

Victoria and Madawaska counties to the Maine border. Work will be begun in the spring.

**KINGSTON, ONT.**—The ratepayers having sanctioned the issuing of debentures for the erection of a new school, steps will be taken at once towards securing a site and having plans prepared.

**NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.**—John Robinson, Town Clerk, writes that work on the sewerage system will be commenced in about two months. The materials will be inch sewer tile, cement, etc. Cost \$109,000. Engineer not yet appointed.

**PETERBORO', ONT.**—Tenders are invited by R. B. Rogers, superintendent engineer of the Trent Valley canal, for the labor required in the construction of one deck and two pump scows at Lakefield. Plans on application to Mr. Rogers.

**WINNIPEG, MAN.**—The Saskatchewan Railway and Mining Co. will apply next session for a renewal of charter.—The southeastern railway scheme will probably be revived. The promoters are Walter Ross and D. C. Cameron, of Rat Portage.

**NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.**—A company has been formed composed of residents, to erect a fruit cannery here. Ample capital has been subscribed and a site secured. Another local company is arranging to build a salmon cannery on the water front near the Boutilier cannery.

**HALIFAX, N. S.**—Extensive works are contemplated by the People's Heat and Light Co., including track extensions and water supply. Engineers have been engaged on plans for the water supply, and it will probably come from Williams lake on the western side of the arm, being brought across the arm in pipes laid on the bottom.

**HAMILTON, ONT.**—The Y. W. C. A. require a larger building, and have the matter under consideration.—The question of extending the Hamilton, Grimsby and Beamsville railway to Beamsville has not yet been settled.—The statement is made that Mr. Geo. E. Tuckett proposes building a music hall on the rear portion of the post-office.

**HULL, QUE.**—The Ottawa Powder Co. have been notified not to rebuild their factory within corporation limits.—Mr. Theo. Viau, projector of the electric railway scheme for Hull and Aylmer, has taken over the stock held by the other shareholders and will at once proceed to form a joint stock company to carry out the work. He has leased a valuable water power on which to erect the power house, containing water wheels and requisite machinery. The first part of his scheme will be the installation of an electric light plant.

**ALEXANDRIA, ONT.**—Additional particulars have come to hand regarding the new reformatory to be built here. Already \$30,000 has been voted for the work, and \$100,000 more will probably be voted this session. There are to be five wings, each 150 feet in length, with additions attached to the front wing, with offices, class rooms, library, vaults and chapels. The portion for which tenders are now called will cost \$150,000. The cost of the other four wings will probably bring the cost of the work well up to \$1,000,000. The building is to have a capacity for 1,000 convicts.

**TORONTO, ONT.**—The architect for the new city hall and court house estimates that the additional sum of \$250,000 will be required to complete the buildings, made up as follows: Masonry work, (to complete the Elliott and Neelon contract), \$110,000; furnishings, \$30,000; electric lighting plant and fittings, \$15,000; levelling grounds, \$5,000; charges on debentures, \$80,000; sundries, \$10,000. The purchase of an electric light plant is strongly recommended. At the next ses-

sion of the Ontario legislature authority will be sought to issue debentures to cover the above amount.—The ratepayers of Deer Park are desirous of obtaining a water supply from the town of North Toronto.

**OTTAWA, ONT.**—The Department of Public Works invites tenders until Thursday, the 23rd inst., for the construction of hot water heating apparatus at the public building at Pictou, N. S. Plans may be seen at the above department, and at the Clerk of Works office, Pictou.—The three money by-laws have been voted down by the ratepayers. They were \$40,000 for improvements to the Central Fair grounds; \$45,000 for new fire station; and to establish a public library.—Mr. J. R. Booth proposes to erect a lath mill on the site of the mill recently burned.—Messrs. Arnoldi, Ewart & Calderon, architects, have each submitted plans for the proposed addition to the Protestant Hospital, on which the sum of \$45,000 is to be expended. A report thereon will probably be presented this week. It is expected that Mr. J. R. Booth will shortly begin the excavation for the new canal basin on the west side of the canal. The basin has to be built before the time for opening navigation next spring. It will take three months to complete it. It is understood the plans for the new basin dockage are now being prepared.

**MONTREAL, QUE.**—A report is current that the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Co. propose building a new building on the site of their present one, corner Place d'Armes square.—Preparations for the immediate commencement of the building of the bridge over the St. Lawrence to Longueuil are now being pushed forward. A selection of three of the best plans has been made by Walter Shanly, the Montreal Bridge Company's consulting engineer. The first prize design shows a bridge of magnificent proportions, combining great strength with elegance and moderate cost. With track elevated 150 feet above mean water level, and a principal span of 1,250 feet, it will be next to the Forth bridge, the largest of its kind in the world. The central span over the top channel will spring from two huge towers, one situated on Isle Ronde, the other on the wharf front a little west of Belle River park. Work will be commenced on the masonry early in the season, or as soon as the plans have been finally approved by the Government and other authorities. Together with the approaches, the bridge will be nearly two miles in length. Building permits have been granted as follows: C. Gauthier, two storey brick tenement building on St. Hypolite st., cost \$1,200; G. Gervais, two storey brick tenement building on Morianne st., cost \$1,200.

#### FIRES.

Zion Methodist church, about four miles from St. Marys, Ont., was burned on the 13th inst. It was a brick structure.—The general store of Potvin & Brown, at Byng Inlet, Ont., has been burned. Loss on building, \$1,000.—The dwelling house of James Dickson at Napan, N. B., has been burned. Insurance, \$700.—Fire at Kentville, N. S., on the 12th inst., destroyed the Scotia block and a building adjoining, owned by J. R. Blanchard.—A large portion of the village of Winchester, Ont., was destroyed by fire on Tuesday last.

#### CONTRACTS AWARDED.

**QUEBEC, QUE.**—Mr. D. Ouellet, architect and contractor, has been awarded the contract for the erection of three altars for the church Ste. Germaine du Lac Etchemin.

**NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.**—The contract for constructing the Delta drainage and dyking works has been let to H. D. Benson, the price being between \$42,000

and \$43,000. The debentures for carrying out the work were purchased by the Yorkshire Guarantee and Securities Corporation.

**WALKERVILLE, ONT.** The Kerr Engine Co. have been given a contract by the town for a pumping engine, to cost \$10,000, and having a pumping capacity of eleven million gallons per 24 hours.

**TORONTO, ONT.**—Large quantities of Hayes patent metallic lath have recently been supplied by the Metallic Roofing Co. for the Trinity College school at Port Hope.—The ceiling of J. B. Robinson's jewelry store in Bradford has been covered with embossed metallic ceiling supplied by the Metallic Roofing Co., of this city.

#### SOME CONDITIONS OF CONTRACTS.

The second of the series of monthly meetings of the Building Trades Exchange, Glasgow, was held in the exchange on the 18th ult., when Mr. Robert Scott, measurer, Glasgow, delivered a paper on "Some Conditions of Contracts." Colonel Bennett presided, and there was a large attendance.

Mr Scott said that his object was to further one of the chief purposes for which the exchange was instituted by inciting discussion and the free expression of the members belonging to the several branches of the building trade, so that unfair conditions of contract might be exposed and abolished, and that equitable and just principles in the letting of contracts might be established and maintained. He believed that unfair and unreasonable conditions invariably increased the cost of building, as the premium for hazardous risks had to be paid and was added to the rates. The subject he had chosen had many parts and was many sided, but he proposed to take up only four of the general conditions usually found in an ordinary estimate such as was met with every day, and say something as to their definition and application.

(1) Condition as to Extent and Character of Work.—This condition usually ran: "That the work is to be executed according to plans now produced, as well as of such other detail drawings and instructions as shall be furnished during the progress of the work," and was also virtually repeated in form of tender, in the words "hereby offer to execute the—work according to plans thereof now shown in conformity with and to the extent of the foregoing estimate." This condition took it for granted that the plans had been carefully prepared, so as to give a fair and true indication of what was to be contracted for as regard area, height, construction and style of architecture of the building, and that the detail drawings to be furnished during the progress of the works should be only developments from the contract drawings; and such being the case the instructions required must necessarily be reduced to a minimum and confined very much to directing the progress of the various parts. Further, the estimate or bill of quantities, which was such an important factor in the contract, should contain an accurate representation of the nature, quality, and measurement of the material and labor required in the carrying out of the work, each part being