

a subway or an overhead crossing at the Parry Sound Railway tracks on Bank street has been referred to a sub-committee of the Board of Works.—The congregation of the First Congregational Church have purchased a lot on Somerset street, near Bank, on which a new church will be built in the spring.—The Catholic residents of Ottawa East will likely take steps this year to build a new church in that village.—The Metropolitan Electric Company have submitted to the city engineer a plan showing the location of the poles to carry electric wires. Mr. Ayles, engineer for the company, states that tenders for the general construction work will be invited immediately.—The Ottawa and Parry Sound Railway Company intend going extensively into the building of box cars.

FIRES.

Recent fires included the following: Coal shed of the Intercolonial Railway at Moncton, N. B.; loss \$1,500.—Baptist church at Nictaux, N. S.—Residence of Edmund Guerin at Notre Dame de Grace, Que., totally destroyed; loss \$25,000.—Thompson's grist and carding mills at Nashwaaksis, N. B., totally destroyed; loss \$6,000, insurance \$2,000. In the basement was situated the boot calk manufactory of James S. Neill, of Fredericton, whose loss on machinery is \$2,000.—Roman Catholic church at Rockland, Ont.; partially insured. Rev. Father Hudon is parish clerk.—Residence and cheese factory of Arnold Cranston, 6th concession of Kingston, near Elginburg, Ont.; buildings and machinery totally destroyed. Mr. Cranston will rebuild at once.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

PENETANGUISHENE, ONT.—Alphonse Tessier, of this town, has been awarded the contract of building a manse at Phelps-ton for Rev. Father Gearin; contract price, \$2,300.

LONDON, ONT.—The tender of William Mallock & Company, for freight and passenger elevators for the new hospital building, at the price of \$1,000 and \$1,200 respectively, has been accepted. The London Electric Company will put in the switchboard, for \$420.

HARRISTON, ONT.—The Harriston Pork Packing Company have let contracts for the erection of a packing house, 147 x 81 feet, three storeys, brick, with stone basement. The plans were prepared by William R. Perrin, architect, of Chicago, and the work will be carried out under the supervision of George Gray, resident architect.

BIDS.

MONTREAL, QUE.—The Fire Committee received tenders as follows for repairing the old water tower: H. E. Whitehouse, \$4,000; Lymburner & Matthews, \$3,800; Fire Extinguisher Co., of Chicago, \$4,500; B. Ledoux & Co., \$2,720. It is probable that the tender of B. Ledoux & Company will be accepted.

LIMESTONE AND IRON.

At the last meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Mr. L. L. Buck stated that limestone in concrete, applied to iron or steel surfaces, would certainly cause deep corrosion of the metal, whenever the stone came in contact with the met-

al. In the anchorages of the Niagara railroad suspension bridge the strands of the main cables were imbedded in a concrete made with limestone, and wherever the spalls touched the wires the latter were badly eaten and sometimes entirely severed. This is a matter of such importance that it deserves careful attention, particularly in view of the use of limestone in concrete laid in connection with the structural metal work of large buildings, where corrosion can only be detected with much difficulty. There is a wide variation in limestones, and it may be that some grades will act corrosively and others not. It is desirable that this point should be borne in mind in discussing the subject.—Engineering Record.

PREVENTING TOOLS FROM RUSTING.

Under the title of "Schuppen-Panzerfarbe" (scale armor paint), the firm of Dr. Graf & Co., of Berlin, have brought on the market a new innocuous rust-protecting agent for iron-work. It consists of a thick fluid varnish, with which is incorporated a color-material composed of extremely thin black-brown scales of metallic appearance. According to tests made by Prof. Fresenius, of Wiesbaden, the new paint possesses a very powerful protective capacity, is unaffected by atmospheric influences, resists, applied to sheet iron, even a long-continued heating, and is not attacked by water, dilute acids, alkalis, and ammonia, acid gases, etc.

Experiments in the Government testing bureau at Berlin-Charlottenburg are also stated to have yielded very satisfactory results in comparison with minium paints. A further advantage is claimed in that any rust which may appear under the coating can be at once detected by the altered color, so that further damage may be timely avoided. Before application the compound is to be diluted with best linseed oil varnish.

BUSINESS NOTES.

Napoleon Peledeau and J. B. Tessier, stone contractors, of St. Henri, Que., are announced to have assigned, with liabilities of \$7,830.

The assignment is announced of Wm. Archer, builder, Spadina avenue, Toronto. Mr. Archer claims to have made an error in tendering for the fitting of the new Heintzman store on King street. The liabilities are small.

A Dominion charter has been granted to the Beaver Portland Cement Company, Limited, with head offices in Montreal and a capital stock of \$150,000. Mr. R. T. Hopper, T. C. Casgrain and W. F. Robinson, of Montreal, are interested in the company.

M. C. H. Stiver, J.P., of Unionville, has been appointed clerk of the township of Markham, Ont., in succession to Mr. John Stephenson, who resigned after a service of 27 years.

As a consequence of the breaking of a link in a derrick chain, Mr. T. Harry Jones, city engineer of Brantford, narrowly escaped being crushed to death by the dropping of an enormous stone slab designed for the foundation of the new span to Lorne street bridge.

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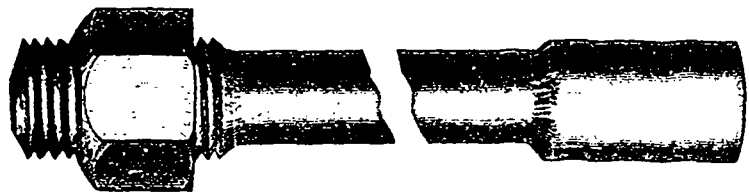
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