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facturers of and dealers in building materinis and appliances.

## C. H. MORTIMELR, Publisher,

 14. King Street West. - TORONTO, CANADA. TEMPIE BUILDING, MONTREAL. The Canapian Aicilitect and Bullplek will Le mailed to any sddress in Canada
or the United Siates for $\$ 2.00$ per ycar. The price 10 subscribers in forion
 discontinued at expiration of term paid for, if so stipulated by the subscriber; bat where no such understanding exist, it will be continued until instructions to disconlimue are received and all arrearages are paic.

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Tho Ontario Amoolation of rirchitcets hitw mppolited the "Gtaite


The twblisher of the "The Ganadian Archilect and Itulider" desires to ensure the regular and prompt dolivery of this Journoll to every swberiter. and requests that any cause of complaint in this particular be reporicd al once to the office of prablication. Subscribers who ulty chanse their address should elso give Arompl notice of same, and in doink su, shonld give both the old and neat address.

THE recent heary' mins are said to have caused severe loss to brickmakers in Toromo and its viciminy. A very large proportion of the bricks intended for buruing in the second and largest kilns of the se:tson were dlissolved into at shapeless mass, and in consequence bricks llis season al least are likely to be at a premium.

THiE Canadian customs authoritics are at present very much exercised in attempling to prevent the importation of an alleged scindalous Americim newspaper. Might we be Illowed to suggest that a mater of breater importance awaits their attention, viz, the methoel by which the American architect of several large buildings now in course of construction in Canada succeeds in gelting his platus for the same imo the Dominion without paying duty thereon. The protection which is supposed to be afforded Canaclian architects by the tariff will be of no berefit whatever until steps are tiken to prevent the wholesile smuggling which for several years past has been carried on under the noses of the customs officers.

DOMINION Govermment engineers recomly visited Montreal and examined the plaws, etc., in conuection with the proposed scleme for the improvement of the tarbbor. Their report, which has just been presented to the Minister of Public Works, states that owing to the variable effects of the ice flowbeing seldom alike for two consecutive sensons--cire should be taken not to rely upon uncertain theories. It is recommended
that careful study should be made of the valuable information obtained under the direction of the Montreal Flood Commission of 1886 , and of the action of the ice in the hatbor in connection with any projected work of improvement in the upper part of the harbor of Hontreal before the Covermment could be advised to sanction unconditionally the construction of any such rork.

WE have several times called attention to the fact that the building by-law of the city of Hamilton as a dead-letter. It provides that withit certain defined areas no materials other than iron, stone or brick shall enter into the construction of new buildings or additions to existing structures. Also, that the plans must be submitted to and have the approval of the Building lnspector, on whose permit alone the construction of the buikling may le undertation. A few days ago at citizen summoned a ncighbor before the courts for having vinlated the law, when the jurlge's enquiries elicited the information that atthough the by-law had been in existence four years, a Buikling lospector hat never been appointed, and in the absence of the mecessiry mathinery for putting it into operation. structures of every character suited to the tastes of the owners had been going up within the fire limits. I'robably as the result of this exposure of the condition of affairs, we are pleased to observe that the city conncil have appointed a Butaling Inspector in the person of Mr. I'eter laalfour. Under his direction let us hope, a correct recorl will be kept of the number, character, location and cost of every structure hereafter erected in the city. It is also to be hoped that the construction of no buikling will be allowed to commence until the plans thereol shall have been approved and a permit granted by the lluilding Inspector.
$\mathcal{T}$ is, we belicve, not fencratly known that Canadian property owners in these closing years of the nineteenth centery are still subject under certailn circumstances to provisions of lBritish latws whose enactment is said to date back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Such is however the fact, absurd thought it may appenr. Under one of these old statutes an action was recently brought in the Toronto Courts by the manater of an incorporated company to prevent a neighboring firm from increasing the height of their buikdings, on the ground that there eloing so would interfere with the side-light which the plaintifis had enjoyed for a periokl upwarls of (wenty years. The plaintifts claimed to be entitled under the statue in question, in a sky-line at ath angle of 45 degrees from their lowest side-light sill. Now withstanding that the buidding the height of which it was proposed to increase was separated from them by an open space to feet in width, and would in reality have no appreciable effect upon their side-light, they absolutely refused to accept any offers of remuneration for their alleged deprivation, and the defendants were obliged to alter their buikling in such a uaty as to comply with the requirements of the statute. Auoher case to which our attention has been directed is that of a firm who are prevented from butiding upon the rear portion of their property because the windows of buildings on land adjoining liave overlooked and received light from (his vacant space for a period of twenty years. An Act recently passed by the Ontario leegislature will for the future
override the provisions of the ancient enactment, but this Act not being retrospective, all persons in the enjoyment of a sidelight for twenty years prior to the passing of the Ontario haw can enforce by legal process their right to a continuance of the same*

THE Toronto Colleginte Institute Board have invited architects to submit competitive designs for their proposed new building. A glance at the circular issued by the Board to the architects is sufficient to show that nothing but regret and annoyance is likely to be the reward of any architect who may engage in this competition. About the only thing in the way of detailed information afforded by the circular is that "the Property Committee reserves to itsoff the power of selecting or refusing any or all designs submitted," and "the Board will, if they deem fit, award the sum of $\$ 100$ to second best plan, and $\$ 50$ to third." The Secretary of the O. A. A. pointed out to the Collegiate Board that if they hoped to enlist the services of the most skillful men in the profession, the conditions would have to be revised in many particulars. The correspondence which took place on the subject lias been printed and forwarded to each member of the O. A. A. The chairmatn of the Collegiate Institute Board promised to have the terms of the competition amended as suggested, in order that they might prove acceptable to the architects, but this was not done, the chairman of the Property Committee to whom the matter was referred, being of the opinion that no changes were necessary, which opinion he supplemented by the impertinent remark that, the Ontario Association of Architects apparently wanted the brains of the Board to guide them, whereas the loard desired to get the brain-power and skill of the Ontario Association of Architects. The circumstances would have justified him in adding that the object of the lloard was to get the brain-power and skill without paying for it. In the competition, nothing like a detailed statement of the refuuirements has been given, no expert is to be appointed to judge the plans, and the Board reserves the right to reject all the designs sent in, or "should they see fit," they may award the magnificent amounts of $\$ 100$ and $\$ 50$ respectively! What a brilliant conception this of justice and the etermal fitness of things, to say nothing of liberality! We might ask the architects of Ontario these questions: "What think you of the estimate placed upon the value of the services you can rencler? How do you propose to show your appreciation of this estimate? As an architect in another column correctly puts it, it rests with you to say what kind of treatment shall be accorded you. If architects will individually and as a profession resent such unfair treatment, and show their esfrit de corps by refusing to have anything whatever to do with such unsatisfactory affairs, the building competitions evil, which is stendily growing worse, will soou be remedied. There is another side to this question, and it is that the taxpayers of Toronto will be called upon to pay. for the proposed Collcgiate Institute building, and have a right to insist that the best design obtainable shatl be secured. It is a foregone conclusion, however, that the most skillful architects will not enter the competition, and conseguently the probabibiities are all opposed to the idea that the design chosen will be the best which might have been had.

THROUGH the mediation of the President of the Toronto Board of Trade, conferences of the parties to the dispute in the building trades in the city have taken place, and have resulted in a settement. The stonecutters, whose demand was for 45 cents per hour, or an increase of 7 cents per hour, lave agreed to accept 43 cents for a period of three years from April Ist ; the agreement with the bricklayers is for five years at 35 cents per hour for the first year and 36 cents for the subsequent four years; the laborers are to be paid 20 cents for one year, and 21 cents for four years following; and the stonemasons, 35 cents for two years and 36 cents for three years. A clause in the agreement provides that a conference between the parties thereto shall be held four months prior to its termination to consider all matuers as to their future relations. While the entire community will doubtless find in this adjustment of the difficult;; a subject of congratulation, there will come coriesponding regret that the strike was not by such a reasonable course of action, entirely
prevented. Had that been done, many building projects would now be under waty which under the circumstances have been temporarily if not permanently abandoned; each individual workman would have been from one to two hundred dollars better off than at present; and the business community would not have had to struggle with the difficultics imposed upon it by the withdrawal from circulation of a large amount of money, and the uecessity of supplying on credit the necessaries of life to the strikers and their families, many of whom, no doubt, as is usual at the close of every winter, were in debt when the strike began. It is but another illustration of the hardship and loss which invariably result from'receurse to strike methods

The present is a fiting time to enguire what course should be adopted for the future in deciding the relationship as to rate of wages, hours of labor, etc., of the employec to his employer. The clause in the agreement just concluded in Toronto which provides that a conference shatl be held four months before the agreement expires, is a step in the right direction, and seems to indicate that wiser counsels will hereafter prevail. This is the manner in which we hope to see what is known as the "labor problem" solved. There are other methods by which to solve it, but they are not in keeping with the progress which the world is making in other directions in. this nimeteenth century. One good suggestion - made by one of our correspondents elsewhere is, for the employers to throw the responsibility of refusing to grant an increase of wages upon the proprictors of new buildings. If this were done, pulblic opinion would very soon be brought to bear for the speedy settlement of all strikes. If the demands for increased wages continue to arise, the contractors will have no other course open to them than to charge the extra amount to the cost of the building. This would undoubtedly react seriously upon the welfare of the workmen, and indeed the entire community, by greatly reducing the volume of building operations. It is to be hoped that workmen will perceive that this question has more than one bearing upon their interests, and therefore requires to be looked at from different standpoints. Neither should it be forgotten that conditions in the building trades are subject to change, and the rate of wages which can be paid in an exceptionally prosperous season should not be expected or demanded under reversed conditions. Last year, for example, certain contractors in Toronto required to have so much stonecutting done in a specified time, that they offered to pay seven cents per hour above the union rate of wages. This exceptional circumstance, we are informed, led to the demand being made this year by the stonecutters for an advance to 45 cents per hour-their method of reasoning being that as some contractors paid llis figure last year, they were able to pay it for all time to come. The fact that the present season promised to be much less active than last, seems never to have been considered. We point to these circumstances in the bope that such narrow views as too often have marked the past, will not be allowed to prevail in the future, but that recognition will be accorded the fact that the interests of capital and labor are identical.

THE Canadian correspondent of the Americun Architect embodied in one of his recent letters the following statements: "The architects of the Province of Quebec are talking about the formation of a Provincial Association and seeking legislation on the lines of the association of Ontario. A meeting for this purpose was said to be announced to be held in Montreal, but nothing secms to have come of it, and indeed what else could one expect when for the last twenty years attempts have been made to draw the architects logellier but atl have failed. The jealousics of Montreal's architects are positively ridiculous. lieginning with the natural dislike that usually exists between 'two of a trade,' this leeling is stimulated into an antipathy in the hearts of one raceagainst the other, and the English speaking and the French are separated by a wide gulf. This natural racial dislike culminates in a gencral hatred of every individual in the profession, and so the formation of an association among such very unethical men is an impossibility. The Quebec association, however, very kindly wishes to embrace all the Montreal archi-
tects, but they have stayed proceedings until the Ontario architects' bill should have been passed or thrown out, in order to see what chances they were likely to have of success. Perlaps if the Montreal men get some kind friend to take them by the hand they may be induced to embrace each other." (The italics are ours.)

Most of the statements contained in the above extract are so entirely at variance with the situation at present existing in Quebec, that in justice to the architects of that province, more particularly those of the city of Montreal, we feel it to be a duty to enter our strong protest against them, as well as to expose their "positively ridiculous" misrepresentations. We can assure the profession in Ontano and elsewhere that hatred is not the prevailing sentiment among the architects of Montreal and the province of Quebec ; that something has come of the efforts being made to form a l'rovincial association; that the formation of such an association is not an impossibility, but at the present moment has been brought to the velge of accomplishment, and this result has been attained by the hearty co-operation of English and French architects. It is doubtess true that jealousies have existed among members of the profession in Montreal, but we would ask the correspondent in question to point to a city where licy are unknown. Certainly it cannot be said that Ontario is blameless in this respect. This being the case, why should the architects of Montreal be held up before the world as an example of "unethical men ?" Nor does it follow that the existence of jealousies and the failure of past efforts to form an association are sufficient premises upon which to declare the ultimate success of such endeavors impossible. The success which has crowned the efforts of the architects of Ontario is the best possible proof of this. The formation of the Ontario Association of Architects was accomplished in the face of strong local jealousies, and after the failure of several past atempts to secure such a result. The arehitects of Quebec bave no greater difficulties to surmount than those which their brethren in Ontario have overcome, and there is not the slightest room to doubt that equal success will attend their efforts. It is proverbially an unwise thing for people who live in glass houses to cast stones at their neighlibors. In view of the results which have followed the formation of the O. A. A. in the direction of promoting goocl-fellowship among members of the profession, enabling them to work unitedly for the uplifting of the profession and the advancement of their collective and individual interests, the Cinadian correspondent of our American contemporary might have made nobler use of his pen had he commended and sought to promote the movement on the part of the architects of Quebec for closer fraternity and the benefits arising therefrom, instead of secking to widen the gulf which in his imagination at least, exists. We are in a position to know that the sentiments which he has expressed are not shated by the members of the profession in Ontario. On the contrary, anxiety prevails to see the organization of the architects of Quebec accomplished, and any assistance which the Ontario Association through its officers may le able to give, will be checrfully accorded.

WHAT a specimen of the enlightenment of the present age is our Mechanics" Lieu Lav! "Unless he signs an agreement to the contrary, every mechanic, machinist, buikder, miner, laborer, contractor or any other person doing work upon, or furnishing materials to be used in the construction, alteration or repairs of any luilding or erection *** shall, by virtue of being so employed, or furnishing, have at lien for the price of the work, machinery or materials, upon the building ${ }^{* * *}$ and the lands accupied thereby ***," which being interpreted simply means that, if at coniractor owes a workman that he has employed upon a particular building a portion of his wages, or if the contractor has not paid for material supplied to him for a particular building, the workman or the supplier of the materiat can claim the amount due to him from the owner of the building and enforce payment of his chim from him. Was there ever a more childish law? Was there ever a law which saddled upon an imocent person the responsibilities of liabilities assumed by
a third party, that bas not been repeated before this? Surely then, it is time this iniquitous and foolish piece of legistation were taken of the Statutes. How is it possible that such an Act has become law? Its intention is to provide a protection for the workingman against his employer in case his employer turns out to be an unscrupulous man who will defraud him of his wages. But is not this protection guarmined him by the ordinary process of the law? Why should he need this special protection, and a protection which is a positive fraud upon an innocent person ? The law robs Peter to pay Paul-Paul sometimes being a rascal who, because lie thinks it is cisier to gel l'eter (the proprictor) to pay him his wages than his "boss," goes and sets the machinery of the law in motion to screw out of Peter money owed him by another person. We might just as well have a bakers' lien law, and allow the baker who makes the bread to come down upon the man who eats it, because the master baker for whom it is made and who sells it has not paid his workmatu. In a case of this sort the baker's only remedy is to sue his master for his wages. Camnot the mechanic of the building trade do the same thing? Are contractors so notoriously evilly disposed, that the men they employ need special protection? And supposing they are, and that the mechanic must be protected, surely it would be onl; fair that he should bave a lien upon the contractor's property-his horse, his cart, or his private goods and chattels. According to the lien law, the lien takes precedence of other clains upon the property or building. According to the law of sales for the recovery of mortgage on chattels, the landlord's claims for rent must first be settled and no doubt it would be easy to assign the right place for a lien holder's claim to come in, and probably directly after the landlord's would but lee fair and just ; but there should be no power in the hands of a lien holder to enforee a sate to recover his wages immediately he consilers them due. A certain time should be allowed the contractor before a lien can be taken out, or put on. As the law stands, directly a man entertains a suspicion that possibly he may not be prid just as soon as he would like to be paid, he goes and claps on a lien, to the excessive annoyance and inconvienience of the owner of the building who, believing everything is going on smoothly about his buidding and having no cause whatever to think about liens, suddenly finds this "sword of Damocles" suspended over his liead. He hais already paid the contractor the contract amounts for the material supplied and the labour expended, with the contractor's rightful profit tacked on, and to his bewidderment be finds himself surklenly called upon to pay over agmin the amount of wages and the costs of material which he has never ordered and kiows notling about, except ihat as he can see his house has been built. The proprietor's only safely against such a law is, that lie shall demand that the contractor who is successful in obtaining the work, shatl deposit with him a marked cheque or a bond from responsible men equal to : considerable portion of the cost of materials and labor sup. plied. The proprietor must protect himself as long as this law exists, and though we should be sorry to see worthy builders hampered, yet when there is such a stringent law for the protection of the employee against the employer, because some emplojers are not honest men, the good must suffer with the bad. Proprictors :und contractors should work together to get this law repealed.

THE Act of Registration of the Ontario Association of Architects, was opposed by some members in the Ontario House on the grounel that there was no necessity for it on account of the sifety of the puillic eitiner in respect to loss of life or mones: On these grounds some clauses which would hate protected the public were struck out and the Act sery much emasculated. However, it was thought that an Act that gave a few unimportant privilcges was better than no Act, and it wals determined by the professign to put it into force. This conclusion was arrived at the more readily, as the committee who had the matter in hand had every reason to believe that before many weeks would pass they would be able to cite an example which would drive home to some at least the fact that it would be advisable, to say the least, that those who professed to be arelitects should
have some slight knowledge, of construction. The few weeks have passed and the example can now be cited, iud the lesson which it teaches slriven home. What effect it may have we do not know, but of this we are assured that no one will now have the hardihood to claim that no scrious loss can result through the lack of constructional knowledge on the part of an architect. It has now become an acknowledged fact that the new Board of Trade building in this city is to all intents and purposes a dangerous structure, and that it will in part have to be reconstructed. Some months :go three storics of an inside wall fell carrying with it two stories more which were below, the whole forming a mass of broken brick and girders in the basement. Fortunately the fall of the walls took place after the workmen had left the building o: there would have been a setious loss of life. The accident as it was called (but accident it was not), resulted through overloading the brickwork carrying one end of a double girder. The brickwork was rather inferior, the pad stone was very small, and consequently when a load four or five times what it should have been, was applied, the jamb gave way and let the girclers down with the load of brickwork. This portion of wall was not the only one overloated, a pier $2^{\prime} 3^{\prime \prime} \times 1^{\prime} 10^{\prime \prime}$ would have land, if it had not given out, a load of between 80 and 90 tons without the weight of such portion of the roof as would have come upon it. Gver 20 tons per square foot was imposed upon brickwork that should not have been loaded over four tons. The furnace chimncy, with two large openings in the basement, was built of $9^{\prime \prime}$ brickwork from the ground floor to the coping stone, a beight of something over 100 feet. The architect not deeming this a sufficiently wonderful feat, actually imposed upon this poor overburdened chimney the additional task of carrying heary outside walls and a brick vault or square room, and many seluare feet of floor surface. With this load one would think that only the very best hard brick would be used, but such was not the case, ats many soft or medium brick found their way into the work. That cracks resulted and portions of the work fell down is not surprising; it would have been very much more surprising if the cracks had not appeared nor the walls fallen. The building in nearly every pate shows at lack of constructional knowledge on the part of the designer that is astonishing. Solids are over voids and voils over solids to an extent that leaves but few portions of the buildiang directly supported in the foundations. Iron columns with heary loads are placed upon brick walls with small pad stone, and iron girders are placed anywhere and everywhere and loaded without any regard to results. Not one calculation could have been made by the architect during the preparation of the drawings or during the erection of the building, or he would have discovered that he was attempting to do impossible feats in cons!ruction. But if the construction of lie building was bad in the first instance, the attempts to remedy the mistikes and to make the building safe were simply ludicrous, and did very much more harm than goot. What it will cost to make the building a reasonably safe one we do not know, nor are we able to make an approximate estimate of the depreciation in value as the result of the inferior construction. The loss sustained by the Board of Trade may be stated in the following manner: Cost of alterations and improvenents necessitated by bad construction, plus depreciation in the value of the buikling, minus whatever little saving there may have been in erecting the building as it was erected. The loss is a serious one, but the amount of it does not concern us. All that we have to do with is the fact that a building was erected which is now held by those who have knowledge of its defects as being most faulty in its constriction, some parts in fact being so faulty that the figtor of safety is nothing. It camot be urged in this case that the same result will not occur abain, or that they were exceptional circumstances which brought about this state of affairs. The crection of the building was entrusted to a committee chosen from the council of the Hoard of Trade. Now the 13oard of Trade is composed of the most capable business men in the cityewho should be able to ectet a council from among their most capable men. The council one would think would place upon the building committee from among the Board of Trade inembers those most capabic of fulfiling the duties. Notwithstanding that we believe that such was the ease, the resull is as bad as it well could be. The committee
with all its ability was not able to prevent an incompetent arclistect froin erecting a most faulty building. When such a committee was not able to prevent so ruinous a result, what can reasonably be expected of a commitice composed of men of very much inferior abilities and much less experience in such maters, if they should have to do with anincompetent architect? Every circumstance connected with this building has been fivorable to a successiul conclusion. The competition was one conducted on the most adranced principles-the expert chosen had a wide reputation in the United States for his ability as an expert; the men who were entrusted with the erection of the buililing were the equals of the most successfill business men in the community, and yet when the architects were incompetent the result is disastrous. If matters had been reversed and the architects bad been competent and the building committee composed of incompetent men, the building would almost to a certainty have been successful. All of which shows most clearly that it is necessary that there should be some misans taken to ensure the competency of every man who professes to be an architect. If the aecident which took place at the Board of Trade building had occurred during working hours and several lives had been lost, we should have lad the matter most thoroughly investigated. Hut fortunately as no lives were loss, and athough the responsibility is not reduced thereby, no effor has been made to place the responsibility on the proper shoulders, but instead, every effort has been made to keep the matter quiet. No better exampie could be given of the necessity of an Act to regulate the practice of architecture than the fact that the Board of Trade building, the erection of which was entrusted to business men the equal of any in this city, was constructed without any regard to the well known and accepted laws of stability, as the result of the employment of an incompetent architect.

## OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THROUGH an oversight, credit was not given to Messis. Castle \& Son, Montreal, the designers of the beautiful memorial window in connection with St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, which was the subject of at illustration in the CaNAdhan architect anis Bullder for May. The subject, "St. Andrew Introducing Certain Grecks to Clorist," is an original composition, displaying carciul study. The colors are a rich ruby, harmonized by greens and blucs, with sacred emblems distributed throughout.
THIKD IREMAATED DESIGN FOR CONTEDERATION 1,JFE ASSOCIATION BULLDINGS, TORONTO-JAMES BALFOUR, ARCHITECT, HAMILTON, ONT.
DESIGN FOR RESIDENCE-J. W. \& E. C. HOPRINS, ARCHITECTS, MON'TREAI.

CIARIST CHURCIT AT MIMICO-GIHSON \& SIMPSON, ARCHITECIS, TORONTO.
"canadian architect and builder" compettition for FRONT FENCE-DESIGN BY " bROWNIE" (THOS. R. JOHNSTON, TORON'RO), AWARDIED FIRST POSITION.

## TORONTO ARCHITECTURAL SKETCH CLUB.

AHAPPY combination of plasure and profit formed the programme for the regular meeting on Tuesday, May 27th. An invitation had been received from Mr. Barlow Cumberland to spend the evening at his residence on Wellington street west, where the grand architectural library collected by the late Mr. F. W. Cumberland was to be seen.
liefore the departure of the guests light refieshments were served, and the health of the host was drunk. A pleasing diver sion was a competition in drawing, corkscrews being the only instruments allowed, and in which some of those present showed a remarkable proficiency.

Possibly wearied with the hard winter's work, the Ciub relaxed at its closing mecting, Tuesday, June toth, and devoted the time to lighter pursuits. A capital programme was given by local talent, songs being rendered by Messrs. Herbert Matthews, J. A. Radford, J. J. Woolnough, H. W. Allardyce and J. H. Fawell, the latter cloing good service as accompanyist on the


Third Preminted Design for Confederation Life Association Bullding, Toronto, Ont.
mr. James balfour, architect, haililton, ont.
d Puilder.


Residence for Mrs. F. W. Wanklyn, Upper Drummond St., Montreal.
MESSRS. J. W. AND E. C. HOPKJNS, ARCHITECTS, MONTREAL.


Office Plan, Third Premiated Design for Confederation Life Association
Building, Toronto, Ont.
guitar. The ever popular ventriloquial sketches were given by Mr. Harry Simpson, while Mr. J. B. William's humorous readings completed the programme.

Owing to lack of response the competitions announced for last month have been postponed, and will be put on the programme for the first meetings in the fall.

During the summer members will have the following outings, when sketching, building inspection and photograplyy will be indulyed in, according to the taste of those present:-'The start will be from club rooms at 2 p.m. shatp, Saturday, June 28 th, July 12th, July 26th, Aus. 9th, Aug. 23rd.

## COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON TORONTO ARCHITECTURAL GUILD COMPETITION.

THE Guild offered a prize for the best clesign for a country church in the style of the Late Decorated Period, and another for an essay on any period of the history of architecture, as a stimulus to students to take up architectural styles as a study. The result has not been satisfactory, and goes to show how little interest apparently students in general take in this important side of their profession. It was not intended that the prize to be offered should strike the mercenary chord in a student's breast, and therefore it was not large, but it was expected that the students would respond to the offer of the Guild and reccive the encouragement held out to them. Essay wrimg is not an easy matter, but no one has made an attempt. Of the designs sent in (only two sets), that of "「yro" is placed first. The author, who submits four shects, plan, elevations and sections and one sheet of details, deserves great credit for the study he has given to the subject, and his endeavors to reproduce the principles of the style. There are points about his details which are worthy of special notice. The window tracery is good, placed flush with the wills. The cusping is correctly drawn. As a piece ofdesign, apat from the rest of the building, the west front is very creditable, although his treatment of the upper part of the gable to counteract the drawn up effect of his lofty gable, is somewhat commonplace. The carcles are not good, alhough the intention is well meam. A clerical error is the position of the string course below the projection of the buttress weatherings; it should either form the projection of the weathering itself, or else the projection of the weathering should be omitted when in this connection.
The belfry has a somewhat heavy base, but it is picturesque. The main fault about the exterior is that its proportions are those of an earlier style. The pitch of the roof is far too high, and the wall plates might have been lowered some 6 or 7 feet with effect. Constructionally the roof is not strong, and it is entirely outside the style. The doorway of the main porch is the woost feature of the design-instead of being English at all, it is what the ordimary Philistine would call "Modern"; it is feeble, and its label mould is out of all proportion. But credit is decidedly due to the design of the rose window in the east gable.

Now as to the plan: the general proportions are very good. A fair sized vestry is a very necessary adjunct to a country church where there is no other room provided for small meerings and so forth. The font is in a correct position netr the door, although the minister's step should have been placed where he would face the altar. Some accommodation is lost by the position of the pulpit which, though usually on the left side, might bere have jucliciously been placed upon the ripht. A door from the charch yard to the organ chamber is guite unnecessary, and not good for the orgam. No arrangement seems to lave been made for the heating, a matter of the highest importance in this climate, and one which requires careful study. A chimney in a cluurch is a good test of ability in design, and to attend a church without heatiog apparatus is mortifying to the fiesh with a vengeance.
"Notus" has gone in more for outwiurd effect than for either correctness of style or grood planaing. He has altogether failed to grasp the idea, and submits a design in a poor American modern style. He has produced a picturesque effect, which apart from this competition does him eredit, but this was not the requirement. He has made no study ofdetail, but lias incorpor-
ated such work as a village carpenter is usually capable of executing. We would advise him to study good ancient examples rather than the pictures of the Americou Architect.
In plan the church is a failure, quite unsuited to the English church service. There is no chancel except that a portion of the nave is raised as a platform ; the sanctuary is a separate edifice, but even here "Notus" has failed. His narrow steps at the Communion Table would be the first detail that would displease the parson. The school mom, though not asked for, is well placed, but for the entrauce to the eluurch the author has roone to greater expenditure than a village congregation is at all likely to afford, and one which is altogether out of proportion to the effect secured.
"Notus" has provided a large basement, for heating purposes we presume, but with a flue in one of the buttresses and another in the vestry fire-place. We fail to see the utility of the large flue at the back of the vestment closet. It camnot be intended as the bottom of the vestry flue as it is altogether out of place. The roof is heavily timbered and the proportions of the various timbers tre carelessly indicated. The form is more suitable for the school house than for the church. Its construction is hideden by a ceiling and is out of style.
"Notus" should study the requirements of his parsons and their congregations before effect.

## Frank Daridng. <br> R. W. Gambilk-BOUSFIEA, <br> S. H. TOWnsiend.

## THE SUN LIFE ASSURANCE CO. BUILDING COMPETITION.

Toronto, May 27, I\$90.
Fdilior Caradian Arcilitect and Buhedek.
Dear Sir,-In your issue for this monily you have given an illustration of the second premiated design for the Sun Life Assurance benildings in Montreal, sent in in a compelition which was settled some months agro, and you have thus afforded those interested in the matter not residing in Montreal, an opportunity of seeing a design that according to the mam who examined them was worth; of second place, but which according to the conditions of the competition ought not to have had a place at all. I amn not saying that it is a bod plan, or finding fault with the design at all-that is not my purpose here-but what I wish to drat your attemtion to is the utter disregard of the "conditions" by the so-calleal "expert" who pronounced upon the designs, thereloy inflicting a great injustice upon other competitors and showing how unfair was the decision. Afier the "comditions" were issued, it was discovered that the person who hat calculated the areas of the rooms recuired, hade exceeded the limit of the site, and a circular was sent round to the competito:s advising: them of this, atthouth no doulbt many had discovered the error for themselves, and, like myself, had writien to the authorities to ask what they desired to have altered, so ats to bring the requirements into the area of the four walls. The answer received was sufficiently satisfactory, but it did not allow of any additional space being taken up on other floors. It simply reduced some of the areas given, and left it for the competitors to arrange as they best could. Now a binding clause was that the " Board room," ":wo agents' rooms," "lunch room" and two additional rooms and lavatory, ele., should be on the second hoor, but should occupy only a part of it, and that the rear part should be entirely separated from the from part of this floor by a solid wall, and baving communication only with the floor below, upon which were the main offices of the company.
This particular condition was the one that callsed most men the principal difficulty in artuging the phan, and had we all done as the athor of the second premiated design has done and ignored this condition altogether, the planning would have been far easier. But becatuse he has either overlooked this condition or been unable to make a place in conformity with it, Mr. Know (whom I understand was the "expert"), thinks be is entitled to the prize. Surely this is very scandalous. You will readily understand that it must be far easier to get a certain number of rooms of given sizes, which sizes together are in exeess of the given area of the site, into two floors than into one and a half floors, which was a stipulation. If you have got two boses, and
you are desired to fill up half of one of them with sawdust, and then you are told to fill the other bor with eggs and 10 put into the unoccupied half of the first box more eggs than you can get in without breaking them, what would you do? The first thing that would occur to you no doubt would be to violate the condition and take out the saty dust and take the whole box for your egess, and this is what the second prize man has done, but others who thought it out came to the conclusion that it would be wiser to get eggs of a slightly smaller diameter, and so succeeded in getting in the correct number without violating the conditions or materially changing the requirements. But our friend Knox thinks the man who takes out the satwdust has done the cleverest thing. The sawdust in this case represents office space from which the company wele desirous of obtaining a rental.

It is to be doubted whether good planning was or was not one of the points on which Mr. Knox based his opinion, and it may be said that such things as w. c.'s and ladies cloak rooms are not of such importance as other requirements, but still I venture to suggest that such unmentionable places repuire some consideration. I may be atlowed to direct the attention of Mr. Knos to the fact llat in the design in guestion the w. c's for the use of the lady clerks of the company open directly out of the general office for the male elerks, :ind directly at the foot of the stairs leading up to the male clerks' lavatories, board room, directors' room, lunch room, store room, and so on. It would be well for architects who know that ladies like a little privacy, to sec that their plans will be examined in future by some one who knows this much at any rate. As I have saicl it is not my intention here to criticize the general arrangement of the plan, I will not take up any more of your space.

> Yours very truly,

## "A KICKER."

## TORONTO COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE BUILDING COMPETITION.

Toronto, Junc ith, 1890.
Editor Camatian arciitypt and Ifullimen.
Sir:-Though not a funny man, I have been more amused than perhaps most of the arclitects who have read the printed correspondence received by us yesterday, re Collegiate Institute competition, because I can say "I told you so!"

Our young and "impertinent" Association has received such a rebuff as, I trust, may never be mine as an individual to experience, though as indiriduals, ench member of the O. A. A. is no doubt suffering under the indignity, and reaching around to kick somebody. Now let us kick the right party.
If in a brawl 1 get a knock down, I an likely to feel hurt, but might I not have remained elsewhere? If we don't like this treatment, the remedy is in our own hands. Let us discourage the practice of architectural competitions altogether. For some years I have done my little part in that direction, and shall so continue. Some say, "they have done good," and that it "gives the young men a chance"; others, that "contractors have to compete, why not architects?" I cannot see the parallel. Do we invite carpenters to set up the framework of a row of cottages that we may select the strongest and employ its framer to complete one? Does a speculator, wishing to cut a farm up into buiking lots, invite surveyors to take measurements and notes, showing the greatest frontage each can make of it, that one may be employed to make a plan of it? Or in litigation, do we invite lawyers to send in briefs that we may select the most likely and employ its compiler to conduct our case? the rejected ones in cach competition not even getting "thank you." Only in this light can I regard the too common advertisements addressed to architects. Are we so simple as to clicy such bidding? Then do we deserve the treatment we receive. Our employment demands the most painstaking attention and the strictest integrity. Why, then, are we treated with suspicion and contempt? Our capabilities, preparation, experience and responsibilities must equal those required in any profession, then wh:y not assume the dignity and command the respect? What other class of men would have begged of a school board the privilege of giving a month's labor gratis, or would have been treated to such gratuitous insult?

I am far from being wealthy, nor am I overburdened with commissions, especially this season, but, sir, what little business I am entrusted with I propose to do on business principles; my fees understood and payment assured-then my clients' interests receive my best attention, and I have preserved my self respect.

I may searcely hope to have a seconder, but beg to record my lumble conviction that the more creditable and profitable course for the O . A. A. would be to declare collectively and inclividually against any and all architects' competitions in this or any country. It is gool practice for students, but should be dropped on entering business life.

Let an architect bie engaged on the strength of his known or supposed ability and integrity ; let him work up a practice and reputation as other prolessional men do, and when competitive designs cease to go a begging, he will be sought after and respected. Let a school board, as would an individual, employ whom they choose, and when he is not wasting his time and talents over competitions, he will be able to design quite as creditably and more satisfactorily to his clients, when enjoying their confidence, than as a stranger and without prospect of remuneration. An incompetent man may sometimes be selected, but can matters be any worse than at present? Competitions are always unsatisfactory to the greater number interested, and because unbusinesslike in principle, always will be. In the hope that this latest example may be an eye opener, I remain,

Yours truly,
M. B. Avlsworth.

## THE LESSON OF THE RECENT STRIKE.

Toronto, June 9th, 1890.
Editor Canamian ahcuitrect and bullider.
$\mathrm{C}^{O} \mathrm{O}$ our workingmen have at last seen fit to bring the recent labor dispute to an end by accepting a compromise with the master builders. The men have had it almost their own way, but their long idleness has shown them the folly of their ways, and the terms of the agreement that settles the wages of the next five years, shows only too plainly that they do not care about another strike just yet. But why did our master builders come to an agreement like this at all ? Was it for the sake of peace, or was it that they could not hold out longer? Here is a case in which our men were getting fair wages; there was no prospect of a kind that could in any way justify a demand for increased wages, yet they determine by joint action to enforce such a demand. They will not listen to reason, but with the chiklish freak that has become their custom when they camnot get what they want, they refuse to work.

But we raised the question why did the master builders give in ? and we will ask another question : What have the master builders got to do with the matter at all? Certainly the men are employed by the masters, but in a different way from that sense in which a private individual employs a domestic servant. Here the master of the house says what wages he will pay, and if the servant does not like thein, she goes somewhere else. luut the workmen lanve banded together, and the question is not as between master and servant but as between (as they are so fond of saying) capital and labor. It is not then a dispute between master builders and workmen, but between workinen and the proprietors. By the enforcement of higher and stated rates of wages it is not the contractor who is affected (except so far as existing contracts are concerned)-it is the pullic-the public who pay the workmen through the contractor, the agent of the public. In the dispute between "labor and capital," the proprictors-the public-who represent the capital-keep out of the way; they lenve the builder to fight it out, and when he can no longer hold ont because they are themselves pressing him, he gives in-the result of being between two fires-and the public are content, and see not that it is they who are beaten. Of course the masters give in ; were we a master builder, we would not hokd out an hour against a demand for increased wages by these cowardly unions. Why should we be made to bear the brunt of opposing them when it's no concern of ours ? No, if the public will not back up the masters against exorbitant demands, let the masters give in and let the public pay whatever

tand ßeuilder.
[No. 6.

they are asked if they do not see fit to make a stand against it. While the workingmen remain in their present condition (the obedient slaves of the unions), it becomes cowardly for a pro prietor to insist that a builder should complete his contract. Our poor workingman, led like a tame bull with a ring in his nose by a scheming adventurer who is gradually sucking his blood and becoming wealthy in the process, refuses, at his order, to do a stroke of work until he is promised higher pay: Very well, that is the positinn, if we will look at it correctly. The master buikler does wrong when lie says "All right, do what you like, I will not pay you a cent more!" Ife shoukd turn to his employer and saty, "will you pay the increased demand?" and if the terms of his contrat do not admit of his asking the question, he should see that in future they do. If the proprietors collectively say "No" the work stops-stops till the unions are forced to give in, stops till their power is gone. Then let the workingman be raised out of his slavery, and, when fit as a man, let him be treated as man.

> Respectfilly yours,

Filk Play.

## BUILDING CONTRACTS.

Edior Canaman amcimtret anid limiome.
Dear Str,-The following is, 1 believe, contained in nearly all the contracts between contrnctors and owners that I have seen, and the blank contract from which I have taken same bas a statement at the top thereof that the contract is approved by the architects and builders of Toronto, namely: "The proprietor shaill pay the contractor in manner following :-eighty per cent. to be paid by the proprictor on account of the contract, and all additional works, as the work shall proceed, on the value of the same, which value shall be in proportion to the amount to be paid for the whole of the works and additional works, the balance of the contract and all extras to be paid within thirty days from the completion of the said works, and after the contractor shall have rendered to the architect a statement of balance due to him. And it is further wnderstood that in cuse of several contractors being cmployed on the works, no trade is to be considered complete till the other sevcrul contracts are also completcd." The italics are mine.
It has always been to ine a matter of surprise that contrnctors woukd consent to a clause in the comract such as above quoted.
It seems to me that it might be a matter of great hardship to contractors for the stonework, excavating and brickwork, and even many of the other contractors that they should have to remain out of twenty per cent. of what was due them until after the last work had been done upon the building, which in the case of large buildings might mean years.
I am not, sir, writing for the purpose of having any dispute wilh any person, but should be pleased to see a comtroversy on this question, so that if it be a fair clause to bave in the contract all maty understand why.

1 lave the honor to be, etc.,
Frank Denton.
TORONTO, Junc Gulh, 1890.

## ROT IN TIMBER.

ONE of the questions of the day in the building world is. "How to preserve tinlber incorporated in buildings tron decny." There are many systems as there are many causes, and as the cause maries in every instance, so often this or that system of cure is at foult, when applied to a particular casc.
Decay in timber ustilly occurs froin exposure to alternate wet nadl dry atmospheres, but the rat whicls causes us so much romble is produced where the atuosplere does nos elmuge nucth. This rot is of two kinds. generally known as "wet rot" and "dry rot." Wet ret shows itself where, in the ense of wood beeing imperfectly stasonet. gases form in the wood, but orving to vemtilation they are abte to eseatpe. Dry rot, on the contrary, is the ressil of the sume gases, which being matile to cseape owing to want of ventiation, remanin on the surface of the wool and form a fungus very difficult to get rid of, and very contagions in its nuture-
Wet rot will oecur in a growing tree, but if lie wood be thoronglty weil seasoned the rot nay be prevented from appearing in the converted wood when buiat into a buikling ly painting or carefnlly sheltering it. The disense of wet rot is not spread excepi by actual contract, whereas dry rot sprends by dissenination of the germ of the fungus.
Air confined and without much moisture encoumges the growth of the fungus, which eats into the wood. Warme, dnmp nuxd stagname nir are sure
to preduce dry rot, while the simple vam of sufficient rentilation will be cause of rat in ove form or another.
Dry rot usually appears in the flooring bencall whiell there is either no ventilation, or where, with little ventilation existing Ixelow, fires are kept burning alove, as by bis means moisture is drawn up from the soil.
Ends of timbers louile into walls tre nearly sure to be affected by dry rot, unkss they are protected by iron shoes, or lead or cinc. The same restlt is prodiced when joinery or other woolwork is secured to walls befors they are ury
Sibavings left uxder floor boards are a sure cause of dry rot, and painting or tarring unsensoned wood is an injurious custran as it only shats in the gases and dry rul ts the result.
When once dry rot gets a firm told in a benlding it is very hard to remove it entirely. Dike fever germs, so the gernis of the rot are carried about and fisten oll walls or other timbers where they germinate to the destruction of the material.
Of the ordinary remoxlies, the first is a sweeping one, but often, and in fict more often than not, the only netual cure: Substitute new timbers, .brickwork or other material, for the affected parts, and carefilly clean away every particle of the fungus; afterwneds apply a wash as mentioned below
Coal tar, or a weak solution of vitriolic acid with water is most effective. and pyroligncous acid is also very good. Sometimes a solution of corrosive sublimate, an ounce to agalion of hot watter, or a solution of sutphente of copper, lialf a pound to a gallon of hot water, will prevent the spread. But where rot oecurs from wam of ventihtion, wothing short of supplyug air will be effective.
So milucil for cure, now a feis words on prevention. In a papas on "t Tho Preservation of Timber" rearl at the anmal meeting of the American Association for the Admncement of Science lekd a lew months ago in Toronto four methods were mentioned as having proved successful: (a) "Kyanizing" (so called from the name "Kyan" of tue inventor), or preserving wood with corrosive sulblimate (bichloride of mercury) ; (b) "Copperizing" -Margary's process-soaking the timber in sulphate of coppler; (c) "Burmettizing" (Sir W. Rurmet) steepping in chloride of zioc: (d) "Creosoting" with dead coal thr-this is known as "Bethel's" process.
'The first two methods are gradually falling into disuse, and o the later. ener soting is the noost efective. Butil was stated that cross grained woods such as white oak and elessinul, should not be treated at all. The more porous woods, such as hemiock, bastard pine and becelh, take the treatment well, and as a result hast twiee as long as when without it.
Croosoting is effected by extracting the moisture and air from the tulses of the timber, and then forcing in krensote (oil of tar), commonly called "creosole," at a high pressure. The timbur aiter lreing dried is plated in a closed wrought iron cylinker. The air is extracted from the cylinder nud from the timber within it by means of a pump. Creosote nt a temperature of $120^{\circ}$ is fored into the cylinder and penetrates the wood under a pressure
 and free from anmonia. The anomit of creosote pmonped in depends upon the nature of the wood and the purpese for which it is intended. Sinpwood alsoribs nore than the hentwood. Fir and ofler softwood will take from to lhs. to 12 lbs, per culsic foot, while oak and other liardwoorls will take litte more than from 3 liss. to + ilss. per cubic fool. For softwoots a form of this process may be applied lyy simply leationg or drying the timber over fires, and phacing it while warm in hot creosote; but the timber must mother all circunistances be seasonerl first.
'The effect of creosote is that it congulates the allimemen of the woxl. fills up the peres with an oily liguid, destroys insects and fingi anvi repels worms. excludets moisture and prevents dry rot.
A principal cause of dry rot is constantly cmployad by builders-so combmon is it that one might almost think they consider dry rot an adtantinge to a building rather than otberwise. A carpenter fimishes up the boarding of a roor and leaves it exposed to all weatier until the roofer is ready to go on with his work. Rnint falls, and the hourds are soaked and water runs and drips inside; then before the boards have had time to dry, the roofer comes and lays on his roofing felt, and on the top of this puis his shates. We lave often seen the woodwork of roofs under a foot of snow, and the roofer sweeping oft the snow to hiy his fell, utter)y regardkess of the result. Once this is done there is no vemilation, and dry rot will be the result. First to save the expense of covering the woolwork with a tarpautine the proprietor runs the risk of havinut to reconstruct his roof at no very future date

As to the clanger of elry rot, a few examples will show how earefilly tim ber should the examined. A building begun and carried up to the second storey floor beinis, was left imbinishenl and exposed to all weather for four yenrs. The foor beams were of $18^{\prime \prime} \times 24^{n}$ satin, terersed and boted, cach truswed with a piece of oatk $4^{\prime \prime} \times 3^{\prime \prime}$; like ends rested on stonce templates ank were built into the wall in morfar. ITsere wris very little to indicate decay externally, lat the centre of ench was proved to le guite rutten, sometinks for at tength of 4 C . or 5 f . . somplimes the whote beam, and the ank in all enses was more deeriyed tian the deal. Tlie fingus appenred on the surface like a fine colbweb, the mmifications branching out in all directions of a cream white ancl dark brown color. The fungus had spread through the brick walls so that much brickwork had to be removed. The only effectual cure was the removal of all the affected material.
Dry rot appenred in a beam that gave smport to a brick wall over an
opening in the basemem of a house. The reason was, probably, because his corner of the basciment was badly ventilated, and in addition to this it was wear the kitehen fire above, so that moisture was ilmwo in and rested on the beam. Various methods of removing the fungus were tried but it always made its appearance agoin, so that ultimntely the beam was takent out and replaced with an iron girder.
Dry rot is sometimes only to be delected by its sickly smell, and in one case in particular where to all appearances the noot uas sound, but where the smell had leem noticed, it was found that the joinery was quite rotten beweath a skin of ginint that covered it, and the thoorboards had roted from below, up to wiflin $1 / 2$ of an inch of the upper surface. Want of ventiha(i) of of the snacr iunder the floor was the canse.

## QUKA \&C.

(Correspondence of the Camaiban Anchitectand huilmen.)

THE ladies of the "Holel Ditu" lanving decided upon the erection of new hospital baildings, some time ago commissioned Mr. E. 'languay, architcet, to visit Paris to examine several of the most inuportant hospitals in that eity with a view of applying the experiener thus obtained in the construction of their new buildings liere. Mr. 'Tanguny subsequently propared plans and the work lons now been contracted for and the buildings commencerl. The entire cost will le in the neighborhood of $\$ 115,000$, accommodation being provided for aloot 120 beds. It is expected that these buildings will form the lxisis for a model hospital, every pains leving aken to have them erected in nccordance with the most advanced ideas of what a perfeet hospital should be. Ar. Thos. Pimpailon is the contrnctor for masonry works and Mr. E. St. Pierre for carpentry works,
Mr. Tanguay is also elarged with the improvenents now being made to the venerable Basitica. Sonne exierior work is to be thone, but the i mprovements mainly consist of interior decomation, including several stained glass windows. A steam heating appamatus is also being constructed by Messrs. Pieard \& Sion. The cost of the whole will be about $\$ 20,000$.
The interior of St. Alban's chureh is also being completed from Mr. Tanguay's desigis, at a cost of aboul $\$(\$, 000$.

The parish church of Benuport, which was destroyed by fire about three months ago. is now being relwitt. It was one of the very feve exnuples of pointed architecture to ber seen anoong the Roman Catholic churche; of this part of the lrovince of Sumese. In addition to the original churob a narthes is to be buit: to the west front with tower and spire at either end, the whole to be consimeted of the local limestone with Deschambanit stone trimmings. Mr. $1:$. N. Berlinguet is the archited employed on the work. Your correspondent has not beard the esthmated amoint of exjemditure, but nssumes cest will lx: upwards of $\$ 75.000$.
The new botel project still bangs fire. 1'hans were sulmitted at a reeent ameting hy Adessis. H. Shavely, Quebec. and C. F. Siolker. Outama, who had joinly prepared the sime. Plans were also submitted by Messrs. Roteh \& Tiklen, of boston. As yet no derision has been arrived at. Both sets of plans were publicly exhibited at the Exehange ; large mumbers of onr citizens examined them, each phan having its admirers. Fiurther councent wenuld be ont of place at the present stage.

## MO.VTHEAS.

(Corresponaleice of the Canaioan Akciethet anu Buinoike.)

NO contracts of any impurtance lave beew let since my last mationg. excepk perthaps the Siun life, the stowework of which thas been awarded to l'eter l.yall and woodwork to Robert Becklinm. The plans for the Vicioria Hospital, as I memtioned hast month, lave been remodelhed auk the two lowest tenderens in each trade askerl to compete again.

'There is guite a degree of exciteonent antong politicians over what are called the " Whe: an- Paeaud " boodle tramanctions arising over the comeracts for the Quebec Court House. The Isuilding was originally contracted for something under two hundred thousand do'lary, nid has atready cost the provnce. I bear, close upon a million dollars. Mr. Whelan, one of the contractors, neknowledges having paid large sums of money to certain gentemen in order to get his estimates pissed through Parliament, and in fac: has opeuly stated so through the press, the result being that a royal commission composed of two lawyers, one frum Queloec and one from Montreal, has ben appointed to examine imo "one particular charge." One mecting las been already held, and the commissioners are shortly to proeert wilh the evidence of Mr. Whelan. It is doubthlif iny satisfactory information will arise out of the enquiry, as ole of tiee witnesses is reperted as having stoted that le will risk is ing put in jail rather than give the mames of the parties to whom he mided money. It seens too bad that we can not get lings done in nut honest and honorable way in any contracts Where politicinns are interesed. All contmetors genern'ly comphain of having been bled. I eannot for my pirt see where the moncy charged to the construction of the (itelxe Court House can possibly lave gone unless there was at leak somewhere, I ana sure if dome in a private office it woukd not have cost one half the fmount stated. It wou'd be very interesting to have it bill of qunatitus of the materiat used in the construction of this building, together with the current prices for similar work and those actually faid the conimetors.
har nok indroovinient.
Two of the Government, enginecrs nppointed to exannne the report on phan No. G. have visited the city dariag the monh and made an exumima-
tion of the plans prepmred by Mr. Kemnedy and Mr. St. George, and an interim report is shortly expected. The harlor colmissioners, however, are not as ansious now to hurry the rejort, as the season is so far advanced that nothing can le done this year.

## STItIRES.

Work has been so scarce during the hast few weeks that we hrive heard nothing furiher regarding the threatened strike of the earpenters and paineers, and judging from present prosperes it is not likely we wrill lave: any scrious labor (ronbles this genr.

NOTHS:
Some residents of Cote is. Antoine nre endeavoring to agitate the question of annesation to the eity of Montrat, Imit the matter has not taken defimite shance yet.
The hying of the cormer stone of the new Y. M. C. A. betitding on Dominion Syuare took place on Tuesday, the roill inst, with the usual ecrenionits.
The Grand Trumk has commenced the construction of the Wellington street subway under their contract which is being eonstructed at the joim expense of the eity and railway for the convenience of vehicles and foot passengers. This is the initiative of getting rifl of the deadly level crossings. and we hope in the nuar future to see them all abolished.
The Canadian Society of Civil Lingineers have closed their formighty mectings for the swason, the last one heing liekl in MeGill College. The Society's ofice is now transforted to their new rooms on the corner of St. Catherive and Manstield streets, where the liknary and reading room will be kept open during the summer.


TASTE.
By W. H. Ehalotr.

WHAT a bewikering vistat of possibility is opened to the designer and colorist by the revolutions of modern machinery! The wonder is not that we see so much that is vulgar, but that the artist does not more ofen err with such a plethora of materials. This very condition has given birth to What may be called a false or sham taste, which eschews everything with positive qualities and cavalts the negative attributes of namby-pambyism in whatsocver line it may appear. There is so much bad taste displayed on every hand under the paraded litle of particulitrly good taste, one feels compelled at times to give utterance to protests which continually arise in the mind at the incorrect conception which may be said almost to prevail on this question. Men fatter themselves that they ate building a house in the best taste, when its chief merit lies in the fact that like a barn, it has no points that clallenge criticism. We see plenty of such houses around ug. Women bunt for days to match a color in dressing, lsecause it is such grood taste to be dressed all in one color. The slight difference in shate or tint which they endeavor so assiduously to overcome may have been the only relief to the otherwise monotonous costume. People decorate their houses with the fear continually before their eyes that they may get some red or blue or yellow in their rooms and destroy their tasteful appearance. I wish to make a few observations on this last.

No rloubt white walls are greatly to be preferred to ill-judged and ill-proportioned schemes of design or color. But to exalt the purely negrative qualities of insipid greys, buffs, sages, and so on, above the richer tones which these merely shadow, is very much like singing the praises of well-watered wine. We are told sometimes with learned affectation, that you must use these washed-out tints in order to hatin that very desirable repose in the treatment of walls and ceilings. What is repose? We speak of the erstwhile loud and angry sea sinking to repose Do we speak of the repose of the shatlow fluid never roused to action of any kind? There is a fascination in looking upon a lordly lion stretched in sleep in inaction, and for what reason? Simply that we see perfect strength and symuetry in repose, on which the eye rests with pleasure. Where is there a more restful sight than a glowing hower garden or a conservatory of rich exotics? Is there anything vulgar in it, or is it a display of bad taste? How soon may we expect this cra of filse astheticism to pass away?

But, says one, where will you always get the controlling hand which shatl ensure good taste in the use of more positive design or color? This 1 an not writing about, but would reply,
nowhere so long as we (ic ourselves down to insipidity and namby-pambyism. No man ever learned to swim by keeping away from water. I had rather see an error on the side of loudness than the weak productions of an invertebrate timidity, and the errors need not be scrious at any time. The very joy of using the stronger materials will guide the intelligent designer into safer paths.
But I did wot propose to enter on this question, but rather to protest against the popular condemmation of all strong designing and coloring on the score of bad taste. I have seen people educated in other ways hold up their hands in horror at what was probably an exquisite composition in colour by an artist of work-wide celebrity. It is too much perhaps to ask such people to think for themselves, because in these matters they have probably very little basis for thought, but we may surely ask a practical admission that the highest taste may be displayed in the use of the strongest materials, and that true repose camnot be obtained where there is no latent strength.

## THE REGENT EXHIBIT OF THE TORONTO ART STUDENTS'

 LEAGUE.THIS Society, numbering a few rising young architects among its members, and in which, for that and other fraternal reasons, architects naturally take a friendly interest, showed by its last exhibition its increased and increasing vitality. Along with its vigorous young companion, the Toronto Architectural Sketch Club, it promises to have a considerable share in bringing about the future happy destiny of Toronto as an art centre. The apatisy of the general public in all art matters that almost forced such societies into existence, was a disguised blessing. If we may judge by the reaction which in the direction of art culture has evidently set in, the effect on public taste of such exhibitions cannot be doulsted. Of course it is ensy to be optimistic, and it does not follow that because the germ planted amid the cutting winds of neglect has really sprouted and bids fair to become a healthy plant, its final growh is issured. Unlike the Canadian Academy and Ontario Socicty of Artists, whose more recent exhibit is of so advanced a character of excellence, it has to prove its right by intrinsic value to a permanent place among the art institutions of the country. But as yet there are scarcely any other signs than those farorable to future prosperity.
Many recent press notices seem to us to have fatied in estimating the educational value of the trathing given to the junior and rising members. Composed as the League is of all degrees of proficiency, from the well-known veterans, most of them members of other societies, to youths just advanced from a rutiimentary style-yet all students-it stands to reason that the work of such men as Cruickshank. Biduclaly, Bengough, Manly and Thompson (the president), must bear salutary fruit in the younger members working with them.
Without intending any reflection on these and some other senior members not named, the League is to be specially congratulated we think on the high class of talent displayed by a section of its junior members. It is almost invidious to select names, yet we cannot refimin from pointing to the general work of Mr. C. Chinlloner, C. W. Jeffries and H. M. Hidu.
The inclusion of lady students a year ago was an anxious experiment, but any impattial critic must now pronounce it in assured success. A portion of the fair sex bave shown their capability in work quite up to the average of their brother students, and in the front rank of them it would be unfair to omit mention of Miss Jopling, Miss Nankin, Miss Palin and Miss Macklin. Almost all the lady students could thus claim honorable mention.

Diversified stulies disclose varying powers, and those not quite to the front in the general line of woik, $i, c$, the study of the draped human figure of both sexes, still work hopefully and steadily on, in a true fraternal spirit.

Altogether, this last show of winter work gives the amplest assurance that a true art spirit is being fostered, and progress is being made towards establishing a permanent abiding place for art in this city. The Toronto Art Students League will certainly assist materially this object, and be other art influences what they may, give a good account of itself.


## HOUSE DRAINS.

NOW that the rush of new inventions, and the introduction of new schemes for the treatment of drains, and the arraugement of teneral samitary work has somewhat abated, says the Decorators' Guselfe Dlumber and Gasfilers' Reaicu, we have a better opportunity of gathering up and sorting out the best ideas from the many which of late years have been continually brought into public notice. And athough house sanitition is now being looked upon more as an exact science than it was a few years ago, when the whole thing was but a wide ficld for experiment, yet there are several detaits upon which there exists considerable difference of opinion.

With regard to the principles upon which drainage and plumbing work is arranged there seens to be among those who have had a fair amount of experience in these matters a common ground of agreement. But the most debatable subject and at the same time one of the most important, is, undoubtedly, the question of materials. That a house drain should be disconnected and provided with efficient ventilation, is generally admitted, but when it is asked of what material shatl it be constructed, it is clifficult sometimes to come to a decision. As a rule the dispute is between the advocates of stoneware pipes, and those who are in favor of iron. Ih is contended on the one hand that the modern glazed stoneware pipes are the most durable, in fact, practically indestructible, because the acids in the sewage have little, if any, deleterious effect upon such an impervious material. Then, as regards the jointing, it is said that by the aid of certain patent methods the joints can be made in such a manner as to be absolutcly reliable, even if the pipes are moved after the joints are made. Such an event, however; should, in our opinion, be strietly guarded agminst under any circumstances, and especially if the drain passes under the house. Those who are conwineed that iron drains should be used when they have to be placed in the basement of a dwelling-house, claim that a metallic pipe can be laid and joimed much more securely, ind subjected to a far greater pressure for the purpose of testing its soundacss, than earthenware drains can withstand. It is also contended that iron pipes can be fixed in much longer lengths, therefore fewer joints are necessary, and owing to the greater strength of the metal, any subsequent movement of the earth surrounding the pipe will not interfere will the rigid chazacter of a drain of this kind. As to the durability of iron drains, many hold that if the pipes are coated in a proper mamer with a bituminous solution while they are hot, a protecting surface is formed which is vety derable. And, according to some accoumts, after pipes of this kind have been in use for several years, the coating is found to be in a satisfactory condition. It would, however, be very unreasonable to suppose that an iron clain would wear so long as one constructed of glazed stoneware. Each of the materials, therefore, have their advantages as well as disadvantages, which fact seems to point to one conclusion, and that is, that all drains no matter of what materials they are formed, should be fixed in such a manner as to be easily accessible at any time. And that whether they are constructed of iron or stoneware or any other material, they should be treated as a soil or waste-pipe which are generally placed in positions where they can be ex. amined from time to time.
In our opinion, drains should not be buried either in earth or even concrete, but should be placed in ventilated chamels or subways large enough to allow for periodical inspection, while a test of some kind is being applied.

Under such conditions ats these, the kind of materials used can be a secondary consideration, but where a sound rigid foundation can be oltained there can be no doubt that a stoneware drain will give much satisfaction.
The largest system of hot water heating in use, sitys the Winnipeg Commercial, is believed to be that in the McIntyre block, Wimnipes, containugg 000,000 cubic feet to be leated. The system uses four Plaxton boilers, which suppls $=8,00$ feet of pipe in coils.


## BRITISH COLUMBIA HARBLE.

$\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{T}}$Rudge's marble works, Victoria, two fine specinens-the one of excellent samistone, the other of pure white marble-are at present atracting the admiration of all interested in mineralogy, siys the Victoria B. C., Colonist. The sandstone, thich is of remarkably good color and gmin, was recently discovered to exist in immense gutanity oll Addington Ishand, near Alert Bay. The samiphes brouglet down are of a fine. gridatious stone, which ettes, saws or bores well, and which will stand fire better than any known fire brick. This last mentioned quality renders it espeeially adapted for furnace building. white it ean also be used to splendid advantage by bailders and in monumental work.
Addington [sland, where the quarries are lowted, contains about one hundred acres of the sandstone. Messrs. Howson and Rudge are the owners of the valuable find, and their intention is to develop it at once. It is pronounced of harder, cloaer gmin than the Vermont production, and is snid to be comparable only with Italian. It cuts well and takes an unsurpassed polish, while its stolidity ensures its dumbility. Of the full extent of the supply which is contained in the mountain at Kuight's Inlet, little is known. The deposit appears inexhaustible-at any ralle, there is enough to last the Pacific coast for centuries. Ruthanl marble now monopolizes the Irade of America, batt the ormers of the Knight's Inket mine expeet to
compete successfully with the Vermonters, having at beter airticle, Which they will be able to sell just as chenply. It is anticipated that thee new mar. be will take the place of all imporied material here at onee, and that the trade that will be opened up by its exportation to the United States will constitute another important and proftable industry for British Columbia.
An effort is to be made to at once form a company at Kingzon, Ont., to mannufneture l'oriland cement.
A conmmany is being formed in St. Thomns to manufacture watur pipes. They will attempt to supply the mateinal required for the new water works.
The Sicily Asplaitum Paving Company, with hendquarters at Montreal, are seeking incorpmation with a mpital stock of $\$ 30,000$ for establishing works for the prepamtion of agplalthan for paving sircets, roads, cte.
$\Lambda$ convention of the Intermational Association of Adamant wall phaster manufacturcers was lield nt the IAlandl Hotel, Syrncuse, N. Y., on June rodh and tith. All maters affecting the inde were fully diseussed, and a plensiut and profitable time was spent. Messrs. W. J. Hywes, Manager, and W. B. Cherry. Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian compiany, were present and took part in the proctalings.

The Golden State Quarry Company, recenaly organized in British Columbin, are the owners of an extensive slate deposit near Kicking Horse River. There is nows $n$ surface of shate uncoverel $30 \times 500$ feet, and the ledge rums into a mountain about zoofeet in beight. The compxany intends to make roofing, slate copings fur walls, window sills, cormices, Urackets, chinney pieces, street liagging, etc. The funlity of the slate is said to be first-ckass,

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