

the "Alonso Wright" bridge on the Gati-neau, and the Gillies bridge at Des Joachims.—The city will shortly invite tenders for the cutting of a channel in the Rideau river.—Plans have been decided upon for the new central depot. It will be after the design of the Hotel Frontenac, Quebec, of stone, and four stories high.

FIRES.

The extensive four-storey factory of the North American Bent Chair Co., at Owen Sound, Ont.; the loss is placed at \$130,000, of which \$50,000 is on the buildings and \$60,000 on plant. The company will likely rebuild immediately.—A number of buildings at Barrie, Ont., were destroyed by fire on the 31st inst. Some of the losers are George Plaxton, Thomas Johnston, J.S. Johnston, J. Oxenham and R. King.—G.T.R. station at Bright, Ont., loss \$2,600.—High School gymnasium at Mitchell, Ont.; planing mill of Matthews Bros. & Company on Dundas street, Toronto, containing valuable machinery; loss on building, owned by Wm. Leak, \$500.—Residence of C. Fugereau at Machanicsville, Que., totally destroyed.—Moore's tobacco store at Vancouver, B.C.; loss \$5,000.—The Florence Hotel at St. Lambert, near Montreal, completely destroyed; loss \$5,000.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

QUEBEC, QUE.—G. E. Tanguay, architect, has let the contract to Walter Sharpe for the erection of a four-storey brick structure in St. Roch's, for the Rock City Tobacco Co. The building will be 120 x 40 ft., fitted with modern improvements, and will cost \$10,000.

HARMONY, ONT.—A. F. Luptin has let the contract for a brick residence, with stone trimmings, to George Weber, of Stratford; H. J. Powell, architect.

VANCOUVER, B. C.—The contractor for the new block to be built at the corner of Hastings and Campbell streets is W. MacDonald; contract price, about \$70,000.

ORMSTOWN, QUE.—The contract to supply the brick for the power house on the Soulanges canal has been let to the Crown Pressed Brick Company, of this place.

COLCHESTER SOUTH, ONT.—Zimmerman & Meston, of this place, have the contract of erecting a residence at Oxley for H. Bell. William Lockwood will do the plastering and brick work.

HALIFAX, N. S.—The Midland Railway Company, of Nova Scotia, has purchased 500,000 tons of steel rails from the Carnegie Steel Company, through their Canadian agent, Charles Cassils.

WINGHAM, ONT.—The county council has accepted tenders as follows for the construction of the Summerhill steel bridge, in the county of Huron: Superstructure, Hunter Bros., of Kincardine; concrete abutments, Frank Gutteridge, of Seaforth. The contract for a small cedar bridge on the boundary of Hullutt and Mr. Killop has been let to Robert Jameson, of Fordwich.

OTTAWA, ONT.—The tender of Peter Thompson has been accepted by the county council for the supply of limestone; price, \$3.45 per ton.—R. & T. Ritchie, of Aylmer, have been given the contract to supply poles for the Metropolitan Electric Company.—The Main Drainage Committee of the City Council opened tenders on Monday last for section 3 of the main drainage works, which included 5,700 cubic yards of rock excavation. The lowest tender was \$107,695, submitted by

Laverdure & Laflamme, of Ottawa. This tender has been recommended for acceptance. The next lowest tender was \$127,000, submitted by Joseph Bourque, of Hull. The city engineer's tender was \$147,000.

TORONTO, ONT.—The Board of Control last week awarded paving contracts as follows: Asphalt pavement on James street, Queen to Albert, Warren Scharffe Co., \$5,336.48. Asphalt pavement, Classic avenue, Spadina to Huron, Constructing and Paving Co., \$3,095. Cedar block pavement, Maple Grove avenue, Brock to O'Hara, Dominion Paving and Constructing Co., \$637. Cedar block pavement, Russell street, St. George to Spadina, Dominion Paving and Constructing Co., \$997. Brick pavement, Borden street, College to Uister, J. McBean, \$7,344. Brick pavement, Cameron street, Queen to Cameron place, Constructing and Paving Co., \$2,666. Brick pavement, Brookfield street, Queen to Humbert, J. F. Connolly, \$3,787. Macadam roadway, Elgin avenue, Bedford road to Avenue road, J. H. McKnight, \$2,898. Brick sidewalk, Richmond street, Victoria to Yonge, Constructing and Paving Co., \$1.18 per foot. Concrete sidewalk, Sherbourne street, Wilton avenue to Gerrard, Gardiner & Co., 67 cents per foot. Concrete sidewalk, Adelaide street, Yonge street to Freehold Loan building, Gardiner & Co., \$1.45 per foot. Concrete sidewalk, Homewood avenue, Carlton to Wellesley, Gardiner & Co., \$1.05 per foot. The Metallic Roofing Co., Toronto, have been awarded the contract for the supply of the whole of the steel ceilings required for the Mansion House Buildings in course of erection for Messrs. J. D. Cartwright & Co., at Cape Town, South Africa.

HURRY IN BUILDING.

Haste is one of the drawbacks to good construction, and the results of hurry manifest themselves in nearly every department of building. The cracking of plaster cannot be blamed entirely to the shrink-

age of or settlement of the foundations, for a certain part of cracking in all lime mortar is due solely to haste in preparing the material. Lime mortar hardens by a species of absorption and a drying process quite distinct from the action of hydraulic cement. In order that the drying shall be uniform throughout the mass of lime mortar, it is essential not only that the lime be slaked for a long period before it is mixed with the sand, but also that the mortar should be mixed a considerable time before it is to be used, and that it be thoroughly manipulated, so that the particles of lime are evenly distributed and the mixture perfectly homogeneous. This is on the assumption that the lime is good to start with, which is not always the case. Plasterers pay little attention to preparing mortar; this is usually left to the cheapest kind of labour, and if anyone watches the average mechanic mixing mortar it is evident that such a thing as a careful proportioning of materials receives very little thought. We often find mortar which has stood for generations and is thoroughly hard comparing very favourably with cement, but this is in the old buildings, and is a result of care which was at times expended upon such work. It was formerly the custom to not only mix the mortar and sand together in the bed, but also to work it over carefully on a stone slab, thoroughly kneading it and mixing it before applying to the wall, securing thereby a perfect uniformity of composition which would ensure a gradual drying of the plastering.—Illustrated Carpenter and Builder.

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