

Wm. McCormick's dwelling at Port Dal housie, Ont., was burned on the 15th inst. Loss about \$1,000.—Fire at Emsdale, Ont., on the 16th inst., destroyed buildings as follows: James Craig & Sons, building totally destroyed; Guide printing office, building destroyed; the Central hotel, owned by Chas. Morton, totally destroyed.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

SARNIA, ONT.—Ellis & Robson have secured the masonry work on the House of Refuge.

DARTMOUTH, N. S.—The council has accepted the tender of the Dartmouth Iron Foundry Co. for water pipes, at \$41 per ton.

PEMBROKE, ONT.—Dunlop & Co., of this town, have received the contract for waterworks supplies. In all four tenders were received.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.—The contract for the erection of the new addition to the Wall Street Methodist church has been awarded to W. G. Tompkins, of this town.

BLYTH, ONT.—The Ontario Life, of Waterloo, were the successful tenderers for the purchase of school debentures. Price, \$5,682, with accrued interest, for \$5,500 debentures.

TORONTO, ONT.—Medler & Arnot have been awarded the contract for the new sand pump, at the price of \$13,527.—The tender of the A. R. Williams Machinery Co., for a stone crusher, at \$350, has also been accepted.

OTTAWA, ONT.—The tenders of the Canadian Granite Company for artificial stone sidewalks and P. Burns for plank sidewalks have been accepted.—E. C. Arnoldi has been awarded the contract for the steel joists and beams for the new Slater and Sherwood buildings, Sparks st., and the Sweetland building, Rideau st. Mr. Arnoldi is the Canadian representative of the Chardon Iron Works, of Brussels.

MONTREAL, QUE.—Mr. W. E. Doran, architect, has awarded contracts as follows for one four storey building, corner of Notre Dame and Mountain streets for Madame Vincent: Masonry, John Quinlan; carpenter and joiners' work, Remi Guertin; roofing, Montreal Roofing Co., plumbing, Carroll Bros.; brick, Euclide Gauthier; plastering and iron work not yet let; painting and glazing, H. O'Brien & Co. Same architect has let the contract for alterations to a house on Lagachetiere street for Wm. Johnston, to John O'Leary.—J. A. Chausse, architect, St. Hyacinthe, Que., has awarded contracts as follows for alterations and additions of a store on Cascades street, for Pagnuelo Bros. Masonry, brick, plastering and painting, L. P. Morin; heating, M. A. Blondin & Co.—G. A. Monette, architect, has awarded contracts as follows for alterations and additions to a house on St. Denis street, for M. Guillaume Boivin. Carpenter and joiners' work, N. Lavoire; plumbing and heating, Omer Ouimet.—A. M. Ligouin, architect, has awarded contracts as follows for 2 cottages on Laval avenue for M. Beaudreau: Masonry, J. B. St. Louis; carpenter and joiners' work, A. Latour; plumbing, roofing, heating, plastering, painting and glazing, A. Latour; Brick, Olo. Deguise; iron work, A. Latour.

BIDS.

VICTORIA, B. C.—Tenders for the building of an operating room to the Jubilee hospital have been received from Edward Bragg, George Moore, Thomas Catterall, W. H. Humber, T. E. Matthews, J. McEachern and J. E. Thomas. A committee has been appointed to report.

HAMILTON, ONT.—Tenders for building the Collegiate Institute and Ontario Normal School were submitted according to four different designs prepared by the

architect. The awards have not yet been made, but a committee has recommended the acceptance of design No. 1. The aggregate of the tenders for the several designs is as follows. No. 1, \$114,207; No. 2, \$117,610; No. 3, \$110,528; No. 4, \$107,198. Forty-three tenders in all were received.

BUSINESS NOTES.

J. Peart, plumber, Welland, Ont., has been succeeded by Peart & Giles.

J. J. Kerr, contractor, Chilliwack, B. C., is reported to have left the country.

Robert Knott, a well known contractor, of Victoria, B. C., died last week at the age of 53 years.

W. Angus, painter, Pembroke, Ont., is reported to have assigned to Andrew Johnston.

A. E. and O. Randle, plumbers, are opening at Nanaimo, B. C., under the style of Randle Bros.

Robert Heath, carpenter and builder, Toronto, has placed his estate in the hands of an assignee. The liabilities are about \$15,000 and assets \$25,000.

The Credit Forks Mining and Manufacturing Co., Toronto, have been incorporated, with a capital stock of \$200,000, to manufacture lime, bricks, terra cotta, etc.

Joseph Douglas, late of Douglas Bros., roofers and galvanized iron workers, Toronto, is about to commence business on his own account at 211 Wellington street, Ottawa.

Mrs. Margaret Pfeiffer has issued a writ against Contractor Onderdonk for \$10,000 damages for the death of her husband, who was killed in the construction of the T. H. and B. tunnel.

Jeremiah O'Neill has obtained a verdict for \$450 for personal damages from the Hamilton Bridge Company. He was employed on the Simpson building, when an iron girder fell upon his foot, crushing it badly.

"PITTING" OF PLASTER.

A correspondent signing himself "A Country Architect" tells in a recent issue of the Engineering Record how to prevent plaster from pitting or blistering. The trouble is one which many of our readers may have experienced and we therefore present herewith the letter of the writer in question: "In several cases where lime was used for plastering, I had trouble with the surface being injured by the slacking of small particles of lime in the wall instead of in the mortar bed, even after the mortar had been laid four to six weeks before being put on the walls. I then tried the expedient of mak-

ing my plastering mortar by a new method, which succeeded beyond my expectation in remedying the defects and also improving the quality of the plastering.

I had all lime to be used run out of the lime box through a small sieve into a putty-box and kept well covered with water for about two weeks, then mixed with the sand and the hair. To get the ingredients well mixed the mortar had to be well tamped or you would see the streaks of lime and sand. The mason at first objected strongly to making the mortar by this method because of the increased cost of mixing, but he afterward said it was offset by the less labor required by the mason to make a good wall, and it certainly made a stronger and harder wall than by the old method on account of the increased labor or better tempering which the mortar received."

A NEW METHOD OF BLASTING.

A new method of blasting, invented by Mining Councillor L. Jarolmek, of Austria-Hungary, has been tested during the past year with results which are said to have been very satisfactory. In this method the priming is based on a chemical reaction, which is produced within the hole by water introduced into a body of caustic lime which is arranged above the charge. The heat developed by the slacking of the lime is allowed to act from the outside upon a peculiarly constructed cap, which by its detonation explodes the charge within a certain time. By a timing arrangement the operator is able to fix the time of the explosion. This arrangement is very simple. The body of the lime is covered more or less with a sheet of tin foil. Thus the access of the water is limited to a larger or smaller surface of the lime body, whereby, on account of the heat being developed quicker or slower, the charge is exploded correspondingly sooner or later. The tests proved the method to be practicable even under the most unfavorable conditions. The difficulty of conducting water to vertical holes is removed by laying wet moss or peat upon the cap. In addition to the other advantages of this method, it is claimed that the use of water in the drill hole is a complete safeguard against the ignition of mine gases by a blast.

Ox gall, diluted, is an excellent thing for cleaning off painted ceilings that are badly smoked.

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