

certain piece of work, another may do it in two hours. Hence it requires an extended experience in the handling of men to determine, under all circumstances, the time required and the cost incurred in performing a certain amount of mechanical labor; and this is where many estimators fail.

We venture to say in support of our statement, that if any ten subscribers who are contractors and readers of this paper, take them as they run, were called upon to estimate the labor of putting up any new block that may now be in course of construction in this city, there would be a difference of fifty per cent., from the highest to the lowest, which would only go to prove that in matters of judgment not based upon a thorough knowledge of the exact facts, we are all liable to make mistakes, and the contractor never did anything that never made a mistake.

The third cause of unreliable estimates, we have said, was the method adopted by the building trades of procuring work by competition. Here the reliable builder, be he ever so competent in figures and judgment, allows his anxiety for business to run away with his better convictions. To this class of mechanic we cannot read too severe a lecture; for it is by his rash, capricious acts that prices are lowered, and fair values cut to the minimum. It is not dishonesty that prompts him to submit a low estimate, nor does he intend to injure his fellow contractors; but in his anxiety to carry on a large business, or to occupy his enlarged facilities, he oft-times is led to underestimate the cost of a piece of work even lower than his own judgment dictates.

We know from a long association with builders and contractors, that it is better to take one job at a good price than to have ten at a losing figure, and there is no one who will contradict us; and yet the same condition goes on from year to year, without an attempt to improve it. That there is ample room for improvement no one can deny, and we have some hope that the building fraternity, when they fully understand the issues at hand, will take the proper steps towards a reorganization of the system of estimating and the rules which govern the submitting of proposals.

The system so long practiced in England of quantity surveyors is a vast improvement upon the American method of arriving at the cost of a building, for it regulates the judgment of the builder to a certain extent, and at the same time confines the proposal to a closer condition of facts, and hence brings them within a radius of the proper percentage of cost; and yet, even in the face of a system of

this character, the value of labor becomes an important factor, which, as we have said, must ultimately be governed by a matured condition of mechanical judgment, engrafted upon the builder by extended practice.—Southern Architect.

Prices of Building Materials.

LUMBER.

Table listing lumber prices for various types like 'CAR OR CARGO LOTS', '1 1/2 and thicker clear picks', '1 1/2 and thicker, three uppers', etc.

Metallic Roofing Co. of Canada:

Table listing metallic roofing prices: 'Heavy Eastlake galvanized steel shingles, per square', 'Light Eastlake galvanized steel shingles, per square'.

124 Notre Dame Street, Montreal, October 14, 1890

G. H. Mortimer Esq., Publisher Canadian Architect & Builder, and Contract Record.

Dear Sir,

I have to inform you, that, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, at the First Annual Meeting of the Province of Quebec Association of Architects held in Montreal on 10th & 11th inst.:

Moved by M. Frenault, seconded by G. J. Dumble. We the Architects of the Province of Quebec now assembled in convention being satisfied that the Canadian Contract Record affords us a direct communication with the contractors. Resolved: That we pledge our support to it by using its columns where calling for tenders. Yours truly G. Bliff, Secretary.

Table listing various building materials and their prices: 'Heavy Eastlake painted steel shingles, per sq.', 'Light Eastlake Painted steel shingles, per square', 'Tower or Mansard galvanized steel shingles, per sq.', etc.

Table titled 'YARD QUOTATIONS' listing prices for 'Mill cull boards and scantling', 'Shipping cull boards, promiscuous widths', 'Shipping cull boards, stocks', etc.

Table listing prices for 'Scantling and joist, up to 16 ft', '1 1/2 inch flooring, dressed, F. M.', '1 1/2 inch flooring rough, B. M.', etc.

Table listing prices for 'B. M.', '1 1/2 inch flooring, dressed, F. M.', '1 1/2 inch flooring rough, B. M.', 'Deaded sheeting, dressed', etc.

Table titled 'BRICK—M' listing prices for 'Common Walling', 'Good Facing', 'Sewer'.

Table titled 'Pressed Brick' listing prices for 'Plain brick, f. o. b. at Milton, per M.', 'Hard Building', 'Moulded and Ornamental, per 100', etc.

Table titled 'Stone' listing prices for 'Common Rubble, Per Tonne, delivered', 'Large flat', 'Foundation Blocks, Cubic Foot'.

Table titled 'Slate: Roofing (per square)' listing prices for 'red', 'purple', 'untinting green', 'black slate', etc.

Table titled 'Sand' listing price for 'Per Load of 1 1/2 Cubic Yards'.

Table titled 'PAINTS. (In oil, per lb.)' listing prices for 'White lead, Can.', 'zinc, Can.', 'Red lead, Eng.', etc.

Table titled 'CEMENT, LIME, etc.' listing prices for 'Lime, Per Barrel of 2 bushels, Grey', 'Plaster, Calcined, New Brunswick', etc.

Table titled 'HARDWARE' listing prices for 'Cut Nails: American Pattern, 1 1/2 inch, per keg', 'Canadian Pattern, 1 1/2 inch, per keg', etc.