

**MONTREAL, QUE.**—The erection of a new club-house in the near future is contemplated by the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association. — Mr. McLeod Stewart, solicitor, has given notice that application will be made to the Dominion Parliament for an act to incorporate a company to construct a canal from some point on the Ottawa river, at or near the city of Ottawa, to Georgian Bay and to construct the necessary wharves, piers, etc. — The Water Committee of the City Council has approved of the expenditure of \$14,000 to repair the bridges and ditches on the aqueduct, and \$11,895 required to lay water pipes in streets to be permanently paved. — The question of providing incinerators is under consideration by the municipalities of St. Henri and St. Cunegonde. — Plans for the proposed isolation hospital, prepared jointly by Messrs. M. Perrault and Eric Mann, have been referred to a sub-committee for a report. — C. St. Jean, architect is calling for tenders for the erection of a Catholic church at St. Nazaire, Que. — Mr. Charles Bernier is preparing plans for a two-story tenement house on St. Elizabeth street for Mr. Louis Gendreau, to cost about \$4,000. — Mr. W. E. Doran is calling for tenders for two stores and dwellings to be erected at the corner of Prince and Common streets for Mrs. P. C. Shannon. Same architect is also calling for tenders for a stable to be erected on Osborne street for Mrs. H. Charlebois. — The City Council has granted the sum of \$9,000 towards the reconstruction and alteration of the St. Antoine market. The council will select the architect at its next meeting. Two schemes have been submitted, one from Messrs. Perrault and Mann, and one from Messrs. Chausse and Lapointe. — The Packard Lamp Co., are negotiating for a suitable site on which to erect a building for manufacturing purposes.

**TORONTO, ONT.**—The City Engineer has recommended the purchase by the city of an electric light plant for street lighting. The cost of a plant sufficient to supply the necessary lights is estimated as follows: buildings, etc., \$42,500; engines and boilers, \$60,000; dynamos, \$40,000; poles, lines and wires, \$100,000; lamps, \$40,000. — The Court of Revision last week confirmed the assessments for the following work: brick pavement on Wellesley place; asphalt pavement on Winchester street, from Parliament to Ontario; asphalt pavement on Parliament street, from Queen to Gerrard; cedar block pavements on Amelia street and Gildersleeve avenue; macadamizing of Jarvis street, from Queen to King. The residents on Parliament petitioned against an asphalt pavement on that street, and the petition will probably defeat the work. — The City Engineer has recommended the construction of an asphalt pavement on Wellesley street, from Parliament to Sherbourne streets, at a cost of \$13,700, and a similar pavement on Cecil street, from Beverley to Spadina avenue, cost \$12,150. — A large deputation recently interviewed the Provincial Government asking financial assistance towards the construction of a railway from Bobcaygeon to Burketon. Among the deputation were Messrs. Charles Fairbairn, M. P., John A. Barron, ex-M. P., and Hon. John Dubson, of Lindsay. The Dominion Government has sanctioned a subsidy of \$3,200 per mile towards the cost of construction, and various municipalities have granted bonuses. Consideration was promised. — Post & Holmes, architects, are preparing plans for a R. C. church at Uptergrove, to cost \$10,000, and for a rectory at Sandwich, Ont., to cost about \$6,000. — Building permits have been granted as follows: — Standard Fuel Co., coal storage warehouse, s. side Esplanade, foot of Brock st., cost \$4,000; Chas. Standish, additions 23 Elizabeth st., cost \$1,500; Davidson Todd, 2 story and attic bk. dwelling, and 2 story bk. stable, rear n. side King st., 50 feet west of Cowan ave., cost \$8,500; J. C. Breckenridge, 2 story add. and bk. case dwelling, 23 Henry st., cost \$3,000.

### FIRES.

The saw mill of W. R. Thompson, at Teeswater, Ont., was destroyed by fire recently. Loss, \$5,000; insurance, \$1,500. — R. Inche's planing mill at Sudbury, Ont., was burned on the 16th inst. Loss, \$3,500; insurance small. — The Oakville Tent and Tarpaulin Company's building at Oakville, Ont., was consumed by fire a few days ago. The building was owned by T. C. Hagamar, and was insured. Loss on stock and plant, \$3,500. — The steam saw mill of J. M. Ruiter, at Borome Corner, Que., was consumed by fire recently. Loss, \$16,000; insurance, \$3,000. — Samuel Allen's carriage factory, the A. O. U. W. hall, and the residence of Donald Roblin at Ameliasburg, Ont., were destroyed by fire on the 18th inst. All the buildings were insured. — Nos. 314, 316, 316a and 318 Visitation street, Montreal, were destroyed by fire last week. Loss, \$5,000. — A two-story residence at Lewisville, N. B., owned by George Mellich, was destroyed by fire on the 20th inst. Loss, \$1,500; insurance \$500. — Doherty's lumber, carding and grist mills at Campbellton, Ont., were totally destroyed by fire a few days ago. The loss is \$12,000; no insurance. — A number of business places at Athens, Ont., were burned last week. — Fire at Amherst, N. S., recently destroyed two tenement houses, two residences and the large warehouse of Rhodes, Curry & Co. — The Dominion Paper Co.'s pulp mill at Maddington Falls, Que., was destroyed by fire on the 26th inst. — The Royal City Planing Mills at New Westminster, B. C., were almost completely consumed by fire last week. Loss, \$100,000; insurance \$75,000. — The wholesale hardware establishment of W. H. Thorne & Co., St. John, N. B., was totally destroyed by fire recently. Loss, \$60,000; insurance, \$40,000. — The residence of John Coxey at Bedford, Que., was burned on the 22nd inst., loss partially covered by insurance. — The establishment of the Montreal Silk Mills Company was damaged by fire last week to the extent of \$40,000, covered by insurance. — St. Pierre and Gamache's foundry, shop and mill, at Bic, Que., with all their contents, were burned a few days ago. The loss is heavy, with no insurance. — The Climax cheese factory at Tiverton, Ont., has been burned. Loss, \$5,000; insurance, \$1,500. — A portion of J. T. Huber's shoddy mills and glue works at Berlin, Ont., was destroyed by fire on Monday last, together with the machinery.

### CONTRACTS AWARDED.

**CHILLIWACK, B. C.**—The contract for the erection of the Court House has been let to Mr. A. C. Henderson, of this town. Contract price \$2,885.

**JANETVILLE, ONT.**—The contract for the erection of a Presbyterian church has been awarded to Mr. John Ingram.

**ELMVALE, ONT.**—Mr. James Davenport, Midland, has been awarded the contract for the two stores and residences designed by Mr. Kennedy, architect, Barrie.

**WINNIPEG, MAN.**—The contract for the erection of two stores for Mr. F. Osenbrugge, to be built on the west side of Mam street, has been let to W. L. Smith. Contract price about \$10,000.

**QUEBEC, QUE.**—Mr. Hogan, of this city, has obtained the contract for the construction of a branch line of the Quebec Central from Tring to Lake Megantic, a distance of fifty-three miles.

**PENETANGUISHENE, ONT.**—Mr. Kennedy, architect, of Barrie, has awarded the contracts for Mr. Gendron's residence as follows: carpenter work, Mr. Tessier, Penetang; masonry, Messrs. Kavanagh Bros., Tottenham; painting and glazing, Mr. A. Bowen, Barrie.

**HAMILTON, ONT.**—The Sewers Committee of the City Council last week awarded the following contracts: beach sand, John Freeth, 89 cents per yard; water lime, H. & J. Dow, \$1 per barrel; brick, Frid & Franning, \$6.45 per 1000; Portland cement, R. R. Gage, \$2.80 per barrel; sewer pipe, Hamilton and Toronto Sewer Pipe Co., six-inch, 14 cents;

nine-inch, 28 cents; twelve-inch 38 cents; fifteen-inch, 55 cents; eighteen-inch, 70 cents; junctions from 55 cents to \$3, according to size.

**TORONTO, ONT.**—The Board of Works on Monday last accepted the following tenders: relief sewer on St. Patrick street, Construction and Paving Co., \$6,499; pavement on King street, stone sets on concrete, Armour street to Strachan ave., John McBean, \$3,043; Davies avenue, cedar blocks, D. L. Van Vlack, \$1,113; Carr street, cedar blocks, D. L. Van Vlack, \$1,995; cast iron water mains, St. Lawrence Foundry Co., four-inch pipe, \$3.96; six-inch, \$5.60; twelve-inch, \$16.40; thirty-inch, \$72.85; 1 3/4-c for extra weight. The tenders for oils were referred to the City Engineer for report.

**BROCKVILLE, ONT.**—The following were the tenders received for excavating and laying pipe in connection with the extension of the waterworks system to the new asylum grounds: Wm. Garson, \$2,964.50; W. G. Tompkins, \$4,279.75; Thos. Doddridge, \$4,672.25; Booth & Haggarty, \$3,367.25; J. D. Warwick, \$3,223.85; S. Armour, \$4,556.25, less ten per cent.; W. G. Tompkins, section A, \$1,111; section B, \$2,101.30; section C, \$1,429.85; W. J. McCormack, section C, \$1,125.00; T. H. Fitzgibbon, sec. A, \$933.60; sec. B, \$1,943.40; sec. C, 1,061.90; J. Jackson, sec. C, \$1,675.75; S. Armour, sec. A, \$1,023; sec. B, \$2,102.50; sec. C, \$1,307. The contract has been given to Wm. Garson. Only two tenders were received for the supply of pipe as follows: Drummond McCall Pipe Foundry Co., Montreal, 10 inch, \$29 per ton; specials \$40; Canada Pipe Foundry Co., Montreal, 10 inch, \$30; specials \$50. The contract was given to the first named firm.

**MONTREAL, QUE.**—The Laprairie Pressed Brick Co. has been awarded the contract for supplying 800,000 pressed bricks for the proposed incinerator on Gregory farm for the City of Montreal. — Messrs. Heroux, of Yamachiche, have obtained the contract for repairs and completion of the chapel of the Lachine convent, cost \$16,000. — Edward Maxwell, architect, has awarded contracts for alterations to St. Catherine street branch of the Molsons Bank as follows: carpenters and joiner's work, Tees & Co.; plastering, John McLean; painting and tinting, Castle & Son; plumbing, John Date. — A. C. Hutchison, architect, has awarded contracts as follows for an academy at Cote St. Antoine: masonry, W. Oman; brickwork, W. Lavers; carpenter and joiner's work, Jas. Shearer; roofing, Campbell & Co.; plumbing, Hughes & Stephenson; heating and ventilation, Smead, Dowd & Co.; plastering, Jas. Morrison & Son; asphalt flooring, Montreal Roofing Co.; steel beams, Dominion Bridge Co.; painting, A. Craig. — W. McLea Walbank, architect, has awarded the contract for the erection of a stable and coach house and Ice House for the St. Lawrence Yacht Club at Dorval, Que., to F. X. Demers. Also for alterations to Royal Electric Co.'s premises on Queen street to F. Rivet.

### NEW COMPANIES.

**SRATHROY, ONT.**—Strathroy Petroleum Company, incorporated; capital stock \$90,000.

**BRIDGEWATER, N. S.**—E. Davison & Sons, limited, applying for incorporation; capital \$250,000; to build saw mill, pulp mills, etc.

**OXFORD, N. S.**—Cumberland Mfg. Co., seeking incorporation; capital stock \$9,000; to manufacture agricultural implements, furniture, etc.

**CAMPBELLTOWN, N. B.**—Campbellton Water Supply Co., seeking incorporation; capital stock, \$60,000; to construct a system of waterworks; incorporators, Hon. R. Thibandeau, of Montreal, and others.

**MONTREAL, QUE.**—The Thomas McDonald Mfg. Co., incorporated; capital stock, \$100,000. — The National Bakery, seeking incorporation; capital stock \$50,000; directors, Alfred Brunet, Lucien Huot, Simeon Lesage and four others.

### BUSINESS NOTES.

Brousseau & Comte, contractors, Montreal, have dissolved partnership.

Antoine Proulx and Wilfrid Mongean have formed a partnership as contractors in Montreal.

John Creed and Arthur Small, Montreal, have registered as plumbers, under the style of John Creed & Co.

Mr. F. H. Herbert, architect, Toronto, has removed from the Yonge street arcade to the City and County Loan Building, 32 Queen street east.

W. A. Freeman, dealer in builders' supplies, Hamilton, has made an assignment. It is said the liabilities will be in the neighborhood of \$100,000, and the assets comparatively smaller.

## MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

### RESTRICTION OF PUBLIC WORK TO LOCAL CONTRACTORS.

THERE can be found frequent issues of local papers in different portions of the country notices of the actions of public bodies which restrict the performance of public work to local contractors or to contractors who agree or stipulate to employ local labor. These proceedings are certainly not rare, and they sometimes take place where one would scarcely expect to find them, although they are chiefly confined to comparatively small places. It is surely commendable for any city or town to show a disposition to take care of its own, but it is at least equally commendable to do it in a business-like way. In the first place, public officials are intrusted with the discharge of certain functions in such a way as to advance in the highest degree possible the interests of the public which they serve, and the surest way to negative such desirable results is to award public contracts to favored contractors or under restricted competition, which means practically no competition at all.

Again, the increased price paid for public work under the circumstances described inevitably will be accompanied by a deterioration in the quality of the work done. Competition is no bane to any good business or business man, but is ruthlessly severe on the laggard and the indifferent. It is just as clearly a principle which results from experience in business connected with engineering as from mercantile business, while it also leads to reduced costs and improved quality of product.

These advantages are precisely what the smaller places of the country need, even more than large cities, but when they restrict the supply or construction of public works to local parties, they deliberately exclude themselves from the fruits of good business management under the short-sighted and miserably unwise, but specious, plea of benefitting home industry. Some one home industry may be temporarily benefited, but all the rest of the community suffers, and in the end that condition will benefit absolutely no one. Small cities and towns need to utilize every available means at their command for the installation or construction of public works; nothing else will so rapidly attract population and business and thus benefit the entire community, and no sham or pettifogging plea of benefitting local parties should be allowed either directly or indirectly to cripple public prosperity. — Engineering Record.

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