

THE OUTLOOK.

Toronto is now threatened with a general tie-up of the building trades and the men are still considering whether or not they will "take holidays." Already a large number of men are out and should the whole of the building trades cease work the large amount of building now under way will be very seriously affected.

From Vancouver comes the report that in building circles there is the usual activity of this season, with better tone owing to much more settled labor conditions than earlier in the season. Lumber prices locally have also considerably reduced and contractors are able to get their orders filled. All classes of building material have become well stocked up of late, freight coming forward by rail in very satisfactory manner.

In Nova Scotia building operations are very brisk and in Halifax there is a scarcity of cement reported. There is a pressing demand for this material, some of the contractors requiring 7,000 barrels to complete work now on hand, and as the steamers only carry 500

barrels per trip the supply is at present unequal to the demand. There is little or no improvement to the iron pipe situation. Jobbers still report a scarcity of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch pipe. There is a good demand for both of the above sizes.

From the district of North Battleford, Sask., comes the complaint of scarcity of building materials. It is said that the railroads cannot carry a sufficient number of cars to convey the materials in and consequently a considerable amount of

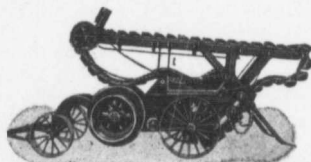
building in the locality is being delayed.

Building operations in Ottawa generally have had a set back by the recent strike, and while it is now over there is barely time enough for many buildings to be finished by the fall. That, with some prospective builders, is an influence against new work. There is also a comparative scarcity of labor.

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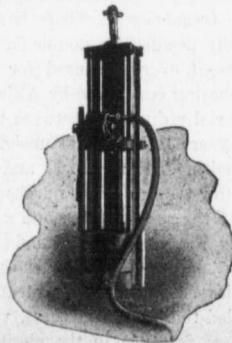
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