

The city council, Victoria, B.C., have decided to pave several streets with wooden blocks treated with creosote and placed on a concrete foundation.

A combined school and municipal hall will be erected at Oak Bay, B.C.

Parfett Bros., Victoria, B.C., have been awarded the contract for the erection of the new post office at Ladysmith, B.C.

According to the estimates before the Legislature of the province of British Columbia for the coming year, \$100,000 will be expended on the continuance of construction of the court house at Vancouver and \$47,000 to that at Kamloops. Sixty thousand dollars is set aside for the new insane asylum at New Westminster. Repairs to the capital buildings, Government House, and other public buildings are also under consideration.

#### OPENING FOR CEMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

Australia is a growing market for Portland cement, according to U.S. Consul O. H. Baker, Sydney, New South Wales, who reports as follows:

The imports of cement into Australia in 1906 amounted to 88,919,936 pounds, imported from the following countries: Germany, 50,441,950 pounds; United Kingdom, 34,648,633 pounds; United States, 257,152 pounds, other countries, 3,572,141 pounds. The wholesale price at Sydney varies, but is at present about \$2.50 per cask of 375 pounds. The cement works in New South Wales produce about 1,000 tons per week, but they will soon be enlarged.

#### RAPID RECOVERY.

Messrs. Lockerby & McComb, Montreal, whose factory on Shannon Street was destroyed by fire in January, have completely rebuilt and remodelled the plant. A very attractive suite of offices have been fitted up. The books were all saved, and comparatively little confusion in the conduct of the business was caused by the fire. New machinery has been installed throughout the plant, and the firm are now in better position than ever to turn out the goods. Their lines include the well known Shield Brand Ready Roofing, Dominion Brand Tarred Felt, and Good Luck Tarred and Dry Sheathing.

#### ANOTHER BUILDERS' EXHIBITION AT MONTREAL.

The second annual Builders' Exhibition will be held next month at the "New Crystle Rink," Guy St., Montreal.

During the show week the convention of the National Builders' Association is to be held, to which many who are interested in the exhibition will be drawn.

The Architects' Association of Canada are giving not only its countenance but its practical aid to the exhibition. The Master Painters' Association will supervise the exhibits connected with its trade, as will the Master Plumbers' Association the display in its department.

Owing to the largely increased space at the disposal of the management some novel features connected with the building and allied trades will be included.

The applications for space which are coming in for the forthcoming Builders' Show, April 20 to 25, are quite sufficient to guarantee its success. Not only is interest being shown in the event by the builders and contractors of the Dominion, but United States firms are desirous of participating in the profits that are sure to accrue. The applications are already so numerous as to prove not only the utility but the profitability of the enterprise.

#### OF INTEREST TO POWER USERS.

Jones & Glasco, Sovereign Bank Building, Montreal, have started a business importing British machinery and factory supplies. They are taking up agencies for British firms making gas engines, oil engines, gas producers, pumps and miscellaneous electrical supplies. They have the Canadian agency for the Campbell Gas Engine Co. of Halifax, England, and are open to contract for power plants, electric lighting plants, gas engines, and electric machinery for all purposes.

Mr. Jones has made a study of producer gas both in America and abroad. He is a graduate of the Polytechnicum, Zurich, and has had practical experience with gas engines and producers in the Pittsburgh district, and in the Campbell Gas Engine Co.'s works in England.

Mr. Glasco is an electrical engineer, a graduate of the McGill University, and has had practical experience and employment with the Canadian General Electric Co., Allis-Chalmers-Bullock, Limited, Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co., Pittsburgh, and the Canadian Westinghouse Co.

They will occupy the store at 334 Notre Dame St. West after May 1st and will carry samples and stock and intend installing an engine there for show purposes.

#### THE DETERIORATION OF COAL.

Coal deteriorates rapidly after being mixed according to experiments recently made by the Chemical Department of the University of Illinois.

In some cases the deterioration reaches as high as ten per cent. Curiously enough, the only way to prevent it appears to be to store the coal under water, sheltered and unsheltered coal piles being equally affected so long as in contact with air.

In referring to these experiments The Engineering Magazine says: The samples subjected to outdoor exposure uniformly showed marked deterioration, but of varying amount. The treatment of the samples was identical the coal remaining in shallow boxes exposed to the various temperature and moisture changes from October to July. The variations in heat loss, therefore, ranging from two to ten per cent., must be ascribed to inherent properties of the coals themselves. All showed a tendency to disintegrate, but they varied distinctly with regard to the ease with which they crumbled under pressure.

The results of the tests on the coals subjected to a dry atmosphere and a slightly elevated temperature were rather unexpected in that, with one exception in which the deterioration was practically the same, they showed a greater deterioration than in the case of outdoor exposure. This would seem to contradict the popular idea that a

roof over coal in storage is supposed to be preferable to open exposure. The samples subjected to high temperature with frequent wetting down behaved in general like those exposed to outdoor influences, though in some cases a greater deterioration was observed in the former samples. Here the results are undoubtedly variable in accordance with the variation of structure and composition of the coals themselves. In general, a greater persistence of value might be expected in the dense and less friable coals and in those with less of iron pyrites throughout their texture.

In conclusion, the authors summarize the results as follows:

(a) Submerged coal does not lose appreciably in heat value.

(b) Outdoor exposure results in a loss of heating value varying from two to ten per cent.

(c) Dry storage has no advantage over storage in the open except with high-sulfur coals, where the disintegrating effect of sulfur in the process of oxidation facilitates the escape of hydrocarbons or the oxidation of the same.

(d) In most cases the losses in storage appear to be practically complete at the end of five months. From the seventh to the ninth month the loss is inappreciable.

(e) The results obtained in small samples are to be considered as an index of the changes affecting large masses in kind rather than in degree, but, since the losses here shown are not beyond what seems to conform in a general way to the experience of users of coal from large storage heaps, they may be not without value as an indication of weathering effects in actual practise.

#### Publications Worth Reading.

Any Manufacturer or Dealer in Supplies for this Column is invited to send Books on Business Topics for Review or Booklets, Pamphlets, etc., for Reference.

"ACORN" CATALOGUE No. 20.—A 48-page catalogue, fully illustrated and printed in two colors, giving full information regarding the products of The Metal Shingle & Siding Co., Preston, Ont., for houses, stores, barns and other buildings.

STEEL PLATE FANS.—Catalogue No. 23 giving information regarding the various types and sizes of steel plate fans manufactured by Sheldons, Limited, Galt, Ont.

CANADIAN MADE TURRET LATHE.—The Stevens Co., of Galt, Ont., have issued a catalogue giving detailed description of the Jones & Lamson-Hartness type of turret lathe which they are making for the Canadian trade. Reference is made to several improvements to the lathe designed by the Canadian makers of this type of machine tool.

JEFFREY RUBBER BELT CONVEYERS.—A 48-page catalogue with illustrated descriptions of the many kinds of rubber belt conveyers for handling ore, crushed rock, refuse, chemicals, sand, clay, coal, pulp wood, chips, bottles, bags, barrels, etc., made by the Jeffrey Manufacturing Co., Columbus, Ohio. The catalogue is abundant proof of the great diversity of purposes to which these conveyers can be installed to advantage.