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TO ADVERTISERS.

For the benefit of Advertisers, a copy of this journal is mailed each week to persons mentioned in the CONTRACT RECORD reports as intending to build, with a request to consult our advertisement pages and write advertisers for material, machinery, etc.

Efflorescence on Brick.

At the annual convention of the National Brick Manufacturers Association of the United States, held recently in Buffalo, the vexed question of how to prevent the appearance of efflorescence on the surface of brick, was discussed at considerable length. The consensus of opinion of the most experienced manufacturers was that the solution of the difficulty lies in slow firing and drying and in maintaining as large a flow of air as possible through the kiln until the water smoke shall have evaporated the moisture.

Warning to Architects.

ARCHITECTS need to exercise care in granting certificates to contractors to see that work has actually been done, at least to the amount of the value of the certificate. Mention has recently been made in the technical journals of instances in which damages were recovered from architects for sums for which certificates had been granted in excess of the work done. The English and Canadian courts have both decided that the architect should be held liable to pay the difference between the amount of his certificate and the value of the work done, in cases where it can be shown that the contractor has been overpaid.

Effect of Mining Speculation.

IN common with all who desire to witness the prosperous development of the Dominion, we rejoice at the recent evidences of mineral wealth in British Columbia, as well as in Northern and Eastern Ontario. We would like to indulge the hope that as these evidences become widely published population will rapidly come to us, affording the enlarged home market which is so necessary to our future progress. On the other hand, it is cause for regret that seemingly this cannot take place without the evils attendant upon mining speculation. Notwithstanding the fact that Eastern Canada in general and the city of Toronto in particular, have for several years been passing through a period of severe business depression, we see tens of thousands of dollars properly belonging to the business capital of the older provinces being sunk in mining stocks. A large percentage of this money will never be heard of again, and from stocks which may prove productive no returns are likely to be received in the near future. It will thus be seen that the large amount of money which is being withdrawn from the ordinary channels of trade for