

sible for their share of such work, there is a difference of opinion on the question, the decision of which can only be obtained by a legal decision. We recommend therefore that an amendment to the law be made making it clear that the occupant of crown lands shall be liable to contribution to the cost of municipal roads, and that owners of timber limits shall be liable as well as private individuals. This will be an act of justice to the municipalities as bitter complaints are made of the inconvenience and loss caused by limit holders objecting and refusing to perform their portion of road work.

Since the year 1870 over 900,000 acres of land have been placed at the disposal of various societies. The results have been so unsatisfactory that it is wise to discontinue making grants of this kind. The managers of the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company by their liberal policy have built up important sections of new country and deserve the greatest praise for their liberality in this respect. A statement fyled by the department of sales says :—"The result from the point of view of colonization has been nil or nearly so." The lands reserved for these societies, which have not been cancelled, have been returned to the Crown. The creation of these societies has caused a loss to the province of \$75,000. In the case of the Dominion Land Company the Government paid damages of \$6,614. The amount paid by the province under 38 Victoria, chap. 3 amounts to \$60,320 and the reimbursement of French shareholders of the Temiscamingue Society, \$8,289, besides the Government in the latter case was unjustly blamed for the mistakes and incapacity of the projectors of the scheme. The causes of failure arose from the incapacity of the promoters. In many cases societies were merely organized for purposes of speculation. We recommend that the department of colonization should hereafter retain sole control and management of the public lands for settlement, and all matters concerning the selection of fit and proper sites for colonization and colonization roads.