

erect a two-storey brick house on the corner of Adelaide and Grosvenor streets.—Mr. O. Graydon will receive tenders until the 26th inst. for the construction of cloak rooms at the Collegiate Institute.—Tenders will be received at the office of the Water Works Engineer until the 26th inst. for painting the buildings at Sprangbank.—G. Cradlock, architect, will receive tenders until noon to-day for the erection of a residence on the corner of Oxford and Wellington streets.

HAMILTON, ONT.—A new church is to be erected in the Parish of St. Peter, in the northeast end of the city.—Mr. Jas. Balfour, architect, is preparing plans for a handsome new residence for Mr. Geo. T. Tuckett, to be erected on the block bounded by King, Queen, and George streets, to cost about \$25,000. The plans will be completed and tenders called for at an early date.—The City Clerk will receive tenders until noon to-day for the erection of the maternity hospital. Plans at office of Lucian Hills, architect, 11½ King street east.—Building permits have been granted as follows during the past week. Hamilton Street Railway Company, bk. power house on Guise street, cost \$15,000; Thomas Smith, 2-storey bk. dwelling on West avenue north, between Wilson and Evans streets, cost \$1,200; George Behrens, 1½-storey bk. dwelling on Wentworth street, between Cannon and Barton streets, cost \$800.—R. Clohecy, architect, wants tenders for the erection of a brick residence on Grant avenue.

TORONTO, ONT.—The enlargement of the church of St. John the Evangelist, corner Stewart and Portland streets, is contemplated. The erection of a new edifice is also spoken of.—Mr. John I. Beer has purchased and torn down the Bull's Head hotel, on the corner of Niagara and Duro streets, on the site of which he intends to erect a new building to cost about \$28,000.—Tenders are wanted at 751 Manning ave. until noon to-day for slating, roofing, plastering, plumbing, painting and drains.—A proposition to enlarge St. Simon's church on Howard street was discussed at its vestry meeting held recently. It was decided to extend the church in a westerly direction, and to make additions to the transepts. These improvements will cost in the neighborhood of \$5,000.—Mr. M. Morgan, Harbor Master will receive tenders until Wednesday, the 27th inst., for dredging at the western channel of the bay. Plans at the Harbor Master's office.—Mr. Rogers, 327 Church street, is about to build a residence on his property adjoining.—A fine residence is to be built on De Lisle avenue, Deer Park, for an American gentleman. Messrs. Bonnick & Duke are looking after the work.—Extensive additions to the Bellamy Works at Scarborough are to be carried out.—Building permits have been granted to the following: E. A. Forster, det. 2-storey bk. dwelling, e. side Do. Mills rd., nr. Danforth rd., cost \$1,500; R. Watt, 2-storey bk. store and dwelling, 163 Brunswick ave., cost \$2,200; Urquhart & Smith, det. 2-storey and attic bk. dwelling, n. side King st., west of Jamieson ave., cost \$4,500; Teagle & Darwent, 332 Clinton st., three att. two storey and attic bk. dwellings, 114 Palmerston ave., cost \$6,000; Jas. Crowther, pr. 2-storey and attic bk. dwellings, s. side Wood st., nr. Yonge, cost \$3,800, and three att. 2-storey bk. stables, in rear s. e. cor. Yonge and Wood sts., cost \$2,500; Land Security Co., 3-storey bk. office building, s. w. cor. Victoria and Adelaide sts., cost \$10,000.

MONTREAL, QUE.—The Council of the Board of Trade has decided to memorialize the Dominion Government with a view of securing a subsidy for a line of steamers plying between the St. Lawrence and the West India islands.—Messrs. Roy & Gauthier, architects, are preparing plans for the following works: R. C. church at Aylmer, Que.; Church of St. Joachim, at Shefford, Que.; R. C. church at Stanbridge, Que.; R. C. church at Pakenham, Ont.; church at St. Albert, Ont.; R. C. church at St. Prudentienne, Que.; church at West Manchester, U. S.; church at Fitchburg, Mass., U. S.—The City Clerk will receive tenders until Tuesday, the 26th inst., for the supply of bricks, cement, lime, lubricating and other oils, cotton waste, packing, lamps, hardware, and lumber required by the Water Works Department, also for 40 tons of best soft pig iron, to be delivered at the water works yard, St. Charles Borromeo street.—L. J. Seurgent, General-Manager Grand Trunk Railway, will receive tenders until the

31st May, for stores of various kinds required by the company at Montreal, London, Hamilton and Portland during twelve months commencing July 1st, 1892.—The trustees of Erskine church have had plans prepared for the improvement of the building. They were submitted and considered recently, but nothing definite was decided upon. The church authorities will meet again at any early date to consider the matter.—The City Clerk will receive tenders until Thursday, the 28th inst., for repairs to the Bousecours market.—Theo. Daoust, architect, is preparing plans for the following works: Residence for A. Valequette; eighteen cottages for T. Barbeau at Point Claire; three tenement dwellings on St. Denis street for Mr. R. G. Martineau; tenement on St. Hurbert street for Mr. D. Renand; two tenements on Maple street.—St. James Club is talking of spending \$50,000 on improvements to their building.—W. E. Doran, architect, is calling for tenders for the erection of two stores on St. Catherine street.

FIRES.

Mr. Wm. Wilson's residence near Dorchester Station, Ont., was burned on Wednesday last, loss \$1,200.—The outbuildings of the Methodist church at Catarqui, Ont., were destroyed by fire on the 19th inst.—The large grain warehouse and elevator at Cobourg, Ont., occupied by W. D. Matthews & Co. of Toronto, was burned on Tuesday last. The building was owned by the Grand Trunk Railway Company. Loss \$2,000, insurance \$1,200.—Cozens & Bell's saw mill and machine shop at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., was destroyed by fire on the 19th inst. loss \$6,000; no insurance.—Mr. P. Christie's shingle mill at Severn Bridge, Ont., was destroyed by fire on Thursday last. Loss, \$3,000; insurance, \$2,000.—The Anglican church at Northfield Centre, Ont., was burned on the 11th inst.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

ORILLIA, ONT.—Mr. G. R. Eaton, of this town, has received the contract for the new post office.

SMITH FALLS, ONT.—The contract for erecting the market building has been awarded to Mr. M. Ryan.

LACHINE, QUE. The Council has awarded the contract for the electric light plant to the Edison General Electric Company.

OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Messrs. T. B. Horton & Son have been awarded the contract for the Beech street sewer at \$999.75.

FORT WILLIAM, ONT.—The contract for the new Hudson Bay Company's store has been awarded to Mr. John Saul of Winnipeg.

WROXETER, ONT.—Mr. W. Davidson has been awarded the contract for the building of a \$5,000 brick church for the Presbyterians of this place.

HAMILTON, ONT.—The Hamilton Bridge & Tool Co., has secured the contract for the iron-work for the electric power house for the street railway company.

PRESCOTT, ONT.—The contract for the erection of the new Presbyterian church has been awarded to Messrs. Ward & Steele, of this place, at the contract price of \$12,600.

TORONTO, ONT.—The Water Works Committee have accepted the following tenders for supplies: iron and steel, Rice Lewis & Son, brass work, Wilson & Cousins, lumber, Reid & Co., general stores, F. W. Merritt; pipe laying, Burns & McCormack; oil, McColl Bros.

MONTREAL, QUE.—W. L. Thomas, architect, has awarded the contracts for the Temple Emmanuel on Stanley street, as follows: masonry and carpentry, Jark & Tate; Roofing, Montreal Roofing Co.; plumbing and heating, F. Horton; plastering, J. McLean.—Messrs. Taylor & Gordon, architects, have accepted the following tenders for McGill College library: masonry, Peter Nicholson; brickwork, A. Cowan; carpentry, Geo. Roberts; roofing, G. W. Reed; heating, Garth & Co.; plastering, Morrison & Son; painting John Murphy.—Theo. Daoust, architect, has awarded contracts for store and dwelling at Point Claire, as follows: masonry, W. Mayer; carpentry, M. Mayer.—Jos. Hanes, architect, has let contracts for two stores on Bleury street as

follows: carpentry, H. Demeris; masonry, N. Duforte.—W. E. Doran, architect, has awarded contracts for the erection of three houses for Mr. Strachan, Valois, Que.

ROPES A SUBSTITUTE FOR MOLDINGS.

It is not known, probably, that new manilla rope will make beautiful and economical spiral moldings for wood-work. Rope may be used as spiral moldings in circular and curved work where wooden molding could not be employed without incurring extraordinary expense. The cash cost of rope will not usually amount to half the price of spiral moldings of the same size. Whatever may be the size selected, the rope should be soaked for a few hours in thin starch and glue, equal parts thoroughly mingled together. When the rope is to be nailed in place, take it from the vessel in which it has been placed and wipe off all the adhesive matter; then secure one end with a brad or two, and twist the rope until the spiral strands appear more prominent than when a rope is not twisted firmly. After the molding ropes are secured where they are to remain, take a small stick of hard timber, dressed off like a three square file, and draw the stick firmly in the creases between the strands of the rope, in order to make the strands appear more prominent. Such moldings may be finished with wood-filler, painted and varnished. Some prefer to soak the ropes in boiled oil instead of thin starch and glue. But oil will be more expensive, and no better than the other material. The writer observed recently the columns and pilasters of an elegant suburban villa, all of which were finished with beautiful spiral moldings made of inch rope. *Manufacturer and Builder.*

USEFUL HINTS.

To glue ebony to mahogany or other hard woods, use the finest white glue or gelatine dissolved in acetic acid or strong vinegar. The surface of the wood should be roughened.

A correspondent of the *Scientific American* gives the following account of his experience with mortar of which sugar was one of the ingredients:—"We use the cheapest grade of beet sugar, costing here four cents a pound, and all lumps must be mashed up before putting in the mortar. The mortar must be dry or 'stiff' when the sugar is put in, as it makes it very soft when mixed thoroughly. We put the sugar in when we temper it for putting on the wall, and put it in the hair mortar only, or first coat, and use about forty pounds of sugar to the hundred yards. It is a little harder to put on than without sugar. But the result is we have a wall that cannot be easily damaged. We can draw a trowel corner over it, and bearing hard can only mark it. It does not crack by pounding on it, nor the clinches be easily broken off. It does not color the white coat, and we can find no fault with it, while on the other hand, it is far superior to the unsweetened. We figure the extra cost at four cents per yard. Our sand here is very poor and loamy."

PERSONAL.

Mr. R. Findlay, architect, Montreal, has removed from the New York Life Building and will on and after 1st of May, 1892, occupy rooms No. 14-15, 4th floor, in the Sun Life Assurance Building.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

WHAT CONSTITUTES THE LOWEST BID.—A decision of more than usual interest to builders and to officials awarding public contracts is that recently rendered by Judge Childs of the New York Supreme Court at Buffalo. The Buffalo water commissioners having advertised for bids on a new pumping engine required, instead of accepting the lowest bid, awarded the contract to another concern whose bid was considerably higher. A citizens' association fought the award as contrary to law, but according to the decision of Judge Childs the parties offering to furnish material or do the work advertised for at the lowest money consideration are not necessarily to be considered the lowest bidders. In the words of the judge:

"The fifth objection urged by the plaintiff is that the commissioners exceeded their jurisdiction in this, that they arbitrarily awarded the contract to the highest bidder. In considering this question, it must be conceded that the commissioners were to decide upon which was the lowest bid, and for that purpose were to consider all the facts legitimately before them; their decision being subject to review upon the same facts, and to be overthrown if so far unsupported as to indicate an arbitrary or improper act on their part; otherwise to be sustained. The single fact that the contract was awarded to the party requiring the most money for the work is not at all decisive of this question. If the successful bidder offered a machine more valuable than its competitor, it may have been the lowest bidder although requiring more money."

It was allowed that the element of risk, because the pump offered by the lowest bidder had no record and was to that extent experimental and problematical, was of vital importance and justified the commissioners in interpreting, as the most advantageous offer, the bid that on the face of it was the highest.—*American Contractor.*

There has been a great deal of criticism (observes Stone, of Indianapolis,) on the pavement question in American newspapers. But in American cities it is universally the practice, as soon as a pavement is laid, to tear it up again for the laying of mains and pipes. There is no pavement that will withstand such treatment. No matter how secure the foundations or how well the pavement be laid, nor of what material, it will be injured, if not ruined, by tearing it up in portions, for street purposes. In truth, the heavier the foundation and the better the work, the more it will be injured by being torn up in sections. A scheme for street improvement should include not only improvements for the moment, but should anticipate the future. It is ruinous to spend good money for one improvement to ruin it by other improvements. A municipality should include the paving with the other improvements, and when a street is improved it should be perfected. As it goes, in American cities we neither have the pavements, the improvements, nor the money they cost. They would cost less at the beginning, and would last