, and what from the United States? Will you also kindly give me your opinion regarding the comparative quality of Canadian, American and Scotch pipe? An early reply will greatly oblige.

Yours truly,

C. H. MORTIMER.

The replies which have been received to these letters appear below.

With the object of getting further information to sustain the statements made in our previous article, a representative of this journal called on Mr. Carroll a few days ago, but was surprised to learn from that individual that he had almost entirely forgotten the interview with the editor of this paper. Our representative was still more surprised when Mr. Carroll denied that the information contained in the article was furnished by him, and assuming a position exactly the opposite of that which he had taken in the previous interview, proceeded to argue that the pipe manufactured at St. John, Que., was fully equal in quality to American pipe. Our representative, not being personally in a position to dispute Mr. Carroll's denials, left, with the letter's promise that when Mr. Trotter, President of the Standard Drain Pipe Co., should visit Toronto a day or two later, he would accompany him to the publication office of this journal, and there discuss the matter. A few days later, learning that Mr. Trotter had arrived in the city, we sent a message to Mr. Carroll asking him to bring the gentleman over, which he did.

We were at a loss to understand Mr. Carroll's conduct, but met him with an honest desire to discuss matters in a friendly way. He opened the discussion by admitting that his recollection of the previous interview was exceedingly vague, but upon being reminded of the statements he had made, his recollection suddenly became clear as noonday, and he characterized as untrue every statement attributed to him. Up to this time we had supposed that Mr. Carroll was laboring under some misapprehension, but when he denied in detail, in language more forcible than gentlemanly, every one of his previous statements, the truth dawned upon us, that for reasons best known to himself, he had determined to repudiate everything he had said, and if possible, shift the responsibility for his statements from his shoulders to ours. Because we firmly declined to be placed in such a false position, Mr. Carroll allowed his anger to get the better of his honest judgment as well as of his sense of politeness, and charged us with uttering wild falsehoods. In vain we reminded him that twice previously he had admitted the indistinctness of his recollection of what took place at the first interview, and that in the light of this, and of the fact that we made notes of the interview at the time it took place, his claim to greater accuracy of knowledge than ourselves was ridiculously inconsistent—he was not in a reasoning mood, and evidently cherished to find that he could not build up us into relieving him of the onus of statements, the authorship of

which he is justly entitled to bear, he left us without even saying adieu.

In Mr. Trotter we found a gentleman whose better acquaintance we should esteem it an honor to possess.

Having placed the responsibility for the statements contained in our previous article where they justly belong, we present for the consideration of those interested the evidence touching the relative quantity and quality of Canadian and imported sewer pipe used in this country:

OTTAWA, November 7th, 1888.

PUBLISHER CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.

DEAR SIR,—Replying to yours of the 9th inst., I would state that the corporation of the city of Ottawa does not use the laying of any other brand but Scotch vitrified clay pipes. We have had no experience with American pipes, and while their quality may be good, we are situated so in the case, that railway freight and high cost at works, precludes their competition here with Scotch brands.

Yours very truly,

E. E. PERREAULT,

City Engineer.

CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

ST. JOHN, N. B., 8th Nov., 1888.

PUBLISHER CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your inquiry I beg to say that all the sewer pipe used here is imported (turn out) and is imported from Scotland and is of the quality of the Scotch pipe. As some of the get some from Nova Scotia, (Enfield), but it was not satisfactory, and I have been told, its manufacture has been discontinued.

Centennial sewer pipe is made at St. Stephens, in this Province, by Mr. Vroom, but I have no experience of its character. Twelve inch terra cotta costs here 55 cents per foot, and other sizes in proportion. Any further information I can give you on this subject or any other matter I will cheerfully furnish.

Yours very truly,

HUBB PETERS,

City Engineer.

KINGSTON, ONT., Nov. 8th, 1888.

PUBLISHER CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of yesterday, I beg to say, that we use Scotch sewer tile altogether here. The city did put in some Canadian pipe before my time, but I am not aware that any American was ever used here.

I am not at all acquainted with American sewer pipe, consequently can give no opinion on it, but I must say I prefer Scotch pipe to any Canadian I have ever seen.

Yours very truly,

J. O. BOLGER,

City Engineer.

CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

HALIFAX, N. S., 9th Nov., 1888.

PUBLISHER CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of 9th inst., the bulk of drain pipe hitherto used in this city is of home manufacture. Smith & Kays of Enfield, N.S., were formerly the makers. Lately the work has been carried on by H. C. Preedy. Within the past year some pipe from St. John, P. Q., has been used, and Dutton's pipe, (London) are sometimes imported by local builders. No American pipe has been used to my knowledge. The English pipe are the best I know of here. The demand is principally from builders and private parties. The city uses very few pipes for drains or sewers, except for sizes under 12 inches. While drains are required of larger dimensions, either brick or concrete is used.

Yours truly,

E. H. KEATINGE.

LONDON, ONT., Nov. 13th, 1888.

PUBLISHER CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 9th inst. to say, that owing to our being so far west, we never use any Scotch sewer pipe, the freight making it too expensive. We therefore use Canadian and American pipe, and find these very good, the Canadian pipe being quite equal to the American. The only fault that can be sometimes found with the Canadian is, that they are not sufficiently burnt, but that is a fault only occurring rarely.

Yours truly,

THOMAS H. TRACY,

City Engineer.

CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

MONTREAL, Nov. 12th, 1888.

PUBLISHER CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 5th inst., I beg to say, that the city have not used any Scotch pipe for some time. Drain Pipe Co. of St. John this year, and I have found their pipes to be of good quality. It is impossible for me to tell the exact proportion of Canadian, American or Scotch sewer pipe used in this city, as we receive pipe from all sources. We have made a great many tests, and it gives me pleasure to say that the Canadian pipe compares most favorably with any imported from Europe. The city contracts for sewer pipes are open to competition to everybody, and as the Standard Drain Pipe Co., of St. John, happened to be the lowest, it was given to them. As long as the pipe is of good quality and gives us satisfaction, it is the one we usually adopt.

Yours truly,

PERCIVAL W. ST. GEORGE,

City Surveyor.

Mr. Edward Terry, one of the biggest dealers in sewer pipe in the city, was asked to read the article in question and give his opinion concerning the correctness of the statements therein contained. Having read the article, he said: "I consider your article fair and true." He added that the Canadian manufactured pipe was not up to the standard of the Scotch and American. In his opinion, the St. John pipe was better than the Hamilton pipe, owing to the fact that the former contained a proportion of fire-clay, while the latter did not. The St. John pipe was roughly finished as compared with imported pipe. He had seen St. John pipe that was equal to American, but the output of the St. John factory was not even in quality. Regarding the test which Hamilton pipe was said to have withstood, he was in a position to make an explanation. He had urged the Hamilton people to improve the quality of their pipe by using about one-third fire-clay in its composition, and had consented, if this were done, to handle their pipe. A short time ago, he received from the Hamilton factory some samples of pipe manufactured in the way he had suggested, with the request that he would put his name on them and have them submitted to a test, without mentioning the name of the manufacturer, unless the test should prove satisfactory, in which case he was to let it be known that the test was made at the Hamilton & Toronto Sewer Pipe Co. He put his name on the pipe and had them tested, the result being entirely satisfactory. Those pipes, however, were made in a different manner from the pipe ordinarily manufactured at this factory—they were made specially for testing. If the Canadian factories would place on the market a grade of