

John Mix will have charge of the work.—Driscoll & Fitzpatrick have secured the contract for the erection of a skating rink, wood and iron, 87 x 220 feet.

ST. THOMAS, ONT.—The City Hall Building Committee received tenders as below for various trades in connection with the new city hall: Plastering—Gould Bros., London, \$1,730; Jas. Stewart, \$2,281.60; Hoidge & Son, Toronto, \$2,400. Metal work—Douglas Bros., Toronto, \$1,248; Stacey Mfg. Co., \$1,650.52; A. B. Ormsby, Toronto, \$990; A. H. Mathews, Toronto, \$1,243. Heating—Cadman & Williams, St. Thomas, \$2,694.61; Kenneth J. Allison, \$2,373.50; Cadman & Williams, two Gurney Co. boilers, \$2,714.61; three boilers, \$2,795.01; Charles Bull, \$2,394; Stacey Mfg. Co., \$2,556; Jos Harrison, Toronto, \$2,370; Puidy, Mansell & Co., Toronto, \$2,278; Adam Clark, Hamilton, \$3,279. Plumbing and gas fitting—Ritchie & Co., Toronto, \$1,100; Stacey Mfg. Co., \$1,427; Chas. Bull, \$1,359; J. H. Flaherty, \$1,282.83; Purdy, Mansell & Co., Toronto, \$1,174; Cadman & Williams, \$1,528. Heating and ventilating—Ritchie & Co., Toronto, \$2,460; Sacho Plumbing and Heating Co., Berlin, \$2,950. Plumbing—Kenneth J. Allison, Toronto, \$1,097.50. Plumbing, hot water heating and gas fitting—Fiddes & Hogarth, Toronto, \$4,330. Painting—H. Turnpenny, \$1,598; Jos. Newberry, \$1,873; George Jewell, \$1,750; E. H. Pink, \$2,222; W. R. Bevi, \$2,370.50. Electric wiring—R. A. L. Gray, Toronto, \$409. Tenders have been accepted as follows: Gould Bros., London, plastering, \$1,730; H. A. Turnpenny, painting, \$1,598; A. B. Ormsby & Co., Toronto, metal work, \$990; Charles Bull, heating, \$2,394; K. J. Allison, Toronto, plumbing, \$1,097. The contract for electric wiring was not let, only one firm tendering. Buffalo boilers and Gurney-Tilden radiators will be used. The architect is Mr. N. R. Darrach.

Barbeau & Auclair, painters, Quebec, have registered partnership.

D. Duplessis & Co., plasterers, Montreal, have registered partnership.

Gaspard Caron and F. X. Racicot have registered proprietors of the business of Caron & Racicot, plumbers and roofers, Montreal.

THE QUALITY OF MORTAR.

(Continued from last issue.)

There is no question but that if the utmost care were taken to thoroughly slake the binding material and to properly proportion the sand, giving plenty of time to the whole operation, hand-mixed mortar would be perfectly satisfactory in every respect; but such conditions rarely obtain in a large building, and by mixing machine-mixed mortar by the ton it is perfectly easy to maintain exact proportions, to have the binder equally strong in each case, and to have the intimate mixture of the components perfectly uniform.

USE OF HOT BRICK.

There is another factor entering into the use of mortar, or perhaps more properly, into the construction of masonry, which is liable to be overlooked. There is a saying among what we sometimes call the old-fashioned builders to the effect that a wet building makes a dry house, or, in other words, that in masonry construction, if plenty of water is used throughout, the bricks kept well wet, the joints thoroughly grouted, the result in the set of the mortar will be vastly superior to what one would expect from opposite conditions. This is, of course, especially true of work laid up with cement mortar, but it applies with very considerable force also to lime mortar work. It is a common belief that in cold weather bricks should be heated before being set. We are not sure that this is the correct assumption. We have noticed a number of times that where bricks have been used hot the mortar, after a few months, is dry and crumbly under the hand and has the appearance of having been frozen. It seems to stand to reason that hydraulic cement, which requires a very considerable excess of water to set properly, would have the life all drawn out of it by being

set in bricks which not only are free from water, but are heated so that they would absorb all the free water from the cement. It, of course, is not always practicable, on account of the cold, to wet bricks in winter time, but from personal experience we should feel inclined to say that a wall would stand better if the bricks were laid up cold in winter than if the bricks were first heated. And certainly for any work in ordinary weather the liability is that it will be kept too dry rather than too wet.

LIBERAL USE OF WATER.

We had occasion to notice a while ago an instance of the efficacy of the liberal use of water in this connection. In a certain prominent building in this city the door trim and the dado work were all constructed of Portland cement applied directly to fireproof partition blocks. After the work had been run there came a spell of quite dry, hot weather, and the building was left open, with the result that when the cement work had the appearance of being dried out it was so soft and porous that it could be brushed away with a broom, and there was hardly any surface to it. The builder was shrewd enough to try some experiments before going to

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