A CONTRACTOR'S LITTLE SCHEME.

According to the Philadelphia Record, a local contractor has a peculiar method of ceping tab on a gang of Italian laborers working under him. The men are known only by numbers, and to keep trace of the doings of each individual is a matter of considerable difficulty. They are all apt to sneak off when the foreman's back is turned, and sit down for a rest. The unique plan of the contractor in question is devised to put an end 's this lazy practice and the consequent loss of time. In the morning, before the gang goes to work, each man's number is printed on the seat of his trousers. When the men knock off work in the evening the chalk marks are inspected, and if any are found to be erased or blurred, the unfortunate Italian to whose pants the blurred number appertains is docked a day's pay. The scheme works admirably, as the men prefer to forego the pleasure of a few minutes' rest, rather than lose their pay.

MORTAR MAKING.

An old builder, of nearly forty years' experience in making mortar, writing upon the subject to a contemporary, very justly says: "The mere matter of slacking lime does not make mortar out of it. Lime and water alone will not make any better mortar than sand and water." He suggests the use of plenty of water in slacking the lime, so that, when it is run out of the box into the bed, it will not bake or burn, as it is liable to do if not well watered. The mortar bed should be large and tight, so there will be no leakage of the lime water. The proportion should be about fifty yards of good sand to twenty-five barrels of lime, for the first mixing, which should be thoroughly done. The hair should be put into the lime before mixing in the sand. After the mortar has been mixed in the above proportions for ten days or more, if the amount of materials given have been used, twenty-five to fifty loads of sand may be added and worked in. It is said that the water that rises on a bushel of slacked lime, and where plenty of water has been used, if removed and put on a sharp sand, will make better stone than lime and sand mixed, showing that the water should be retained in the sand lime while it is fresh, and that the mortar should be tempered in its own liquor. Of course, where smaller quantities are used, the proportion should be retained, both at first mixing and in the sand added subsequently.

Much depends on having mortar made on correct, if not scientific, principles. The durability, if not the actual safety, of a building is more or less affected by the kind of motar that is put into it. We have seen brick buildings, and not very old ones either, from which the dry and hardened mortar could easily be picked in cakes from between the bricks.

To move rust stains from nickel plate, grease the rust stains with oil and after a few days rub thoroughly with a cloth moistened with ammonia. If any spots still remain, remove them with dilute hydrochloric acid and polish with tripoli.

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Prices of Building Materials.

LUMBER

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CAN OR CARGO LOTS. 1½ and thicker there picks, Am. ins. 1½ and thicker, three uppers, Am ins. 1½ and thicker, pickings, Am ins. 1 × 10 and 12 dressing and better. 1 × 10 and 12 dressing and better.	a naío	£22 UO
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Shinning cull boards, stocks		13 00
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Cedar for block paving, per cord Cedar for Kerbing, 4 x 14, per M		14 00
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Winch flooring rough, B. M	18 oc	22 ∞
dressed, F. M	27 00 18 00	30 ∞
undressed, B. M	18 OC	10 00
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Tower or Mansard shingles (painted)... Metallic Terra Cotta Tiles Price of Copper shingles according to weight,

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RRIOKV M	\$7 50
Common Walling Good Facing	3 0 0 0c
Plain brick, f. o. b. at Milton, per M. and quality, per M. 3rd Hard Building	\$18 00 14 00
Moulded and Ornamental, DCF too >	14 00 10 00 8 00 3 to 10 00
Diamond locking tile	16 00
First quality, f.o.S. at Campbellville, per M	18 00 14 00 11 00
Ornamental, per 100	\$3 to 10 00 24 00
Plain brick, "A	\$18 02 16 00
Trojan or Buff	13 03 24 00
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Common Rubble, Per Toise, delivered Large flat "Cubic Foot	1\$ 00 50
Slate. Rosing (V square) red purple	18 00 9 00
uniading green.	9 50 7 75
Terra Cotta Tile, per sq Ornamental Black Slate Roofing	8 #5
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venetian	90 170
Yellow ochre	10 12 5 10 15 10
Orecan cinique	25 40 15 25
Blue, ultramarine Oil, linseed, raw (re Imp. gallon)	65 68
Black, lamp Blue, ultrainarine Oil, linseed, raw (pt Imp. gallon). "boiled " refined, Putty. Whiting, dry. Paris white Eng., dry. Litharge, Am.	78 B5 234 232
Paris white Eng., dry Litharge, Am.,	75 1 00 00 1 25 612 8
Sienna, burnt	81/2 20
CEMENT, LIME, etc. Lime, Per Barrel of 2 bushels, Grey White	46 55
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Cement, Portland, per bbl	2 60 3 03 1 50
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