

\$20,000 at one fifth of one per cent. premium; the Taylor estate, \$10,000, at one eighth of one per cent. premium; City Chamberlain, for the whole issue at par. It was resolved to accept the four tenders and that the city be offered the remainder at par.

FIRES.

Residence of W. A. Marsh, boot and shoe manufacturer, Quebec, damaged to extent of \$4,000.—Building at Brandon, Man., occupied by D. A. Reesor, loss \$10,000.—Two storey block on Main st., Winnipeg, owned by W. R. Baker, loss \$12,000, also stores of S. Barraclough, H. B. Macy and T. A. Thurman.—Building at corner of Buckingham and Barrington streets, occupied by the Globe Laundry and A.M. Banks, damaged to extent of \$8,000.

CEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

No country is a better customer for cement than South Africa. All public buildings, warehouses, stores and residences are built of brick, cemented on the outside. No wood or frame houses are seen. The expert Malays, the masons in this country, are adepts in producing very pleasing effects with cement in the outside finish of buildings. The bricks used in South Africa are two-sevenths larger than the American bricks and are "laid up" principally with "mud," the inferior clay found here, instead of mortar (lime) or cement. Over the whole surface, cement is laid. Bricks of different shapes form the window sills, caps, columns, pilasters, mouldings, etc., and over these is spread the cement, forming a very pleasing exterior, the natural stone being closely imitated. Many of the large buildings are "spattered" with the cement, presenting a rough exterior very striking, and even durable. I know of no cities that have more handsome and unique building exteriors than the cities of this colony. Cement is also used in making drain pipes, sidewalks, stoops, tiles, chimney pots or tops. Brick exteriors are never seen, as the bricks are inferior, the best qualities being made of clay and coal cinders.

Of the cement imports for 1899, amounting to 126,672,875 lbs., Belgium furnished 18,423,628 lbs.; Germany, 7,448,395 lbs.; other countries, 605 lbs.; and the United Kingdom the balance. During 1900 the imports of cement from Germany have been increasing rapidly, as it has been found that German cement is equally as good as the best English Portland and can be bought at 1s (24 cents) per barrel cheaper. Belgian cement is good and sells at 18d (36 cents) cheaper than the English.

When I left the United States, our manufacturers of cement were producing an article which was proved by tests to be as good as the English, and that cement ought to find a large market here. While the United States, at the present time, would be hampered on account of the excessive steamship rates to this country which would prevent competition with the German and Belgian cements, yet I am convinced, with equal rates, the United States cement could find a market here in large quantities. Cement of the desired quality will never be manufactured

here, as the ingredients do not exist.—J. G. STOWE, U. S. Consul-General.

REPAINTING WORN SURFACES.

A correspondent writes to the Painters' Magazine as follows: I have a number of frame houses to renovate that have not been painted for years and are badly weather-beaten, and, of course, it will require quite a great deal of linseed oil for first coating. Couldn't I make a good job of it by using for this coat glue water and ochre, and then put on two coats of lead and linseed oil paint? Would not this also answer for a brick building where the brick is quite soft and porous? Also must the glue water and ochre mixture be kept warm during the application?

Answer: We do not approve of ochre alone as a priming for wood, even when mixed with pure linseed oil, and always advocate the addition of white lead for the purpose. Glue size, when properly applied, is good enough to economize with on interior painting, but will not answer at any time for exterior work. The two coats of lead and linseed oil paint applied over a first coat of glue water and ochre would only mean the waste of a lot of good material and labor, whether it be applied to frame or brick work. Your lead and oil paint is not impervious enough to stop the ingress moisture and its action on the glue and even if it were the moisture in the brick would act on the glue and throw off the surface coats. If you must economize, do not attempt to do it on priming, but rather on succeeding coats, because the first coat is to painting what the foundation is to a building. To cheapen the cost of paint and yet obtain fairly good results, it has been recommended that lead and linseed oil be mixed to proper consistency for brushing in one pot, and a similar quantity of bolted whiting with water in another pot, and when well mixed the two are to be thrown together in a larger package and beaten until they are amalgamated, when the required driers are added and the mass strained. This paint when applied in temperate weather and given plenty of time to dry is as good as many of the so-called linseed oil paints on the market, and you need have no apprehension about its use, as you would necessarily have if employing glue size.

USEFUL HINTS

To soften putty so as to remove window panes make a batter of caustic soda and soft soap, or take equal parts of potash and fresh slaked lime, both in powder, mixing these with water to the consistency of soft soap, and mix this with a like quantity of soft soap. Apply this with a wooden stick or spatula to the putty, which will soften it in a short time, so that it can be removed with the putty knife. But be careful to keep the mass off your hands, as it is very caustic in either case.

BUSINESS NOTES.

W. J. Poupore, contractor, has entered an action against the Lachine Rapids Hydraulic & Land Company, of Montreal, to recover \$86,463 which he claims to be due him in connection with the construction of the company's works near Lachine.

LEGAL.

LA ROSE V. LA FOREST.—In this action, which recently came up for hearing in the Supreme Court of Quebec, a painter agreed to paint the roof of a house for a certain sum. He supplied himself with some rope, in order that he might be able to get at certain parts of the building, but when he got to the roof he saw a ladder there. He asked his employer (the owner of the house) if he might use it, and the latter assented. The ladder was provided with crotchets to hook over the reach-pole and keep the ladder in place. The crotchets were attached to the ladder by screws, one of which was loose, and when the painter was on the ladder this screw gave way; he fell and was severely injured. He sued the owner for damages, claiming that as he had supplied him with a defective ladder, he was responsible for the consequences. But the judge decided that the owner of the house was not responsible, both because he had only lent the ladder when asked to do so and had not supplied it for the work, and also because it was the duty of the painter, who knew all about such things, to examine the ladder before using it. The action was therefore dismissed. Quebec Official Reports, vol. 17, page 331.

MARKET CONDITIONS.

The situation in iron and steel remains practically unchanged, say Dun's Bulletin, of New York. Business in all branches continues exceptionally brisk for the mid-winter holiday season, and it is surprising that prices do not advance. Probably one reason is the depression in the market for fuel—coke being maintained with great difficulty by the leading producer, and outside concerns selling freely at concessions. Ore is also expected to be cheaper after the reopening of navigation, but this is some distance off. One other feature is the question of freight rates, and there is much talk of reduction shortly. Possibly last year's disastrous inflation of prices also has a depressing effect. At any rate some combination of forces holds the various quotations practically steady in the face of remarkable activity, and every prospect of permanent prosperous conditions. Frequently demands cannot be filled, both on domestic and foreign account, one important export order being refused this week, owing to the time of delivery desired. No cessation of demands from the railroads is noticed and many thousands of tons of rails have been added to the new year's contracts. Rolling stock also is needed in greater amount than makers can furnish. Rails go to Australia, and there is a noticeable demand for light rails to be used on trolley and other street car lines. Cleveland figures of iron ore shipments down the lakes show an aggregate of 18,570,310 tons, against 17,501,196 last year. The increase is less than was generally anticipated.

A meeting of the Wire Nail Manufacturers' Association was held in Toronto last week. All the wire nail manufacturers of the Dominion were represented, and the principal subject discussed was the price list for the coming year. It was decided in the meantime not to make any alteration in prices, but if circumstances arise so as to make any change advisable another meeting of the association will be called.

A change was announced last week in the price of putty, quotations being 5c. per 100 lb. higher on bulk in barrels and 10 to 15c. on bladder in barrels.

Several important changes have been made this week in our cement price list.