

into letting contracts to men of no mechanical standing. It is hoped and expected that through the influence of the National Association of Builders, and the intercourse its executive officers may have with the reputable architects of the country, that the day is not far distant when it will be required of the artisan in the various branches pertaining to buildings, to arm himself with a proper and authoritative testimonial, giving proof that he is *skilled* in his art, and thus divest the wheat from the chaff, and the former be recognized and the latter find its level.

It is a well-known fact that plaster on a ceiling surface, in the event of fire, will detain it for a long time, providing any means have been taken when applied to secure it under such circumstances, and were these means more generally employed, millions of dollars would be saved to this country annually.

As the fire-proof construction is the exception, and as wood construction must predominate for years to come, therefore, more attention should be given to make the latter structure more fire-resisting.

During the last twenty years I have devoted much thought to this subject, and some of the devices I have had in that direction, I have sought to secure by letters patent, and, strange to say, came in conflict with an English patent in the archives at Washington, bearing date 1797. The device then discovered has been slumbering there nearly one hundred years, and *to-day*, I know of nothing *more economical or effectual* to secure plaster in position in the event of fire than this same device. It is simply a wire netting, as used to-day for a foundation, but as these described placed over the bottom surface of the plaster, and then securely stapled to the furring or joints, and afterward the finishing coat of plaster applied over the surface. And as most every mechanic has at some time or other taken out a patent, or applied for one, it may be interesting to you to hear the language that Edmund Cartwright (as that was the name of the applicant) used in paying due deference to his sovereign lord.

After describing his invention in substantially the same language that obtains in patents of the present day, he closes thus:

"In witness whereof, I, the said Edmund Cartwright, have hereunto set my hand and seal this eighth day of November, in the thirty-eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the Third, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven.

EDMUND CARTWRIGHT."

Some of the designs in art tiles are formed by pressing on the surface actual stalks, leaves and flowers, reliefs being taken from the impressions, either the intaglio or embossed design supplying a pattern for dies. Intaglio tiles, may have the incised lines filled with enameled colors corresponding in hue, if desired, to the objects impressed.

It is suggested that a profitable opening exists for the manufacture of plaster of Paris from plaster of gypsum, which is produced and exported in large quantities from Nova Scotia.

Messrs Geo. Moore & Co., of Waterloo, Ont., have bought the well-known brick-yards of Mr. Oetzel at Berlin and Waterloo, and fitted them up with the latest and most approved machinery.

The *Winnipeg Sun* says that Mr. J. R. Tracey of that city, who is the inventor of a heating apparatus as an attachment to cook stoves, will come east shortly and endeavor to commence the manufacture of his invention at some point in Ontario.

At the annual meeting of the Owen Sound Stone Quarrying and Construction Co., held recently, the following officers were elected: President, S. G. Parker; Vice-President, George Ingils; Secretary-Treasurer, W. H. Stephens; Manager, David Chalmers.

A deputation of soil pipe makers from Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton, interviewed the Ministers of Finance and Customs recently, and asked for an increase of duties on pipes of less than 4 inches diameter. They want a specific instead of an *ad valorem* duty.

Electricity is being more and more used for the purification of kaolin and other porcelain clays. The clay is sifted on to a rapidly revolving horizontal plate, which is surrounded with powerful electro-magnets, which retain the particles of iron. From this the clay passes to a second plate which removes the last traces. The process is said to be comparatively cheap and very rapid, and since its introduction, many clays hitherto rejected as containing too much iron have become of value for the manufacture of pottery.



CONTRACTS AWARDED.

The contract for the new Congregational Church at Waterford, Ont., has been awarded to H. J. Fowler. Cost, \$2,000.

The contract for erecting a new high school at Parkhill, Ont., has been awarded to Mr. A. K. Vanwyck, of that town.

Mr. Geo. Newlands has been awarded the contract for the new tower for St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston, Ont., at the price of \$63,302.

Messrs. Kennedy & Co., Guelph, Ont., have received the contract to supply the stone for the new Government building at Goderich.

CONTRACTS OPEN.

ST. THOMAS, ONT.—A hospital will be erected here this spring.

PRESTON, ONT.—A new school building is to be erected here.

BEETON, ONT.—W. J. Bell will build a large public hall in Beeton.

ELMVALE, ONT.—A hotel to cost \$5,000 will be built here this spring.

STAYNER, ONT.—The Roman Catholics will put up a new parsonage.

SIMCOS, ONT.—Money has been voted for the erection of a new fire hall.

PERTH, ONT.—A site has been selected for the new St. Andrew's church.

BRANDON, MAN.—A new post office will be erected this coming summer.

DUTTON, ONT.—Two large brick hotels will probably be built here next summer.

ELMVALE, ONT.—The trustees have resolved to enlarge the public school building.

DESKRONT, ONT.—The council has voted \$12,000 for the erection of a high school.

CLINTON, ONT.—\$3,000 has been subscribed towards the erection of a new Methodist Church.

VICTORIA, B. C.—Mr. Macauley contemplates the erection of a \$25,000 residence here next summer.

HARRISTON, ONT.—Tenders are called for a new town hall, to replace the one lately destroyed by fire.

AMHERSTBURG, ONT.—A new Roman Catholic parsonage to cost about \$5,000 is to be erected this spring.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.—An hotel to cost \$75,000 will be built at Grennell park, Thousand Islands, next summer.

GUELPH, ONT.—Steps are being taken to erect a new curling rink, the probable cost of which will be \$10,000.

MONTREAL, QUE.—It is the intention of the Bank of Montreal to erect a building for a branch establishment in this city.

CHATHAM, ONT.—Preparations are under way for the erection of a hospital for this town. Dr. Carron can give particulars.

INGERSOLL, ONT.—A piano manufacturing company intend erecting a four-storey brick factory, at a probable cost of \$5,000.

KINGSTON, ONT.—A company of capitalists has purchased Grovedale Park Tabernacle and grounds and will erect a \$50,000 building.

KINGSTON, ONT.—Mr. H. Calvin has offered a donation of \$1,000 towards a new wing for the hospital on condition that \$9,000 additional is raised.

KINGSTON, ONT.—Tenders are asked until the 28th inst., for the construction of a dry dock. For particulars see advertisement "Notice to Contractors" in this paper.

ST. JOHN, N. B.—The commissioners of the general public hospital are to ask the New Brunswick legislature for permission to borrow \$10,000 to erect an additional wing to the institution.

MIDLAND, ONT.—A by-law has been passed granting \$5,000 towards the completion of the harbor improvements in conjunction with the Dominion Government and Grand Trunk Railway.

DARTMOUTH, N. S.—Tenders are asked until 3rd April for sewer pipe, sluice valves, cast iron pipe and special castings required for use in the construction of a proposed system of sewerage and water supply for this town. Particulars may be obtained on application to A. Elliott, town clerk.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—The President of the Northern Pacific Railroad says it is the intention of his company to expend about \$2,000,000 in new buildings in this city the coming summer.—The Provincial Treasurer's estimates include \$20,000 for the erection of buildings for land titles offices, \$20,000 for the erection of a deaf and dumb institute, \$50,000 for the erection of a reformatory and home for incurables.

HAMILTON, ONT.—Mr. R. McKechnie, of Dundas, has purchased a site in this city on which he will erect large machine shops in the spring.—A handsome new building for the Y. M. C. A. will be commenced shortly. Mr. James Balfour, architect, has prepared the plans. The building will