CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.

VOL. XI.-NO. 3.

MARCH, 1898

PRICE 20 CEN'IS \$2.00 PER YEAR.

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CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER,

A Monthly Journal of Modern Constructive Methods,

(With a Weekly Intermediate Edition-The CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD).

PUBLISHED ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY IN EACH MONTH IN THE INTEREST OF ARCHITECTS, CIVIL AND SANITARY ENGINEERS, PLUMBERS, DECORATORS, BUILDERS, CONTRACTORS, AND MANU-FACTURERS OF AND DEALERS IN BUILDING

MATERIALS AND APPLIANCES.

C. H. MORTIMER, Publisher,

TORONTO, CANADA. Confederation Life Building, Telephone 2362.

Branch Office : NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING, MONTREAL. Bell Telephone 2299.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER will be mailed to any address in Canada or the United States for \$2.00 per year. The price to subscribers in foreign countries is \$2.50. Subscriptions are payable in advance. The Journal will be discontinued at expiration of term paid for, if so stipulated by the subscriber; but where no such understanding exists, will be continued until instructions to discon-tinue are received and all arrearages paid.

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> For several years prior to the first of January last there was a decrease each month in number and value of real

estate transactions, as shown by the Toronto Registry office records. It is reported, however, that the first two months of this year show an increase in the volume of transactions.

Building Materials.

A Hopeful Sign.

THE scarcity of timber in Great Britain is clearly shown by comparing the extent to which wood is there employed

with the quantity used in the United States. The annual consumption in England is placed at only 18 cubic feet per capita, while in the States it is about 350 cubic feet. The introduction of iron and steel in building construction has, however, already greatly lessened the use of wood for this purpose in the large cities of the United States, and is destined to restrict its employment to a much greater extent in the future. The change is opportune, in view of the growing scarcity and costliness of white pine and other choice varieties of building timber.

Another Building Disaster.

FOLLOWING close in the train of the recent building disaster at London, Ont., with its terrible consequences,

comes the news of the collapse on Feb. 21st of the roof of a large music hall at Oshawa, Ont. The building is described as a three-story brick structure, with a large assembly hall on the upper floor. It was covered by a flat roof about 75×100 feet in size, which fell to the second floor, completely covering the seats in the music hall. The accident occurred at five o'clock in the morn-To this fortunate circumstance is due the fact that ing. a number of lives were not sacrificed. On the preceding Saturday evening a large political meeting was held in the building, and on the evening of the day on which the accident took place an entertainment was to have been given at which it was estimated there would have been present 800 persons. How terrible, therefore, would have been the consequences had the accident been delayed but a few hours ! Doubtless the immediate cause of the collapse was accumulation of snow on the roof, but the fact that the roof was a new one and that the building had recently undergone changes and repairs, at a cost of about \$5,000, is sufficient