

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

THE CORNWALL WATERWORKS LITIGATION.

The long pending litigation between the Cornwall Waterworks company and the town of Cornwall has been settled. The matter has been in the law court since June, 1897. The waterworks Company completed their system in 1886, and a mortgage of \$80,000 was put on the system, the Farmers' Loan and Investment Co. being trustees for the bondholders.

In June, 1897, the town decided to appropriate the works and a board of arbitration, consisting of Judge Carman, of Cornwall, John Kennedy, harbor engineer, of Montreal, and Judge McDougall, of Toronto, was agreed upon and awarded the company \$86,492, with \$2,000 costs.

The company appealed on the ground that the bondholders were not notified. This appeal was dismissed. The town then paid into the Ontario Bank the amount of the award, placing the sum to the joint credit of the company and mortgagees. Both refused to accept the money and the company instituted an action to get possession of the works. This action was not tried until after Judge Street's decision that the award was valid as against the company. The action of the company was dismissed as premature, but it was held that the payment to the bank was not a valid payment of the monies under the award and it was directed that the money be paid back to the town.

The statute provides that if the award is not paid within six months the properties shall revert to the original owners and all the cost of arbitration be paid by the corporation. This six months had elapsed at the time of the decision that the money paid was not a valid payment.

The waterworks company now commenced a new action on this ground to recover possession of the works, and this is the action that has just been settled by the town agreeing to pay \$110,000. This amount is to cover the award, costs and interest and the complete cessation of litigation and the town to get possession of the works. As against this \$110,000 the town has received the revenue of the works during the last three years. The total cost involved in the litigation is \$22,000.

SCRAPING WATER MAINS.

The annual report of the city engineer of Halifax, Mr. F.W.W. Doane, contains some interesting particulars of the operation of the system of cleaning sewers by means of scrapers, which has been in use in that city since 1880. Between the

years 1882 and 1898, 160,800 feet of 24 inch sewer was cleaned at a total expense of \$167.30; 26,848 feet of 20 inch sewer at a cost of \$36.67; 348,568 feet of 15 inch sewer at a cost of \$204.44; 33,616 feet of 12 inch sewer at a cost of \$793.01; 20,514 feet of 6 inch sewer at a cost of \$1,074.42; 317,323 feet of 3 inch sewer at a cost of \$558.56. The report shows that in 1884 the low service 24 inch main, 13,400 feet in length, was cleaned at a cost of 6 cents per lineal foot, and that in 1885 the high-service inch main, 29,628 feet in length, was cleaned at a cost of 3 cents per lineal foot.

Mr. Chas. Curtis, cashier for the Warren Scharf Asphalt & Paving Co. in this city, has compiled a very neat table of wages comprising sixteen different rates (including laborers, mechanics, tradesmen, carts, teams, and stonecutters' union rates) from half an hour to one hundred and twenty hours. The table is 10" x 12", neatly printed on white cardboard. Every contractor

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