

J. Pound, \$8,463; Hugh Wilson, \$7,533; D. D. Grant, \$7,500; R. Seely, \$7,500; H. Layfield, \$7,522.

MONTREAL, QUE.—The contract recently secured by the Montreal Pipe Foundry Co. from the Dominion Iron & Steel Co. represents four miles of 36 inch cast-iron water pipe, and the figure is understood to be \$156,000.—Saxe & Archibald, architects, have let contract for three buildings on Aylmer street for R. Egan to John P. O'Leary.—J. P. O'Leary has secured contract for building an addition to the C.P.R. shops at Hochelaga.

BIDS.

QUEBEC, QUE.—The Harbor Commissioners last week opened tenders for \$200,000 first preference bonds, but the award was postponed until next meeting.

INSPECTION OF MATERIALS IN JAPAN.

In Mr. Ransome's new book, "Japan in Transition" (Harper Brothers), there is much which is instructive for contractors and others who have dealings with the Japanese. The following passage will suggest the strictness of the examination of engineering materials:

To give an idea as to the risk a manufac-

turer runs in accepting the local inspection clause with regard to goods from Japan, I cannot do better than refer to the large contract that was given out for cast iron pipes for the Tokyo waterworks. The contract in question amounted to 16,000 tons of pipes and bends of all dimensions, from 4 feet in diameter downwards. The order was divided between two English firms and one Belgian. The Belgian house put in a very low figure, and received an order for 10,000 tons out of the 16,000 tons. Of the 10,000 tons of Belgian pipes only 2,700 tons were accepted, and of the English 4,000 out of the 6,000. The greatest sufferer by the above transaction is the Belgian contractor, who took the risk of inspection in Japan on his own shoulders, and now finds himself saddled with three-fourths of his goods after delivering them half way round the world. The risk of the British pipes was taken by two firms of merchants in Japan, who supplied the goods in question, one being an English and the other a Japanese house. There is no doubt that, with the exception of a small percentage, the rejected pipes, whether or not they filled the specification to the letter,

were perfectly good for the purpose. The Belgian pipes were somewhat rough-looking and not always very close in the grain; but anyone having occasion, as I did, to go through the acres and acres of ground covered by these rejected goods, could only come to the conclusion that a gross injustice had been done all round. Apart from the loss to the contractors, it is estimated that the inspection alone has cost the government between 5,000 and 6,000. One is not surprised to learn, under these circumstances, that now the government are obliged to ask for further tenders, not a single firm, with or without a reputation, will quote.

BUSINESS NOTES.

A demand of assignment is reported to have been made upon Andry Vilant, contractor, Outremont, Que.

The assets of Enoch James, doing business in Montreal under the name of the Montreal Roofing Co., include moveables to the value of \$6,528.43, and property at 37-39 St. Antoine street, 78 Lagauchetiere street, corner of Edward and Bleury streets, and a lot in the parish of St. Laurent. The claims of secured creditors amount to about \$20,000.

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