

FIRES.

Sash and door factory of W. W. Harper at Charlottetown, P.E.I., damaged to extent of \$3,000.—Stable of the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Co., Montreal, totally destroyed; loss \$15,000.—Ware-rooms of John E. Brown on McNab street north, Hamilton, badly damaged.—Residence of John Keddy, near Bridgewater, N.S.—Greenhouses of Hall & Robinson at Outremont, Que., damaged to extent of \$2,500.—Brass manufactory of Chadwick Bros., Hamilton, partially destroyed; loss \$8,000.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

INGERSOLL, ONT.—Residence for H. J. Hollinrake: Crooker & Sons, contractors.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.—Carnegie library building: H. Hoy, contractor.

COLDWATER, ONT.—Building Methodist parsonage: Mr. Switzer, of Orillia, contractor.

MONCTON, N.B.—New hospital building: Architect, J. T. Brodie, St. John; contractor, B. LeBlanc.

QUYON, QUE.—New school: Carpenter work, Mr. Smith, Ottawa; masonry and brickwork, Mr. Cauley, Ottawa.

ST. JOHN, N.B.—Intercolonial railway roundhouse: Rhodes, Curry & Co., of Amherst, N.S., contractors; price about \$60,000.

BURLINGTON, ONT.—The Royal Artificial Stone Paving Co., of Guelph, have secured the contract for cement walks at 11½ cents per square foot.

MONTREAL, QUE.—H. C. Stone, architect, has awarded the contract for painting and glazing of warehouse for Mr. Beardmore at 57 St. Peter street, to Mr. Arcand.

STRATFORD, ONT.—Buildings for Kemp Mfg. Co.: Plumbing, Myers & Co.; painting, A. O. Neff; carpenter work not yet let. Balance of work will be done by day labor.

HAMILTON, ONT.—Additional buildings for the Deering Harvester Co.: Masonry, Geo. Webb; carpenter work, William Halliday; roofing, James Findlay; painting, W. H. Stamp.

CORNWALL, ONT.—Contract for factory for Cornwall Furniture Co. has been let to A. Adams, of Ottawa, for \$11,753. This includes everything except roof covering and flooring. Main building will be 160x50 feet, three-stories high, of brick.—Public library building: L. A. Ross, successful tenderer.

ANNAPOLIS, N.S.—The contract for dam, head gates, flume and power house for extension of electric light plant has been let to Robert S. Low, of Sydney, at \$3,300, and the water wheel installation to the Jenckes Machine Company at \$1,980. The pole line construction will be done by the town.

FREDERICTON, N.B.—The Commissioner of Public Works awarded the following contracts: Mill Brook bridge, Kings county, to Joseph Donnelly; Fowlerton bridge, Kings county, to Geo. A. Appleby; Baker Brook bridge, Madawaska county, to Joseph Guy; Wilson bridge, of Argyle, Carleton county, to Wm. R. Fawcett; McLaggan bridge, York county, to Kenneth McLaggan.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—The Canada Lands and Investment Company have purchased a second issue of school debentures of the Frank school district.—Supply of nine fire alarm boxes for city: Bell Telephone Company, successful tenderers, \$618.—Residence on St. Johns ave. for E. L. Drewry, cost about \$6,000: Masonry, brickwork and plastering, M. Watson; carpenter's and painter's work,

Thos. Ritchie; plumbing, Hammond & Rodway; hot water heating, John Plaxton.—Additions to Olgovie Milling Company's offices: Mr. Barnett, contractor, cost \$4,644.—Walter Chesterton, architect, has charge of extensive improvements to the residence in Fort Rouge erected by the late A. W. Ross, and recently purchased by Hugh Sutherland.

STREAKS AND PATCHES IN FINISHED CONCRETE.

Engineers and contractors engaged in concrete construction work are seeking a remedy for the variegated appearance so frequently seen in finished concrete, such as light and dark patches and streaks; while this will disappear in time in weathering, it can be in a great measure remedied in the first instance by proper treatment. First, by preserving a uniform mixture of materials. Machine mixed concrete will present a more uniform finish than hand mixed. Brush finish will produce a much more even and uniform color than work finished with a trowel. The trowel has a tendency to draw the neat cement to the surface of the work in hand and thus produce a variegated finish; too much troweling likewise produces solid hair lines on the face of the work.

In the erection of concrete walls and masonry where one layer is filled in and tamped above the other, there is always more or less drip which flows over the next lower layer. This drip should be brushed and spread over the face of the wall to the right and left as soon as possible after the drip appears, otherwise it will show if permitted to dry and harden with the masonry.

A uniform finish can be given to a discolored wall by the use of Portland cement and water mixed to form a paint, to be applied with a stiff brush. In mixing the dry Portland cement it is simply diluted with water and stirred, to break up the lumps and poured from one paint pot to another repeatedly and kept constantly stirred with a paddle while it is being put on, otherwise the Portland cement will settle to the bottom. The work should be protected from the sun and wind for a short time and slightly moistened after it has set, to prevent quick drying out.

In flat work, such as sidewalk finish, with a suitable fine grained material, an absolutely uniform color and finish can be produced by the use of a brush drawn

straight across the work in executing the finish. The roughest kind of concrete masonry, which is sufficiently rich to show a slight face of cement after the forms have been removed, can be given a brush finish while the cement is yet partially green that will add greatly to the appearance of the work.

Guay, Prevost & Company, Farnham, Que., have registered partnership as contractors.

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