

bridge. The work on this structure will be commenced in the spring, and the cost (\$35,000) is to be borne conjointly by the government and the railway.—The Board of the Home for Friendless Women has decided to issue an appeal to the public for funds with which to secure a permanent home. The sum of \$8,000 is required.—The proposal to erect a suitable hall and headquarters for the Irish national and fraternal societies of the city has again been revived. At the next meeting of the St. Patrick Literary and Scientific Association some action in that direction will likely be taken.—George Roe has purchased the building formerly occupied by the Baldwin Iron Works Company, and will remodel it and add new machinery, with the intention of going into the iron-working business.—The Ottawa Abattoir Company have purchased property to the northwest of the village of Hintonburg as a site for their proposed pork-packing establishment. In addition to providing slaughter houses for the butchers, immense cold storage and freezing departments will be constructed.—Work on the new Anglican church, corner Chapel and Theodore streets, will be commenced early in the spring. The church will have seating accommodation for 400 people.—The Christian Brothers, who recently purchased the Lalsalle school on Sussex street, have also secured the large house adjoining and the vacant lot extending to St. Andrews street. The interior of the house will be remodelled, and it is probable that at a later date a large addition will be made to the building.

TORONTO, ONT.—The Dominion Radiator Company have purchased all the vacant land south of their present premises to Melbourne avenue, with a view to the enlargement of their factory.—George H. Hees, Son & Co., window shade manufacturers, have purchased the property at 71 King street west. The building will be remodelled and fitted up for the company's offices.—Thomas Crawford, F. Hunisett, John Dunn and others have been incorporated as the Toronto Packing Company, with a capital of \$40,000. The site of their factory has not yet been decided upon.—The old Doel house property, at the north-west corner of Adelaide and Bay streets, has been purchased by Mr. Black, vice-president of the Commercial Travellers' Association. It is probable that a new building will be erected on the site.—Mr. E. H. Keating, manager of the Toronto Railway Company, has been instructed by the directors to submit a report on the advisability of constructing suburban railways. Should the scheme be considered profitable, it is probable that lines will be built to Oakville, Lake Simcoe, Whitby, and other points.—The authorities of Victoria College are negotiating for the purchase of a block of land lying north of Czar street and east of Avenue road, now owned by the Toronto University. It is thought that the property is desired by the Victoria College authorities for the erection of a women's residence. Another project which is spoken of is the building on this site of a number of dwellings, to be rented to members of the University staff.—The Harbor Master urges that a memorial be submitted to the Dominion government, without delay, asking for aid towards carrying out the proposed improvements to Toronto harbor.—The time for receiving tenders for the construction of a chain ferry, with the necessary crib work, etc., across the western entrance to the harbor, has been extended to Wednesday, 25th inst.—Mayor Shaw, in his inaugural address, referred to the necessity of improving the cattle market and proceeding at once with the improvements to the St. Lawrence market. In his opinion detailed plans for the latter work should be called for at once. He also referred to the ad-

vantages that would accrue to Toronto by the construction of railways from Haliburton to Mattawa, from Toronto, Barrie or Waubesa to Sudbury, from Toronto to James Bay, and from Verner northeasterly to Tenagami Lake.—The Toronto Railway Company is said to have secured a controlling interest in the Toronto Cold Storage Company, the intention being to extend the operations of the latter company and eventually to establish an extensive cold storage plant.—Ald. Davies has given notice that he will move at the next council meeting that the city advertise for a supply of electricity for light, heat, and power purposes.—Ald. Dunn will move that the city engineer report to the Committee on Works on all roadways and sidewalks which require renewing during the coming summer, the cost of construction of a sidewalk and bicycle path along the western point of the island, and also that the Property Committee include in their estimate a sufficient sum to provide a suitable clock for the tower of the Ossington avenue fire hall.—Tenders will close to-day in the offices of Geo. W. Gounlock, architect, for the several trades required in the erection of an office building on King street for the National Trust Co. Mr. Gounlock will also in the course of a week advertise for tenders for a large building on Main street, Winnipeg, for the Manitoba Trusts Company of Winnipeg.

FIRES.

Recent fires included the following: Bernardin's Hotel at Terrebonne, Que., building totally destroyed; damage \$10,000, insurance \$3,000.—The outbuildings, composed of barns, stables, machinery sheds, silo, and carriage shed, of J. G. Clark, near Britannia, Ont., completely destroyed; loss \$30,000, covered by insurance.—St. Bridget's church, in Logan township, near Mitchell, Ont., burned on January 7th.—A large portion of the business houses on the west side of Main street, West Lorne, Ont., destroyed on January 3rd. Some of the losers are: P. Sinclair, Skinner Bros., E. R. Moug, H. Keifer, and Balwan & Zimmerla—Victoria brewery at Cobourg, Ont., owned by Bickle & Healy, totally destroyed; loss on buildings \$12,000, insurance \$5,000.—The electric light and gas works at St. Hyacinthe, Que., seriously damaged, buildings, engines, dynamos and machinery being destroyed; loss \$10,000, covered by insurance. The owner of the works is Louis Brosseau.—A Bennett's frame hotel at Port Robinson, Ont., totally destroyed; no insurance.—Brick store occupied by Pierce Bros., and two double dwelling houses at Warren, Ont.; loss \$14,000, covered by insurance.—Drug store of D. Woodhull and general store of J. Bradley at Hartney, Man.—The Johnston House block at Petrolia, Ont., including the old Johnston house, two barber shops, billiard room and store; loss \$10,000.—Residence of Richard Robinson, near Lambeth, Ont.; insurance, \$1,000.—Dwelling house and general store of D. Shanks, at Paisley, Ont.; loss on building, \$900.—Joyner & Elkington's grist mill at Fort Qu'Appelle, N. W. T.; loss \$25,000, insurance \$16,000.—Residence of Mrs. S. Whaley, in Ancaster township, near Hamilton, Ont.; totally destroyed.—American Hotel at Kingston, Ont., badly damaged.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

QUEBEC, QUE.—The contract for building the new car shops at St. Sauveur has been let to Alexander Cummings; tender, \$15,000.

VICTORIA, B. C.—The city has purchased a fire engine from the Waterous Engine Works Company, of Brantford, Ont.; price, \$4,950.

EDMONTON, N. W. T.—The contract for the construction of the bridge over the Saskatchewan river has been let to the Dominion Bridge Company, of Montreal.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—Foley Bros. have secured the contract from the Bedlington Railway Company for the building and finishing of its railway from the United States border to Keskenoak, B. C.

BIDS.

OSHAWA, ONT.—Four tenders were received for the construction of a water-works system for the town, as follows: \$114,623, \$113,999, \$103,800, \$105,925. The vote on the by-law takes place on January 21st.

VANCOUVER, B. C.—Tenders have been taken for the construction of the Flack building, corner Hastings and Cambie streets, but as yet the contract has not been awarded. The structure will cost in the vicinity of \$90,000.

BUSINESS NOTES.

Mr. C. Baillarge, city engineer of Quebec, has tendered his resignation to the city council, owing to his advancing years.

A meeting of the creditors of Craig, McArthur & Company, dealers in plumbing supplies, Toronto, is being held to-day.

Judge Mathieu has granted the application of John L. Reay for a winding up order for the Londonderry Iron Company, of Londonderry, N. S., with head office in Montreal. The company has a capital stock of \$800,000, and its shareholders belong to England, Nova Scotia and Montreal.

COLORING METALS.

METALS may be rapidly colored by covering their surfaces with a thin layer of sulphuric acid. According to the thickness of the layer and the duration of its action, there may be obtained tints of gold, copper, carmine, chestnut brown, clear aniline blue, and reddish white. These tints are all brilliant, and if care be taken to scour the metallic objects before treating them with the acid, the coloring will suffer nothing from polishing. On making a solution of 640 grains of lead acetate in 3,450 grains of water, and warming the mixture to eighty-eight degrees or ninety degrees, it decomposes and gives a precipitate of sulphurate of lead, in black flakes. If a metallic object be immersed in the bath, the precipitate is deposited upon it, and the color produced will depend upon the thickness of the deposit. Care must be taken to warm the objects to be treated gradually, so that the coloration may be uniform. Iron treated in this way has the aspect of bluish steel; zinc, on the contrary, becomes brown. On using an equal quantity of sulphuric acid, instead of the lead acetate, and warming a little more than in the first case, common bronze may be colored of a magnificent red or green, which is very durable. Very beautiful imitations of marble may be obtained by covering the bronzed objects, warmed up to 100 degrees, with a solution of lead thickened with gum tragacanth, and afterwards submitting them to the action of the precipitate spoken of above.