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CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF PUBLIC WORKS • TENDERS • ADVANCE INFORMATION • AND MUNICIPAL PROGRESS

EVERY THURSDAY

THIS PAPER REACHES EVERY WEEK THE TOWN AND CITY CLERKS, TOWN AND CITY ENGINEERS, COUNTY CLERKS AND COUNTY ENGINEERS THROUGHOUT CANADA.

Vol. 1. Toronto and Montreal, Canada, March 9, 1893. No. 4

THE CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD,
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
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64 Temple Building, Montreal.
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Information solicited from any part of the Dominion regarding contracts open to tender.

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

At its Convention held in Toronto, Nov. 20 and 21, 1889, the Ontario Association of Architects signified its approval of the CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD, and pledged its members to use this journal as their medium of communication with contractors with respect to advertisements for Tenders.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at the First Annual Meeting of the Province of Quebec Association of Architects, held in Montreal, Oct. 10th and 11th, 1890: "Moved by M. Perrault, seconded by A. E. Dunlop, that the Architects of the Province of Quebec now assembled in Convention being satisfied that the CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD affords us a direct communication with the Contractors,—Resolved, that we pledge our support to it by using its columns when calling for Tenders."



TO BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS.

Tenders, addressed to the undersigned, will be received through registered post up to noon on THURSDAY, THE 16TH INSTANT, for the several works required in connection with the erection of an additional storey on the City Registry Office.

Plans and specifications may be seen at the office of Mr. Edmund Burke, Architect, room 19, Union Block, Toronto street, from whom forms of tender may be obtained.

Tenders must be accompanied by a cash deposit or a marked cheque equal to 2 1/2 per cent on tenders over \$1,000, and 5 per cent. on tenders below that amount, and must contain the names of two responsible sureties for the due fulfilment thereof.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

THOMAS CRAWFORD,
Chairman.
Toronto March 3rd, 1893.

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY.
TO CARPENTERS AND PAINTERS.

The Public Library Board are prepared to receive tenders up to 12 o'clock at noon on Monday, March 13th, 1893, for alterations to the Reference Library.

Particulars may be obtained on application at the secretary's office corner of Church and Adelaide streets. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

JOHN DAVY, Secretary.
MILLEN VOKES, Chairman Building Committee.

TO CONTRACTORS.

Tenders will be received on Wednesday next at noon, for the artificers' works to be done in erecting an extension to the Dominion Cotton Mills at Hochelaga, in accordance with the plans and specifications now on view in my office, 207 St. James street.

JOHN JAMES BROWNE,
Architect.

TO CONTRACTORS

Separate tenders will be received on the 16th instant, at my offices, 207 St. James Street, for the various works to be done in erecting

Office Building,
Engineering Building,
Mechanical Building,
Indigo Dye House,
Boiler House and Chimney,

for the Dominion Cotton Mills Co., at Magog, P. Q.

Plans and specifications now on view in my offices and the office of the Print Works, Magog.

JOHN JAMES BROWNE,
Architect.

TO CONTRACTORS.

Tenders will be received by the undersigned up to MARCH THE 15TH, for the erection of an EIGHT ROOM BRICK SCHOOL BUILDING with stone basement, in the Town of Palmerston, according to plans and specifications. The plans and specifications can be seen at the office of Secretary on and after Monday, March the 6th. A marked cheque for 5 per cent. of the contract price in favor of the treasurer of the school board must accompany each tender.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

R. SHIELDS,
Palmerston, Mar. 1st, 1893. Sec. P. P. S. B.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

The partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned as Darling & Curry and Darling, Curry & Co., has been dissolved by mutual consent.

All outstanding accounts to either firm are to be paid to the undersigned Frank Darling who will settle all liabilities.

(Signed) FRANK DARLING,
S. G. CURRY.

The business will continue to be carried on under the name of Darling, Sproutt & Pearson
Mail Building, Toronto, Feb. 15, 1893.

TENDERS WANTED.

Sealed tenders will be received up to MARCH 24TH, 1893, for

TWO IRON OR STEEL BRIDGES,
(white oak joist and flooring), one on boundary of Downie and Fullerton Townships, County of Perth, Ont. This is 33 (Thirty-three) feet in clear, fourteen feet roadway, and crosses over Twentieth Creek. The other crosses Trout Creek, Township of Downie, near Ardall's mill, and is 70 (seventy) feet in clear, 14 (fourteen) feet roadway; not to exceed over fourteen feet panels, both to be completed on or before the 1st day of September, 1893.

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Tenders to be sent to the undersigned, separately.

JOHN CORRIE,
Bridge Inspector.
Stratford, March 7, 1893.

TO EXCAVATORS.

Tenders will be received until the 13th inst. for the necessary excavation work (prices to be given per cubic yard) required in connection with the erection of two large public buildings, one situated on the south east corner of (Queen and Jarvis streets; the other on the south west corner of Shuter and Victoria streets.

Prices to include the removal of all rubbish, etc. Plans and specifications can be seen at my offices.

E. J. LENNON, Architect.

CONTRACTS OPEN.

TILBURY CENTRE, ONT.—Messrs. J. A. R. Kidd contemplate erecting a 12,000 bushel elevator this summer.

CARRBERRY, MAN.—A by-law to raise the sum of \$6,000 for fire protection will be submitted to the ratepayers.

GLENCOL, ONT.—It is said that over twenty new dwellings, will be erected in this town during the present year.

RYLSTONE, ONT.—Mr. C. O'Connor invites tenders until Saturday next for the erection of a church in this village.

INGERSOLL, ONT.—The School Board is having plans and estimates prepared for a new collegiate institute building.

ORILLIA, ONT.—A deputation from this town visited Toronto Junction last week for the purpose of inspecting the electric light plant, having in view the purchase of plant.

NORTH TORONTO, ONT.—The town hall is to be enlarged and improved. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

GLADSTONE, MAN.—The Building Committee of the Presbyterian church are asking for plans for a new building, to cost in the neighborhood of \$3,000.

BOWESVILLE, ONT.—Mr. David Gamble, of this place, will receive tenders until the 11th inst. for erecting a spire on the Presbyterian church, South Gloucester.

GUYON, QUE.—B. J. Kiernan invites tenders until the 20th inst. for the erection of a presbytery in this village. Plans at office of Roy & Gauthier, architects, Montreal.

FORT WILLIAM, ONT.—The Canadian Pacific Railway Company will erect another elevator and a flour warehouse at this place, in addition to other improvements to be made.

PETERBORO, ONT.—It is understood that Messrs. Ahearn & Soper, of Ottawa, will make a proposition to the Town Council for the construction of an electric railway here.

SARNIA, ONT.—J. D. Lowrie, Township Clerk, has been instructed to advertise for tenders for the construction of the Lamont drain, tenders to be sent in not later than the 23th inst.

GOBERGICH, ONT.—W. Lane, Clerk of the County of Huron, will receive tenders until the 1st of June for heating the court-house in this town by hot water, hot air, steam or electricity.

LONDON, ONT.—John Pope, Treasurer, invites tenders until the 13th of April for the purchase of \$725,000 worth of debentures.—Mr. Thomas Cousins will erect a frame house at No. 123 Bathurst street, at a cost of \$1,000.

WALKERTON, ONT.—Mr. F. S. O'Connor, Secretary Public School Board, will receive tenders until the 15th of April for heating the public school building with hot water. The building is a two-story brick, containing eight rooms.

WALKERVILLE, ONT.—A new lock-up and chief's office will be erected this summer.—The Water Commissioners have decided to ask the Council to submit a by-law to the ratepayers to raise the sum of \$55,000 for the extension of the waterworks.

HALIFAX, N. S.—The Fire Commissioners have decided to purchase a new engine, at a cost of \$5,000.—The Board of School Commissioners has decided to erect a new eight-roomed school

on the Janet Mosher lot. Mr. Henry Busch will prepare the plans.

PALMERSTON, ONT.—R. Shields, Secretary Public School Board, invites tenders until Wednesday, the 15th inst. for the erection of an eight roomed brick school building, with stone basement, in this town. Plans may be seen at the office of the Secretary.

ROCKFORD, ONT.—Mr. Thos. Darling intends erecting a fine cottage on his island this spring.—Mr. Fairchild, of New York, has bought a point of land and is going to spend a few thousands this spring.—Mr. Arthur Dickey intends building a fine cottage here this spring.

CORNWALL, ONT.—The project to build a new Catholic church on the site of the present St. Columban's is being talked of with good prospects of being carried out. A large building adjoining the proposed site has been purchased, and it is thought work will be commenced at no distant date.

EAST TORONTO, ONT.—Operations will be commenced on the construction of the electric railway as soon as the weather will permit. A large quantity of steel rails is expected to arrive from England about the end of the present month. Mr. D. G. Stephenson is president of the company.

BROOKVILLE, ONT.—At a congregational meeting of the First Presbyterian church, held on Monday night, to discuss the question of increased accommodation, it was decided to erect a gallery at a cost of about \$3,000. It was also decided to expend \$1,000 in making other improvements on the interior of the church.

ST. JOHN, N. B.—Mayor Peters to day, on behalf of the city, signed the amended agreement under which the Government is to extend the Intercolonial railway along the harbor front, and it is expected the railway authorities will at once be instructed to call for tenders, so that the work may be completed this year.

PRINCE ALBERT, ONT.—Mr. C. E. Steele, manager of the Hudson Bay Company's flour mill at Winnipeg, was in town recently making arrangements for the erection of a large elevator and adding additional equipment to the company's mill in the east end. The work will be proceeded with as soon as possible.

PORT DALHOUSIE, ONT.—The Town Council has granted the St. Catharines, Merriton and Thorold Street Railway Company the right to construct and operate an electric railway through this village on condition that the road is built from here to St. Catharines and running by July 1. It will probably be built through to Niagara Falls.

TORONTO JUNCTION, ONT.—Plans for the new High School Building have been approved. It will cost \$18,000. The proposed town hall will cost \$20,000. The corporation is discussing the advisability of erecting a new fire hall. A representative of a rubber company in Toronto was in town recently looking for a suitable site on which to erect a factory.

WOODSTOCK, ONT.—Building operations in this city promise to be brisk this season. The contract will be awarded shortly for the new Wind Motor Company's factory, and work has already been commenced on the Great Western mill, and Thos. McCloy's new flour mill. A number of private residences and business blocks will also be erected.

ST. BONIFACE, MAN.—A meeting was held recently to discuss the erection of another bridge across the Red River, at a cost of \$70,000. It was decided to submit the question to a vote of the ratepayers.—The Sisters of St. Boniface hospital are making arrangements to borrow the sum of \$59,000 to erect the new addition to their present institution. The plans are now being prepared.

WINNIPEG, MAN.—Mr. Jas. Baird, proprietor of the Seymour House, has decided to erect an addition to the rear of the present building, at a cost of \$10,000.—The trustees of the congregation of the Children of Israel, whose synagogue was

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 Humblerstone, 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 London 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

MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS, CONTRACTORS, AND MATERIALS.

assessed as owner of the land mentioned; and in the collection rolls his name appears in columns headed "owner or tenant," but without anything to distinguish in which capacity he was assessed. The defendant stated he took up the land in 1862 as a homestead and pre-emption; he paid the taxes from 1892 to 1887; his entry was cancelled in 1890; that the Government allowed him to nominate a purchaser; he nominated McArthur; and letters patent were issued to him on 31st October, 1890, and that he had repaid McArthur, and was then, at that time of the trial, the owner of the land. It was contended on behalf of the plaintiffs that the assessment rolls were conclusive evidence of the defendant's liability for assessment in respect of the land; while for the defendant it was argued that until the issue of the letters patent granting the lands, they were not assessable, and that the inquiry as to the fact involved the trial of the question of title. The County Court Judge held, that the assessment rolls were not conclusive upon the question of exemption, but that lands of the Crown held under homestead or pre-emption entry were assessable as against the person so holding; that the mode of describing the defending in the assessment roll, whether as owner or otherwise, was immaterial to his liability; and that, as the defendant admitted his homestead and pre-emption entry, no question of title was in dispute. *Held*, by Killam, J., of Manitoba, that the County Court Judge was right in so holding upon all these points.

RE FOSTER AND CITY OF HAMILTON.
--Judgment on summary application to quash a by-law of the city of Hamilton granting a bonus of \$275,000 in aid of the Toronto, Hamilton, and Buffalo Railway Co. The by-law set out in detail the conditions on which alone the railway company were entitled to receive the bonus. By sub-sec. 4 of s. 634 of the Municipal Act, 55 Vic., ch. 42, the corporation may pass a by-law for granting a bonus to any railway company in aid for the railway and for issuing debentures payable at such time as the municipal council thinks fit. The objection taken amounted to this, that the by-law was defective because the debentures were not to be signed and delivered until after the fulfilment of certain terms and conditions. The learned Chief Justice holds that if effect were given to the objection of the applicant, it would not be possible for the corporation to make a conditional agreement, and that the corporation are expressly empowered to pass a by-law setting forth the agreement and to make the bonus "payable at such times as the council thinks fit." Motion dismissed with costs.

Mr. Jas. Hood has been appointed Town Clerk and Treasurer of Galt, in place of Mr. J. Dykes, who resigned after filling the position for 25 years.

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Chief Engineer

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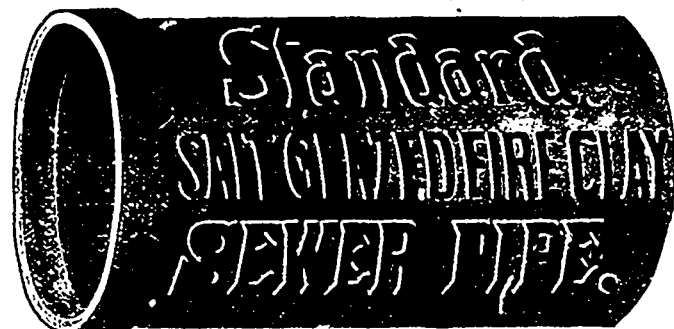
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