

# CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

PUBLIC WORKS • TENDERS •  
ADVANCE INFORMATION •  
AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS

EVERY THURSDAY

This paper reaches every week the Town and City Clerks, Town and City Engineers, County Clerks and County Engineers, Purchasers of Municipal Debentures and leading Contractors in all lines throughout Canada.

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## Notice to Contractors

### CANADIAN CONTRACTOR'S HAND-BOOK

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### EXTRA WORK.

Extra work, better known as "extras," says the Contract Journal, is the *dete noire* of the engineer and architect, and frequently of the contractor as well. Yet, in contracts of any magnitude, it is simply impossible to avoid them, and we might also add small contracts. There are often more trouble, more discussion, recrimination, and almost wrangling over the "passing" of a few odd pounds for extras than there are over as many thousands for the regular contract work. Municipal and other engineers in the service of local corporate authorities, particularly if they should have the misfortune, by no means an uncommon one, of sitting under a cheese-paring Board, will no doubt endorse our statement. It is no wonder, therefore, that both engineers and architects do their utmost to frame their specifications in a manner so that the frequently

inevitable but objectionable contingency may be at all events reduced to proportions as small as possible. Specifications, however, unfortunately in this respect very much resemble Acts of Parliament, of which it has been stated there never was one passed through which one could not drive a coach-and-four.

However laudable it may be for a professional man to draw up his specifications strictly, or even stringently, there is, nevertheless, a certain *modus in rebus* which should be fairly adhered to in all such documents. The ominous phrase "without extra charge" should not be employed too often, nor applied to details of work or materials, which ought properly to be included in the category of extras. It is not a very unusual occurrence to find the following phrase in a specification: "The contractor shall excavate the foundations to such and such a depth, or as much deeper as the engineer shall direct." It may be said that it is comparatively an easy matter for the contractor to satisfy himself of the nature of the substratum by means of borings and trial pits, and having thus determined the depth he must go, base his estimate accordingly. But every practical engineer is aware of the constant uncertainty attending borings and trial pits, although they must be made. Omitting all consideration of "faults," the composition and character of the ground has been frequently found to vary in a most astonishing manner, at a distance of even only a few feet from a boring or pit. Again, there is no absolute rule for the depth to which a foundation should be carried. There is no doubt a minimum depth which would always be observed, but the maximum will depend upon the judgment, experience, and opinion of the engineer or architect. His decision will very probably be that the depth must be greater than the contractor bargained for, which in large works would be a serious matter for the latter. It is therefore essential that a certain depth should be definitely fixed as the contract depth, and any excess treated and paid for as an extra.

The amount of extras fairly permissible in any contract will depend in some measure upon its magnitude, but in a greater upon the character of it. Except in large subterranean works in populous cities, notably in our own Metropolis, they should bear some reasonable proportion to the total amount of the contract. In those manifestly exceptional instances the unknown contingencies are so numerous and on so large a scale as to completely baffle all judgment, foresight, and experience.

### CONTRACTS OPEN.

SINCOE, ONT. Harding & Son propose erecting a shoddy mill.

LINDSAY, ONT.—The town will probably erect an isolation hospital.

MEGANTIC, QUE.—It is probable that a convent will be built at this place at an early date.

MITCHELL, ONT.—Trinity church congregation are agitating for a new church.

SOUTH WOODSLEE, ONT.—H. C. Rees will rebuild his stave mill burned last week.

PAKENHAM, ONT.—St. Andrews congregation are considering the erection of a new church.

ST. JOHNS, QUE.—A. Bisailon will shortly erect a three story building on Champlain street.

GUELPH, ONT.—Wm. Hearn will erect a new residence on the corner of Waterloo avenue and Yorkshire streets.

HAWTHORNE, ONT.—Tenders are invited until the 22nd inst., for the erection of a cheese and butter factory here.

NORTH BAY, ONT.—Plans are being prepared at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, for a new dock to be built here.

BLENHEIM, ONT.—The Presbyterian congregation have decided to erect a new church, with a seating capacity of 450; estimated cost \$7,000.

GLEN WALTER, ONT.—Tenders will be received either by E. Thomson or C. Farlinger until the 23rd inst., for the erection of a new school building.

KNOWLTON, QUE.—Mr. Husbands, C. E., of Cookshire, has been making surveys in connection with the waterworks project. It is proposed to obtain the supply from springs.

GRANBY, QUE.—A. L. Husbands and A. W. Mitchell, civil engineers, have submitted estimates to the council for a sewerage system, the cost being placed at \$43,997 for eight miles of pipe line.

AURORA, ONT.—The council are advertising for tenders for five thousand feet of cedar scantling and twenty five thousand feet of pine plank for sidewalks. Tenders to be sent in by the 1st of March.

FREDERICTON, N. B.—The Fredericton Boom Co. will ask authority from the Legislature to transfer their operations from Oromocto Island to the eastern shore of the St. John River. The new Works necessary will necessitate an expenditure of about \$70,000.

HILLSBURG, ONT.—The sum of \$1,300 has been subscribed for the erection of a manse for St. Andrew's church. At a special meeting held last week it was decided to proceed with the work, a site having already been purchased. R. A. Reed is treasurer of the Building Committee.

GRAND FALLS, N. B.—Edward Jack, solicitor for applicant, gives notice that application will be made to the Dominion