

MARKET CONDITIONS.

Some material changes have lately taken place in the prices of building materials. Wire nails are now quoted in carload lots as follows: Montreal, \$1.85; Toronto, \$1.95; Hamilton, \$1.95; London, \$2. Carload lots will be ten cents per keg less. The above are the prices retailers are required to pay to the local jobbers, but the schedule does not affect the maritime provinces.

There has been an advance in price of wrought iron piping and tubing in the United States. In Canada prices of iron pipe, both black and galvanized, have advanced about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The demand is good, and it is impossible to obtain prompt deliveries. The following are the prices under the new and old lists:

	New list. Per 100 ft.	Old list. Per 100 ft.
Black pipe.		
$\frac{1}{4}$ inch.....	\$2 05	\$1 90
$\frac{1}{2}$ ".....	2 05	1 90
$\frac{3}{4}$ ".....	2 45	2 35
1 ".....	2 90	2 84
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".....	4 20	3 91
2 ".....	5 35	5 25
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".....	6 90	6 66
3 ".....	9 35	8 97
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".....	13 60
Galvanized.		
$\frac{1}{4}$ ".....	4 25	4 15
$\frac{1}{2}$ ".....	5 25	5 00
1 ".....	7 25	7 00
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".....	10 00	9 70
2 ".....	14 00	13 00
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".....	19 00	17 25

From Montreal comes the report of activity in the cement market. A sale of 1,500 barrels of English for western account was put through last week at \$2.10 ex wharf, and two other lots of 1,000 and 500 barrels respectively at \$1.85 and \$1.90. The freight on Belgian cement has advanced 2s 6d per ton, and this will no doubt have a tendency to strengthen the market. Over 148,000 fire bricks arrived last week. There is a fair demand at \$15 to \$21.

PLASTERING.

In damp locations, cellars that are partly under ground, should have their inside walls made of brick or stone, and they should be "strapped" inside, and lathed

and plastered with a mortar compound of one part of Portland cement, and two parts of clean sharp sand, says the National Builder. Lath for this mixture should be narrower than ordinary lath, and should have less key, as this mortar is stiff and crumbly, and will not stick on like other mortar. A good way is to first plaster the wall with common hair mortar, then, before this coat is quite dry, apply the cement about a quarter of an inch thick. A wall finished this way becomes as hard as rock, and is impervious to damp of any kind. The hose may be turned on it to clean it, without doing it the least injury.

Lathing should not be too dry when nailed in place, as when too dry they absorb the moisture from the mortar too suddenly and prevent the lime and sand from becoming homogeneous, which leaves the mortar impoverished and weak. Beside, the lath swell with the water absorbed, and then when dry, shrink back to their proper width, leaving the "key" loose between the lath. Some experienced builders wet their laths before using them, indeed, keeping them for from twelve to twenty-four hours in order to prevent them from "drinking" the water from the fresh mortar. Another thing, a lath having in it a streak of "fat," or "pitch," should never be used, as it will most assuredly keep the lime soft that covers it. Neither should lath "green" with sap be used. We have seen some capital plastered work spoiled because of "green" sappy

lath having been used, the dirty coloring of the sap having penetrated through the rough coats to the finish.

It is one of the crying faults with carpenters that they do not make their studs on strapped walls as true on the face as they might, and often the plasterer has to "true" up his wall by putting heavy patches of brown mortar here, and a very thin coat there, which, drying unequally, renders the plastering good in some places and weak and poor in others. It should be remembered that it is impossible to over-float a surface. The more it is floated and rubbed in, the stronger and better the work will be. This is doubly true of the last coat. Plasterers should devise some means by which the whole side of a room should be finished without moving their scaffolding, as nothing looks worse than to see where "laps" have been made in the finish coat.

Stamford & Co., plumbers, have started business at Nelson, B. C.

SCORIA PAVING BLOCKS are the Best All-Round Paving Material yet discovered.
W. H. KNOWLTON & CO.,
Dealers in Contractors' Supplies, 36 King St. E., Toronto

Please mention the CONTRACT RECORD when corresponding with advertisers.

CHARLES HUGHES - Milton West, Ont.

All Kinds of Municipal Work

CURBING, CROSSING, CHANNELLING, FLAGGING, ETC.

Rough Heavy Lime-stone for Breakwater Cribbing, Etc.)

Credit Valley Grey Dimension, any size, Sills, Steps, Coursing, Bridge Blocks, Engine Beds.

— Estimates Given for All Kinds of Cut Work —

THE THREE RIVERS IRONWORKS CO.

Montreal Office: IMPERIAL BUILDING.

THREE RIVERS, P. Q.

MANUFACTURERS OF

Cast Iron Water and Gas Pipes

of best quality, from 2 inches in diameter.

HYDRANTS, VALVES and GENERAL CASTINGS.

CAST IRON WATER PIPES

From 4 in. to 36 in. Diameter.

BELL AND SPIGOT • TURNED AND BORED

AND EVERYTHING NECESSARY FOR

A Complete Water or Gas System

SUPPLIED BY — The **LONDONDERRY IRON CO., Limited**

LONDONDERRY, NOVA SCOTIA

THE MOST COMPLETE IRON WORKS IN CANADA (ESTABLISHED 1852.)

Send for Drawings and Estimates of our work.

ALL PIPES CAST VERTICALLY

WE MAKE

PIG IRON
WATER PIPES
PUDDLED BAR
HYDRANTS, VALVES
PIPE SPECIALS
HEAVY CASTINGS
STRUCTURAL WORK
ARCHITECTURAL WORK
MACHINE WORK
HYDRAULIC MACHINERY
TURBINES
BAR IRON

MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES

wanted for foreign clients. We can place Debentures direct with foreign clients without charge to municipalities.

: : : Commission allowed to persons introducing new business : : :

ÆMILIUS JARVIS & CO.

(Member Toronto Stock Exchange)
Stock and Bond Brokers. Investment Agents.

23 King St. West, TORONTO

ELECTRIC RAILWAY BONDS PURCHASED.

STOCK EXCHANGE ORDERS PROMPTLY EXECUTED