

erection of a civic hospital, street improvements and raising the G.T.R. tracks to high level.—At a meeting of the special committee of the city council held last week, some minor changes were made in the plans of the proposed elevation of the Grand Trunk Railway tracks. There was some talk of constructing subways over crossings in St. Gabriel ward. Plans of the freight sheds to be built on Albert street were submitted.—The authorities of the Western Hospital are considering a scheme for the building of an entirely new hospital on Western Square.—It is reported that Resher & Sons, architects, have prepared plans for a new theatre to be built on the Brunet Estate property on Craig street, opposite Little Craig. J. B. Carter, a mining man of New Mexico, is said to be the moving spirit.—Building permits have been issued as follows: Mrs. H. M. Rafter, two storey house, Sherbrooke street, cost \$3,500 (V. Roy, architect); Dr. L. A. Gagnier, three storey house, 1206 Demontigny street, cost \$1,500; H. Dubuc, repairs to three storey house, 352 Logan street, cost \$1,100, Sisters of Hotel Dieu, four storey building, 55-59 St. Sulpice street, cost \$15,000; and repairs to three storey house, 20-26 St. Dixier street, cost \$4,000; Robt. Neville, jr., repairs to three houses, 494-498 St. Urban street, cost \$9,000.

TORONTO, ONT.—The city council has given notice of its intention to construct a cedar block pavement on Metcalfe street, from Winchester to Carlton, cost \$1,135, and a number of cement concrete sidewalks, including south side Gerrard street, from Parliament to Sumach, cost \$1,462; north side Queen street, from Grant to DeGrassi, cost \$2,300; and north side Lowther avenue, from Walmer road to Brunswick avenue, cost \$910.—The city engineer will leave for England early in December to gather information regarding sewage disposal works.—The necessity of increased accommodation at St. Michael's hospital has been pointed out by Dr. Oldright.—The city invites tenders up to noon to-day, Wednesday, for fire-proof floors in tower of new municipal buildings, including steel beams, terra cotta archings, concreting, etc.—Aemilius Jarvis, the chief promoter of the proposed palace hotel on King street, states that the work of tearing down the buildings on the proposed site will be commenced as soon as the tenants vacate, which it is hoped will be early in December.—The Industrial Exhibition Board is about to invite Canadian architects to submit plans for new buildings and alterations estimated to cost \$197,000, and including the following: New main building, 100,000 square feet of floor space, cost \$106,000; new art gallery, 7,500 square feet, cost \$10,000; dairy building, cost \$14,000; remodelling main building, taking off tower and repairing roof, cost \$5,000; building for stoves and heating apparatus, 10,000 square feet floor space, cost \$10,000; changing music pavilion for women's building, cost \$3,000; enlargement of poultry building, cost \$1,000; new horticultural building, cost \$15,000; enlargement of fruit building, cost \$3,000; new agricultural building, cost \$8,000; new administration building, cost \$5,000; new natural history building, cost \$7,000. The prizes to be given are as follows: New main building, \$250; art gallery, \$50; dairy building, \$75; stove building, \$50; horticultural building, \$75; agricultural building, \$40; administration building, \$50; natural history building, \$50.—E. B. Clancy is seeking to acquire the property at south-west corner of Bay and King streets for hotel purposes.—J. W. Siddall, architect, has completed plans for an addition of fifty rooms to the Grand Union hotel, corner Front and Simcoe streets. The addition will be equipped with an electric elevator, marble lavatories, etc., and a marble stepped entrance, with dado, is also to be added.—At the annual meet-

ing of the Women's Residence Association of Toronto University, held last week, the financial report showed that of the \$10,000 required for a residence \$6,000 has been subscribed.—The city engineer has recommended that the 13 inch water main on Lake street be extended 1,300 feet westerly, at a cost of \$2,980. He has also recommended 6-inch mains on Hepburn and Lucas streets.—A petition has been received against a brick pavement on Gerrard street, between Parliament and Broadview.—In the report of the city engineer presented to council last week, he recommends that a by-law be submitted to the ratepayers to provide \$150,000 for a new 15,000,000 gallon pumping engine at main pumping station, \$40,000 for a 5,000,000 gallon engine at the high level station, \$200,000 for the extension of the 6-foot conduit, and \$13,500 for the new main for high level district. He also recommends the construction of the following works: Asphalt pavement on Huron street, from Cecil to College street, cost \$5,735; cement concrete sidewalk in Charles street, north side, from Yonge to Church street, cost \$1,840; Harbord street, north side, from Lippincott to Bathurst street, cost \$5,600; on north side Harbord street, from Robert to Borden street, cost \$1,630; on west side St. George street, from Lowther avenue to 116 feet south, cost \$151; Howard street, north side, from Glen road to Sherbourne street, cost \$387; Peter street, east side, from King to 144 feet south of Adelaide, cost \$226; McCaul street, east side, from Caer Howell to College street, cost \$1,353; on same street, from Grange road to St. Patrick street, cost \$768.—Building permits have been granted as follows: C. A. Dinnick, two story brick and stone dwelling on Lowther avenue, near Walmer road, cost \$4,000; Mrs. M. Jones, pair of semi-detached brick dwellings on Duchess street, near George street, cost \$3,500; George A. White, frame dwelling on Waverley road, near Queen street, cost \$2,000; S. S. Clark, two-story brick residence, 44 Harbord street, cost \$2,500.

#### FIRES.

Store of Sonier & Richards at Memramcook, N. B.—Tannery of Ald. McLeod on Catarqui street, Kingston, Ont.; loss on building and machinery, \$8,000.—Presbyterian church at Onslow Station, N. S.; loss \$8,000.—Cold storage building at Iroquois, Ont., owned by Wm. Meldrum & Co., of Montreal; loss \$8,000, insurance \$3,500.—Residence of J. Ramsay, 495 Argyle avenue, Westmount, Que.—Residence of C. H. Clements at Aylesford, N. S.; loss \$13,000, insurance \$8,000.—Furniture warehouse of R. H. Campbell at Portage la Prairie, Man., partially destroyed, loss \$3,000.—Fire at Renfrew, Ont., on 13th inst., partially destroyed Eady's boot store, Kearney's jewellery store and Dr. Connelly's residence.

#### CONTRACTS AWARDED.

WELLAND, ONT.—\$3,500 public school debentures have been sold to Miss Lee, at \$3.505.

ST. JOHN, N.B.—Keenan & Ratchford have secured the contract for putting copper roof on post office.

KAMLOOPS, B.C.—Robt. McKay has been awarded the contract by the Dominion government for building new post office here.

WESTVILLE, N.S.—I. C. R. depot: E. F. Munro, of Windsor, contractor. The building will be of brick and stone, cost \$16,000.

WALKERVILLE, ONT.—Granolithic sidewalk debentures: Donald Cameron, of Scotland, successful tenderer, at \$3,160 and accrued interest.

ST. THOMAS, ONT.—Dait & Hamilton have received the contract for grading the Detroit River and Lake Erie extension from Dutton to Middlemarch.

TORONTO, ONT.—The contract for repairs to the Queen's wharf has been let to Medler & Ainet, price, \$2,500.—The Bertram Engine Works Co., of this city, have secured the contract for building a new steamer for the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company.

ST. LOUIS, QUE.—The corporation has purchased an extension fire ladder from B. Ledoux, corner St. Antoine and Windsor streets, Montreal; price \$1,850.—The Harbor Commissioners have awarded to the W. H. Kelly Lumber Co. the contract for the timber required for next year; price, \$42,066 74.

KINGSTON, ONT. H. P. Smith, architect, has accepted the following tenders for remodelling residence on Wellington street for Mrs. McRossie: Masonry, Watts & Morley; carpentry, Hunter & Harold; painting, Robinson Bros. The contract for heating and plumbing has not yet been let.—Power & Son, architects, have accepted the following tenders for remodelling the premises of the Brame estate, corner Princess and Sydenham streets, for a laundry for R. D. Bakers: Carpentry, W. J. Chapman; masonry, Douglas & McIlquham; plumbing and heating, McKelvey & Birch; painting, T. W. Milo.

#### ASBESTOS.

This is derived from a Greek word signifying unconsumable, and is a variety of the horn blende family of minerals. The material consists of fine crystalline elastic fibres, with a silky lustre, varying in colour from white to gray and green and is indestructible by fire. A single fibre of it fuses to a white enamel, but in the mass it is capable of resisting ordinary flame, and has on this account been regarded from ancient times as a most interesting substance. Woven into cloth, it forms a fireproof texture, which, to be purified, requires only to be thrown in the fire, and it is said that the ancients used to wrap the bodies of their dead in asbestos cloth to keep their ashes separate from those of the surrounding funeral pile.

There are several varieties of asbestos. Amianthus is the rarest and most delicate kind, its fibres being beautifully white, flexible, long, and regularly laid. It is found in the Pyrenees, the Alps, on Mount St. Gothard, in North America, Sweden, the Ural Mountains, Silesia, and New South Wales; but the most beautiful specimens are said to come from Savoy and Corsica. Common asbestos is not so light either in colour or weight as amianthus, and is more splintery, inflexible and irregular in structure. It is found in serpentine rocks in Anglesea, Cornwall, and also in several parts of Scotland. Mountain leather and mountain cork are other varieties where the fibres are less flexible and regular than in either of the above. The former is in thin flexible sheets, and the latter is so named from being not unlike common cork, and so light as to swim on water. It is found in Lanarkshire. Mountain wood is a soft, tough, opaque, brownish-coloured variety of asbestos, much heavier than the last, and melting to a black slag before the blow-pipe. It is