

CONTRACTS BY COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

LETTER

FROM THE

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS,

Accompanied with copies of all Contracts made by him, on public account, in the year 1837.

APRIL 27, 1838.

Referred to the Committee on the Public Buildings.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS,

April 26, 1838.

SIR: In obedience to a resolution of the honorable body over which you preside, I have the honor to lay before the House copies of all the contracts made in this office in the year 1837, with the names of the applicants for said contracts, and the amount of their respective bids.

I have the honor to be, with high respect, your obedient servant,

W. NOLAND.

The Hon. SPEAKER

of the House of Representatives.

A COPY OF CONTRACT FOR FURNISHING HYDRAULIC CEMENT.

Articles of agreement made and entered into this 10th day of April, 1837, between William Noland, Commissioner of Public Buildings, specially appointed by the President of the United States to superintend, generally, the erection of a Treasury building and Patent office, of the one part, and John Coburn, of the other part, witnesseth: That the said John Coburn doth agree and bind himself to deliver at the Treasury building, or Patent office, now erecting in the city of Washington, in such quantities and at such times as the said Commissioner may direct, two thousand barrels of hydraulic cement, of the best quality; each barrel to contain not less than three hundred pounds nett, at the rate of \$2 40 per barrel, and to allow twenty-five cents, each, for the sound empty barrels returned; the money to be paid for the cement as delivered. And whereas the said John Coburn has delivered up to this time nine hundred and forty-eight barrels, containing in each barrel only two hundred and eighty pounds nett, the said John Coburn hereby binds himself to make up the deficiency

Thomas Allen, print.

A COPY OF CONTRACT FOR LAYING IRON PIPES.

Articles of agreement made and entered into this 10th day of May, 1837, between William Noland, Commissioner of Public Buildings, of the city of Washington, of the one part, and James Dixon and William M. McCauley, of the same place, of the other part, witnesseth: That, whereas it is intended to lay a four-inch iron pipe to convey the water from the east reservoir along the Pennsylvania avenue to 15th street west; and whereas the said James Dixon and William M. McCauley are willing, and by these presents do, covenant and agree to and with the aforesaid Commissioner of Public Buildings to perform, in the best and most workmanlike manner, all the work required—laying the said pipes agreeably to the plan and specification hereto annexed, and under the direction of such person as the Commissioner shall appoint to inspect the work: now, therefore, it is agreed by and between the aforesaid contracting parties, as follows:

First. On the part of the aforesaid Commissioner of Public Buildings, it is covenanted and agreed that, in consideration of the faithful performance of the contract, agreeably to the plan and specification annexed, and within the time hereinafter specified, he will pay or cause to be paid to the aforesaid James Dixon and William M. McCauley, their heirs or assigns, the sum of eight thousand three hundred and sixty-seven dollars and twenty-four cents, on the completion and approval of the said work to be done, in such payments, from time to time, as the state of the same will justify; reserving always twenty per cent. on the estimated value of the work done or materials furnished, as collateral security, until the contract is fulfilled.

Secondly. On the part of the aforesaid James Dixon and William M. McCauley, their heirs, &c., it is covenanted and agreed, that, in consideration of the sum of eight thousand three hundred and sixty-seven dollars and twenty-four cents, to be paid to them, their heirs or assigns, on the completion of the work, agreeably to the plan annexed, in such payments, from time to time, as the progress of the work will justify, they agree, and hereby bind themselves, their heirs, &c., to perform all and singular the work hereinafter specified, in the best and most workmanlike manner, and to complete the same in all the month of August.

Plan and specification referred to in the above-mentioned contract between the Commissioner of Public Buildings and James Dixon and William M. McCauley, for conveying the water along the Pennsylvania avenue, dated the 10th day of May, 1837.

Iron pipes.—The main pipe is to be four inches diameter in the clear; the branch pipes to be three inches diameter: all executed in the most perfect and workmanlike manner, free from defects of any kind, made of strong tough iron, which shall be of such quality as will not crack by handling, drilling, or dressing. All the pipes and other castings required shall have joints of depth and size according to the directions to be given to the contractors, and to be cast free from overlaps or projecting seams where the joints part; the internal and external parts of the pipes and castings, where they interlap with each other, or are to be joined together, to be clear from sand; the mould must, therefore, in all cases, be dusted with charcoal and meal. The pipes being cast in nine feet lengths, every ten must average one hundred weight, three quarters, and fourteen pounds each, and, with such other castings as require proof, shall be proved at the fur-

nace by Braham's pumps, under a pressure equal to three hundred feet head of water; and the proof to be made under the inspection and to the satisfaction of the agent of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, when required by the contractors, on due notice being given.

Laying the pipes.—The pipes to be laid at least three and a half feet below the surface of the paved street, (except in the part between the reservoir and Pennsylvania avenue, where they will be laid deeper,) not less than six feet from the curbstone; the joints must be well leaded and secured from leakage, and, for this purpose, the lead in each joint must be at least two and a half inches deep, taking about seven pounds of lead to each joint; the insertion of pipe in each joint to be not less than three inches, and to rest upon a firm bed. Where the pipe connects with the reservoir of water, it must be securely fixed one foot above the bottom of the same.

Fire-plugs.—Fifteen fire-plugs of the most approved construction, like those used in Philadelphia and Baltimore, are to be fixed within the curbstone of the pavement, at certain points and distances to be designated by the aforesaid agent; the same to rise the usual height above the pavement, and to be neatly incased with wood.

Stop-cocks and elbows.—Five stop-cocks to be affixed to the main pipe, at certain points to be designated by the aforesaid agent, and the water let on to prove the same before covering up; the necessary elbows to be provided where the turns occur.

Repairing street.—When the pipes are all laid and filled in, the rubble and Macadamized paving removed by the excavation is to be replaced in a substantial manner, and without unnecessary delay.

In witness whereof, the parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals this 10th day of May, 1837.

W. NOLAND, C. P. B. [SEAL.]
 JAMES DIXON, [SEAL.]
 WILLIAM M. McCAULEY, [SEAL.]

The Commissioner hereby agrees to allow the contractors above named twelve and a half cents per yard for all the rubble-stone replaced, in addition to the sum specified in the contract.

W. NOLAND.

And, for the true and faithful performance of all and singular the articles and agreements hereinbefore mentioned, the said James Dixon, William M. McCauley, Mahlon Butler, and William Stewart, do hereby bind themselves, their and each of their heirs, executors, and administrators, to the said Commissioner of Public Buildings, or his successor in office, in the penal sum of eight thousand dollars.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals, the day and year above written.

MAHLON BUTLER, [SEAL.]
 W. STEWART, [SEAL.]
 JAMES DIXON, [SEAL.]
 WILLIAM M. McCAULEY. [SEAL.]

Witness:

WILLIAM A. SCOTT.

The names of applicants for contract for laying iron pipes along Pennsylvania avenue, with the amount of their respective bids.

James Dixon,	\$8,367 24	A. M. Denham,	\$9,300 00
Provost & Beers,	9,155 00	C. A. Anderson,	9,375 00
Foy & Patterson,	9,200 00	David Bain,	9,800 00
Wm. M. McCauley,	9,297 00	Roche & Fielding,	11,750 25
Robert Coltman,	9,255 00		

NOTE OF EXPLANATION.

Amount appropriated,	-	-	-	-	\$10,000 00
Amount of Dixon & McCauley's contract,	-	\$8,367 24			
Extra work,	-	-	-	958 85	
				<u>9,326 09</u>	
Leaving an unexpended balance of	-	-	-	-	<u>673 91</u>

This extra work was for additional pipe, six additional fire-plugs, and other improvements recommended by Mr. Mills, the architect, who designed the work and made out the estimates for the Committee on Public Buildings.

CONTRACT FOR BUILDING ENGINE HOUSE.

Specification for engine house for War and Navy Departments.

The house is to be 24 feet by 43 feet, two stories high, to be built of hard brick; the foundation wall to be laid one foot below the surface, fourteen inches thick throughout the whole building, except the gable-ends above the square, which will be nine inches thick. The front to be faced with pressed brick, with fire walls carried up above the roof, and covered with slate; 14-inch arches over all the openings in the front, and 9-inch arches over all the other doors and windows. A stove-pipe flue to be carried up from each story in back gable-end, three feet above the roof. The first story will be filled in with gravel level with top of the joist; first story joist 6 inches wide, 16 inches from centre to centre; the first story will be 11 feet in the clear from graduation of the street; second story thirteen feet in the clear; whole height of building from the foundation twenty-seven feet. Two large doors in the first story 7.6 x 9, to be finished and hung in the same manner of those in the Franklin engine-house; one door frame and door in end wall of first story, with plain transom; one panel door in partition opposite outside door; a stairway to the second story to be partitioned off 3.6 wide, as per plan; closet under stairway in first story; partition continued across the width of building in the second story, with panel door; hose galleries at the head of stairs for suspending hose, to be rough boarded inside; inside of partition in first story to be boarded with rough boards, tongued and grooved. Three windows in first story, and eight windows in second