

the construction of 4 miles of canal on the Peterborough and Lakefield division of the Trent canal. Plans may be seen at the above department or at the superintending engineer's office, Peterborough.—Robert Surtets, city engineer, invites tenders until the 26th inst., for the supply of cedars, planks, hardware, explosives and vitrified fire clay sewer pipe required by the corporation during the current year.—Mr. Devlin asked in parliament whether it was the intention of the government to grant aid during the present session towards building a combined highway and railway bridge near Nepean Point, and connecting Ottawa with Hull. The government replied that the matter was now under consideration.—Mr. Cockburn last week presented petition to Parliament praying that no extension of time be granted to the Nipissing and James Bay railway, except on condition that 10 miles be constructed this year and that the line be completed to Lake Temiscamingue by July, 1898.—Large quantities of stone are being taken out for the Parry Sound car shops in Ottawa East, work on which will be commenced in the spring.—A syndicate has been formed of Ottawa capitalists to erect a new theatre. The proposed lessees are said to be Messrs. Sparrow and Jacobs, of Toronto.

#### FIRES.

McMillan's steam saw mill at North Sydney, N. S., was burned on the 14th inst. Loss \$8,000; no insurance.—Campbell & McNab's roller mill and grain shed at Douglas, Ont., was burned recently. Loss \$5,000.—The English Church at Listowel, Ont., was almost completely destroyed by fire on the 13th inst. Loss partially covered by insurance.—R. B. Ferguson's large furniture store at Regina, N. W. T., has been completely destroyed by fire. Loss \$15,000.—A building at Oshawa, Ont., owned by E. I. Rowse, was recently badly damaged by fire.—A. Belanger's marble works at St. Roche, Que., were burned on the 15th inst. Loss partially covered by insurance.—W. Dalrymple's residence at Tilsonburg, Ont., has been burned.—The residence of A. Hindes, at Oshawa, Ont., was consumed by fire on Friday of last week. Partially insured. The flax mill owned by Heiderman & Trachsel, near Shakespeare, Ont., was burned on Wednesday night. Loss \$2,500, no insurance.—The Presbyterian Church at Westport, Ont., was burned on the 17th inst. Loss, \$3,000; insurance \$2,000.—At Rosebank, Man., on Sunday last an elevator belonging to Thos Nichol, of Wawanesa, was destroyed by fire. Loss \$7,000, mostly covered by insurance.

#### CONTRACTS AWARDED.

ST. JOHN, N. B.—The Board of School trustees have accepted the tender of Blair & Co. for the purchase of \$8,000 of debentures.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—The contract for the erection of the Bell Telephone Co.'s new building on Thistle street has been awarded to Kelly Bros & Co.

ST. THOMAS, ONT.—The contract for the construction of the new bridge west of Belmont has been awarded to the Central Bridge Company, of Peterborough, at \$398.99. Geo. Ponsford, of St. Thomas, has received the contract for constructing the concrete abutments, at \$599.

TORONTO, ONT.—A. B. Ormsby & Co. have been awarded the contract for a large quantity of galvanized iron shingles and siding for buildings on Yonge street dock.—The tender of the Bertrain Engine Co., of this city, for the supply of 2,350 feet of 6-inch steel or cast iron pipe, for the new conduit, has been recommended for acceptance. Price, \$31,620.

TUCKERSMITH, ONT.—Wm. Chapman

has let contracts for a new two-storey brick residence as follows: Brickwork, Frank Guttridge, carpenter work, Wright & Edge, of Seaforth, painting, Mr. Stacey, of Hensall.—Contracts for a new residence for Robert Murray have been awarded as follows: Brickwork, Mr. Patterson, of Hensall; carpenter work, Mr. Kidd; painting, Mr. Stacey, of Hensall.

BUCTOCHE, N. B.—James Barnes, M. P. P., is the contractor for the Central railway extension from Chatham to Newcastle. He has about completed the foundations for the Howe truss bridge over Salmon river. This bridge will be 500 feet long and will consist of four spans of 125 feet each. There will be two other bridges, one at Ironbound Cove, a trestle bridge 300 feet long, and the other at Newcastle, a Howe truss span 125 feet long and 300 feet of trestle work. It is expected the extension will be completed and ready for operation in November next.

#### NEW COMPANIES.

VANKLEEK HILL, ONT.—The Temiscamingue Lithographic Mining Co., applying for incorporation; capital stock \$100,000; to mine and manufacture lithographic stone, etc.

MONTREAL, QUE.—Non-Magnetic Asbestos Co., incorporated; capital, \$15,000. Promoters, John H. Seed and Francis P. McCall, of Brooklyn; Cassius H. Wells, of Huntingdon; William Sclater, William T. Costigan, and Edward A. Cowley, of Montreal.

TORONTO, ONT.—Booth Copper Co., incorporated; capital \$25,000. The subscribers are, G. Booth, A. G. Booth, C. H. Booth, Joseph Wright, Toronto, and W. E. Booth of Chicago.—The Empress Gold Mining Company, limited, has been incorporated, with a capital of \$100,000. The subscribers are of the Thunder Bay District.

HALIFAX, N. S.—Golden Mining Group Co., incorporated; capital, \$100,000; objects, prospecting and searching for minerals in Nova Scotia; building dams, water courses, mills, crushers, houses, tramways, and plant; for winning and milling ores, constructing and maintaining telephone and telegraph lines in connection with its undertaking. The promoters are: A. Hayward, of Waverley, F. S. Andrews, of South Essex, Massachusetts, Henry Hugh Belt, A. M. Jack, and Hector McInns, of Halifax.

#### BUSINESS NOTES.

Thomas Keaough, painter, Ottawa, is dead.

J. Devine & Co., plumbers, Montreal, have dissolved.

Alfred Blais, tinsmith and plumber, Montreal, has assigned.

J. C. Rowley, painter, Vancouver, B.C., is reported to have left the place.

Wilfred Barbau, plumber, Ottawa, is reported to have assigned to W. A. Cole.

Louis Vanesse, tinsmith, St. Maurice, Que., is reported to have left the place.

Boivin & Wilson have formed a partnership in Montreal to deal in plate glass.

A. Blondin and O. Daoust have formed a partnership as plumbers at St. Hyacinthe, Que.

The Hull Cement Works, at Hull, Que., will be resumed by C. B. Wright & Co. at an early date.

E. C. Mount has been registered proprietor of the plumbing business of E. C. Mount & Co., Montreal.

The liabilities of D. A. McKenzie & Co., varnish manufacturers, Toronto, are placed at \$10,000, and assets \$24,000.

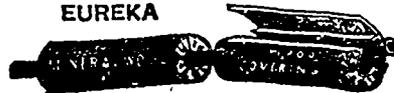
The Diehl Manufacturing Co., King street west, Toronto, manufacturers of mantels, grates and tiles, have gone into liquidation. Liabilities estimated at \$18,000.

Wm. Simpson, builder, Toronto, has made an assignment to David Blackley, caused by the decline of building trade and failures of other concerns. Liabilities \$6,500; assets nominally the same.

#### FIREPROOF MATERIALS.

An important inquiry is about to be undertaken in New York with the object of determining the value of various materials used in the construction of fireproof buildings. The experiments will be on a grand scale, and will resemble the actualities of a fire as nearly as possible. The committee will consist of representatives of the New York Architectural League, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the Tariff Association of New York. The plant will include a gas producer to supply the fuel gas, so arranged to receive a spray of petroleum in case higher temperatures may be required than those obtained from the combustion of gas alone. Furnaces for testing; full-sized columns and floors will be erected. The foundations of these furnaces will consist of side walls with an arch between them, thus making a safe place for the introduction of the gas pipes and for the hydraulic cylinder. On the top of this foundation will be erected a room built of the materials to be tested. The columns will be loaded by pressure from the hydraulic cylinder, and, during the tests, a safe load, such as is prescribed by the building laws of the city, will be put upon it. The arches for the floors will be loaded by dead weight. Every precaution will be taken by the committee to make the tests uniform as regards temperature, drought, cooling by water streams, &c., so that the results may be comparable.

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