

ALTERATIONS IN TENDERS.

Although tendering is a familiar process, there appears to be no recognized rule, says the Builders' Reporter, about the liberty to make alterations in tenders prior to acceptance. Two recent cases suggest the difference of opinion on the subject. Recently in Stourbridge the tenders for the decoration of the town hall were considered. The highest tender amounted to £686 14s. 6d., and the lowest was £244 4s. There is perhaps nothing extraordinary in the variations. The committee entrusted with the work decided on the acceptance of the lowest tender. Subsequently they were informed that the amount should have been £284 4s., if it were not for a clerk's blunder. When altered the tender remained £75 below one which stood next in amount. The contractor said he was prepared, if the Council insisted, to carry out the work at the unaltered price. Another competitor wrote to say if revision were allowed in one case it would be unfair unless the privilege were extended to all. The committee considered they were bound to accept the revised tender, as it was the lowest; and the Council adopted that view. In Colchester a similar case occurred recently. But one of the aldermen was a brother to a member of the firm that had sent in the erroneous tender, and he insisted on the

principle that alterations should not be allowed in tenders, and the work therefore was entrusted to another firm, although at a higher amount. It seems to us that the Stourbridge Council were more equitable. The fairest way of getting work done is to pay according to schedule prices; and accordingly there is more or less speculation and uncertainty in tendering for a lump sum. No employer should wish to have a contractor work at a loss, or to bind one to an amount that is unquestionably wrong. It is, however, well to remember that an erroneous tender can be made binding on a contractor, unless there is an understanding that the signing of some contract or other deed is an indispensable condition.

collects from this cause. J. P. Jorgenson, of Wedel in Holstein, effects this by arranging for cross and longitudinal grooves. The water which runs along the lower surface of one row of tiles against the edge of the row below is by these means diverted on to the upper surface of that row. It is essential that the tile structure should be fairly accessible from below. Jorgensen fits the tiles with additional grooves on the upper surfaces, simply to facilitate the flow of the water.

We may also mention while on this subject the process invented by Rummele, of Waldshut, for filling up fissures in brickwork, for fixing loose stones, etc. Rummele widens the cleft so as to get about two or four inches space, and then closes it superficially with the help of wooden pegs and plasters. The channel space underneath is divided into sections six feet in length. Into these sections the cement is injected, beginning with the lowest sections and working from below. According to Dingler's Polytechnisches Journal some excellent repairing has been done in tunnels, etc., in this way.

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