

BATH FREESTONE.

A correspondent writes that this stone is largely used in Great Britain and Ireland for the outside and inside masonry of cathedrals and churches, public buildings, mansions and residences and commercial offices, chambers, &c., &c. In the latest of the English cathedral—that of Truro—it has been used for the dressings throughout, both external and internal. There is also a considerable export trade to South Africa. The nearest shipping port is Bristol. Other convenient ports are London and Southampton.

The Bath freestone possesses at least three desiderata, viz.: 1. Its exceedingly moderate cost both for material and labour; 2. Its bright and effective appearance; 3. Its durability.

Compared with other white stones, the cost of masonry in the Bath freestone is exceeding low. The stone is free-working, and elaborate ornament is wrought in it at but little cost for labour. It is cut with a tooth saw. Of the harder kinds one man can easily cut, with a one handled saw, from six to eight superficial feet of double sawing per hour. Of the softer kinds a man cuts from ten to twelve feet per hour, and continues to work at these rates day by day throughout the year.

When sawed into the required scantlings, the mason takes it in hand. His tools are hand-saws, wooden mallets of different weights, chisels of different widths and sections, and toothed drags of different degrees of coarseness. With these he shapes the stone to any designs, however elaborate, the ease with which it is sawn being a correct indication as to the facility with which it is cut and carved to special designs.

Externally it is used for pilasters, sills, jambs, mullions, trivery, heads, string courses, cornices, copings, &c., &c. In Great Britain the walls of the buildings are frequently built of bricks, or of a local stone which is too hard to be worked into any kind of ornament. Used in combination with these harsher materials, the clear and yet soft outlines and mellow tints of the Bath stone dressings give to a building a rich and handsome appearance, which never fails to prove pleasing and satisfactory.

In regard to durability, it is well known that those elements which are most injurious to building materials are to be found in their greatest strength in the smoke and soot of London; in the corrosive acids with which the air of the manufacturing centres and mining districts is impregnated, and in the damp, salt atmosphere and driving winds which prevail along the British seaboard. In each of these situations the Bath freestone, properly selected and used, behaves admirably. In London; in such cities as Birmingham; in the colliery and mining districts and in most places of importance on the British coast, there are Bath stone buildings dating back from the present time to 70 years ago, in the oldest of which the Bath stone is practically perfect to-day, and in the locality of the quarries (where only, in pre-rail and pre-railway days the stone could be used) are abbeys and churches from five hundred to upwards of a thousand years old, the Bath stone in which is as sound now as ever it was. That this stone will stand in the comparatively pure and dry air of the American continent at least as well as it does in Great Britain, there cannot, we think, be a reasonable doubt.

In regard to the action of frost upon Bath freestone, it is constantly shipped and delivered from the quarries during the severest weather, and is not injured. Every winter there are in progress all over the country many Bath stone buildings which have not been roofed in. While frost exists, the building operations are of course suspended. All the builder does is to cover the top surface of the walls with asphalt, to prevent the wet soaking into the mortar, leaving the vertical wall surfaces, which include Bath stone dressings, entirely unprotected. If the softest kinds of Bath stone are used, it is well to cover during such weather the upper surfaces to keep out the wet. The Bath stone receives no damage, and as soon as the frost leaves the carrying up of the walls is resumed and the building completed.

It is not the suddenness or the severity of the frost that injures stone so much as the dampness with which it is accompanied, and as this stone withstands so well the wet, rimy frost of the British Isles, there can hardly be a doubt that it will successfully resist the relatively dry frosts of America.

The stone can be quarried in single blocks up to any moveable weight, in the ordinary way. Blocks are sent out from 5 to 100 cubic feet each. Every block bears the name of the quarry, together with the number and contents of the block. The capacity for output is practically unlimited. There are employed in the quarries upwards of a thousand men, and there are always kept in stock nearly two millions cubic feet of stone. It can therefore be supplied promptly in any quantity that may be required, and in all cases where it is desired stone can be supplied that has been seasoned by prolonged exposure in the open air.

W. McKay, builder, Toronto Junction, has assigned to J. C. Hornor.

Hot cider vinegar will remove paint stains from window glass, or nearly full strength oxalic acid used with a swab will produce the same effect. In using the latter, care must be taken that it does not touch the hands or the paint on the surrounding woodwork.

An American firm have recently brought out transparent triangles, curves, and T-squares. Owing to their transparency, the draughtsman can see the whole of his work, and plans can be much more rapidly and accurately executed. They do not assimilate dust so readily as wood or rubber, and dirt upon them is at once detected.

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9 Victoria Street, Toronto,

Offers to builders, on advantageous terms, lots on Elizabeth St., Westmoreland Ave., Spencer Ave., Shaw St., Wellesley St. and Spadina road.

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Offers are invited to purchase that magnificent business site at the intersection of Dundas and Arthur streets and Ossington Ave. The lot has a frontage of 100 feet on Dundas and 120 feet on Arthur St., and is undoubtedly the best business corner west of Yonge St. Offers to be sent to F. J. Smith & Co., Estate Agents, 90 Church St.

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Money advanced on mortgage. Fire insurance at lowest rates. Values carefully estimated.

Prices of Building Materials.

LUMBER.

CAR OR CARGO LOTS.

1 1/2 inch and thicker clear picks, Am. ins.	\$30 00	1/2 00
1 1/2 inch and thicker, three uppers, Am. ins.	37 00	
1 1/2 inch and thicker, pickings, Am. ins.	27 00	
1 x 10 and 12 dressing and better.	18 00	20 00
1 x 10 and 12 mill run.	13 00	14 00
1 x 10 and 12 dressing.	14 00	16 00
1 x 10 and 12 common.	12 00	13 00
1 x 10 and 12 spruce culls.	10 00	11 00
1 x 10 and 12 maple culls.	9 00	
1 inch clear and picks.	28 00	30 00
1 inch dressing and better.	18 00	20 00
1 inch siding, mill run.	14 00	16 00
1 inch siding, common.	11 00	12 00
1 inch siding, ship culls.	\$10 00	\$11 00
1 inch siding, mill culls.	8 00	9 00
Cull scantling.	8 00	9 00
1 1/2 inch and thicker cutting up plank.	22 00	25 00
1 inch strips, 4 in. to 8 in. mill run.	14 00	15 00
1 inch strips, common.	11 00	12 00
1 1/2 inch flooring.	14 00	15 00
1 1/2 inch flooring.	14 00	16 00
XXX shingles, sawn.	2 30	2 35
XX shingles, sawn.	1 30	1 35

Metallic Roofing Co. of Canada:

Eastlake steel shingles (galvanized),	Per Square,	\$2 25 to \$5 75
Eastlake steel shingles (painted),	3 75	4 00
Improved Broad Rib Roofing, (galvanized),	5 00	5 75
Improved Broad Rib Roofing (painted),	3 50	4 00
North Western steel siding (painted),	3 25	3 50
Manitoba steel siding (painted),	3 25	3 50
Metallic Finished Brick,	3 25	3 50
Tower or Mansard shingles, (galvanized),	6 25	
Tower or Mansard shingles (painted),	4 50	
Metallic Terra Cotta Tiles	7 00	
Price of Copper shingles according to weight, and "Hayes" Patent Metallic Lathing according to quantity.		

Canada Galvanizing & Steel Roofing Co.:

Corrugated Iron, galvanized, 26 W.G., per lb.	5 cts.
Corrugated Iron, galvanized, 28 W.G., per lb.	5 1/2
Corrugated Iron, painted, 26 W.G., per square.	4 00
Corrugated Iron, painted, 28 W.G., per square.	3 50
Broad Rib Roofing, painted.	5 50
Westlake shingles, steel, galvanized, per square.	4 00
Westlake shingles, steel, painted.	5 00
Standard shingles, "Walter's patent," galvanized, per square.	3 50
Standard shingles, "Walter's patent," painted.	5 50
Northwestern steel siding, patented, per square.	4 00
Metallic Finish Brick, per square.	3 50
Metallic Finish Clapboard, per square.	3 25
Metallic Finish Clapboard, per square.	3 50

YARD QUOTATIONS.

Mill cull boards and scantling	10 00
Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths.	13 00
Shipping cull boards, stocks.	1 00
Hemlock canting and joist up to 16 ft.	11 00
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Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft.	14 00
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