

Canadian Institute
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THE

Canadian Contract Record

A Weekly Journal of Advance Information and Public Works.

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THE CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD,

A Weekly Journal of Advance Information and Public Works.

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The purpose of this journal is to supply Contractors, Manufacturers and Dealers throughout Canada, with advance information regarding contracts open to tender, and to furnish Architects, Municipal and other Corporations with a direct medium of communication with Contractors.

Information from any part of the Dominion regarding contracts open to tender will be gratefully received.

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

At its Convention held in Toronto, Nov. 20 and 21, 1889, the Ontario Association of Architects signified its approval of the CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD, and pledged its members to use this journal as their medium of communication with contractors with respect to advertisements for Tenders.

The publisher of the "Canadian Contract Record" desires to ensure the regular and prompt delivery of this Journal to every subscriber, and requests that any cause of complaint in this particular be reported at once to the office of publication. Subscribers who may change their address should also give prompt notice of same, and in doing so, should give both old and new address.

PAINTING PLASTER.

The Wiener Bauindustrie-Zeitung, says the American Architect, gives some useful information about painting on surfaces plastered with cement. As every knows, oil paint on a cemented surface is likely to be thrown off by the formation of crystals beneath it; while, if it stays in place, it usually presents a mottled appearance, owing to the unequal absorption of the oil from the paint by the cement. The common way of remedying both these difficulties has been to wash the cement surface with acid before painting it. This dissolves any crystals that may have formed, and acts upon those spots in the cement which have become slightly carbonated by the action of the atmosphere, so as to restore the absorbant quality which the formation of a superficial carbonate tends to diminish. Where acid is used, it should be sulphuric acid, made very dilute. Muriatic and acetic acids, which are often employed, leave the cemented surface impregnated with chloride of calcium or acetate of lime, both of which are very deliquescent, and by keeping the surface damp, prevent proper adhesion of the paint. A better application even than sulphuric acid is, however, to be found in carbonate of ammonia. The crystals of the ammonia carbonate should be exposed to the air until they effloresce partially into a white powder, which is a bicarbonate, and more suitable for the purpose than the original carbonate. One hundred grammes of the ammonia salt—about a quarter of a pound—should be dissolved in nine quarts of cold water, and the cement surface washed with the solution. As soon as it is dry, the paint may be applied, and it will adhere well and resist the action of the atmosphere.

The carbonate of ammonia is best applied when the cement surface is about three weeks old. For preparing surfaces perhaps older than this or more exposed to the weather, silicate of soda is sometimes useful. This should be prepared by dissolving the syrupy silicate of soda of commerce in four times its bulk of water. Three coats should be applied, and after the last, the wall must be thoroughly washed, so as to remove every trace of silicate from the surface, or it will effloresce and throw off the paint.

ESTIMATING.

A short way to estimate the cost of a plain house. I do not approve of the method in full, for the reason that I think my way of estimating is far better and more correct than any plan that I have ever seen in print. I first commence with the excavation:

Each cubic yard of dirt to be left on lot as thrown out, 20 cents. All sand and clay to be used by contractor free that is found in cellar and trenches.

Stone to be of freestone rock work, face 25 cubic feet to the perch, at \$3.50 a perch.

Cellar, 12x24 to cost:

Grates, \$1 each.

Outside cellar stairs, complete with doors, \$6.00.

Now, the lower floor, joist, bridging, flooring and time, each square, \$12.00.

Second floor, the same a square, \$12.00.

Upper tier of joist, lumber and time, per square \$2.00.

Roofing, per square, rafters, lath, sea green slate and time, \$7.50. Copping, per foot, 10 cents. Chimney backs, each back 75 cents. Flushing, per foot, 8 cents.

Cornice.—Plain cornice, per lineal foot, flooring, fillet and time, 15 cents.

Siding.—All sides where siding is to be used, siding, studding and time, per square (10x10 feet makes a square) \$4.60.

Partitions.—Studding and time, each square, \$1.75.

Box Stairs.—Each flight, (no rail), lumber and time, \$12.00. With rail and baluster at landing, \$19.00.

Doors.—Door frames, doors No. 1, locks and butts, casing and time, each door, \$6.50. No. 2, \$5.50. Front doors and transom, \$10.00.

Windows.—Each window, sash and glass, \$6.50; frame, casing, time and locks, \$5.00.

Base.—Each room, lumber and time, per room 3.50.

Pantry.—Shelves, common way, lumber and time, from 6 to 8 shelves, \$4.00

Wainscoting.—Per lineal foot, time and lumber, 20 and 25 cents.

Spouting.—Per foot, put up, 10 and 11 cents.

Veranda.—Per foot, face measure, turned posts, brackets, tin roof and spindle work, \$3.50 and \$4.00.

Chimneys.—Per foot, 75 cents, 90 cents and \$1.00.

Mantles.—Each mantle, slate and hearths set in place, \$18.00 and \$20.00.

Painting.—Per square, \$1.25, \$1.50 and \$1.75.

Sundries.—Such as door bumps, sash lifts, hooks, strips, etc.

Any new beginner that makes his estimates according to this rule will save at least one-third the figuring and is just as correct as the long way. I know this to be the fact, as I use this same rule in all of my estimating. If this is of any benefit to my brother chip he is welcome to it.—"H. C. R." in American Builder.

The "Canadian Contractors' Hand-book," 50 cents to RECORD-subscribers.