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Architects, Civil and Sanitary Engineers, Plumbers, Decorators, Builders, Contractors, and Manufacturers of and Dealers in Building Materials and Appliances.

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THE Canadian Architect and Builder

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EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Contributions of technical value to the persons in whose interest this journal is published, are cordially invited, and if found to be of sufficient merit, will be paid for. Subscribers are also requested to forward newspaper clippings or written items of interest from their respective localities.

WE are surprised to learn that an Ottawa firm, Messrs. A. K. Miles & Son, has been given the contract for the pedestal of the statue to be erected in Major Hill Park to the memory of Ottawa volunteers who fell in the Northwest. It is a wonder that this contract, like that for the statue itself, was not awarded to a foreigner.

THE majority, probably, of the large buildings in Canadian cities are without elevators, and a few visits to offices situated on second or third floors is sufficient to make one feel fatigued during the balance of the day. Not only are the elevators too few and far between, but where they are to be found they are adjusted to move at a snail's pace. Elevators of smaller size and greater speed would fulfil public requirements much more satisfactorily than those at present in use.

THE attention of contractors is directed to the advertisement on another page of the Court House Committee of the Toronto City Council asking tenders for the various works required in connection with the erection of the new Court House and City Hall. We are pleased to see that a definite move has been made in this matter, and trust that the figures contained in the tenders will not aggregate an amount which will preclude the advisability of proceeding with the immediate construction of the buildings.

THE Superior Court Judge has granted an injunction restraining the County Judge from proceeding with the enquiry in the case of A. W. Godson, the Toronto contractor. His Lordship decides, and we think the decision a most equitable one, that before the City Council can proceed to order an enquiry into the conduct of an individual, it must prefer against him definite charges of wrong-doing. Before ordering an expensive enquiry to be commenced, the Council should have taken the precaution to ascertain that its proposed action was legal. The citizens should not be called upon so frequently to pay the cost of such mistakes. Enough has been made public since the investigation commenced to render it desirable that the facts relating

to the dealings of Lackie and Godson with the corporation and with each other, should be laid bare. There is a suspicion in some quarters that the interests of the city are sacrificed by some of its well-paid servants in behalf of contractors. If such be the case, the evil cannot too soon be exposed and remedied. Let the Council go about the work in a legal manner, however, and not waste public money in blundering.

AS stated by one of our correspondents last month, a company has been formed at Owen Sound for the manufacture of Portland cement, the necessary materials it is said having been found to exist in that locality, and successful experiments having been made. Assuming that we are correctly informed, this is an important discovery, and the company that has been formed to take advantage of it, will doubtless find the enterprise highly remunerative. Many thousands of barrels of Portland cement are consumed in Canada each year, the profits on the sale of which go into the pockets of foreign manufacturers. Should the discovery at Owen Sound fulfil the expectations of those engaged in conducting it, this money will be kept in the country, and a new and important Canadian industry will be developed.

THE report reaches us from London, Ont., that the stained glass windows for the sanctuary and transept of St. Peter's Cathedral have been purchased by Bishop Walsh in England. THE CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER wishes to enter an emphatic protest against the unpatriotic conduct of those who purchase in foreign markets articles that are produced in equal quality in Canada. We believe we are within the mark when we say that there are manufacturers of stained glass in Canada who are producing an article as perfect in every way as can be bought in Europe. Then, why purchase in Europe? Why did not Bishop Walsh go to Europe for the money to build St. Peter's Cathedral? As long as Canadians are asked to contribute the money for the erection of such structures, the labor and material used in their construction should be Canadian, provided the quality of the native article is equal to that of the imported.

THE selfishness of human nature has been well illustrated by the conduct of the people of this city who have continued to make extravagant use of the city water during the summer months for several years past in the face of the fact that they were knowingly assisting to reduce the water supply to a degree which threatened to result in famine and alarming danger from fire to their own property and that of their neighbors. The City Council has wisely passed a by-law limiting the use of lawn sprinklers to certain hours of the day and evening. In the past these lawn sprinklers have in hundreds of instances been allowed to operate night and day. The next move on the part of the civic authorities should be to increase the city water supply, which is evidently insufficient for the requirements of this populous and rapidly growing city. The proposition to establish a second pumping station and reservoir in the west end of the city is one which we hope to see carried out.

WE are informed that last year Canada imported more than a quarter of a million dollars worth of wall paper. About four-fifths of our total importations in this line came from the United States. This large importation would seem to show that there is considerable room for expansion and improvement on the

part of Canadian wall paper manufacturers, of whom there are three, two in Montreal and one in Toronto. To a representative of the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER, one of the Montreal manufacturers recently stated that owing to American competition, the profits of the Canadian manufacturer were barely sufficient to enable him to keep his factory in operation. Seeing that American manufacturers are compelled to pay a duty which is equal to a fair profit before they can place their goods on the Canadian market, we fail to see why our home manufacturers should not hold their own and even supplant the bulk of the imported hangings by native goods. We don't like to hear men complain that they can't hold their own when the advantage seems on their side. We hope that the capital, intelligence and energy necessary to secure the Canadian market for the Canadian manufacturer will be forthcoming.

PUBLIC opinion has been awakened to a satisfactory degree of late concerning the value of sanitary measures for the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. The provincial and local Boards of Health have done a good work in this direction. No better evidence is wanted of the change which has taken place in public opinion on the subject of sanitation, than the fact reported in the daily papers recently, that a physician in one of our cities had been fined by the police magistrate for neglecting to notify the Medical Health Officer of a case of diphtheria. It is well that the offender in this instance, being a physician and knowing full well the danger, but neglecting to give the warning, should be made an example of, so that no attempt will in future be made, either for the sake of convenience or other reasons, to conceal the existence in a community of infectious disease.

WE have just read the list of duties which the Building Inspector for the Toronto School Board will be expected to perform. They are not few nor easy. In fact they are so many and difficult that no one man will be able to perform them. The School Board should have advertised for an architect instead of a building inspector. All plans and specifications for all new buildings are to be prepared by the newly appointed "Superintendent." While the buildings which have been built have not by any means been what they should be, we may reasonably expect that those constructed in the future will be even more inferior. When men who are supposed to have had some little training as architects have done so badly, it is not to be expected that a man who has had none, or practically none, will be able to do as well. We are utterly unable to understand how it is that nearly all public offices are filled by men without any qualification for their duties. That the appointee to this office might have made a fairly good superintendent is possible; that he will make a good architect is extremely improbable. The main thing to be regretted is that a wrong commencement has been made. If there is to be an architect's office with its staff, as there must be if one half of the work laid down is to be performed, it should be efficient, which can never be under its present head.

WE should very much like to see a larger number of architectural drawings at the Royal Canadian Academy Art Exhibition. That there are not more does not reflect very much credit on Canadian Architects. However, we are inclined to think that there would be more drawings sent in by architects if they