

Denis street to Laval avenue; Ernest street, from St. Denis street to Laval avenue.

BRANTFORD, ONT.—The contracts for a new steel bridge across the river for the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo railway will probably be let next week.

TORONTO, ONT.—Mr. Alexander Manning is said to contemplate the erection of an opera house on the lot to the south of the present Grand opera house on Adelaide street. The cost will be in the neighborhood of \$200,000. It is said the architect will prepare the plans at once, and that building operations will commence in the spring, the theatre to be completed by 1st September, 1893.—A meeting of the Directors of the Toronto and Scarboro Electric Railway was held on Wednesday last, when it was decided to proceed with the construction of the road along Kingston road and through the centre of East Toronto village. The route will be finally decided on at a meeting to be held on 3rd October.—The excavating has been commenced for a new building to be erected for the congregation of St. Thomas Episcopal church. The site is on Huron street opposite Washington avenue. Mr. Eden Smith is the architect.—The following building permits have been granted: G. B. Smith, 454 Sherbourne st., alterations to residence, and two-story bk. stable in rear, cost \$3,500. Wm. Wood, 722 Dufferin st. three-story bk. store and dwelling, s.w. cor. College and Dufferin sts., cost \$3,000; Toronto Athletic Association, five-story bk. and stone club house, s. side College st., w. of Queen st. ave., cost \$80,000; Christie, Brown & Co., large five-story bk. add. to factory s. side Duke st., cost \$45,000. Alex. Manning, 3 story bk. add. to warehouses, s. side Front st., e. of Church st., cost \$6,900. John Bruce, alterations to houses, 29 and 41 Sussex ave., cost \$1,200.

#### FIRES.

The Grand Central hotel at Ridgeway, Ont., owned by Mr. William Baby, was completely destroyed by fire on Tuesday last. Loss \$18,000. Insurance, \$10,000.—The Lotbiniere hotel at Verdun station, Que., was totally destroyed by fire on the 10th inst. The loss is estimated at \$5,000, on which there is an insurance of \$219,000.—Miller Bros., planing mill at St. John, N. B., together with several dwelling houses adjoining, were burned on Saturday of last week. No insurance.—Buildings were destroyed by fire in the village of H. Jekyllville, Que., last week.—Dr. Caudier's residence at Merrickville, Ont., was burned to the ground a few days ago.—The mills of the Parkin Lumber Company at Lindsay, Ont., including dry kilns, storage sheds and electric light plant, were totally destroyed by fire on Monday last. Loss \$27,500 insurance \$13,000.—The hotel at Montreal was damaged by fire to the extent of \$10,000 on the 12th inst.—The residence of Wm. Gauer of Minden, Ont., was destroyed by fire on Thursday last. Loss, \$1,400.—I. H. Terry's dwelling house at Ingersoll, Ont., was burned recently.

#### CONTRACTS AWARDED.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—Mr. McDermid is the successful contractor for the new barracks to be erected here.

BRANTFORD, ONT.—Messrs. Jones & Co., of Toronto, have been awarded the contract for the erection of the power house for the electric street railway.

VANCOUVER, B. C.—Messrs. William Rennie and D. K. Campbell have been awarded the contract for building the Government bridge across the Squamish River.

PERTH, ONT.—Messrs. Gemmill & Co., to whom the town granted a bonus of \$12,000 for their woollen factory, have awarded the contract for the erection of their building to Matthew Ryan, of Smith's Falls.

OTTAWA, ONT.—Messrs. Garson & Begg, of St. Catharines, and A. Stewart, of Ottawa, are the two lowest tenderers for sections one and two of the Soulanges Canal. It is understood that the contract will be awarded to Mr. Stewart, whose tender is \$960,000, the works to be constructed in concrete. The contract for section 13 will be given to Mr. Randolph Macdonald of Toronto.

TORONTO, ONT.—Messrs. Keith & Fitzsimmons have been given the contract for gas and electric fixtures for Victoria College, Central Presbyterian Church, Jarvis Street Baptist Church and Public Library, Toronto.—At a meeting of the Board of Works held on Tuesday last, the following contracts were awarded: Charles Farquhar, cedar block paving Royce avenue, \$4,469; block paving Perth avenue, \$6,745; cedar and granite on Howard Park avenue, \$3,085; John Hartnett, O'Hara avenue, \$591; W. H. Cathro, Edmund street, \$2,177. Construction and Paving Company, Herrick street, \$1,640; Robert Forsyth, granolithic pavement on Queen street, north side, from Yonge to John, \$2.40 a running foot.

#### BRICK GABLES.

The gable has been made one of the strongest features of brick architecture, and has been treated in a variety of ways. The broken outline in which curves are united with straight lines, and pediments are combined with curvilinear copings, is essentially a type of gable developed from brick, for we see that in all brick countries the ornamental gable has been the pronounced feature in the architecture. In Belgium and Holland the forms that are found are, as all architects know, of the most varied description, from the plain stepped or cow's-foot design, to the most "rococo" form of curvilinear outline. The curves are sometimes seen reversed like the Louis Quatorze or Quinze period, and terminate in twists, scrolls, or points of the most elaborate design. In England the Elizabethan or Queen Anne buildings show a less profuse and wanton arrangement; the gables are generally made up of simple curves placed with their convex sides outwardly in one place and inwardly another, or of ogee curves terminated by a straight string with a pediment superimposed. Very little cutting is necessary in designs of this character; the bricks to the curved portions can be moulded or plain rectangular shape. The coping bricks may be perfectly plain, set up on a thin moulded course, projecting  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches on the face, or be quite flush with the work below, only a double tile course projecting under it. In more ornamental designs the bricks are moulded on the under edge, specially made for the purpose, or the upper fillet is formed of two courses of tiles in cement. The pedimental portions are composed of bricks with ovolo and square members and ogee for the top member of the pediment, and, of course, project on each face of the gable wall so covered. The upper course ought to be made of large, purposely moulded bricks, with close joints and set in cement.

Considerable care is required in forming these coping courses. The joints should properly break bond; the bricks themselves should be hard and well burned, and be well grouted in cement mortar. Owing to the porosity of the bricks or joints, lead is sometimes used as a covering to the top course; but this expedient ought to be avoided if possible. The plain flush coping, cut to the contour of the gable, and having two or three projecting courses of tiles laid beneath in cement mortar, is one of the most effectual modes of keeping the rain from penetrating the gable wall, as the projecting tile course, or "tile creasing" as it is called technically, throws off the water like a drip moulding from the faces of wall. For a moulded brick coping two courses may be used: the lower course may have a

cavetto, or cyma reversa, worked on the edge, either placed flatwise or, if greater boldness is desired, on edge, and above this a plain course of bricks on edge, or three courses of tile can be laid as a fillet. The aim of the designer of brick mouldings for this purpose should be to produce one or more sharp lines of shadow, not too large or deep, or it will look heavy to the eye. The mouldings ought to be simple and effective with bold squares, instead of divided into several members which would never be seen below. We have seen gables finished with moulded cement copings than which nothing looks worse or more patchy. If brick is used for the gable wall, let it appear as the finish, do not shirk the trouble of a coping, or the art of the brick setter will be compromised just where it should be evident. For pediments the moulded bricks may consist of the cymatum, in the oblique slides, with fillet underneath, the horizontal members will be a fillet and corona, and beneath this a fillet and echinus, or quarter round. With these few members the effect will be bold. The corona, with its fillet joined with a small cavetto, throws a deep shadow, which is relieved by the lowest member, or quarter round.

To obviate the exposed coping the roof is often carried over the gable, the latter being finished by a series of mouldings in purpose made bricks. The upper member may be a cyma recta with fillet, the second row a plain square profile and the underneath a cavetto or cyma reversa. Of course this kind of finishing does not admit of ornamental outlines: the sides are straight so as to allow the roofing to be continued over the gables. We wish to call attention to the necessity of obtaining moulded angle or apex, and return bricks for the gables so as to insure sharp mitres at these points. It was mainly the difficulty of getting moulded bricks made for gables that induced our forefathers to employ stone and cement for copings, both of which materials required often to be painted to prevent the absorption of moisture.

We do not say anything against a stone coping when a durable material can be obtained that will weather well. Many of our modern Tudor buildings of brick and stone may be mentioned in which the two materials are combined. But if good moulded brick or terra-cotta can be had, why should stone be employed, as it adds to the cost and is less durable than good brick. The effect has had something to do with the matter. A brick edifice with stone dressings is more showy, and the relief of the two colors is preferred by many people. The architect must be the judge in every case. If a good weather stone can be had at a moderate cost, the relief is of some value; but our experience of many modern buildings in which a soft freestone has been used for dressings has proved to us the value of moulded brick and terra-cotta when it can be obtained of good quality.—*Building News*.

In 1845, say the *Scientific American*, Peter Cooper erected the largest rolling mill at that time in the United States for making railroad iron, and at this mill he was the first soon afterward to roll wrought-iron beams for fire-proof buildings. In the building of the Cooper Institute, in New York city, in 1857, he was the first to employ such beams with brick arches to support the floors, in a large structure designed to be fireproof.

## MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

### LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

Chief Justice Galt gave judgment at Osgoode Hall recently in the case in which John Hanlan sought an order prohibiting the police magistrate for the city of Toronto from adjudicating upon a charge of an offence under the Liquor License Act, on the ground that the police magistrate had no jurisdiction. The charge was that of selling liquor without a license at Hanlan's hotel at the west end of the Island. The applicant alleges that the Island is not within the limits of the city of Toronto. The learned chief justice holds that whether the Island was or was not within the original limits of the city is immaterial. By sec. 22 of R. S. O., chap. 184, "The Lieutenant-Governor may by proclamation divide the city or town into wards as may seem expedient, and may add to the city or town any part of the adjacent township or townships which the Lieutenant-Governor in council considers it necessary to attach thereto." The Lieutenant-Governor on 25th September, 1891, issued a proclamation affirming the expediency of a new division into wards being made of the city of Toronto, and in that proclamation ward No. 4 is expressly declared to comprise the "Island lying in front of said city." It appeared to the learned chief justice that under the express provision of the Act the Island is now within the limits of the city of Toronto, and that the police magistrate has jurisdiction. He attached no importance to the other grounds taken. The motion was dismissed without costs.

In Georgia, according to a recent decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *The Cartersville Improvement, Gas and Water Company vs. Mayor and aldermen of Cartersville*, while a city cannot exempt a gas company from municipal taxation, it can contract to pay for gas a stipulated sum per lamp, and in addition thereto a sum for all the lamps supplied equivalent to the amount of taxes imposed upon the company, provided this additional sum is a fair and just allowance to compensate for the actual value of the light service, and the stipulation is bona fide and not in the nature of an evasion of the law prohibiting exemption from taxes. The court further held that without the preliminary sanction for a popular vote, as required by the constitution, a municipal corporation cannot contract for a supply of gas on the credit of the city for a longer period than one year, and a contract which by its terms is to run for twenty years, each year's supply to be paid for quarterly during the year, is operative from year to year only so long as neither of the parties renounces or repudiates it.

### DATES TO BE REMEMBERED.

September 15—Last day for receiving appeals against the High School primary and leaving examinations. County selectors of Jurors meet.—Jurors Act, Sec. 13.

September 20—Clerk of the Peace to give notice to Municipal Clerks of number of Jurymen required from the municipality.—Jurors Act, Section 16.

October 1—Last day for returning Assessment Roll to clerk, in cities, towns and incorporated villages, where assessment is taken between 1st July and 30th September.—Assessment Act, Section 52.

October 1—Last day for delivery by Clerks of Municipality to Collectors of the Collectors' Rolls, unless some other day be prescribed by by-law of the Local Municipality.—Assessment Act, Section 120.

October 1—Notice by Trustees of cities, towns, incorporated villages and township boards to Municipal Clerks to hold Trustee elections on same day as Municipal elections due.—P. S. Act, Section 103, (1)