

**CONTRACTS AWARDED.**

**LISTOWEL, ONT.**—The contract for the Elma street bridge has been placed with Fraser & Eickler.

**PARRY SOUND, ONT.**—Pratt & McDougall, of Midland, Ont., were the successful tenderers for the new dock at the gas plant.

**QUEBEC, QUE.**—The contract for the new water works system at Notre Dame has been awarded to Madden & Son, at \$94,000.

**WELLAND, ONT.**—The Page-Hershey Pipe & Tube Company have awarded the contract for a large mill to the Berlin Construction Company.

**MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.**—Arthur Burns, of this city, has obtained the contract for the new armory, at about \$160,000—The successful tenderer for the erection of quarters for married non-commissioned officers and men, was J. McDiarmid, at \$40,000.

**OTTAWA, ONT.**—The Thornton-Smith Company, of Toronto, were the successful tenderers for the work of carrying out the extensive decorations to the Russell House. —The Iroquois Iron Works, at \$14,800, were the successful competitors for the municipal asphalt plant. The Warren Asphalt Paving Company of Boston, also tendered at \$17,200.

**WINNIPEG, MAN.**—The city engineer has secured the contract for building the Elmwood fire tanks, at \$2,700—Tenders for local improvements, estimated to cost nearly \$100,000, were recently called for, but none were submitted and the Board of Control have recommended that the work be done by day labor.—The Board of Control have closed the contract with Kelly Bros., of Kenora, for the construction of the Redwood bridge.

**PETERBORO, ONT.**—J. E. Hayes has been awarded the contract for the concrete abutments of the new steel bridge over the Ouse River, Asphodel township, at \$1,104.50. Other tenderers were Bogue & Buchanan, \$1,515.00; D. Conroy, \$1,400.00; D. McFarlane, \$1,400.00; J. Baskin, \$1,250.00; J. Robson, \$1,300.00. Dixon Bros., of Campbellford, obtained the contract for the steel work at \$1475.00, other tenderers being Ontario Bridge Co., \$1,855, and Hamilton Bridge Co., \$1,770.

**TORONTO, ONT.**—In connection with the new Bank of Hamilton, corner College street and Ossington avenue, Denison & Co., architects, 18.20 King street west, have awarded the following contracts: masonry, Thomson Bros., \$11,085; carpentry, A. B. Coleman, \$7,000; painting, Gould & Malcolm, \$720; plastering, Dancy Bros., \$1,500; plumbing & drainage, Keith & Fitzsimmons, \$1,150; Steel work, Reid & Brown, \$644; sheet metal, R. Ormsby, \$1,410; office fittings, Rogers & Son, \$1,500; marble work, Jas. Roberts & Co., \$265.

**FIRES.**

Building of Rhodes' steel block, Amherst, N.S., loss \$25,000.—Buildings of Fawcett Manufacturing Company, Sackville, N.B., loss \$3,000.—Premises of Dawson & Hyndman, Henderson & Bullen, P. Burns, Bijou Theatre and post office building at Edmonton, Alta.

**RUBBING INTERIOR VARNISH WORK.**

When the architect specifies that the hard wood finish shall be rubbed to an egg shell gloss he means that it is to be rubbed with oil and flour pumice stone until the natural luster of the varnish has been removed. Why is the operation not thus definitely stated by the architect? What is the difference between an egg-shell gloss, and a

dead finish. None whatever. In very cheap jobs there will be no rubbing to a dull finish at all, but a flattening varnish, so called, will be used; this varnish is made to dry without gloss. It is no more than it pretends to be, a cheap finish.

Simple as the operation of rubbing a varnish seems to be, it is one that requires extreme care and skill in the doing. The expert will use oil with the pumice stone, but the man who is not an expert had better not use oil, for the reason that unless the varnish is hard-dry, and which it never is, at least not on new work, he will rub up the varnish, the oil softening the varnish and causing it to give way in small spots; the water rubbing is the safest for him, for instead of softening the varnish it really tends to harden it. The operation is substantially as follows: Have a shallow dish of fine flour pumice stone, using the best, for there is an American variety that will scratch and is not good for fine work. It is usual to mix some water with the pumice, in the dish, but it may also be used dry, soaking the piece of felt in water, then dipping into the dry powder. Rub lengthwise of the wood, and with an even and not hard pressure, be very careful to not rub too hard at the edges, where it is liable to cut through.

Start at one side of a panel, say, and gradually rub over to the opposite side, rubbing no more in one place than in another. Once in a while you will need to dip the felt in the pumice, and be careful to not let the rubber become dry. Use plenty of water and pumice,

which is not costly. After rubbing a while clean off with a wet rag and examine the surface; a little practice will determine when the varnish has been rubbed enough. Be careful to not rub too much, as this decreases the coating of varnish, impairing the wear; rub only enough to remove the gloss from the varnish. After having rubbed enough and cleaned off the surface with plenty of clear water, using sponge and chamois, a semi-gloss may be restored, if desired, by rubbing with a little crude petroleum oil, or with linseed oil, though the rock oil is the better. Rub this dry and you have a fine egg-shell gloss.—Journal of Modern Construction.

**NOTES.**

The lumber firm of Barry Bros., Pictou, N.S., have dissolved.

G. Marcotte, contractor, of Montreal, has assigned; creditors meet October 24.

The assets of Thomas C. Lidstone, the Montreal builder, whose assignment was recently reported, are to be sold on the 28th inst.

**JOHN S. FIELDING**

C.E.

CONSULTING ENGINEER

**Concrete Dams****Power**

BRIDGES

MACHINERY

**Plants****Hydraulics**

25 Years' Experience

15 TORONTO STREET

TORONTO

**EDISON PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY**

85 per cent. Thru 200  
95 per cent. Thru 100

The Finest Ground Portland Cement Manufactured.

"Neat tests are of less value than those of the briquettes made with sand and cement. The fineness of the cement is important, for the finer it is the more sand can be used with it."

(Abstract from "Specifications for Portland Cement," issued by the United States Navy Department, June 12, 1905.)

CANADIAN SALES AGENTS:

Stinson Reeb Builders' Supply Co.  
MONTREAL CANADA

The

**Portable Gravity Concrete Mixer****PRICES REDUCED**

Large Capacity

Simple in Operation

No Power Required

**E. F. DARTNELL, MONTREAL**