

last week, and contracts awarded as follows: Carpenter work—Brock ave. school, A. Batho, \$151; Clinton st., A. Batho, \$398; Cottingham st., F. Westlake, \$108; Dewson st., A. Batho, \$249; Gladstone ave., A. Batho, \$372; Grace st., A. Batho, \$179; Jesse Ketchum, F. Westlake, \$749; Louisa st., F. Armstrong, \$283; Brant and John st., F. Armstrong, \$210; Crawford and Givens st., P. Hamlyn, \$256. Mason work—Dewson st., Orr Bros., \$600; Grace St., Chas. Bulley, \$390; Brock, Dovercourt and Gladstone, A. M. Ashfield, \$723; Clinton, Crawford and Palmerston, A. N. Ashfield, \$296; Cottingham, Wellesley and York, Orr Bros., \$153. Painting—Dufferin, T. Barratt, \$345; Essex st., James Phinnemore, \$273; Niagara, J. Phinnemore, \$31.50; Dewson and Gladstone, J. Phinnemore, \$64.50. Plumbing—Gladstone ave., J. Sherlock, \$187; Brock, Dewson and Grace, W. Masbinter & Co., \$168; Borden, Huron and Jesse Ketchum, Purdy, Mansell & Co., \$185. Roofing—Jesse Ketchum, W. D. Hutson & Son, \$102. Tinsmithing—Brock, Clinton, Gladstone, Dewson, Grace, Duke, Morse, Dovercourt, Lansdowne, and York St. schools. A. B. Ormsby & Co., \$527.

THE MANUFACTURE OF STONE.

A very interesting lecture was delivered recently on the manufacture of artificial stone from lime and sand, by Mr. W. Owen, of London, Eng., in the club room of the Windsor Hotel, Montreal.

This artificial stone, of which he had

several plain and sculpture specimens on exhibition, is made as follows: "Quartzose sand, dug in the vicinity of the works, is first dried by being heated; it is then thoroughly mixed dry with hydraulic lime in the proportion of about 12 per cent. of the latter to 88 per cent. of the former. This mixture, still in a dry condition, is packed into very strong moulds of any desired shape, the filled moulds being subsequently built up in a steel frame or box. The latter is conveyed by tramway to an immense steel cylinder, inside of which it is placed, the cylinder now being closed and the door strongly bolted up. Water near the boiling point is then admitted until the cylinder is full, and an indicated pressure of from 60 lbs. to 70 lbs. maintained. The water is kept in a highly heated condition by steam coils running along the length of the cylinder inside, and this is a very essential part of the process.

On the admission of the boiling water the hydraulic lime in the moulds commences to slake, and the pressure maintained assists in forcing the water into the sand and lime mixture so as to bring about complete slaking throughout the mass. The mixture being confined in strong moulds, it follows that the expansion of the

material consequent on slaking is not allowed free play, so that immense pressure is set up within the material itself, which tends to render it much more compact than might otherwise be the case. It is important that as little air as possible shall be admitted into the cylinder during the slaking; that is why the water is admitted at boiling-point, and the temperature kept up by steam coils instead of injecting live steam direct into the water.

On the lime being thoroughly slaked, under the conditions named, the pressure and temperature are gradually relaxed, and the material is allowed to cool slowly. The cylinder or converter is subsequently opened, when the mixture is found to be converted into solid stone. The latter is in a wet condition and becomes harder in the course of twenty-four hours. The whole operation, from the packing of the cylinder to the withdrawal of the mould, occupies about fifty hours.

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