

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

NANAIMO, B. C.—The contract for heating the new school has been let to V. Leek & Co., of Vancouver.

TORONTO, ONT.—The Gurney Foundry Co. are supplying the new McGill College building, Montreal, with radiators.

VERNON, B. C.—The \$20,000 worth of 5 per cent. debentures have been purchased by G. A. Stimson, of Toronto, at \$1.10.

LONDON, ONT.—The tender of the Hamilton Bridge Co. for the steel superstructure of Zavit's pond bridge, on the Port Stanley railway, has been accepted by the engineers in charge.

DECORATIVE NOTES.

A light is an important factor, and one that must have primal consideration when any scheme of color is contemplated. Its effect upon polychromatic decorations is far greater than it is usually thought to be by the uninitiated. Yellow is the strongest of all the colours, and the most diffusive of light. Hence, the room that is deficient in light must be treated in this key. The tendency must be in the direction of yellow. Pale cream ceiling, with buffish ornamentation and white and gold; walls of a fuller and richer cream, approaching golden yellow, with bits of clear yellow, gold and light blue ornamentation and warm red in generous measure; woodwork, old ivory, in polished enamel; carpet, creamy and full of bright bits of yellow, red, blue, and golden buff; drapery, old gold, blue, and pale straw; upholstery, ivory and light blue.

The room that has too much light requires an opposite treatment. The colors must be light absorbent. For this purpose let us employ for the ceiling a light green having a bluish cast, with bluish gray and reddish gold ornamentation; walls, deep sea green, with pale green gray and silver ornamentation; woodwork, a pale sea green; carpet, greens, grays, black, and silver; drapery, greenish gray; upholstery, écru, greenish, gray and silver.

HOW MINERAL WOOL IS MADE.

Of those who know what mineral wool is, or silicate of cotton, as it is sometimes called, says a writer in Cassier's Magazine, probably only a small number are familiar with the simple process by which it is made. The wool itself serving a variety of useful purposes, as a non-conductor against heat and cold alike, for steam pipes and cold storage room walls, as a "sound defener" in floors of buildings and as a means of fire-proofing, among many others is, as its name implies, a soft and wooly substance, consisting of a mass of very fine mineral fibers interlacing one another in every direction, and thus forming an endless number of minute air cells. The wool appears on the market in a variety of colors, principally white, but often yellow or gray, and occasionally quite dark, and is made by converting scoria and certain rocks while in a molten state into a fibrous condition by a steam blast directed against the liquid material. Blast furnace slag forms the raw material for one variety of the wool and sandstone for another, yielding, respectively, slag wool and rock wool, the latter being pre-


ferable for pipe covering, because of the absence from it of sulphur, which, with moisture present, becomes an acting corroding agent. The furnace slag or the rock, as the case may be, is melted in a large cupola, and as it trickles out at the top hole in a somewhat sluggish stream it meets a high pressure steam jet which atomizes the woolen mineral, if it may be so termed, blowing it in fleecy clouds into the storage room provided for it. Soft and downy, the stuff settles wherever a resting place affords itself, the heavier and easier wool coming down first, while the lighter portions are blown further along by the force of the steam and settle in the more distant parts of the room, the material thus naturally grading itself into varieties of different quality. A thousand pounds of wool per hour are turned out by one of the cupolas, and after the storage

room has been blown full the flocculent mass is pushed into bags ready for market. The whole process affords an admirable and interesting illustration of the utilization of an utterly waste product.

In the days of the Emperor Diocletian a house painter's wages were 60 cents a day, while a schoolmaster received only 60 cents a month for each pupil.

France has 7,842,053 houses, of which more than half have but one storey, 221,799 have three storeys and 96,487 only four storeys or more.

Marble which has been blackened or turned green by exposure to air and damp should not be scraped. The work is then always more or less scratched and injured. It should be first washed with strong potash water, then with pure water, and then finished with water containing a dash of hydrochloric acid.



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