

MARKET CONDITIONS.

Wire nails are decidedly firm, and it is believed that there is a movement on foot looking to a further advance. Wrought iron pipe has advanced, and wholesalers now quote as follows: $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, \$1.87; $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, \$2.35; $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch, \$2.87; 1-inch, \$3.87; $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, \$5.10; $1\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, \$6.38; 2-inch, \$9.25. Trade in paints and oils is very satisfactory, both in Montreal and Toronto. Cement is active. Last week we announced an advance in English brands. This has been followed by a rise of 5 cents per barrel on outside prices for Belgian, due to the fact that Belgian makers put up prices 3 cents per barrel and ocean freight rates are also 2s 6d per ton higher. The prospects are that prices will rule still higher on the Montreal market, as stocks in the hands of importers are unusually light. Business during the week has been active both for local and western account, and some large sales have been made, including one lot of 1,000 barrels Belgian at \$1.95 ex-wharf, and several other lots of 400 and 500 barrels at the same figure. English cement is scarce on spot, and prices are fully maintained at the recent advance.

"TIPS" FOR CARPENTERS.

The National Builder gives the following useful hints for carpenters:

Never compete with a "botch" if you know he is favored by the person about to build. He will undercut and beat you every time.

In tearing down old work be as careful as in putting up new.

When putting away old stuff see that it is protected from rain and the atmosphere.

It costs about 15 per cent. extra work to put up old material, and this fact should be borne in mind, as I have known several contractors who paid dearly for their "whistle" in estimating on working up second-hand material.

These remarks apply to woodwork only. In using old bricks, stone, slate and other miscellaneous materials, it is as well to add double price for working up.

Workmen do not care to handle old

material. It is ruinous to tools, painful to handle, and very destructive to clothing.

In my experience I always found it paid to advance the wages of workmen—skilled mechanics—while working up old material. This encouraged the men and spurred them to better efforts.

Sash frames, with sash weights, locks and trim complete, may be taken out of old buildings that are being taken down and preserved just as good as new by screwing slats and braces on them, which not only keeps the frame square, but prevents the glass from being broken.

Doors, frames and trims may also be kept in good order until used, by taking the same precautions as in window frames.

Old scantlings and joists should have all nails drawn or hammered in before piling away.

Counters, shelving, drawers and other store-fittings should be kindly dealt with. They will be wanted sooner or later.

Take care of the locks, hinges, bolts, keys and other hardware. Each individual piece represents money in a greater or lesser sum.

Sinks, wash-basins, bath-tubs, traps, heating appliances, grates, mantels and hearth-stones should be moved with care. They are always worth money and may be used in many places as substitutes for more inferior fixings.

Marble mantels require the most careful handling.

Rails, balusters and newels may be

utilized much readier than stairs, as the rail may be lengthened or shortened to suit variable conditions.

Gas fixtures should be cared for and stowed away in some dry place. They can often be made available, and are not easily renovated if soiled or tarnished.

It is not wise to employ men who have nothing but their strength to recommend them. As a rule they are like bears—have more strength than knowledge, and lack of the latter is often an expensive desideratum. Employ for taking down the work good, careful mechanics, and do not have the work "rushed through. Rushers of this sort are expensive.

Have some mercy for the workman's tools. If it can be avoided do not work up old stuff into fine work. If not avoidable pay the workmen something extra because of injury to tools.

Don't grumble if you do not get as good results from the use of old material as from new. The workman has much to contend with while working up old nail-speckled, sand-covered material.

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