

cities should be the expression of the best of the art powers of the community. That is the proper field of the artist, and not the collection of pictures in a gallery which no one needs, and only a few wish to look at. Building should be the highest expression of the spirit of man, and not merely a dull and soulless record of what are supposed to be his material needs. And we who enjoy the privilege of living in a country which still possesses so many great examples of old buildings have little excuse for ignoring the lessons they convey.

### Gypsum Wall Board Successfully Withstands Fire Test

The insulating properties of gypsum board and its success as a fire-resisting material were satisfactorily demonstrated in the fire test recently conducted at Toronto, at the rear of No. 1 Fire Station. The demonstration consisted in subjecting two panels or wall sections erected for the purpose to the direct action of fire for a period of 35 minutes duration. The panels which were approximately 12 by 16 feet, were built of ordinary 2 by 4 studding protected with wall board consisting of a ¼-inch layer of hard wall plaster bonded to a ¾-inch gypsum plaster base. One panel was faced with clapboarding and the other with a Portland cement stucco one inch thick, the back of the two panels being finished with ordinary inside wall plaster.

While the clapboarding was quickly consumed, and the cement stucco damaged due to the expansion caused by the extreme heat, the two panels remained intact at the end of the test with the gypsum board protection practically unimpaired. An added circumstance was a strong wind which sprang up at the time and which contributed to make the test more convincing. The insulating properties of the material were fully established by the fact that no heat penetrated the wall and that at any time during the progress of the fire it was possible to place the bare hand on the rear of the panels and to find them absolutely cool.

The test has a particular value at the present time in that it proves the advantage of gypsum board as a durable and inexpensive material which can be profitably employed in helping to keep down costs in housing development. The demonstration was conducted in the presence of a number of architects, contractors and others, including representatives of the city architect's office and fire department, and will likely be made the subject of report, which in view of the economy claimed for this type of construction, should be of general interest.

### Personal

Stanley T. J. Fryer, O.A.A., and William G. Evans, Hamilton, Ont., whose office has been closed owing to both members being away on active service in France, have again resumed architectural practice in the Home Bank Building, James Street North. Catalogues and price list from manufacturers and supply firms are desired.

Messrs. Eden Smith & Son, architects, Toronto, have formed a partnership with Mr. A. S. Mathers. The business will be carried on at 33 Scott Street under the name of Eden Smith & Mathers.

H. L. Symons & Co., engineers and contractors, have opened offices at 43 Scott street, Toronto. They will be very pleased to receive catalogues and price lists from supply firms.

The Asbestos Mfg. Co., Limited, manufacturers of asbestos shingles, slates, etc., Montreal, have opened a sales office in Toronto, with Mr. Grant Selater in charge.

### Canadian Firm to Manufacture Mixing Valves

Arrangements have been concluded with the patentees by the Mueller Mfg. Co., Limited, of Sarnia, Ont., for the exclusive right to manufacture the Niedecken Mixing Valve in Canada. These mixing valves, it is claimed, represent the highest type of development in this class of product. They are regularly specified by the larger architectural firms in Canada and the United States for installation in public buildings, hotels and private homes. The established reputation of the Mueller Co. for goods of quality is the best assurance of the turning out of a high-grade product, and will undoubtedly greatly increase the demand for Niedecken Mixing Valves in Canada, in addition to facilitating the matter of prompt deliveries.

### New Slate and Material Firm

A new concern known as the Slate Products Company of Canada, Limited, Montreal, has been formed with a capital of \$200,000, for the purpose of carrying on a business of quarrying, manufacturing and dealing in slate, stone, lime, cement, brick, gravel, etc.

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