

insurance of \$50,000.—The large saw and shingle mill at Fenelon Falls, Ont., owned by J. W. Howry & Son, was consumed by fire on Wednesday of last week. The loss is \$40,000 and insurance \$22,000.—Two dwellings and several out houses at Chambly Basin, Que., were burned on the 15th inst. The total loss is \$5,000.—A building on Jarvis street, Toronto, owned by the Beard Estate and the Canada Permanent Co., was damaged by fire last week to the extent of \$4,000, fully covered by insurance.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

GALT, ONT.—Hanson Bros., of Montreal, were the successful tenderers for the purchase of debentures.

WINGHAM, ONT.—A. Graham, of London, is the successful tenderer for granolithic sidewalks in this town, at 13 cents per foot.

ST. THOMAS, ONT.—A three years' contract for street lighting has been entered into with the St. Thomas Gas Company.

BLenheim, ONT.—The J. F. Pease Furnace Company, of Toronto, have been awarded the contract for heating the new town hall here.

MONTMORENCY FALLS, QUE.—Walter Sharpe has been awarded the contract for erecting an addition to the Riverside Mfg. Co.'s works, to be built of brick and stone.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—The tender of Kelly Bros. has finally been accepted for an asphalt pavement on Assiniboine ave. and Kennedy street, at the price of \$18,964.60.

DESERONTO, ONT.—Frank Dolan, of Belleville, has been awarded the contract for erecting the R. C. church here. The amount of contract is \$9,000, exclusive of furnaces, pews, altars, etc.

WOODSTOCK, ONT.—The contract for heating Knox church has been awarded to the J. F. Pease Co., of Toronto, at the price of \$1,700. The furnishing contract has been given to the Globe Furniture Co., of Walkerville, the figure being \$2,900.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.—The Government have accepted the tender of Walter Lowe, of this city, for the proposed addition to the asylum at Falconwood. The price is about \$22,000. Seven tenders were received, ranging from \$22,000 to \$27,000. C. B. Chappell, architect.

GUELPH, ONT.—Mr. Robert Melvin has awarded contracts for an addition to his residence as follows: Foster & Rundell, mason work; George Steven, carpentering; J. J. Mahoney, plastering; W. Holman, painting; Feek & Co., plumbing and gas work. J. Day, architect.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.—The James Smart Mfg. Co. have contracts for the following buildings to be heated with "Kelsey" warm air generators: Newton Cossitt's large store, Brockville, to be occupied by O'Donohue Bros.; Grace Methodist Church, Gananoque, with three Kelseys; R. C. convent, Cranby, Que., with one No. 30 Kelsey.

LONDON, ONT.—The McClary Mfg. Co. recently shipped four large 6 ft. wood furnaces to Eganville, for heating the new R. C. church in that town.—The bulk contract for the erection of the G.T.R. car shops here has been let to George E. Mills, of Hamilton, and work will be commenced at once. The amount of contract is said to be upwards of \$100,000. Sub-contractors have been awarded to Hamilton contractors as follows: Woodwork, Donaldson & Patterson; slate work and roofing, Irwin & Son; plumbing, H. O. Wallace; painting and decorating, Ross Bros.

TORONTO, ONT.—Purdy, Mansell & Mashinter, of this city, have been awarded the contract for steam-heating of the

Crawford House at Windsor, Ont., for the Crawford Estate, also hot water heating of Loreto Convent, Sarnia, Ont.—Contracts for pavements were awarded by the Board of Control on Monday as follows: Lowther avenue, Avenue road west, brick on concrete, \$2,991, D. L. Van Vlack; Huron street, College to Bloor, brick on concrete, \$17,590, D. L. Van Vlack; Spencer ave., King to Huxley st., \$4,891, brick on gravel, D. L. Van Vlack; Grand Opera House Lane, brick on gravel, \$465, J. F. C. Shields.

MONTREAL, QUE.—Labelle & Payette, of this city, have obtained the contract for the laying of the foundation of the East End station.—R. H. Buchanan & Co. have been awarded the contract for supplying the pumping machinery and placing the same in position for the Chambly waterworks, Chambly, Que.—A. Sincennes & E. Courval, architects, have awarded the contracts for reparations of a house, corner of St. Lawrence and St. Catharine streets, for Edm. Payette, all trades to W. Garipey.—Clif. & Pope, architects, have awarded the contract for one residence at Pont de Sault, two stories, for G. M. Day, all trades to Damase Joron.—J. Alcide Chausse, architect, has let the contracts as follows for reparations of a house on Shaw street for E. Chausse: heating and plumbing, David Ouimet; other trades by day work.

HAMILTON, ONT.—Tenders have been accepted as follows for the new market building: Galvanized iron work, Thos. Irwin, \$44; mason and brick work, Thos. Landers, \$900, and \$300 extra for a concrete floor; painting, James Matthews & Sons, \$110; slate tables, James Findlay, \$375; carpenter and wrought iron work, Richard Press, \$644.—Leitch & Turnbull, of this city, have been awarded the following contracts for elevators: One hydraulic, for John P. Graham, Windsor, N. S.; two hand power, for Wyatt Block, Winnipeg; one hand power, for Gurney, Tilden Co., Winnipeg; one hand power, for Union Shoe and Leather Co., Winnipeg; one hand power, for F. Krug, Tavistock, Ont.; one belt power, for Welland Vale Mfg. Co., St. Catharines, Ont.; one belt power, for Government printing office, Victoria, B. C.—Alex. Thompson has been awarded the contract for the following buildings in connection with the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo railway. A brick round house and frame repair shop on Garth street, cost \$10,000 and \$4,000 respectively; frame station at Bartonville and a station at Stoney Creek.

Among the colors upon which lime has no bad effect, and which may therefore be employed with safety for water-coloured ceilings, walls, &c., are siennas and umbers, Vandyke brown, ivory black, Naples yellow, French ultramarine and Chinese vermilion.

RELATIVE STRENGTH OF WOOD AND STEEL.

Dr. Robert H. Thurston, in a recent article, discusses various materials in which comparisons of interest are made. At the outset he gives the following generally accepted figures: Cast iron weight 444 pounds to the cubic foot and an inch square bar will sustain a weight of 16,500 pounds, bronze, weight 525 pounds, tenacity 36,000; wrought iron, weight 480, tenacity, 50,000; hard "struck" steel, weight 490, tenacity 78,000; aluminum, weight 168, tenacity 26,000. A bar of pine just as heavy as a bar of steel an inch square will hold up 125,000 pounds, the best ash 175,000 and some hemlock 200,000 pounds. Wood is bulky. It occupies ten or twelve times the space of steel.

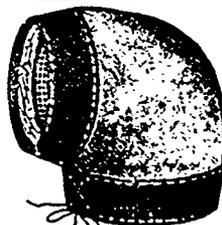
USEFUL HINTS.

The best way to keep varnish brushes is to suspend them in the same varnish for which they are usually used. The disadvantage of this method is the hardening, which is bound to occur, but if a cover is used when the brushes are to be kept for any length of time this objection will be removed.

In finishing pitch pine it is not necessary to size the work; the varnish may be applied directly to the wood and two coats will be required. A coat of size between each application of varnish is an improvement. One coat of size on the wood and one coat of varnish is another method, and is the one usually employed by the manufacturers of school furniture.

A very handsome walk can be laid out by using two or three shades of brick, and disposing them in patterns similar to those which are so successful in tile floors. If it is not possible to secure bricks of uniform hardness, a good effect and evenness of wear can be secured by selecting the hardest for the center of the walk, and using the softer bricks for a border design.

To clean glass that has been smeared or spotted with paint that has been allowed to dry on, first scrape off as much as possible with a sharp knife, taking care not to scratch the glass. Then rub off the remainder with turpentine and linsced oil, mixed in equal proportions with powdered pumice stone. Finish by washing with soap and water, polishing with a clean rag.



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