

**THE OUTLOOK.**

The construction season into which we have now entered promises to break all previous records, despite the fact that last year was one of unprecedented activity. As a result of the prosperous conditions which have prevailed in both Canada and the United States for the past few years, the general public have plenty of money for building purposes, and barring labor troubles, of which there are no indications at the present time, a large volume of construction work of all kinds will be placed under contract.

A vast amount of railway construction is under way and in contemplation. The most important work, of course, will be the Transcontinental Railway, for two sections of which contracts will be awarded this month. These sections comprise 245 miles eastward from the city of Winnipeg and 150 miles between the city of Quebec and La Tuque. The contract will also be awarded at the same time for a steel viaduct about 3,000 feet long across the Cap Rouge Valley near Quebec. The aggregate value of the contracts above mentioned will be between twelve and fourteen million dollars.

The situation in the building trades is exceptionally bright, a large number of buildings having already been arranged for. The value of building permits issued in Toronto and Montreal during the first two months of this year is greater than for the corresponding period of 1905. There is no cessation of building in Winnipeg, where last year the value of new structures reached almost \$11,000,000. The Western Canada Contractor has published a list showing over ten million dollars worth of buildings proposed to be erected in Winnipeg this year, and while some of these may not materialize, the total promises to be increased by the new projects that will develop during the year.

Among the most important works to be undertaken in Toronto is the new Union station, which will no doubt be commenced this spring. The erection of a palatial hotel on the corner of Front and Yonge streets may also be commenced this year. Architects are preparing plans for several other important buildings which will be proceeded with very shortly.

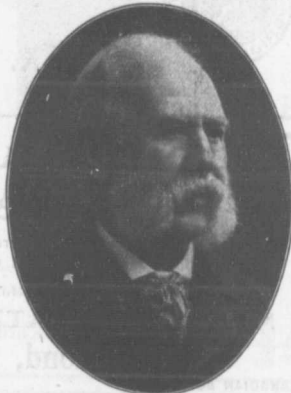
Municipal improvements will receive much attention this year. The installation of waterworks and sewerage systems by the smaller towns and villages is particularly noticeable in the municipalities in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The city of Calgary, for instance, pro-

poses to remove the waterworks pumping station about a mile out of the town, to extend the water mains and sewers and construct a trunk sewer to supply the western portion of the town, at a total approximate cost of \$233,000. Electric lighting plants will also be installed by a number of municipalities.

Taken altogether, architects, builders and railroad contractors are likely to experience a busy and prosperous season.

**FIFTY YEARS AS CITY CLERK.**

Mr. Thomas Beasley, who has recently resigned the position of City Clerk of Hamilton, completed his 51st year of



MR. THOMAS BEASLEY, For Fifty Years City Clerk of Hamilton, Ont. office on the 12th of September last. He was the oldest civic official in Canada in regard to service. He was born in the City of Hamilton on 18th December, 1829. His father was Henry Beasley, whose

farm extended over what is now the extreme west end of Hamilton. At first he attended the old log school house on the Dundas Road; from there he went to Doctor Tassie's school in Hamilton, then to college at Cobourg. On leaving college he resided with his uncle, Richard Beasley, senior partner in the leading legal firm of Beasley & Garton. The junior member of that firm afterwards was appointed judge. Thomas studied law and in October, 1854, was appointed City Clerk of Hamilton and in the same year received the appointment of Secretary of the Hamilton Board of Education, which latter position he resigned last month.

Mr. Beasley has seen his native city grow from a small town to a large and prosperous city, and retires from active life with the good will of all with whom he came in contact. Starting with a legal training, his long period of civic life made him one of the best posted officials on municipal work. As he was necessarily brought in contact with all manner of men during his half century of service, he must have possessed tact in an uncommon degree to retire with the good wishes of all.

Camphor wood paving is to be tried in the Buckingham Palace Road. If within four years it should prove unsatisfactory it is then to be replaced by creosoted deal. The wood has never before been used as paving block.

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