

CONTRACTS OPEN.

MORDEN, MAN.—A new electric light station is to be erected.

VICTORIA, B. C.—Brackman & Kerr will erect a large oatmeal mill here.

PETERBORO', ONT.—The Brooks Manufacturing Co. will build an addition to their works.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.—A manse will be built in connection with St. John's Presbyterian church.

WESMINSTER, B. C.—Mr. T. J. Hammell, of Barrie, Ont., will erect a lumber mill in this vicinity.

LETHBRIDGE, N. W. T.—The Dominion Government has been petitioned to erect a custom house here.

VANCOUVER, B. C.—Seven sets of plans have been submitted by local architects for the proposed new C. P. R. offices in this city.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—A syndicate has offered to construct the works necessary for the utilization of the water power of the Assiniboine.

GALT, ONT.—It is understood to be the intention of the C. P. R. to erect shortly new passenger depots at this place, and also at Ayr and Milton.

ST. CATHARINES, ONT.—A by-law to grant to the Reliance Electric Co. the privilege of lighting the city, has been defeated by a vote of the ratepayers.

ST. THOMAS, ONT.—It is rumored that the M. C. R. intend constructing a tunnel under the Detroit river between Courtright and St. Clair and making the St. Clair branch the main line of the way.

NORTH TORONTO.—The Council has adopted the recommendation of the Water Committee to bring a supply of water from Fox Creek, a mile distant, at an estimated cost of \$67,000.—The establishment of a model school is recommended.

GUELPH, ONT.—Steps are being taken to secure the extension of the C. P. R. to connect with the new line which is to be built from Wingham to Goderich.—The Board of Trade is collecting information regarding stone pavements, which will be laid before the Board of Works.

VANLEEK HILL, ONT.—At a meeting of ratepayers of West Hawkesbury, it was decided to submit a by-law granting a bonus of \$15,000 in aid of the construction of the proposed Canadian Counties Railway, and the Provincial and Dominion Governments will be petitioned to aid the project.

KINGSTON, ONT.—The Waterworks Committee is being urged in behalf of the health of the citizens, to push forward the extension of the intake pipe 2,000 feet into the lake.—The Kingston Telephone Co. has been organized. It will put up 5,000 feet of cable wire and 30 miles of telephone wire.

HALIFAX, N. S.—F. R. Page, Chief Engineer Terminal City Railway Co., 31 Milk St., Boston, Mass., invites tenders until Thursday, Nov. 20th, for the construction of about six miles of railway from Port Mulgrave, the present terminus of the Intercolonial Railway to a point south east on the Strait of Canso, Nova Scotia.

HAMILTON, ONT.—The city is advertising for a suitable site for exhibition grounds and buildings.—Engineer Wingate says that most of the right of way has been purchased for the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo railway, and as soon as the purchase is complete, contracts for the construction of the road will immediately be let.

W. TORONTO JUNCTION.—The inducement asked by the Barnum Wire and Iron Company to erect a factory here, will be given.—The Council has instructed Mr. Kuichling to prepare a complete report of the cost of draining the town with an estimated population of 30,000 by each of the "combined" and "separate" systems. Mr. Kuichling expects to have the report ready in about two months.

LONDON, ONT.—Messrs. Peters, Jones & McBride, architects, will receive tenders until 1st November, for the construction for Messrs. E. Leonard & Sons, of brick boiler shop, 30 x 148 feet, with iron roof, an engine and boiler house, 24 x 30 feet with chimney 50 feet high; and brick addition to foundry, 32 x 50 feet, with iron roof.

PRESTON, ONT.—Negotiations are said to be nearly consummated for the purchase by a Toronto syndicate of the North American Hotel and 14 acres of land adjoining, the intention being to erect a large sanitarium, containing from 200 to 300 rooms, and filled with all modern appointments. Mr. Hugh Scott is said to be at the head of the syndicate.

MONTREAL, QUE.—It is understood that the Government will shortly appoint a commission to examine and report upon the plans in connection with the Montreal harbor improvements. The commissioners will also be given authority to suggest a new plan if they see fit. In this connection it is stated that the Public Works Department entertains a favorable opinion of the plans submitted by Lebrun, a Pansian engineer.—Application will be made to the Legislature to incorporate the Montreal & Pacific Junction Railway Company, for the purpose of constructing a railway from a point on the line of the C. P. R. at Hochelaga to the County of L'Assomption to have a junction with the Pacific Railway line.—Subscriptions to the amount of \$17,000 have been received on behalf of the erection of the proposed St. Jean Baptiste hall.—The following building permits have been granted: M. Lartue, 3-storey bk. dwelling, corner St. Marc and St. Catharine Sts., cost \$5,000; John Hughes, 2-storey house, wood and brick, No. 45 Mullins St., cost \$3,000.—L'Union Catholique will erect a hall for its own use at the cor. of Bleury and St. Edward streets next spring. Messrs. Perrault & Mesnard have drawn plans for the structure.—The Sanitary Inspector recommends the immediate construction of a sewer on St. Catherine street from the end of the present one to the eastern limits.

TORONTO, ONT.—The Council will ask tenders for the supply of lumber required for next year.—The City Engineer recommends the construction of the north-west branch of the Garrison creek sewer commencing at Ossington ave. and following the line of the creek through the valley to College st.; thence, crossing College street, along Havelock street to the extension of Sylvan avenue, along Sylvan ave. to Dufferin street, up Dufferin street to Bloor street, and thence westerly along Bloor street to the crossing of the Garrison creek, at an approximate cost of \$56,000, the construction of sewers on North drive, Cuttel lane, Yonge street, Queen st. between Elizabeth and Yonge, Queen st. between Beverley and Peter, and Elm ave.; that a stone flag be laid in front of the old court house on Adelaide street; the widening and extension of Greenwood ave. from Queen street to Danforth avenue, provided the cost does not exceed \$15,504.—The following building permits have been granted: W. P. Thompson, 2-storey and attic bk. dwelling, Dorecourt road, north of College street, cost \$2,000; Larratt W. Smith, alterations to residence, Summerhill avenue, cost \$5,000; M. S. Robinson & Co., 2-storey bk. add. rear 91 Yonge street, cost \$4,000; Geo. Gaby, alterations to 7 Lowther avenue, cost \$1,000; Jos. Power, 2-storey bk. add. hotel, cor. King st. and Spadina avenue, cost \$1,200; Scott & Cross, bk. engine house, corner Union street and Hamburg avenue, cost \$2,000.—Contracts are to be let at once on the tenders received a couple of years ago for the erection of Victoria University building.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

ST. HENRI, QUE.—The contract for the new post office has been awarded to Frigon & Pelletier, Montreal.

GUELPH, ONT.—The Reliance Electric Light Co. has been granted a five years contract for lighting the city.

TORONTO, ONT.—The Barnum Wire and Iron Company, Walkerville, Ont., have been awarded the contract for the iron work required in the reconstruction of Toronto University.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.—The Sewers Commissioners have awarded contracts for the construction of sewers on Pearl, William and Ormand streets to Armour & Cunningham; and for sewers on Park, Bethune and James streets to J. C. Yarwood.

USEFUL HINTS.

The Artist, of London, speaks approvingly of a novel material for wall decoration which, at the suggestion of Mr. Gleeson White, has been adapted to a new studio in that city. The corrugated mill-board used by chemists to pack medicine bottles has been employed for a white frieze. The fluted surface is painted in delicate lemon green, with a narrow shelf of palest yellow below it, the wide surface down to the skirting being covered with a lemon colored canvass. The whole effect is extremely dainty, and the new application of a common substance is already being followed by others. When carefully finished, it is not unlike the fluted silk hangings which were a feature of the Adams period.

To secure the best results of a natural wood finish requires much care in preparing the work for the final finish. The wood should first be thoroughly sand-papered, and the grain well filled. An excellent filler may be made from equal parts of raw oil, turpentine, brown japan and rubbing varnish, thickened with corn starch to a proper consistency to apply with a brush. It should be somewhat thicker than ordinary paint. A heavy coat of the filler is given the wood and allowed to stand until it commences to stiffen, after which, with a coarse cloth or handful of excelsior it is rubbed into the grain, rubbing off the surplus. This is an important part of the work and should be done carefully and thoroughly. After this has stood for twenty-four hours, two coats of shellac are applied and well rubbed in, allowing each to thoroughly dry. A coat of pale varnish will complete the work.

ECCENTRIC STEAM FITTINGS.

The Locomotive says that the application of the eccentric principle to main steam pipe connections can be extended with advantages to couplings for long lines of pipe and with especial advantage to fittings used in steam heating systems.

With the ordinary style of couplings, when the size of a steam main is reduced, it is necessary to put in a relief or drip pipe, sometimes at considerable expense and trouble, whereas if an eccentric reducing coupling were used, which would cost no more than one of the ordinary kind, the water of condensation would flow freely onward.

It will probably be urged as an objection to this style of fitting that they are not made and kept in stock by manufacturers of pipe fittings. This objection will vanish as soon as there is any demand for them. They will be found of far more use, and would probably be used a hundred times at least where a cross-valve is used once; still the latter is a standard fitting because it is occasionally called for.