

Trade Topics

It is said that the bricklayers of Toronto have organized to make a fight in order to have the trunk sewer to be built constructed of brick in place of concrete.

D. Robertson & Co., Limited, have been incorporated with a capital stock of \$50,000. Head office, Toronto. The company will quarry, manufacture and deal in stone, lime, Portland cement, bricks, drills, and so forth.

The Kingston Board of Works has accepted a contract for cement for use in sidewalk construction which will save the city upwards of \$3,000 over the prices paid last year. The city will use some 500 barrels.

Mr. J. F. M. Stewart has been appointed general manager of the Point Anne Quarries, Limited, which will operate quarries at Point Anne, near Belleville, and put crushed stone and rubble on the Toronto market.

E. R. Beckwith, consulting engineer, Kingston, Ont., is preparing plans for the erection of a large hotel. Estimated cost, \$150,000; to be built of reinforced concrete, concrete blocks and terra cotta hollow tiles.

The National Portland Cement Co., of Durham, was one of the more fortunate companies during the past year, when the depression was seriously felt. This plant showed a gross profit of about \$40,000 and a net profit of \$25,000.

Among the features of the annual Convention of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers at Toronto was a visit to the Port Colborne plant of the Canadian Portland Cement Co. on January 29th and the Government elevators at that place.

Mr. R. Kirkland, chief chemist, Saxon Portland Cement Co., Cambridge, England, has been appointed manager of the New Collos Portland Cement Works of the Coltness Iron Works, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, N.B. This is a 60,000 ton per annum plant, and will be in full operation within a short time.

In the January number of the "Review," in the description given of the Avenue Road retaining wall, Toronto, the name of the contractors, the Warren Bituminous Paving Co., of Toronto, was omitted. The contract for constructing the bitulithic pavement also included the construction of the concrete retaining wall.

It is said that the Colonial Portland Cement Co., of Warton, is to be reorganized. The official liquidator, E. R. C. Clarkson, has arrangements under way, it is said, that will result in complete reorganization. The assets of the company are approximately \$500,000, and the liabilities, including the bonded indebtedness, about \$400,000.

Upwards of seventy-five members attended the banquet of the Quebec Association of Architects following their annual convention at Montreal. The officers for the ensuing year are as follows: President, J. J. Resther; first vice-president, Thomas Raymond; second vice-president, J. Rawson Gardiner; secretary, J. E. B. Vanier; treasurer, W. S. Maxwell. Council—Messrs. G. A. Ross, Jos. Venne, G. A. Monette, J. Ouillet, L. Lemieux.

Builders and contractors of Halifax, N.S., are looking for a busy season in the building trade during the coming season. Already there is considerable work in

sight, including All Saints' Cathedral, skating rink, post-office building, roundhouse and railway shops, Technical College building, Children's Hospital, City Market building, Infants' Home, extensions in connection with Dalhousie University, as well as church and other buildings.

The New York Central System, through its Engineering Department, have been investigating the use of Ideal concrete Blocks in the building of some of their minor construction. They recently let a contract for the erection of an interlocking switch tower at Indiana Harbor, Indiana, on the main line to Chicago, this tower to be entirely constructed of concrete blocks, including foundation and superstructure. They will use 2,500 24-inch, white-faced Bush hammered design blocks.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT CEMENT.

Notwithstanding the fact that there are evidences on every side, few people yet realize to what an enormous extent Portland cement is now used for building purposes of all kinds. The manufacture of cement, while yet in its infancy, has already become one of the most important industries, employing thousands of hands.—Ottawa Citizen.

Toronto property owners are entitled to vote their choice of whether brick or cement will be used in the construction of the trunk sewer. A cement sewer is said to be just as serviceable and durable as brick and to cost \$200,000 less. An extra cost of \$200,000 is the heavy price the property owners may be asked to pay for the possibility of being held up by brick manufacturers. The City Council has called for plebiscites on issues of less importance than the \$200,000 question, whether the trunk sewer should be built of cement or brick. That question should be left to a vote of the property owners next January, even if the brick sewer work was to stand over in the meantime.—Toronto Telegram.

Building Inspector Harrison, of this city, has voiced a crying need that is calling alike in Calgary and all over the Dominion and the American continent, from Mexico to the northern limits of civilization. It is the need of fireproof buildings that are fireproof. So many times have alleged "fireproof" buildings proven to be death-traps that more care should be taken in their construction. For stone, or brick, or concrete walls do not make a fireproof building when the floors, stairways, windows, laths, doors, frames and sashes are of inflammable wood. . . . A building of stone, or brick, or concrete, with concrete floors, steel girders well covered with concrete or some similar substance, with metal where the wood now is in the windows, would be a real fireproof structure.—Calgary Herald.

The most useful and consoling bit of knowledge that the disaster has brought to us is the fact that the houses in Messina built of reinforced concrete were undamaged by the earthquake. Perhaps consoling is hardly the right word to apply here, and the usefulness of the knowledge may be limited by the fact that even in localities subject