

Red river.—Plans are being prepared for improvements and additions to the Manitoba College to cost about \$40,000.—A new bank and office building is to be erected on Portage avenue by one of the local trust and loan companies.—Mr. H. S. Westbrooke will erect a warehouse on Princess street, corner of Markham street. Mr. George Brown is preparing the plans.—The Northwest Assembly will ask the Dominion Government to establish an insane asylum for the territories.

MONTREAL, QUE.—At a recent meeting of the congregation of Knox church it was decided to take immediate and active steps to build a new church on the present site.—The Harbor Commissioners have extended the time for the reception of tenders for the supply of 50 small cars, 300 boxes for dredgings, 150 tons of light steel rails, and a pile driving engine, from the 26th January to the 2nd February.—Messrs. Wilson & Frost are having plans prepared for 100 houses to be erected next season.—Mr. Chris. Clift, architect, is calling for tenders for a house for A. W. Hadrill, on Seymour Ave.—Several lots of the Ewing property, fronting on Pine Ave., have been sold to citizens who intend erecting handsome residences thereon.—It is expected that the erection of a new Protestant school at Cote St. Louis will be commenced in the spring.

TORONTO, ONT.—Mr. C. H. Edwards, lumber dealer, and Britnell & Co., lime dealers, North Toronto, will shortly erect a building for office purposes at the corner of Birch avenue and Yonge street.—Application will be made to the Legislature of the Province of Ontario at its next session to incorporate the Toronto Transfer Warehousing and Railway Company, with power to construct and operate a railway in the easterly part of the city, to construct swing bridges over the Don river and Coatsworth Cut, and to erect warehouses along the line of the proposed railway.—The Superintendent of waterworks recommends the laying of a companion supply main from the reservoir at Bloor St., connecting with the 12-inch mains running across the city.—Tenders are wanted for plumbing and plastering a pair of houses on Manning Ave., opposite 396, just north of College St.—It is understood to be the intention of the management of the Dominion Bank to erect a new building on the site of the present branch at the cor. of Queen and Sherbourne Sts.—Mr. W. F. Sexton will shortly commence the erection of four solid brick houses on Church St., opposite the Normal school.—Mr. Sproale is preparing for the erection of four houses on Irwin Ave., near Yonge St., to cost \$4,000 each. Contracts not yet awarded.

OTTAWA, ONT.—The Sault Ste. Marie and Hudson Bay Railway Company and the North Canadian Atlantic Railway and Steamship Company will apply to Parliament next session for an extension of time for commencing and completing their railways.—The Pontiac and Pacific Junction Railway Company will next session ask Parliament to extend the time for the building of their bridge over the Ottawa river opposite this city, as well as for an extension of time for the completion of the road to Pembroke.—Wm. Smith, Deputy Minister of Marine, will receive tenders until the 2nd February, for the construction of a pier to support the lighthouse at Point Aux Anglais Light Station, in the Ottawa river, County of Two Mountains, Que. Plans at the Department, this city, at the Steamboat Inspector's office, Montreal, and at the Point Aux Anglais wharf.—A director of the Vandreuill and Ottawa railroad states that work on the road will be pushed from Rigaud to Ottawa in the spring, and it is expected it will be completed by the fall.—Application will be made to Parliament at its next session for an act to incorporate a company to build a railway line from the vicinity of Carp, in Huntley township, county of Carleton, through the villages of Almonte and Sharbot Lake, a distance of about fifty miles.—Mr. Walter Shanley, C.E., has recently been in consultation with the Government engineers regarding the enlargement of the Cornwall canal.

FIRES.

The residence of Mrs. McLeod, Murdoch St., Owen Sound, Ont., was burned on the 25th inst. Loss \$1,000; insurance \$300.—The hotel and general stor. belonging to Mr. John Webb, North Bend, B. C., were burned on the 19th inst. Loss \$20,000.—The hotel recently erected at Whitby, Ont., by Mr. I. Hos. Deverell, was entirely destroyed by fire on the 23rd inst. Insured for \$4,600.—On the 25th inst. fire completely destroyed the Andrews' block at Meaford, Ont., comprising the City hotel, occupied by M. Reynolds, a grocery store and bake shop, occupied by C. Meyers, also the telephone office, Robinson & Johnson's loan office and Mrs. White's millinery store. Loss about \$15,000; insurance on block, \$7,000.—On Wednesday last fire at Dresden, Ont., occasioned the following losses: Mrs. Hazlett, \$1,600; insurance \$1,200; Mrs. Mooney, building, \$1,500, insurance \$1,000; Smith Bros., dry goods establishment \$5,000, insurance \$3,000; E. Miller & Co., druggists, \$7,000, insurance \$6,000.—Eastbrook's saw and flour mill and grain elevator at Tweed, Ont., was burned on Tuesday last.—The Salmon River Pulp Company's mills at Scottstown, Que., were totally destroyed by fire on the 26th inst. The loss is about \$30,000, and insurance \$15,000.—The Public school building at Courtwright, Ont., was destroyed by fire on Thursday last. The building was of brick and two stories in height. Loss \$1,500; insurance \$1,000.—Madder's general store, north of Douglas, Ont., was destroyed by fire on Thursday. Loss \$6,000.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—The contract for the erection of Allan McDougall's block at Fort William, Ont., has been awarded to Messrs. Thompson & Griffin of this city.

MONTREAL, QUE.—The British Columbia Mill, Timber and Trading Co. are supplying the large spruce timber for dredges for the Harbor Commissioners.—At a meeting of the Road Committee of Cote St. Antoine, it was decided to give Mr. Little the contract to supply 2,000 tonse of stone to macadamize the streets of the municipality.

USEFUL HINTS.

Shellac and borax boiled in water produces a good stain for floors.

Zinc is best cleaned with hot, soapy water, then polished with kerosene.

CLEANING EXTERIOR WALLS WITH THE SAND BLAST.—The sand blast is now being used in New York for cleaning the States Assay office in Wall street. The apparatus consists of a "gun" in the shape of a sheet-tin tube 3 feet long and 2½ inches in diameter, which is bent into a goose-neck at one end and terminates in a 2 inch nozzle. A second tube, 1 inch in diameter, enters the first at the upper bend of the goose-neck and terminates about 3 inches inside, being central with the nozzle. The sand is fed through this tube from a hopper and is projected against the work by an air blast through the outer tube. With an air pressure of 2 pounds per square inch at the nozzle 1 square foot of marble will be abraded to a depth of 1-32 of an inch to 1-64 of an inch in one minute, leaving a fresh clean surface.

CURIOUS FOUNDATIONS.—The *Railway Review* tells of a novel method of laying foundations in swampy soil, recently employed by an American engineer. The building to be supported was a low wooden one, which it was proposed to use for the storage of machinery. Casks were set in holes in the ground along the

line of posts and were filled to the depth of one foot with iron turnings. The posts were placed in the casks, which were then filled with iron turnings compactly rammed in place. A solution of salt and water was slowly poured over the turnings, under the action of which they solidified into a hard mass. The heat of the oxidation of the iron was so great that the posts were charred. They also served to act as a preservative, and to that extent the iron turnings are probably superior to concrete under similar conditions.

Some Belgian manufacturers of glass and porcelain have recently introduced from Germany, says a correspondent of *Industries*, a new coloring matter, which can be fixed without the use of fire. In this process a mixture of two solutions, one of which consists of 100 parts of strong potash and 10 parts of acetate of soda, and the other of 15 parts of acetate of lead in 100 parts of water, is used. The second solution consists of 50 parts of borax dissolved in 100 parts of hot water and 20 parts of glycerine. Sixty parts of the first mixture are mixed with 40 parts of the second. When the composition has been applied the objects are placed in a bath, which is composed of one part of borax dissolved in 12 parts of water, mixed with 50 parts hydrofluoric acid and 10 parts of sulphuric acid. After being allowed to remain in the bath for ten minutes, the objects are washed in clean water, when the color appears as clearly as when the objects are fired.

A CHEAP STAIN.—An excellent stain for cheap work is given in *Painting and Decorating*. Fill a quart bottle a third full of red sanders, and fill the bottle with alcohol; let it stand a week and strain out the dregs by running through thin muslin or cheese cloth, and you will rarely want to use it unmixed with other stains. If too strong, which you can determine by testing on a piece of wood, dilute with turps or alcohol. If you want a mahogany stain, first put on a coat of red sanders, then a coat of asphaltum, or the reverse, and see which you like the best. Or, if you want it all at one coat, dilute your red sanders with turps and you can mix it with asphaltum in proportions to suit your purpose, and please your taste as to color. Don't make the mistake of putting on your stain too heavy; because the thing is done to say whether you like it or not; but if too light, a second coat, thinned with caution and good judgment, will be more apt to make it to your taste. I need not tell you (but I will) that it is always safe to try a little of the stain, let it dry, and varnish it, in order to see if you like it before covering the job with it. This stain, and in fact, any spirit stain, will spread better if diluted with turps. Bear in mind, that all stains put on previously oiled wood need a binder—japan, gold size or linseed oil may all, or either, be mixed in by first diluting your stain with turps. Red sanders mixed with burnt umber, ground in oil, makes a good walnut stain for soft wood. Red sanders on walnut in its natural state makes as good mahogany as you could wish for outside of the genuine wood.