

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

News Specially sent in from the Western Office of the JOURNAL.
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181 Bannatyne Ave., Winnipeg, Man.

Good Roads

Once more the season is approaching when the road question should receive attention. In well regulated municipalities all road machinery and equipment was gathered in and properly housed last fall, and is now under lock and key where the proper parties can get it when it is needed. There may be a few that are not in this desirable position. If such is the case, a great deal of time will be saved, when the road-making season commences, if the equipment is got together now and examined to see that it is all there and that any necessary repairs can be made before the spring rush sets in, for the blacksmiths. There is no doubt that "a stitch in time saves nine" applies to road machinery. And while on this road question it is well to emphasize the importance of the finished product in road making. Many an otherwise good grade has been spoiled by leaving it to the tender mercies of traffic without first harrowing and rolling it, thus filling up the hollows and giving a compact surface. Proper drainage is also a very important item in road construction and one that is too often overlooked.

It is very evident that each municipality should commence with its leading roads and do a first class job, not undertaking to cover too much territory. A dab here and there in different parts of the municipality does not make much of a showing and a great deal of time is wasted in carting machinery around. The best and most economical plan is to take one road and make it as near perfect as possible, and next year do the same with the road that ranks second in importance. Once the road has been completed, it should not be forgotten that the little ruts and defects are remedied as fast as they appear and before long there will be a system of roads to be proud of and one that will require very light expenditures to keep in good condition.

In the municipality of Pembina there is a councillor who has been, and is yet demonstrating the practical benefits of thoroughness and concentration in road construction and maintenance. He is Mr. Adam Kinn, known to his friends as Teddy, and as a practical councillor on the road question, he is a winner. Mr. Kinn has put up a fight for the construction of good roads and the thorough completion of the job right from one end to the other. He has secured much government aid in the matter of money grants for his road work and has built at least one road that is a credit to any municipality.

There are doubtless others who have been at work along similar lines and the *Journal* will be glad to hear from any such with an explanation of their methods and the results attained.

The road question is a live issue and the councillor who is the means of providing his municipality with good roads is leaving "footprints on the sands of time" that will never be effaced.

Fire Protection Pays

It is estimated by insurance experts in Winnipeg, that the savings in premiums for fire insurance due to the installation of the high pressure system will be \$125,000 per annum, which is equal to about 6 per cent. on an investment of \$2,000,000.

This Month do not Forget

Noxious weeds inspectors should be appointed and it is well to bear in mind the need of appointing men who will do their duty thoroughly.

The completion of assessment rolls should now be accomplished in order that clerks may keep their work up to date. In Manitoba, the Council may extend the date for return of roll to June 1st., but the Saskatchewan and Alberta Acts require that rolls shall be returned on or before May 1st.

At the first meeting after presentation of Assessment Roll, the Council should appoint postmasters, fence-viewers and poundkeepers.

In Alberta and Saskatchewan, Secretary-treasurers are required to destroy all ballot papers at the end of three months after the elections, unless otherwise ordered by the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof.

Most municipalities hold Courts of Revision in May.

Clerks should note all amendments to the Municipal Act made at the last sessions of the local Legislatures.

It will soon be time to commence the preparation of the voters' lists.

Municipal Councils would do well to so time the date of receiving tenders for Debentures that they may advertise the name in the *Journal*, as through it they can reach a large number of the bond buyers and members of the financial circles of both America and Europe.

The editor of this department requests all clerks to report full details of bond sales each month to the head office, Montreal.

Permanent Bridges

The Report of the Department of Public Works of Manitoba, contains some very interesting and encouraging information. Mr. Daucer, Deputy Minister and Chief Engineer, says:

"It is gratifying to note that the officers of some of the municipalities are beginning to recognize the desirability of erecting permanent structures, instead of the temporary timber bridges and culverts which have been almost universally built in the past." "A new departure in the employment of concrete flooring, instead of timber, on a bridge, is in the municipality of Roblin."

No less than 1,346½ miles of drains have now been constructed and have benefitted 1,327,994 acres.

Legislation has been asked by a representative delegation to divide the Municipality of Rosburn into two municipalities.

The Western office of the *Journal* has been moved to 181 Bannatyne Ave., where municipal men will be welcome.

Public Gas Pays

Public ownership of gas pays in Warrington, Eng. The Council last year made a profit of \$78,000 by charging 60 cents, and out of this they reduced the rates or taxes by \$27,000. This year they have reduced the price to 55 cents.