

USEFUL HINTS.

The editor of the Engineering and Building Record, in reply to a correspondent, who asks whether there is any danger that cinders, used for filling in between iron floor beams, will corrode the metal, thinks that there is "much danger" in placing either cast or wrought iron, but particularly wrought iron, in contact with cinders, if there is any moisture present. He thinks that the corrosive effect which has been observed depends upon the formation of sulphuric acid from the sulphur compounds almost always present in the cinders of soft coal, such as is commonly used by architects for filling, and that it would be safer, either to find some other material for the purpose, or to plaster the beams with cement before placing the cinders between them.

What middle tints are to a landscape, the due proportion of neutral tints is to decoration, these not excluding primary hues. In nature we find leaflets varying from brown and red to deep rose color. Mark that the pale blue finds its way by a thousand small high lights more or less subdued into leaves, twigs, branches, and stems. These almost insignificant lights have no small share in toning the whole and connecting part with part. Leaflets are not to be represented solely by bright, pale green, for each leaflet, bright as its local color, is half in shade, caught by the tiny fur on its surface, and many are toned down by half shadows. The general tone is therefore much subdued.

The process of making enameling for bricks used in England and Germany is described as follows: One hundred and fifty parts fluorspar, sixty parts Paris white, fifty parts lime, fifty parts oxide of tin and fifty parts kaolin. These ingredients are pulverized and triturated to an impalpable powder, and reduced to a homogeneous mass, which is calcined in a crucible. After it has cooled it is again reduced to a powder. Water is added and the mass is ground to a consistency of cream. The portion of the brick to be enameled is then dipped into it and the brick submitted in the fire clay cases to a heat which fuses the enameling compound. A black enamel is produced by adding to the ingredients mentioned above black oxide of cobalt, black oxide of manganese, and umber, previous to the pulverizing and calcining. Blue enamel can be made by adding black oxide of cobalt; green by adding sub-oxide of copper; red by adding sub-oxide of copper and red oxide of iron.

The Richmond Slate Quarrying and Manufacturing and Asbestos Company has been incorporated at Richmond, Que., with a capital stock of \$150,000, for the purpose of quarrying and manufacturing slate and products of slate, and of pottery, clay, asbestos, and other minerals.

Prices of Building Materials.

LUMBER.

Table listing lumber prices for various types of wood, including spruce, fir, and pine, with prices per 1000 board feet.

Table listing yard quotations for various materials, including mill cull boards, shipping cull boards, hemlock cantling, and various types of flooring and shingles.

Table listing brick prices for common walling, good facing, and sewer bricks.

Table listing pressed brick prices for plain brick, hard building, moulded and ornamental, and roof tiles.

Table listing stone prices for common rubble, large flat, and foundation blocks.

Table listing slate prices for roofing and terra cotta tile.

Table listing paint prices for white lead, red lead, yellow ochre, and various other pigments.

Table listing cement and lime prices for various grades and types.

Table listing hardware prices for cut nails and finishing nails.

Handwritten letter from C. H. Mortimer Esq., a Canadian Architect & Builder, dated Montreal, October 14, 1890. The letter discusses a resolution adopted by the Provincial Association of Architects in Montreal regarding the use of the Canadian Contract Record.

Table listing prices for various roofing materials, including galvanized steel shingles, painted steel shingles, and copper shingles.