

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

CANADIAN ROOFING SLATE.

It has always struck us as the height of imprudence in the erection of many a handsome building, where the walls have been built substantially and of materials proof against fire, that the roof should be covered with wood shingles, the most flimsy and dangerous of substances. The effect of a blazing sun upon a roof presenting a right angle to its rays, is to convert the thin chips of wood with which it is covered into a species of tinder, that a single spark would ignite.

Wood, when much heated, evolves a highly inflammable gas. It was observed during the raging of the great fire at St. John's, Newfoundland, when the greater part of the town was destroyed, that the roofs of the houses, although the whole of the buildings were of wood, were always first ignited, and by this means the fire spread with amazing rapidity. A single spark, in many instances, was observed to kindle a roof as if it had been thatched with touch-wood.

It is thought that a thin coating of mortar under the shingles is sufficiently fire-proof, but this is often delusive. The mortar, however well prepared, after a few years becomes pulverized from the vibration of the roof, and is thus rendered useless.

The cost of a slate roof is very little more than a shingled one, and it is surprising that this material is not in more general use, considering the saving in the matter of insurance.

The opening of the Walton Slate Quarries, near Richmond, in the township of Melborne, Canada East, will bring the article within the reach of the most thrifty house-builder. The slates from this quarry are equal to the best Welsh slate in formation and color, but they appear to us to have greater density, and consequently are more durable. For several years the Americans have had the monopoly of the slate market in this Province, limited as it was. Perhaps the inferiority of the American slate may in some measure account for the general preference hitherto given to shingle, tin and iron roofs. The American slate is uneven on the surface, and therefore does not fit well together. It is objectionable also to those who desire uniformity in the color of the roof; and besides, it is expensive. The Canadian slate is perfectly flat on the surface, easily laid on the roof, and of a beautiful uniform blue color. A roof of this slate costs little more than a good shingle roof, is ten times more durable, and is perfectly fire-proof.

The comparative cost of 100 superficial feet of the various kinds of roofing now in use in Toronto, from the best information we can obtain, is as follows:—

Good shingle roof (the shingles laid in hair mortar), \$4 50; Walton slate (12×6 in.), \$5 50; do. do. (14×7 in.), \$6 13; Iron roof, \$14; Galvanized iron, \$17. Of course, nearer the quarries the cost would be less.

It affords us great satisfaction to find that this valuable branch of Canadian industry is being vigorously prosecuted, and we wish its enterprising proprietor, Mr. B. Walton, every success.

EXHIBITION OF MANUFACTURES, &c.

The Toronto Mechanics' Institute, and the Toronto Electoral Division Society, have United to hold a Grand Exhibition in the New Hall of the Institute, commencing on Monday the 7th of October next, one week after the closing of the Provincial Exhibition in London, and to be continued open every day, from 10 a.m., to 10 p.m., for two weeks.

The rooms to be devoted to the purpose will be the Music Hall, in size 76ft. 6 inches by 54 ft 8 inches; the Lecture room, 51ft. by 42 ft.; and a suite of five other smaller rooms.

The total amount of prizes offered is nearly \$1,000, with the option on the part of the holders of 1st prizes to accept a handsome diploma instead of money: and as the prizes will be open for competition to ALL THE PROVINCE, we have no doubt but there will be a good show.

The Mechanics' Institute will also hold a Bazaar in connexion with the exhibition, and solicit donations of articles for that purpose, the profits arising from which, as well as their share of the profits accruing from the Exhibition, will be devoted to the purchase of a suitable Organ for their Music Hall. The Secretary, Mr. Edwards, will furnish prize lists and Rules and Regulations to any parties applying for them.

The following is the classification of the prize list:—

ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

Class

- I. Cabinet Ware and other Wood Manufactures.
- II. Fine and Decorative Arts.
- III. Furs and Wearing apparel.
- IV. Ladies' Work.
- V. Machinery and Manufactures in Metals.
- VI. Miscellaneous.
- VII. Musical Instruments.
- VIII. Paper, Printing, and Bookbinding.
- IX. Saddlers' and Trunk Makers' Work.
- X. Shoe and Boot Makers' Work.
- XI. Woollen, Flax, and Cotton Goods.

HORTICULTURAL.

- XII. Fruits.
- XIII. Plants and Flowers.
- XIV. Vegetables.

AGRICULTURAL.

- XV. Dairy Products.
- XVI. Grains.
- XVII. Roots.