

**FIRES.**

The Presbyterian church at Windsor, Ont., was entirely destroyed by fire on Saturday last. Loss, \$20,000; insurance, \$12,000.—The residence of Duncan McFarlane, at Woodbridge, Ont., has been burned; insured.—A frame dwelling at Gravenhurst, Ont., owned by Mrs. Anderson, was destroyed by fire on the 13th inst. Loss, \$2,000; insurance, \$1,000.—The Heaps furniture factory at Vancouver, B. C., owned by the Edmunds and Webster estate, was totally destroyed by fire recently. The loss is estimated at \$20,000, with a small insurance.—The frame shoddy factory of Aloyes Bauer & Co. at Waterloo, Ont., was burned last week, together with all the machinery. Loss, \$2,500; no insurance. Mr. Bauer will probably rebuild, and make the new factory all brick and fireproof.—The post-office and a general store at Hilton, Ont., was destroyed by fire recently. The building was owned by A. A. Becker. Small insurance.—Sylvester Bros.' machine and agricultural works at Lindsay, Ont., were damaged by fire on the 14th inst. to the extent of several thousand dollars. The loss is fully covered by insurance.—A house at Newcastle, N. B., owned by Dr. Fish, was burned last week. Insurance, \$2,350.—The Globe Hotel at Yarmouth, N. S., owned by Wm. Jones, was destroyed by fire on the 18th inst. Insurance, \$4,000.—The steamer Spokane, belonging to the Columbia and Kootenay Navigation Co., of Kaslo, B. C., was burned a few days ago. The steamer was valued at \$15,000.—Fire at Barriefield, Ont., on the 19th inst., destroyed the boatbuilding establishment and residence of A. Rickey and the dwelling of Mrs. Grange. The loss is placed at \$10,000, partially covered by insurance.—The iron block at Beaverton, Ont., owned by A. Hamilton, the dwelling house of Duncan McRae, and a building owned by John Cameron, have been destroyed by fire.

**CONTRACTS AWARDED.**

WROXETER, ONT.—Alex. Munro has let the contract for a new residence to Thos. Ranshaw.

ASHFIELD, ONT.—Wm. Gardner, of this place, has received the contract for building the new stone school house at Paramount, at the price of \$985.

TORONTO, ONT.—The Fire and Light Committee will recommend to Council the acceptance of the tender of the Fire Extinguisher Co., of Chicago, for a Champion water tower, at the price of \$6,800, delivered in Toronto.

ST. JOHN, N. B.—B. Mooney & Sons have been awarded the contract for the erection of the new Patterson building on Princess street. It will be a three story brick building for residential purposes, with two stores on the ground floor.

OTTAWA, ONT.—Sixteen tenders were received by the Finance Committee for the purchase of \$301,800 of debentures, the successful tenderers being as follows: Wm. Mackey, Ottawa, \$150,000 at \$102½; Canadian Bank of Commerce, \$100,000 at \$101.74. The remaining \$51,000 was also offered to the Canadian Bank of Commerce at the same price, and has been accepted by the bank.—A contract has been awarded by the Department of Railways and Canals to the Canada Bridge and Iron Company, of Montreal, for a steel bridge over the Rideau canal at Dufferin, about twenty miles from Ottawa. The contract price is about \$3,000.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—The following tenders were received by the Board of Works for the repaving of Main street from the C. P. R. to Portage avenue: Ferguson & Cathro, Toronto, asphalt, \$2.69 per cubic yard, \$117,015; stone curbing, \$8,440, total, \$125,455; cedar blocks, including curbing, \$54,125; Kelly Bros. & Co.,

Winnipeg, cedar blocks, 84c per cubic yard, \$36,540; curbing, \$7,768, taking up and relaying street railway tracks, etc., \$2,920, total \$47,228, brick, \$2.22 per cubic yard, \$96,570, curbing \$7,768, taking up track, etc., \$2,920, total \$107,258, granite blocks, laid on sand or gravel \$2.12 per cubic yard, \$92,220, curbing \$7,768, taking up track, etc., \$2,920, total \$102,908; Warren-Scharf Paving Company, New York, asphalt, \$2.75 per cubic yard, or \$128,145 for the whole quantity including curbing; Doidge & Co., Winnipeg, cedar blocks, \$56,396.40, with pine curb \$44,027.00, with granite curb \$43,683, with Selkirk stone curb \$41,633.40, with Stonewall Stone curb. The Board has accepted the tender of Doidge & Co., subject to the approval of the Council.

**WEATHER VANES.**

The invention of the vane, or weathercock, must have been of very early date. Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, a noted Roman architect and engineer, who was born about 80 B. C., in his works calls a vane a triton, probably from having in his time the form of a triton. The usual form on towers, castles, and secular buildings was that of a banner; but on ecclesiastical buildings it generally was a representation of the male of the barnyard fowl. According to Dufresne, commonly called Duncange, the French historian, who lived from 1610 to 1688, the cock was originally devised as an emblem of clerical vigilance, or what it ought to be. There have been other forms of vane. The one over St. Peter's, Cornhill, is in the shape of a key; that over St. Mildred's Church is a gilt ship under full sail. The grasshopper of the Royal Exchange is the vane that formerly surmounted the former Exchange. The dragon on the spire of Bow Church, Cheapside, is another celebrated vane. One of Mother Shipton's prophecies was, that when the dragon of Bow Church and the grasshopper of the Royal Exchange should meet the streets of London would be deluged with blood. In what way they should meet the old dame did not explain; but it is known that at one time these two vanes were side by side in the yard of a stonemason in Old-street-road, yet there was no shedding of blood. The weather vanes of the present time are too well known to require any description. The reason that the arrow end of the vane always points in the direction the wind blows, and the feather end never does, is because the arrow end is much shorter. The feather end being much longer offers more resistance to the wind, and when it turns until in the current it remains set in position until the next change of current.

F. Mongeon & Fils, contractors and joiners, Quebec, have commenced business.

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