

Works on Monday last passed the recommendation of the City Engineer that the sum of \$226,000 be expended on new water mains, and decided to recommend the Council to submit a by-law to the citizens to raise the necessary funds. The improvements passed by the board, are as follows: 36-inch main from corner College and Bathurst streets to reservoir, cost \$135,500; 24-inch main on Front street, cost \$40,000; branch pipes off Front street, cost \$22,400; 12-inch main on Avenue road, from Bloor street northerly, cost \$5,500; connecting district east of River Don and north of Gerrard street with high level service, cost \$2,500; larger mains in Parkdale, cost \$2,000. The recommendation of the City Engineer regarding the laying of street car tracks and a pavement on Avenue road was passed on to Council by the Board. A plan for the further reclamation of Ashbridges Bay was presented, but the Board decided to defer action until a later meeting. In connection with this work the purchase of a sand-pump for dredging purposes is recommended.—A meeting of influential business men was held in this city to consider the Nipissing and James Bay railway scheme. It was decided that, should the Grand Trunk not proceed at once with the construction of the road, the members of the meeting would form a company and apply for an independent charter with the object of carrying out the undertaking.—The Sullivan Machinery Co., of Chicago, through their representative, F. K. Copeland, has entered into an agreement with the City Council for exploring the rock formation under Toronto Bay for the purpose of discovering its suitability for the construction of a conduit tunnel for water supply.—In the report of the directors presented at the annual meeting of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association, held on Tuesday, it was pointed out that additional buildings would be required in the near future, the erection of new sheep and pig pens; the enlargement of the main building, the reconstruction of the machinery hall, and a new stone building, are among the requirements.

FIRES.

At Morden, Man., on Saturday last, fire destroyed the Morden House, Kilgour's dry goods store, G. W. McLaren's drug store, Sparling's grocery store, Forest's jewelry store, Heiman's liquor store and the Commercial Hotel. The total loss is between \$60,000 and \$70,000, and the insurance \$27,000.—Patrick Cashion's residence at Cobourg, Ont., was burned on the 8th inst. Loss, \$2,000; partially insured.—The Orange Hall at Florenceville, N. B., was destroyed by fire last week. Loss, \$2,000.—The residence of Robert Alexander, Ridgeway, Ont., was burned recently.—A residence on Division street, Kingston, owned by Edward Dawson, was burned last week.—Fire at Port Dalhousie, Ont., on the 6th inst., destroyed a frame house owned by John Howe and the residence of M. J. Irwin. The losses respectively are \$1,500 and \$2,000, with small insurance.—The Lake Erie and Detroit River railroad station at Merlin, Ont., has been burned. Building insured.—The residence of D. P. Foster, at Decewsville, Ont., was destroyed by fire a few days ago. Loss partially covered by insurance.—Trinity College school at Port Hope, Ont., was completely destroyed by fire on the 11th inst.. The loss is estimated at \$80,000; the insurance being \$61,000. Rebuilding will probably be commenced as soon as arrangements can be completed.—M. X. Mattmann's brewery at Pembroke, Ont., was burned last week. It was a new building and was valued at \$5,000. No insurance.—The Eldon House at Woodville, Ont., has been destroyed by fire. Loss, \$6,000; insurance \$2,000.—Fire at Harrow, Ont.,

on the 12th inst. destroyed W. S. Wright's dwelling, Straith & Co.'s general store and Roseburg's hardware shop and dwelling. About one-half the loss is covered by insurance.—The Queens Avenue Methodist church, London, Ont., was destroyed by fire yesterday morning, the 13th inst.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

TRURO, N. S.—Black & Co. have let the contract for the erection of a block of stores in this town to Rhodes, Curry & Co., of Amherst. The contract price is about \$12,000.

COMBER, ONT.—J. A. Buchanan, of this place, has received the contract for furnishing the piles necessary for the construction of the Amherstburg extension of the M. C. R. About 10,000 lineal feet will be required, which will cost about \$1,600.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—Philip Burnett, contractor, of this city, has been awarded the contract for building a large chimney at the Ogilvie mill and also for other brickwork in connection with new boilers and enlarging the boilers and engine rooms. The chimney will cost about \$6,000.

MONTREAL, QUE.—The Municipal Council of St. Louis d. J. Mile End have awarded the contract for building new sewers on St. Urbain street to Bastien & Valiquette. The work will be commenced at once.—Messrs. Perrault & Lesage, architects, have awarded the following contracts: Interior finishing for the Banque d'Hochelaga, W. Scott & Sons; marble work, A. Forsyth. Stores and dwellings for Mr. J. B. Charbonneau, roofing, G. Quintal; plastering, F. Lefebvre; plumbing, G. Quintal. Store and dwelling for Mr. P. A. Rodier; roofing, T. Bonhomme; plumbing and heating, F. Bonhomme. Dwellings on St. Denis street for Mrs. A. Bourgeau, carpenter and joiner's work, L. Beaudry; roofing and plumbing, Lesperance & Chériault; plastering and brickwork, L. Beaudry; painting and glazing, A. Carrieré; masonry, L. Beaudry. Store and dwelling on Peel street for the Bagg estate, masonry, Prénoveau, Turcot & Martineau; carpenter and joiner's work, plastering and painting, L. Beaudry; roofing and plumbing, A. Sigouin; steel work, A. & E. Loignon; brickwork, J. Morache; glazier, Mongenais, Boivin & Co.

NEW COMPANIES.

ESSEX, ONT.—Standard Oil and Gas Co., incorporated; capital, \$400,000.

OTTAWA, ONT.—The Tulameen Mining Co., seeking incorporation; headquarters in this city. The operations of the company will be carried on principally in British Columbia.

SHERBROOKE, QUE.—Hall Mowing Machine Co., seeking incorporation; capital, \$100,000; incorporators, A. N. Thompson, Sidney Stevens and J. S. Mitchell, of this place, and several others.

PETERBOROUGH, ONT.—Peterborough and Chemong Park Railway Co., applying for incorporation; capital, \$100,000; to construct an electric railway from Peterborough to Chemong Park.

PORT COLBORNE, ONT.—Port Colborne and Fort Erie Railway Co., provisionally organized. Directors, W. R. German, of Welland; R. G. Cox, of St. Catharines; F. F. White, of Port Colborne, and others. The construction of the road will be commenced as soon as Government charter is granted.

MONTREAL, QUE.—Montreal Roofing Co., seeking incorporation; capital, \$150,000; to carry on business as general roofers and contractors.—Taylor Hydraulic Air Compressing Co., applying for incorporation; capital, \$500,000; applicants, C. H. Taylor, Millen, W. T. Ross, of Montreal, W. H. Campbell, of Belleville, and others.

BUSINESS NOTES.

Paquet & Fortin have formed a partnership in Quebec, Que., as contractors.

W. H. Wooden, carpenter and lumber dealer, at Burford, Ont., has assigned.

The sheriff is said to be in possession of the effects of Braden Bros., plumbers, Victoria.

The firm of Goodman & White, builders and contractors, Windsor, Ont., has been dissolved. The business will be continued by George E. White.

The firm of Christie & Agar, plumbers and steam fitters, Owen Sound, Ont., has been dissolved, J. H. Christie retiring. The business will be carried on in future under the style of Christie Bros.

A new company will shortly be formed in Moncton, N. B., to manufacture building brick under the dry process. The new concern will be known as the Maritime Pressed Brick and Terra Cotta Co., and will have a capital of \$20,000.

AN UNFAIR PRACTICE.

Instances have recently come to our attention, says The Brickbuilder, which would seem to give material men considerable ground for complaint against some architects for decidedly unfair treatment. We cannot see the justice of allowing manufacturers to figure on work and put in bids, which, on their part, is done in all earnestness, when the architect has made up his mind not to give them the contract if they are the successful bidder. One of the most aggravating and yet most common instances of dishonorable practice is that of allowing several manufacturers to estimate with a view to using the lowest estimates to beat down one of the bidders whom the architect wants to have do the work, yet whose initial bid is apt to be above the average. It is usually done by taking the lowest bid to the selected bidder and telling him he can have the job if he will meet the successful bid. We say it is dishonorable because it is dishonest practice. The taking off of quantities and the figuring of costs is no little item in the time of the manufacturer or his agent. He invests this time as a part of his expenses in securing business. The architect who takes his time, having decided not to give him the contract, is a *thief*, for no material-man will estimate unless he thinks he will get the contract if his bid is the lowest. He certainly would not work hard for hours preparing an estimate which he knew would be used only to beat down a competitor.

The architect may give as his excuse that he was not satisfied that the lowest bidder could satisfactorily fill the contract. The only answer to this is that he should satisfy himself beforehand that none but responsible bidders were allowed to figure. It is a characteristic of the best offices that the figuring is not thrown open to Tom, Dick, and Harry, but to a list of reputable contractors and material-men. The architect who "turns down" the would-be bidders frankly, because he has doubts as to their satisfactorily carrying out the contract, is far more honorable and aboveboard than he who allows every one to figure because he dislikes to shut out certain ones.