

FREDERICTON, N. B.—The city has asked for tenders for the completion and extension of the highwater wharf at Phoenix Square.

ORILLIA, ONT.—Two new school houses are to be built in South Orillia during the year, one at Mount Slayen and one at Calverley.

W. TORONTO JUNCTION.—A deputation has been appointed by the Council to wait on the Government at Ottawa, and urge the erection of a post office building.—The Methodist congregation have decided to enlarge their church.

MORRISBURG, ONT.—It is understood that tenders will shortly be asked by the Department of Railways and Canals for the enlargement and deepening of the Rapide du Plat canal at Morrisburg. The work is expected to be of an unusually heavy nature.

VANCOUVER, B. C.—The Zion Presbyterian congregation will erect a \$10,000 church.—Mr. Thos. Hooper, architect for the new Y. M. C. A. building, has been instructed to prepare plans and specifications and call for tenders for the foundations at once.

QUEBEC.—It is proposed to make alterations in the legislative buildings with a view to their sanitary improvement.—The citizens have resolved to erect an equestrian statue as a memorial of Major Short and Staff-Sergt. Wallock who perished in the St. Sauveur fire a year ago.

ST. JOHN, N. B.—Messrs. Mooney & Son will build an immense brewery. The main building will be 150 x 90 feet, five stories high, besides boiler and engine room.—It is probable that the work of making the alterations necessary to propel the street cars by electricity will be undertaken in the spring.

REGINA, N. W. T.—Fire destroyed a few days ago the Palmer House, Smith's Hotel, Smith & Ferguson, J. F. Mowat, J. W. Smith, C. H. Bayne, J. Secord, Williamson Bros., J. E. Searlett, Lejeune, Smith & Co., bankers, C. H. Black, book store and town treasurer. The loss is roughly estimated at over \$100,000.

HALIFAX, N. S.—A city merchant has purchased a site at the corner of Inglis and Bland streets, on which he will erect a handsome residence.—The Dominion Government is being urged to erect a building here for the use of the provincial museum, the art school, the historical society and the institute of natural science.

ST. THOMAS, ONT.—The M. C. R. Co. have decided to extend the double track from Welland to Cayuga and from St. Thomas to Bismarck, a distance of 60 miles in all. The work will be commenced as soon as possible and completed this year.—Mr. G. R. Pennington has purchased the fine corner lot next the post office on Talbot street, and will erect thereon the finest block, outside the Government buildings, in the city.—Mr. J. H. Secord will erect a three-storey block on the adjoining property.—At a meeting of the representatives of the counties interested, the old site was agreed upon for the Bothwell bridge over the Thames.

HAMILTON, ONT.—Tenders will be received by the City Clerk until the 25th inst. for a sidewalk around the new city hall.—The Hughson street Congregationalists have purchased a site for a new church at the corner of John and Gore streets. A Sunday School building will be erected thereon shortly, and later on a church.—Revised plans for the Bell Telephone Company's building have been sent to headquarters at Montreal.—Robert Cloherty, architect, will receive tenders to-day (22nd inst.) for mason, brick and carpenter work for Presbytery and Catholic church.—A committee has been appointed to report on the probable cost of a wing to the hospital building.

KINGSTON, ONT.—Mr. Erastus Wiman will build next summer a handsome residence for his aunt, Mrs. Rowe, Cataraqui, at Cape Vincent.—The Separate School Board will erect a six-roomed school at the corner of Bagot and William streets. It is also proposed to establish a High school.—The street railway company are considering improved methods of propulsion.—Houses in course of erection, owned by Mr. Turkenton, on Johnson street, were destroyed by fire from the plasterers' heaters.—A gas company, with a capital of \$500,000, is being organized to put in gas works on a new system. The first works will be established at Gananoque.—The plans of the proposed new Y. M. C. A. building are under consideration.—The late Wm. Nickle has left \$10,000 to erect a wing to the general hospital.

MONTREAL, QUE.—A movement is on foot to erect a monument to Maisonneuve, the founder of Montreal. The Quebec Government has promised to assist the city to carry out the project.—Messrs. A. W. Ogilvie & Co. have purchased a site on Foundling street, extending 90 feet from the corner of Port street, with 74 feet frontage on Port street, on which it is their intention to erect a handsome suite of offices.—A new church is to be erected by the parish of St. Louis at the corner of Roy and Laval streets this summer.—A site has been secured fronting on Workman, Halowell and Desisle streets, for the new Protestant School of St. Henri and St. Cunegonde.—The Council has consented to pay half the cost of the construction of subways for the Grand Trunk Railway at Point St. Charles. The total cost of the work is estimated at \$64,000, and it will no doubt be entered upon at an early date.—Tenders will be received at room 5, Mechanics' Institute Buildings, until the 24th inst. for the several works required in the construction of laundry buildings, engine and boiler houses, chimney and water tank tower, at Verdun, for the Protestant Hospital for the Insane.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—It is estimated that upwards of 500 miles of railway will be constructed in the Northwest the coming season. The Northern Pacific and Manitoba company are likely to build two roads, one being probably an extension of the Portage branch into Northern Manitoba, and a road into the Souris coal district of southwestern Manitoba, connecting it with the Brandon branch. The Canadian Pacific Company will complete its Souris branch. Some extension of the two Southwestern branches of the C. P. R. is looked for.—The Williams Mfg. Co. will commence in May the erection of a large number of cottages for their employees.—The local Government is understood to have decided to grant conditional aid to the Hudson Bay Railway to the amount of \$1,000,000.—It is rumored here that the Canadian Pacific Railway will shortly erect a magnificent hotel in the centre of the business part of the city, and that the site has already been purchased.—Another industrial school will shortly be established by the Dominion Government in this vicinity, under the control of the Roman Catholic church.

TORONTO, ONT.—The G. T. Railway Co. ask tenders for the earthwork required to widen the cuttings for the second track, and to place the excavated material in embankments, on the section between Dufferin street and Mimico. Tenders to be addressed to Jos. Hickson, General Manager, Montreal.—A site is said to have been purchased west of the Exhibition grounds for a new summer hotel; the estimated cost of which is placed at \$200,000. Mr. F. Veringdon, who has erected large hotels in Italy and France, is said to have visited Toronto recently with the above object.—The City Treasurer is asked to provide \$15,000 for the purpose of repairing street crossings.—The Property Committee recommend the erection of a building for a branch library adjoining the College St. fire hall.—A considerable expenditure will be necessary for street cleaning plant.—The following building permits have been granted: Charles Moss, 4 storey brick store at 129 King street east, \$10,000; R. McMullen, two pairs 2 storey and attic bk. dwells., southwest corner Markham and Harbord streets, \$10,000; Saunders & McBurney, four attached 2 storey and mansard bk. dwells., George street; one pair 2 storey and mansard bk. dwells., Mutual street, and six attached 2 storey and attic bk. dwells., corner Shuter and Mutual streets, cost \$60,000; R. G. McLean, four storey brick printing house, Lombard St., cost \$13,000; Chas. Stienle, pair four storey brick stores, King, near Princess St., cost \$6,000.—The Parks and Gardens Committee will visit Rosedale Park to ascertain the approximate cost of building the roadway to it.—Improvements are to be made to Hanlan's and Mrs. Durnan's hotels on the Island, and a new hotel and restaurant is to be erected opposite the bridge across the lagoon.—The Legislature will be asked to give a site in the northwest corner of Osgoode Hall grounds for a new registry office.—The following recommendations in the report of the Sites and Buildings Committee have been adopted by the Public School Board: That a site for a school on Markham street, north of College street, be expropriated, and that a twelve-roomed school be erected thereon; that a school site be acquired on the south side of Winchester street, between Sumach and Sackville streets; that Dovercourt school be enlarged at a cost of \$900.

#### CONTRACTS AWARDED.

MONTREAL, QUE.—Messrs. C. Deschamps and T. Gariepy have been awarded the contract for the completion of the Lachine aqueduct, across the canal, at a price of \$5,300.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.—The contract for a new school in the West ward has been let to James Logan. The price is \$8,600.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—The contract for the erection of the new N. P. and M. hotel has been let to Rourke & Cross for \$20,500. Work will be commenced forthwith.

The more uniform bidders are those who conduct their business in a very systematic way. They know the exact cost of everything they handle, not only in aggregate but as to detail. They know what each particular part of each contract costs. They have a basis of value. When it comes to figuring on work, they are not only able to take off their quantities accurately, but may fix values according to definite knowledge.

It is common in architect's specifications to find a clause requiring that sheet lead be laid between the beds of stones that carry considerable loads, such as columns, and masons are in the habit of using sheet lead, believing that the pressure is equalized on the surface of the stones by the interposition of the lead, which yields to any irregularities in the stone bed. But it has been found that this theoretical view of the subject is not borne out by facts. Experiments upon specimens of stone columns so treated have shown that the yielding of the lead did not really take place, and that in fact the lead did not accommodate itself to the irregularities, and from this observed fact the conclusion may be easily reached, that any material which is in reality harder than the stone can not be used in the capacity of a distributor.—*Building Trades Journal.*