

THE OUTLOOK.

During the past week several strikes have been declared and a number of new demands made by the trades unions for increased wages, etc.

The carpenters are demanding increases ranging from 10% to nearly 30% over their present wage, and painters are also seeking material increases over the present scales.

In Hamilton the employers are said to have granted increases to several of the trades, while in Toronto the question is still in abeyance.

Building material continues generally active. Iron and steel are unusually active for this time of year, and the eastern mills are unable to cope with the present heavy demand.

The cement plants are operating to their full capacity, with every indication for a busy season. The demand is heavy and prices good.

The building statistics for the first three months of the year show wonderful increases in the value of permits issued. Probably the only city in Canada where the figures are below those of last year is Winni-

peg, where for the first quarter of 1906 the permits totalled \$1,150,300, while for the same period this year the amount is \$952,504. In Vancouver the figures for the past three months are \$993,025 and those of 1906, \$773,980; Toronto figures are: 1906, \$1,918,238; 1907, \$3,071,840.

NOTES.

A. A. Maurice & Co., and Dagenais & Frere, contractors and builders, Montreal, have registered.

The MacLeod Builders' Supply Company has recently been established at MacLeod, Alta. The new concern will manufacture concrete blocks and bricks as well as deal in builders' supplies.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company's offer to give the city of Winnipeg \$200,000 toward cost of obtaining an adequate supply of water for the city has been accepted by the City Council.

It seems peculiar that the "PRIESTMAN'S" EXCAVATOR AND DREDGER

is not used in Canada as it is all over the rest of the world, inasmuch as it will do more work with less labor than any Excavator at present in use and the first cost is less than most. For particulars write G. P. WALLINGTON, Canadian Representative, 11 Front Street East, Toronto

The city of Winnipeg will in future operate the city wells by electricity. In the past the electric current available has been of insufficient voltage and therefore useless, but the city have purchased a voltage booster which will remedy this defect, and incidentally save a considerable amount of money.

A bill has been offered in the Minnesota legislature to provide buildings and machinery for crushing rock for road purposes, the intention being to utilize prison labor for the work. It will doubtless meet with opposition from some sources, as does every suggestion to make prison labor a source of profit to the state, but for the general good, the idea should be developed. The plan is that the crushed rock should be delivered free on board cars at the works, to be sent to such boards of county commissioners as shall apply for the material, to be used in the construction of permanent roads.

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