

destroyed by fire a few months ago, have approved of the plans for a new house of worship. A site has been purchased at the corner of Henry and Martha streets.

QUEBEC, QUE.—The local Government seems to have given up the idea of erecting a new Normal school here, and has handed over the site secured for the proposed structure, to a new order of nuns, called the French Sisters of Adoration, recently incorporated, who are about to erect buildings thereon.—Plans have been prepared for the new Richelieu line building to be erected on Dalhousie street. It will cost about \$16,000.

QUEBEC, QUE.—Mr. M. O'Connor is having plans prepared for the rebuilding of his store on Wyndham street recently destroyed by fire, and as soon as the plans are ready tenders will be asked for. The building will be three stories in height.—Mr. James Goldie will make considerable improvements to his mill this year, adding a quantity of new machinery.—Messrs. G. B. Ryan, E. R. Bollert and Jas. C. Kelcher have in contemplation the erection of fine residences on the old Elliot property on Dublin street and London road, the plans for which are now being prepared.

HAMILTON, ONT.—At a meeting of the City Council held last week the recommendation of the Board of Works that a Trinidad asphalt pavement be constructed on King and James streets at a total cost of \$117,000, was laid over until the next meeting of the council. The report of the Sewers Committee asking for an appropriation of \$20,800 for the purpose of constructing the west sewer from Locke street easterly towards James street, was concurred in.—Building permits have been granted as follows: Messrs. Bush & Hennessy, four brick stores and two two-story brick dwellings at the south east corner John and Augusta streets, to cost \$9,500; John Doherty, four two-story brick dwellings on Burlington street, between John and Hughson streets, to cost \$4,000.

KINGSTON, ONT.—Messrs. W. McKee and J. McParland, of this city, have been appointed directors of the company which proposes to erect the new hotel on Bostwick Island, near Gananoque, the cost of which will be about \$50,000.—It is stated that the Brockville and Westport railway changed hands, and that the road would be extended to Shurbot Lake next summer.—The Board of Trade intend asking the Government for the Tetu de Pont barracks for a site for an elevator to be built this spring, if possible, at a cost of \$150,000. It will be built by private enterprise.—Mr. Arthur Ellis, architect, is preparing plans for a brick residence to be erected on William street for Mr. Leslie, of the firm of Swift & Co.—The City Engineer will receive tenders until the 16th inst. for the supply of plank walks and crossings.

MONTREAL, QUE.—The colony of Russia and Roumanian Jews in this city have purchased the houses at No. 14 and 16 Cheneville street and will convert them into a synagogue to meet the requirements of their religion.—An application has been made to the Road Committee for permission to erect a planing mill at the corner of Richael and Papineau streets. A new Committee has been appointed to report on the matter.—A new retaining wall on Seigneurs street will probably be built, the present wall being in a very dangerous condition. The City Surveyor will report to the Finance Committee on the matter.—The City Council will be asked to grant the sum of \$2,000 for repairing the Nelson monument on Jacques Cartier square.—The authorities have decided to make some alterations and improvements to the post office building, among which will be the addition of an elevator.—Vicomte de la Barthe, Secretary Maisonneuve Monument Committee, will receive tenders until the 18th inst. for the erection of the Maisonneuve monument, to be executed in granite. Plans may be seen at the office of Messrs. Perrault, Mesnard & Venne.

OTTAWA, ONT.—At a recent meeting of the Park Commissioners it was decided to advocate the erection of a bridge across the canal locks from Major's hill park to Parliament hill, and a committee comprising the Mayor, Commissioners Askwith, Heney and Patterson were appointed to interview the Government to see if the work would be undertaken by the Department of Public Works.—Mr. Samuel Bingham, Chairman Board of Works, will receive tenders until Wednesday, the 15th inst., for the supply of bricks, cedar planks, hardware and explosives, vitrified fire clay sewer pipe, plank sidewalks and crossing and artificial stone pavements required by the Board of Works Department during the current year.—A deputation from the Ottawa Board of Trade recently interviewed the Government urging the erection of a new fireproof building in which to place the collection of minerals contained in the geological survey department.—A committee of sanitary experts was appointed recently by the federal government to prepare a report showing the precautions to be taken by the Dominion and Provincial governments against the invasion of cholera. The committee have reported that Grosse Isle, Halifax, St. John, Chatham, N. B., and William's Head should be equipped with deep water wharves, steam cylinders, tanks for bichloride of mercury solution, sulphur dioxide blasts, suitable water supply, hospital and accommodation buildings for the detention of passengers, also that a fully equipped quarantine station be established at Winnipeg.—A movement has been commenced towards secur-

ing the construction of a canal to connect Lake St. Clair with Lake Erie. Colonel Tisdale, M. P., is said to be strongly in favor of the project. The proposed route offers no engineering difficulties, as the entire line is nearly level.

TORONTO, ONT.—It is understood that Mr. E. Burke, architect, Toronto street, will be given the designing and supervision of the new buildings which Mr. Robt. Simpson proposes to erect at the corner of Yonge and Queen streets. It is now definitely stated that the building will be erected. Those interested in the matter are said to be Messrs. E. B. Osler, Robert Simpson and A. R. Parsons.—Work will be commenced at once to restore the buildings at the Central Prison which were destroyed by fire on Saturday last.—Lump tenders are wanted at 35 Adelaide street west for a solid brick building.—Mr. Alexander Manning has had plans prepared for a large ten-story building to be erected on the north east corner of King and Bay streets where the Molsons Bank is now situated. The cost will be between \$300,000 and \$400,000 and the entire front will be of granite. Mr. Manning contemplated the erection of this building a year ago, but could not then agree with the Molsons bank authorities as to the terms on which they would surrender their lease of the present building. The bank is now believed to be ready to join in the deal for the erection of the new building, which will probably be gone on with as soon as the season opens.—At the recent meeting of the Provincial Board of Health the following resolutions were passed: "that this board having considered the proposal submitted by the city of Windsor for the extension of the water intake to a point above Walkerville, uncontaminated by sewage from that town, hereby approves the same, and does further urge co-operation of Windsor with Walkerville: "that this board approves of the source of supply proposed for the waterworks of Peterboro, provided precaution be taken to protect the source of supply from pollution"—It is understood that Mr. Samuel Nordheim intends to replace his present warehouse on King street by a building of much larger dimensions.—The National Club will shortly commence to re-construct the old U. E. Club building on King street recently purchased by them.—During the coming summer the proprietors of the *World* contemplate erecting a new five-story building on the site of their present premises on Yonge street.—The School Management Committee have recommended to the Collegiate Institute Board that a corridor be constructed lengthwise through the Jarvis street Collegiate Institute building on the first floor and that the seats in some of the class rooms be rearranged. The matter was referred to the property committee to report an estimate of the cost. The Board has decided to proceed at once with the necessary repairs to the roof of the same building, in accordance with a report sent in by Mr. Miller, architect.—The Street Commissioner has recommended the extension of the sewer at the foot of Simcoe street into deep water, at a cost of \$2,850, also that the Brock street dock be widened from 18 to 38 feet, at a cost of \$2,700, and that the wharf be extended southerly 100 feet into the lake, at a cost of \$2,900.—Building permits have been granted as follows: R. W. Harper, 680 Queen st. E., 2 story b. l. dwelling, 29 Hamilton st., cost \$11,400; E. J. Hobson, 43 Wood st., six att. 3 story brick stores and dwellings, s. w. cor. Yonge and Agnes st. cost \$14,500.—Mr. E. J. Lennox, architect, invites tenders until the 15th inst. for the excavation work required in connection with the erection of two large public buildings, one on the southeast corner of Queen and Jarvis streets, and the other on the southwest corner of Victoria and Shuter streets.—Mr. Thomas Crawford, Chairman Property Committee, will receive tenders until the 16th inst. for the erection of an addition to the City Registry office. Plans may be seen at the office of Mr. E. Burke, architect, Toronto street.

FIRES.

The manufacturing portion of the St. John's Stone-Chinaware Company's Works, owned and operated by Messrs. D. & A. MacDonald, was burned to the ground on Saturday last. The loss is estimated at \$100,000, on which there is \$52,000 of insurance.—Mr. J. E. Martineau's hardware store on St. Joseph street, St. Rochs, Que., was destroyed by fire last week. The loss is estimated at \$25,000, on which there is an insurance of \$20,000.—The wood-working department at the Central Prison, Toronto, a brick building 250 x 50 feet, together with all the machinery and tools, was destroyed by fire on Saturday last. The loss on the building is estimated at \$20,000, and on the machinery and tools \$30,000. There was no insurance on the building.—An explosion occurred in the manufactory of the Ontario Silver Company at Humbertstone, Ont., by which the building and plant was almost totally destroyed. The damage to the building, which was a large one, is very extensive. The plant was valued at \$75,000, but it is thought some of it is not much injured.—A building at Lakefield, Ont., owned by the Lakefield Lumber Company and occupied by Strickland & Co. as a canoe factory, Gerald Fitzgerald as a blacksmith shop, and the Lakefield Electric Light Company, has been completely destroyed by fire. The losses are as follows: Building \$1,500, partly insured; Lakefield Electric Light Co. \$3,000, no insurance; Strickland & Co. about \$2,500, partly insured; G. Fitzgerald \$300.—A

building on Barrington street, Halifax, owned by the estate of the late W. Mackintosh, was destroyed by fire last week. It was insured for \$1,500, which will probably cover the loss.—A deputation consisting of Mayor Essery, Ald. Coe, Fitzgerald and Parnell, and Mr. A. O. Graydon, city engineer, recently visited Montreal for the purpose of enquiring into the question of fire alarms, electric lighting, and the cremating of garbage.—The store of Fred Ward, at Thurso, Que., together with the post office and G. N. W. Telegraph Company's office, were destroyed by fire on the 3rd inst. The building was owned by Mr. George Edwards, whose loss is about \$3,000.—Fire at Wawanesa, Man., on Friday of last week destroyed the following places: Arkell & Co., druggists; Newman, barber; O. E. Lambert, furniture and general store; Wm. Gorrie, harness maker; Joseph Woodley, butcher, Chambers & Co., private bankers; R. J. Nethercott, hardware; Dr. Anderson's office.—The brass works at Mimico, Ont., operated by the American Copper Co., were destroyed by fire on Monday night last. The loss on building and machinery is estimated at \$40,000, with insurance amounting to \$15,000. The work of reconstruction will be commenced immediately.—The Royal Hotel at Port Edward, Ont., has been destroyed by fire. It was a two-story frame building, the loss being about \$700.—The Grand Palace Hotel at Quebec, opposite the C. P. R. depot, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday last. Loss, \$12,000.

BIDS.

TORONTO, ONT.—The sub-committee of the Board of Works opened tenders on Tuesday last for the reclamation of Ashbridge's Bay, also for the removal of the bathhouses on the Esplanade. Three tenders were received for the Ashbridge's Bay improvements, the figures being as follows: No. 1, dredging marsh channel, \$62,102; dredging in lake and construction of jetty, \$77,120; cribbing in lieu of jetty, \$54,330. No. 2, dredging marsh channel, \$95,000; construction of jetty, \$44,964; cribbing in lieu of jetty, \$50,500. No. 3, dredging marsh channel, \$39,337; construction of jetty, \$15,349; cribbing in lieu of jetty, \$14,352. Two tenders were received for the removal of the bathhouses, the figures being \$8,000 and \$5,800. The city engineer will report on all the tenders.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

OTTAWA, ONT.—Mr. James Strachan, of this city, has been awarded the contract for additions to St. Andrew's Presbyterian church.

ELMSDALE, ONT.—Messrs. McKenzie & Horne have been awarded the contract for building a large store house for Mr. G. P. Reid.

VANCOUVER, B. C.—Mr. E. Cook has been awarded the contract for the construction of the new court house. The contract price is about \$50,000.

SARNIA, ONT.—The Sarnia Township Council has received the following tenders for the construction of the Tallowford street drain: Peter Wilson, \$1.44 per rod, culvert, \$45.00; Wm. Rowe and Wm. Miller, \$1.48, culvert \$50.00; Isaac Gallie and Geo. Felton, \$1.65 per rod; E. G. Luckins and Jas. Wilkins, \$800.00 for the completion of the work, including culvert. The tender of E. G. Luckins and Jas. Wilkins has been accepted.—Mr. G. A. Proctor has been awarded the contract for the erection of the new Kelly block on Lochiel street.

HALFAX, N. S.—The Board of Works have accepted the following tenders for annual supplies. International Tile and Brick company, of Bridgetown, for 150,000 bricks at \$8.70 per thousand; F. Hyde & Co., of Montreal, for Scotch drain pipe; Black Bros. & Co. for Coronet brand of cement at \$2.35 per barrel. Tenders for valves for the new pipe line have also been received from the Ludlow Manufacturing Co., the Glenfield Co., the Doherty Manufacturing Co., H. H. Fuller & Co. and Austen Bros. Tenders for cast iron water pipe line were received from the Londonery Iron Co., H. H. Fuller & Co., D. T. Stewart and Cunningham & Curren. A tender was received from Garston, Bruce & Co., who offered to complete the work for \$190,000. The tenders for valves and cast iron pipe were handed to the engineer to report on.

LEGAL DECISIONS.

Messrs. McKelvey & Birch, of Kingston asked for a plumbers license in Brockville to do work secured by tender, were refused because they had no place of business in town, and were brought before the police court for doing work without a license. The magistrate dismissed the action, holding the by-law to be *ultra vires* because it placed restraint upon trade.

A quick drying varnish for floors, which gives a high gloss, can be obtained by melting one part of D. C. Shellac and five parts of pale resin. Draw your fire and add six parts of 90 per cent. neutral spirits, slightly warmed, and one-twentieth part camphor. Every pound of this varnish will cover 35 sq. ft. of previously primed flooring.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

TEST LOADS FOR BRIDGES.

Quite a lively little controversy has been going on for several weeks past in some of the German technical journals on the value of test loads for bridges, a matter which, at various times, has been discussed at such length that it might well have been considered as disposed of definitely and finally. The immediate cause of its revival appears to have been given by the results of a recent examination, by a railroad company, of one of the iron bridges on its line, the examination having revealed the existence of a very considerable degree of local corrosion. Test loading of the bridge, just before and again just after this discovery was made, showed only a moderate degree of deflection, well within what was considered a permissible limit, and the company accordingly took the stand that the safety of the bridge was practically unimpaired, and that the structure might be continued in use without re-inforcement or repairs. Thereupon the *Centralblatt de Bauverwaltung* took up the matter, criticising the conclusions of the company, and giving emphasis to the fact that while unduly great deflection of a structure under a test load unquestionably demonstrates weakness, moderate deflection is no guarantee whatever of safety. The way having thus been paved for further discussion, several correspondents were not slow to avail themselves of it and the bombardment with letters *pro* and *con*, therefore, merrily proceeded. After all, however, the fact remains that the position taken by our German contemporary is substantially correct, and by far the larger number of bridge engineers both here and abroad, will readily agree to it. Test loading of a bridge really seems to be but a strangely surviving relic of the usual opening ceremonies, and with the development of the science of bridge building, has gradually lost all significance as a measure of safety. The reason why it has been retained may be found largely in the fact that, in general, it lends impressiveness to the ceremonies which usually accompany the completion of a bridge or its surrender to traffic, and, further, that the public wants some ocular demonstration of a structure's sustaining power before putting any trust in it. To the engineer, however, the application of a test load tells nothing that his strain sheets have not already told him. It is strange only that there are still some practicing engineers who will not admit this.—*The Mechanical News.*

LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

IN RE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH NORFOLK v. WARREN.—This was an application by a defendant in an action brought against him in a county court by a rural municipality, to prohibit further proceedings in the action. The claim was for taxes on a half section of land for the year 1888, 1890 and 1891, and interest. The defendant entered a dispute note, whereby he denied liability, on the ground that he was not the owner of the land in question before the year 1891, and that previously to 16th October, 1800, the land was Crown land, the property of the Dominion of Canada, and exempt from taxation, the land on the last mentioned date having been purchased from the Crown by Duncan McArthur. The defendant also disputed the jurisdiction of the County Court to try the action so far as it related to taxes accrued before the year 1891, on the ground that the title to the land was in question. He paid into the Court the amount claimed for taxes for 1891. The action came on for trial on 10th June, 1892, and counsel for the defendant objected at the outset to the jurisdiction of the Court. The judge of County Court, however, proceeded with the trial. For the plaintiffs the assessment and collection rolls for the various years were produced and put in evidence. In the assessment rolls the defendant was