

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

PRESCOTT WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

In a recent issue of the *CONTRACT RECORD* it was stated that the waterworks and sewerage systems of the town of Prescott, Ont., had been completed at a cost of \$87,500. This was somewhat misleading, as this figure did not include certain portions of the work, such as rock excavation, tank, etc. According to the statement of the waterworks commissioners the total cost of the completed systems was \$102,397.91. This does not include the sum expended for service connections, which up to the present time has been about \$1,150.

THE GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT.

A deputation composed of the Executive Committee of the Good Roads Association waited upon the Premier of Ontario recently in connection with the movement on foot to improve the public highways of the province. The following were the gentlemen that interviewed the Premier: J. E. Ramsden, C. E. Lundy and W. H. Pugsley, York Township; D. H. Moyer and J. F. Bean, Welland County; Thomas Buchanan, Oxford County; James Graham, Victoria County, and C. Richardson, Grey County. Mr. Bean was chairman and Mr. Ramsden secretary.

The proposition to the Government was that the cost of constructing the principal highways be borne by the Government, county and municipality through which the roads run, each of the three named to bear an equal share of the cost. As to the outlay necessary to cover the cost of maintaining the roads so constructed, the deputation suggested that the county provide the funds.

The Premier assured the deputation that the Government were anxious to do what they could in the matter, and that their suggestions would be taken into consideration.

The deputation, at a subsequent meeting, decided to send out circulars to the various municipalities in the province, to learn their views on the question.

ANNUAL MEETING OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers opened in the new rooms of the society, 877 Dorchester street, Montreal, at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, January 24th, Dr. H. P. Bovey, Dean of McGill University, presiding. At the morning session the report of the council for the year 1900 was presented and adopted. It showed a membership of eight honorary members, 318 members, 314 associate members, 38 associates, and 222 students, or 900 in all, an increase of 53 over last

year. The report of the convention at Ottawa from September 13 to 16 was also presented. In the afternoon Dr. Bovey delivered his presidential address on "The Place of Science in Education." He pointed out that the true function of science is to ascertain the causes of things and their relation to one another, and as such is a very valuable element in true education. For it gives an insight into our material environment and uncloses the sealed book of nature, while the methods of thought peculiar to it train our mental and moral faculties to meet the needs of the life we must lead. For the scientific method proceeds by observation, analysis, classification, generalization, deduction and experiment, and these must be used by us in a more less trained fashion every day.

The lecturer then quoted many illustrations of the remarkable results obtained by observation, analysis and experimentation by scientists, savages and others, and went on to point out that besides its practical advantages, the scientific method also teaches certain good moral virtues. Love of truth, humility and reverence, strenuous effort, are all inculcated by it.

Scientific methods, however, are not confined to the mere facts of nature. They may be and are now applied to the problems presented by history, language, literature and philosophy, [although their power is unable to produce the beauties of poetry or the triumphs of faith. Still in the teaching of science the application of its own methods produces results which can be obtained in no other way. For it is the best known method of study, and as such should be studied in itself; it trains the eye, the ear and the hand; it encourages concentration of mind and the close grasp of facts; it emphasizes the relations of cause and effect; it involves the study and accumulation of facts, and offers a free scope for the exercise of the human powers, and lastly, it fits a man more directly for his career in life than any other course. Surely then science should be taught to every one.

In concluding his interesting paper Dr. Bovey said that science, besides its great function in the training of the mind, has accomplished marvellous victories for the good, moral and intellectual, as well as mental of mankind. If we look forward to a new century as remarkable for its invention as the last, let us remember that these inventions must be won with the same weapons as those of our forefathers, and strive to emulate the patience and determination of Darwin, the resourcefulness of Stephenson, and the reverent humility of Faraday.

At the morning session on Friday a discussion arose upon the question of engineers holding salaried appointments under the municipal authorities and taking outside work at lower rates of remuneration than those current in the profession. The matter was referred to a special committee for consideration.

The following officers were elected for the year 1901: President, Mr. E. H. Keating, Toronto; vice-presidents, Messrs. G. H. Duggan and E. Marceau, Montreal, and Mr. C. H. Rust, Toronto; treasurer, Mr. H. Irwin, Montreal; secretary, Professor C. H. McLeod, Montreal; librarian, Mr. E. A. Rhys Roberts, Montreal. Council—Messrs. John Kennedy, Montreal; W. P. Anderson, Ottawa; G. H. Mountain, Ottawa; D. MacPherson, Montreal; P. S. Archibald, Moncton, N. B.; H. J. Campbell, Vancouver, B.C.; W. R. Butler, Kingston; J. Galbraith, Toronto; J. Ross, Montreal; H. S. Poole, Halifax; R. B. Rogers, Peterboro; R. Herring, New York; W. Chipman, Toronto; C. B. Smith, Toronto; B. D. Connel, Montreal.

A resolution of sympathy with the King and Royal family was adopted and ordered to be forwarded to the Governor-General. The members then visited McGill University and were shown the scientific building by the professors.

The meeting closed by a luncheon at the Society's rooms, tendered by the resident members.

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