

last. It was owned by Mr. Commins and was insured for \$4,800.—The Methodist parsonage at Central Kingsclear, N. B., occupied by Rev. Hedley Marr, was destroyed by fire recently. Loss \$1,000.—A building at Moncton, N. B., owned by the Merchants Bank of Halifax and J. L. Black, of Sackville, was damaged by fire a few days ago to the extent of \$2,000.—The dormitory wing of St. Charles Seminary, at Sherbrooke, Que., was recently gutted by fire. The loss will probably reach \$10,000.—The Turkish Bath Hotel at Montreal was damaged by fire last week to the extent of \$5,000, covered by insurance.—An hotel at St. Joseph, Que., was burned on Monday last.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

BELLEVILLE, ONT.—At the last Council meeting the offer of Hanson Bros., of Montreal, of \$13,534.50 for \$13,000 of debentures, was accepted.

QUEBEC, QUE.—The contract for the works at St. Jerome church, Lake St. John, has been awarded to Emile Morrissette, of Quebec, for the sum of \$7,995. David Ouellet is the architect.

DORCHSTER, N.B.—James Reid has the following contracts in hand at Windsor, N.S.: New Academy, cost \$33,568; residence for Mrs. E. Dimock, cost \$10,000; repairs to court house, cost \$5,000.

ST. JOHN, N.B.—J. E. Wilson, of this city, has been awarded the contract for the steel ceilings and galvanized iron work in connection with the new Victoria hotel at Windsor, N. S.—Twelve tenders were received for the purchase of \$125,000 of 4 per cent. debentures. That of J. C. MacIntosh, Halifax, of \$135,081.25 with accrued interest, was accepted.

MONTREAL, QUE.—Labelle & Deschamps have secured the contract for plumbing, roofing and electric wiring in three houses for C. Parrie, Point St. Charles, Que.—The Dominion Bridge Co.'s tender has been accepted for the erection of the new bridge for the municipality of St. Francois de Beauce. Cost \$20,000.—J. A. Karch, architect, has let contracts as follows for two houses, stone and brick, on Cadieux street, for Jos. Jobin: Masonry, T. Binda & Son, carpentry, Jos. Jobin.

REDUCTION IN FREIGHT RATES.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company have announced a reduction in the freight rate on several lines of goods from Montreal and eastern points to the Northwest. On certain building materials the reduction is ten per cent. Some of the articles affected are: Boiler and pipe covering, roofing, window glass; iron, including bar, band, Canada plates, galvanized, sheet, pipe, pipe fittings, nails, spikes and horse shoes; bar, band; Canada plate, galvanized iron, nails and spikes, in kegs, boxes or cases, nails and spikes in bags, pipe, wrought iron, all sizes; pipe fittings or connections (iron) such as joints, elbows, Y's; pipe fittings, N.O.S., in boxes, kegs or barrels; pipe, cast iron, under 5 inches diameter; pipe, cast iron, 5 inches diameter or over, inside measurement; sheet iron; paints of all kinds and oils; paper, building and roofing; wire, all kinds; woodenware.

Mayor & Keith, marble dealers, Hamilton, are reported to have assigned to W. F. McGiverin.

PAINTING BRICK WALLS.

(Concluded).

For stopping cracks, I deem it advisable to use waterproof cement and give it time to dry, then it will not show streaks. Plaster of paris will eventually crumble out; while puttying with whiting putty is hard to do, without the cracks are perfectly clean and free from dust. Putty does not do well in large cracks, anyway, such as are generally found in brick walls. Cement will adhere better to the sides of the cracks than either putty or plaster of paris. Moreover, when dry, there is not much danger of its absorbing moisture and crumbling.

Brick made from clay that contains potash of soda will effloresce. This efflorescence is a white incrustation which forms on the outside of the brick and will exude through paint, giving the work a bad appearance. Brick efflorescence is not characteristic of all parts of the country, but in localities where it occurs there is considerable difficulty experienced with it. It is said that painters on the seacoast are troubled with it more than anywhere else. So far there have been many remedies proposed, but none seem to effectually prevent it. Liberal applications of coal oil appear to give the best results. Coal oil seems to neutralize the salts, rendering them inactive. Silicate of soda (water glass) is also recommended for its prevention, and probably would be a good thing to use, provided the work would always remain dry. Silicate of soda is a poor product for any kind of work where moisture enters into the conditions.

Muriatic acid will, of course, remove any salt of potash deposit, but it will come back again; besides, the cost would be too great if the case is a bad one. It is said by brick manufacturers that the chloride of barium mixed with the clay during the process of manufacture will neutralize the salts and effectually prevent the efflorescence of brick after they are laid in the wall. But the painter does not make the brick, and, of course, he cannot regulate this matter. However, we are sure of one thing—if barium neutralizes the salts in the clay, it will neutralize them, more or less, when applied to their surface in the form of a wash. Chloride of barium is very cheap, and we think the suggestion is worthy of a trial. Baryta water is extensively used in the laboratory as a neutralizing agent. Some authorities claim that the salts are deposited on the brick by the action of the atmosphere. The fact is, it will occur after the brick is well painted; hence, if it is deposited by the action of the air, it would be present on painted wood surfaces, as well as on that of brick. We are compelled to conclude, then, that it exudes from the brick, although conditions, to some extent, may exert an influence on the exudation. We do not dispute, however, that the air near the seashore may deposit salt crystals which would be detrimental to good service of paint; but we fail to understand why they should be deposited on brick surfaces more than on others.

Once in a while, a stain will appear on a wall, which, when the cause is discovered,

(Continued on page 4)

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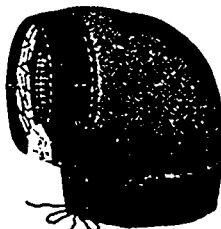
THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, OTTAWA, portion of which was recently destroyed by fire and rebuilt.

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