

FIRES.

A two-story brick store at Caledon East, Ont., owned by Bradley & Clark, and a large warehouse owned by Dr. Allison, were burned on Tuesday last.—L. W. R. Terry's grist mill and the residences of A. T. Dorland and Thos. Montgomery, at Newcomb's Mills, a village about a mile north of Brighton, Ont., were destroyed by fire recently. The loss is partially covered by insurance.—The Roman Catholic church and convent at Fort William, Ont., were totally destroyed by fire on the 10th inst. The loss is placed at \$8,000, two-thirds of which is covered by insurance. The sisters of St. Joseph intend rebuilding. Cushing & Co.'s large saw mill at Union Point, near St. John, N. B., was burned to the ground on Wednesday of last week. The loss is about \$50,000, and the insurance \$28,937.—The planing mill of Lennox and Co., on Dufferin street, Toronto, was destroyed by fire on Sunday last, causing a loss of \$7,000. The building was owned by Wm. Graydon, and was valued at \$6,000. No insurance.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

WINDSOR, ONT.—Cole & Shaw, contractors will construct the Pelissier street sewer at the price of \$1,084.50.

GANANOQUE, ONT.—The contract for the annual supply of lumber has been awarded to the Rathbun Co., of Deseronto.

OTTAWA EAST, ONT.—The Council has sold \$2,500 of 20 years debentures to Geo. A. Stimson, of Toronto. The price is \$1.01.

EXETER, ONT.—Uyer & Howard, of the Exeter planing mills, have been awarded the contract for new houses for R. Pickard and J. A. Stewart.

NORWICH, ONT.—The contract for a system of heating and ventilation, for the new Norwich public schools, has been awarded to the J. F. Pease Furnace Co., of Toronto.

TORONTO, ONT.—F. B. McNamee, of Montreal, has been awarded the contract for dredging Toronto harbor. The work will last two years.—The contract for a new boiler for the electric light plant at Island Park, has been awarded to the John Abell Engine Company, at \$930.

LONDON, ONT.—The Council received six tenders for a 70-foot aerial ladder, as follows:—"Waterous," Brantford, \$5,237.50; "Ronald," Brussels, \$3,600; Chicago firm, \$2,430; Babcock, \$4,102.50; R. Dennis & Co., "Hayes," \$3,400; Martin "Hayes," \$4,200. The tender of the Chicago firm has been recommended for acceptance.

MONTREAL, QUE.—Dunlop & Heriot have awarded contracts for a residence on Sherbrooke St., for Hugh Graham, as follows:—Mason, J. H. Hutchison; brick, T. W. Peel; carpenter and joiner's work, W. Scott & Sons; roofing, G. W. Reed; plumbing and heating, R. Mitchell & Co.; plastering, John Morrison & Son; painting and glazing, G. S. Kimber; carving, T. Moore.

OTTAWA, ONT.—The following tenders were received by the Board of Works for the asphaltting of Bank and Spark streets: Warren Scharf Co., New York, Trinidad asphalt, \$3.20 per square yard, granite toothing, 60 cents per lineal foot, dressed limestone, 55 cents per lineal foot, granite block paving, \$4.50 per square yard; Sicilian Asphaltum Paving Co., rock asphalt, \$3.54, granite toothing, 54 cents, dressed limestone, 49 cents, granite paving, \$3.73; John E. Askwith, Ottawa, rock asphalt, \$3.70, Trinidad, \$3.50, granite toothing, 50 cents, dressed limestone, 55 cents, granite paving, \$4.80; Farquhar & Co., Toronto, rock asphalt, \$3.00, granite toothing, \$1.10, dressed limestone, \$1.25, granite paving, \$4.35; Canadian Granite Co., Ottawa, rock as-

phalt, \$3.60, granite toothing, 45 cents, dressed limestone, 45 cents, granite paving, \$3.60; Patrick Burns, Ottawa, rock asphalt, \$3.75, Trinidad, \$3.75, Bermudez Lake, \$3.75, granite toothing, 60 cents, dressed limestone, 60 cents, granite paving, \$3.75; Bastien & Valiquette, Montreal, rock asphalt, \$3.88, granite toothing, 40 cents, dressed limestone, 50 cents, granite paving, \$3.69. The tender of the Canadian Granite Co. has been accepted.

THE STRENGTH OF OLD BRICKWORK.

An interesting piece of information respecting the strength of old brickwork is the result of experiments carried out by Mr. A. G. Lyster, the assistant engineer to the Mercy Docks and Harbour Board. The brickwork in question was part of a wall of the Albert warehouses in Liverpool, and was built about fifty years ago of hand-made bricks, laid in ground mortar made with lime from the Halkin Mountain, Flintshire. This lime is in a high degree hydraulic, and makes mortar of exceptionally good quality. Having to demolish the wall, Mr. Lyster conceived the happy thought of leaving a piece of it in the form of a horizontal beam, having a twelve-foot span, and measuring about two feet square in section, seven courses in height of a two-foot wall. The ends of the beam were not cut free from the rest of the work. This beam was then loaded with all the weight that could conveniently be piled upon it in iron "kentledge," without appreciable deflection or other sign of weakness resulting. Two courses were then cut off, and the whole weight again put on, but without other result. The beam was further reduced by a course, leaving it four courses, or fifteen inches deep, and the ends were also cut free from the other work, the mortar beds of the twelve-inch bearings being left untouched. A centrally placed load of five tons, fifteen hundredweight was then gradually piled upon it, and was borne for several days without apparent effect upon the brickwork. Finally, the weight was increased to six tons, nine hundredweight, twenty-three pounds, which was sustained for thirty hours, when the beam collapsed during the night, and came down in pieces more like broken timber than anything else. Other tests were made with similarly astonishing results; but the above are sufficient to show what really first rate brickwork in hydraulic lime will stand.—BRITISH CLAY WORKER.

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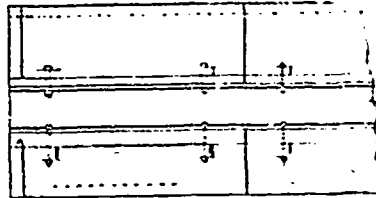
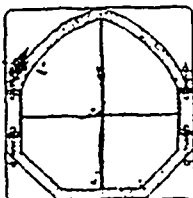
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