

CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD

A Weekly Journal of Advance Information and Public Works.

ITS PURPOSE: TO SUPPLY TO CONTRACTORS ADVANCE INFORMATION RESPECTING CONTRACTS OPEN TO TENDER, AND TO ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, MUNICIPAL AND OTHER CORPORATIONS, A DIRECT MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION WITH CONTRACTORS.

ITS MERIT: ECONOMICAL AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE.

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THE CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD,

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Information from any part of the Dominion regarding contracts open to tender, sent exclusively to this journal for publication, and not elsewhere published, will be liberally paid for.

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

At its Convention held in Toronto, Nov. 20 and 21, 1889, the Ontario Association of Architects signified its approval of the CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD, and pledged its members to use this journal as their medium of communication with contractors with respect to advertisements for Tenders.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at the First Annual Meeting of the Province of Quebec Association of Architects, held in Montreal, Oct. 10th and 11th, 1890: "Moved by M. Perrault, seconded by A. F. Dumlop, that we the Architects of the Province of Quebec now assembled in Convention being satisfied that the CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD affords us a direct communication with the Contractors,—Resolved, that we pledge our support to it by using its columns when calling for Tenders."

The publisher of the "Canadian Contract Record" desires to ensure the regular and prompt delivery of this Journal to every subscriber, and requests that any cause of complaint in this particular be reported at once to the office of publication. Subscribers who may change their address should also give prompt notice of same, and in doing so, should give both old and new address.

TO CONTRACTORS AND OTHERS.

The Advertiser, an experienced and competent Book-keeper, is prepared to post, credit, and balance Contractors' and others' books in the evenings. Terms very moderate. Address "BOOKKEEPER," care W. E. Gover, Esq., C.E., 204 St James Street, Montreal.

TENDERS

Will be received up to noon, WEDNESDAY, MAY THE 27TH, 1891, for the erection of a Brick House at corner of St. Denis and Emery Streets.

J. ALCIDE CHAUSSE, Architect,
1541 St. Catherine Street, Montreal.

TENDERS

Will be received until WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3RD, for the erection of a Brick and Stone Residence in Rosedale. Plans and specifications may be seen at my office on or after Tuesday, 26th inst.

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

HENRY SIMPSON, Architect,
9½ Adelaide St. E.

TENDERS

Will be received up to noon, TUESDAY, MAY THE 26TH, 1891, for the erection of a Residence and a Tenement House on Sherbrooke Street.

J. ALCIDE CHAUSSE, Architect,
1541 St. Catherine Street, Montreal.

TENDERS

Required by THURSDAY, 28TH INST., for Brickwork only, of a pair of Houses on Beverley Street.

No tender necessarily accepted.

HENRY SIMPSON, Architect,
9½ Adelaide St. E.

NEW PROCESS FOR FACING BRICKS.

Formerly facing bricks were mostly produced by coating unburnt brick with colored clay of similar substances and then burning. The inventor of this process proceeds as follows: Ordinary burnt bricks are coated by simply brushing with a colorless or colored stone mass which resists all atmospheric influences and does not peel off. The mass consists of a mixture of concentrated lye of magnesium chloride and burnt magnesite of such a consistence that it can be applied with a brush. The firm adherence of the mass is attained by saturating the bricks, previous to applying the mixture, with magnesium chloride solution. If this is not done and the mixture is directly applied to the dry brick, the latter absorbs the magnesium chloride solution, which is indispensable for the formation of a stone-like layer upon the surface, and prevents the firm adherence of the applied layer.

COMPOSITION FOR RETARDING THE SETTING OF PLASTER.

Edward Watson, of Grand Rapids, Mich., gives the following description of a composition for retarding the setting of plaster:—I take the clean-washed hair as it is prepared for plastering, and reduce it to a solution in water by boiling it with an alkali—caustic soda or potash. In practice I use sal soda or soda-ash, and render it caustic by boiling with enough lime to combine with the carbonic acid, and thus form a solution of caustic alkali. I mix all the materials together—hair, soda and lime—add water, and boil until the hair is entirely dissolved and a limpid solution is made. After effecting the complete solution of the hair, it may be used in the liquid form, and thus mixed with the water in which the plaster is to be mixed, or it may be reduced to a dry mass and finely powdered, and then mixed with the dry calcined plaster, so as to be ready for use by mixing with water. The proportions of material used in form-

ing the solution of hair are as follows:—

Hair, 1 lb.; sal soda or soda-ash, or an equivalent of potash, 1 lb.; lime, ½ lb.; water, half a gallon or more. Mix all together, and boil until the hair is entirely dissolved. If desired to be used in the liquid form, the clear liquid may be strained out and at once mixed with the plaster, or the entire mass may be reduced to a dry powder and then mixed with the dry calcined gypsum either before or at the time of mixing the mortar. This makes an excellent material for restraining the setting of plaster. It is freely soluble in cold water, and thus intimately mixes with the mortar, and produces uniform results, and appears to render the resulting plaster harder when dry than plaster set without any restraining material. The quantity of my material to be used with each ton of calcined gypsum will depend upon the time desired to retard the setting of the plaster. About 5 lb. to a ton will be all that is required for general use. Too much would so set the plaster back as in many cases to be impracticable.

USEFUL HINTS.

When cast and malleable iron are used in the same structure, a galvanic action is set up between them, and the malleable iron is corroded.

To prepare and fix crayon and charcoal drawings, wash the paper over with size, and when perfectly dry, make your drawing. By holding your work over steam, the size and crayons combine, fixing your drawings. It may be repeated with advantage during the work.

Sulphate of copper is recommended for keeping posts and timber from decay. Telegraph poles in Norway are said to be preserved by boring inch holes about two feet from the ground and filling with the sulphate of copper crystals, afterward plugging the holes with wood.

To ascertain whether an article is made of steel or iron, pour on the object to be tested a drop of nitric acid 1.2 specific gravity, and after it has acted for one minute rinse with water. If iron, the spot will be of a whitish gray color; if steel, it will appear as a black stain.

A very good imitation of ground glass is produced by dissolving three tablespoonfuls of Epsom salts in a pint of warm water and applying it to the glass with a common paint brush. This answers admirably when a sort of screen is wanted. The solution must be applied to the side of the glass which is not exposed to the weather.