

PORTLAND CEMENT AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR STONE.

Cement is rapidly superseding the use of stone for all building purposes, as the advantages over the latter are various, inasmuch as it can be conformed to any shape or space, is readily transported, and almost as speedily constructed; the only great obstacle is quality, this being such an important feature that the strength of each barrel may in a measure determine the strength of that portion of the work where it is used.

The quality of the material to be compounded with the cement is of vital importance; the materials that give the best results are those that are hard and angular and perfectly free from dirt or earthy matter. The writer believes that crushed granite is likely to give the best results, as it presents a rigid surface and possesses a peculiar affinity for the cement mortar.

There are various methods and machinery for ascertaining the quality of cement, but it is not so simple an undertaking as it is sometimes thought to be; no small degree of experience is necessary before one can manipulate the materials so as to obtain approximately accurate results. The test for tensile strength on a sectional area of one square inch seems to be the best; where the brickettes are small, there is less danger of air bubbles and the amount of material requisite is smaller.

The test for cracking or checking, though simple, should not be omitted; make several cakes of neat cement 3 inches in diameter, from 1/2 to 3/4 inch in thickness; flatten out into thin edges; when hard enough put into water. These cakes should be carefully examined from day to day, to see if cracks show themselves at the edges; these cracks indicate that the cement is unfit for use at that age.

ish blotches indicate a poor quality. Portland cement should be of a bluish gray color.—Warner H. Jenkins in the Builders' Magazine.

HOW TO DRAW NAILS OR SPIKES.—When a nail or spike has been driven into a live tree, or into timber, after a year or more the fibres of the wood will have contracted so tightly about the metal that it will be exceedingly difficult to withdraw the iron. But, strike a nail or spike a sharp blow with a hammer, and drive it in a trifle so as to break the fibres around the metal, and a nail can be withdrawn with only a little force.

Prices of Building Materials.

LUMBER.

CAN OR CARGO LOTS.

Table listing lumber prices for various types of wood, including pickets, shingles, and siding, with prices per square foot.

Metallic Roofing Co. of Canada:

Table listing prices for metallic roofing materials such as Eastlake steel shingles, improved broad rib roofing, and various types of lathing.

Canada Galvanizing & Steel Roofing Co.:

Table listing prices for galvanized iron and steel roofing materials, including corrugated iron and broad rib roofing.

YARD QUOTATIONS.

Table listing yard quotations for materials like Mill cull boards, shipping cull boards, hemlock cantling, and various types of flooring.

B. M.

Table listing prices for various types of flooring, including dressed and undressed materials, and beaded sheeting.

BRICK—M

Table listing prices for common walling, good facing, and sewer pipes.

Pressed Brick

Table listing prices for plain brick, hard building brick, and diamond locking tile.

Table listing prices for first quality, second quality, and ornamental tiles.

Stone.

Table listing prices for common rubble, large flat stone, and foundation blocks.

Slate: Roofing (per square).

Table listing prices for various types of slate roofing, including red, purple, and black slate.

Sand:

Table listing prices for sand per load of 1 1/2 cubic yards.

PAINTS. (In oil, per lb.)

Table listing prices for various types of paint, including white lead, red lead, and vermilion.

CEMENT, LIME, etc.

Table listing prices for lime, plaster, hair plaster, and various types of cement.

HARDWARE.

Table listing prices for various types of hardware, including cut nails, American pattern nails, and finishing nails.