February 3, 1904

## CONTRA AWARDED.

ALEXANDRIA, ONT.-\$5,000 town debentures: G. A. Stimson & Co., Toronto, purchasers, at \$5,025.

AMHERST, N. S.- Rhodes, Curry & Co. have secured the contract for an addition 110x44 feet to the Intercolonial treight sheds here.

TORONTO, ONT. -- The contract for supplying the city with cement has been given to the Lakefield Portland Cement Co., of Lakefield, Ont. Price, \$1.84½ a barrel.

A company has just been incorporated under the name of the Canadian Inspec-tion Company. Limited, with head-quarters at 145 & James street, Montreal, their busines. being the inspection of railway bridge and structural materials, the inspection of the construction of bridges, buildings and other structures, making tests, unvestigations and analyses making tests, investigations and analyses of all kinds, both physical and chemical. Mr. Milton L. Hersey, the well-known City of Montreal analyst, is their consult-ing chemist. Mr. T. S. Griffiths, who has been for several years the representative of the Pittsburg Testing Laboratory, Limited, has been appointed general manager of this concern.

## CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD

ANNUAL\_MEETING OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers opened its eighteenth an-nual meeting at its rooms on Dor-January 26th, Montreal, Tuesday, January 26th, Mr. K. Blackwell, the president, being in the chair. Preliminary business only was transacted at the morning session.

In the afternoon Dr. Stansfield, of McGill University, read a paper dealing with the electrothermic pro-duction of iron and steel. Dr. duction of iron and steel. Lit. Stansfield began by considering the commercial possibilities of produc-ing iron and steel in the electric furnace. Attempts are still being continued to produce iron and steel by processes similar to those usually adopted, but in which the heat necessary for the chemical reactions to take place and for fusing the metal is furnished by means of electrical power instead of by the combus-tion of carbonaceous fuel as at pre-

produed by electricity in a furnace containing strongly reducing gases has been already utilized in the production of certain alloys of iron, such as ferro-chrome, ferro-silicon, etc., in which cases the value of the alloy and the difficutly and expense of production by ordinary methods has led to the use of the electrical furnace in spite of its greater cost. The question of the production of iron and steel depends entirely upon the relative cost of fuel and electric-al energy. Where cheap fuel is ob-tainable, electrical energy would not compare favorably owing to its higher cost, but where electricity can be produced under the most lav orable conditions, there is just the

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