

- R. Robinson -

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
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The purposes of this journal are 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.

AN EASY METHOD OF CALCULATING BOARD MEASURE MENTALLY.

The method of calculating board measure, used for many years by the writer, around the saw mill, and in making out bills of lumber for buildings and other structures is: First find the amount in one lineal foot of the board or stick of lumber by multiplying the width by the thickness the product will be in inches, reduce the product to feet and fractions of a foot, then multiply this product by the length of the stick, and you will have the amount of lumber in the stick. For example: If the stick be 2 x 4 and 14 feet long, in one lineal foot there are 8 inches, which is $\frac{2}{3}$ of a foot, and in the whole length there are 20-3, which is $6\frac{2}{3}$ feet. or, if the stick be 4 x 5 and 14 feet long, there are 20 inches in one lineal foot, which is $1\frac{2}{3}$ feet, and in the whole length there are 23-3, feet, and so on for all sizes and lengths. These fractions may look formidable at first, but with a little practice, first with pencil and paper until the mind becomes trained a little to the method, you will find that you can tell in a moment the amount of lumber in a stick or board of any given dimensions and length, and then it is an easy matter to find out how many pieces of a given size and length it will take to make the number of feet required to fill the bill for that size and length. The advantage in this method of calculating board measure is that the numbers to be multiplied and divided are kept small enough to be handled mentally whereas, by the ordinary method, the numbers become so large that the mind cannot handle them without a very great effort, and one is forced to use pencil and paper to obviate the mistakes which are sure to occur.—*The Tradesman.*

BUSINESS TROUBLES.

At a meeting of the creditors of Frost & Picken, builders supplies, Queen street east, Toronto, it was resolved to wind up the estate. Inspectors were appointed to act with Mr. P. Howland, the assignee. The liabilities were shown to be a little over \$10,000, the assets \$5,800. A dividend of 25 cents on the dollar is expected.

LEGAL DECISIONS.

Keefe v. Miller was a recent action in the Toronto courts to enforce a mechanic's lien, brought by a lien-holder against one Miller, the person for whom he did the work, who was at that time the owner. The action was brought within the ninety days required by the Act, but subsequently to the registration of a conveyance by Miller of all his interest in the land to one Coxon. After the expiry of the ninety days, the plaintiff obtained an *ex parte* order, amending the writ of summons by adding Coxon as a defendant. Coxon was then served with the writ of summons and statement of claim, and the facts above stated appeared on the face of the statement of claim. N. F. Davidson, for Coxon, moved under consolidated rule 536 to set aside the order adding Coxon as a party, or in the alternative under rule 756 for judgment dismissing the action upon admissions in the statement of claim. J. W. Curry, for the plaintiff, contra. The Master in Chambers held, on the authority of *Bank of Montreal v. Haffner*, 10 A. R. 592, that there was no right of action against Coxon after the expiry of the ninety days: and made an order dismissing the action as against him with costs, and vacating the registry of a *lis pendens* as regarded his interest in the lands.

THE CORROSION OF IRON IN STRUCTURE AND IN STORE.

In the course of his inaugural address as president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Mr. Chas. Cochrane drew attention to the deterioration of wrought iron when exposed to the influence of rain water, as being especially exhibited in bridges constructed on the Thames, the waste in which he regarded as aggravated by the acid condition of the atmosphere, due to the presence of sulphurous acid from the combustion of coal as well as to the customary percentage of carbonic acid. In the course of twenty-five years bolts have been eaten away from an original diameter of five eighths inch to five sixteenth inch, being a reduction in area of 75 per cent., or from 0.81 to 0.08 square inch, and this in a portion of the structure where the brackets of an overhanging footpath were supported in part by the decaying bolts. Wherever the rain trickled over the face of the girders to which the brackets were attached, the same evidence of deterioration was manifested in the scaling of the plates, pointing both to the necessity of preventing water coming into contact with wrought iron and of periodically examining and painting structures of this material. Another illustration of insidious destruction of iron was named. This was the case of a wire rope at a colliery, kept in reserve to wind men up and down the shaft in case of ropes breaking or of other accident preventing the due use of the shaft. While at rest the emergency rope was subject to the drip of rain at the same spot for years, from the roof of the engine house. External examination was strict and the rope was regularly greased, as is customary. At length a man riding up the shaft was killed through the parting of the rope at the point exposed to the rain drip, and the wires internally were found to have corroded the size of drawn-out needle points. Mr. Cochrane cited other instances of the decay of materials in store through small but continuously acting causes of corrosion.