

ALL AROUND THE WORLD

PUBLIC HIGHWAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The mileage of public highways in Great Britain is approximately as follows: England and Wales, 151,472; Scotland, 24,816; Ireland, 58,334, making a total of 234,622 miles. At a cost estimate of \$5,000 per mile for an average width of 18 feet, and \$2,500 per mile for bridges, cuts and embankments, these highways must have cost at least \$1,750,000,000.

LABOUR BUREAU IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Johannesburg Labour Bureau, which is under the control of the municipal authorities, has issued an appeal to employers to make a point of applying to that office when filling vacancies in their staffs. The reason is that a considerable number are now returning from active service, and that number is likely to be increased soon. A portion of these men will resume their former positions, but it is anticipated that there may be some difficulty in finding employment for others who have had no guarantee of returning to former billets. Efforts will be made to secure employment for them, and thus prevent them from tramping about in search of work. The Bureau will recommend only those possessing the necessary qualifications.—South African Commerce.

A MUNICIPAL RENTING AGENCY.

The city of Milan, Italy, according to the report of American Consul John H. Grout, has undertaken a municipal renting agency, principally in order to supervise, to a certain extent, hygienic living conditions among those occupying large workingmen's apartments or homes. First-class apartments and homes are also taken for rent by this municipal agency, which does not confine itself solely to the needs of the laboring classes.

The idea was first proposed by Dr. Pietro Ferrari at a tuberculosis congress in Milan, and a movement to establish such a renting agency, which had for its chief purpose the investigation of the hygienic conditions and locations of apartments and homes, was launched by the city authorities of Milan, taking as its guides the municipal renting agencies of Paris and Stuttgart.

Should an owner care to place his property in the hands of the municipal renting agency, the property is first inspected by the proper city officials, and a report is made as to its cleanliness and location. It is then entered upon the bulletin called *The Home*, issued free by the office and illustrated by maps of the city of Milan, showing the exact locations of the various vacant apartments.

Furnished rooms are not dealt with. No charges for services are made by the office, and the work has been taken up exclusively to benefit those who seek apartments or houses for rent. The bulletin, *The Home*, is re-edited and re-issued whenever necessity demands it.

In Milan there are very few "real estate agents," as known in America. All details of renting an apartment are usually taken care of by the "portinajo," or porter, who represents the owner of the building, and who is installed on the premises. Rents are payable every six months in advance, and notice to leave an apartment is usually given six months in advance.

LONDON COUNTY TRAMWAYS.

London County Councils Tramways, the municipal street railways of Greater London, is a system that comprises 149.75 miles, of which all but 5.75 miles are electric. Passengers carried in the year ended March 31st, 1915, numbered 550,497,993, as compared with 522,952,640 in the preceding year. Car-miles operated in the year were 55,978,792, and the cost per car-mile of the electric railways, excluding war allowances, was 13 cents, while including war allowances, this cost was 13.6 cents a car-mile. The receipts on the electric lines were 19.4 cents a car-mile as compared with 18 cents a car-mile for the preceding year. On the horse car lines receipts were 19 cents a car-mile as compared with 16 cents for the preceding year.

COUNCIL WISDOM.

Alderman D. Watson, Marylebone, England, recommends that while there is not so much pressure on the railways every borough council ought to take in deliveries and store coal in every possible corner. They are doing that in Marylebone.

MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM RECEIVES MANY COMPLAINTS.

Trouble appears to be brewing at Hull, where the municipal telephone service is the only one of its kind in Great Britain, with the exception of the island of Guernsey. More than 280 complaints have been received recently, and the telephone committee is holding an inquiry into the working of the system. The manager of the Hull service states that complaints are inseparable from the telephone, and that subscribers are now changing their telephone numbers at a rate of 30 a week. The Hull municipal service has lost a large number of its employes within the last 18 months. It lost 39 per cent. when the national service was purchased by the government, and when the war broke out it was further reduced by 25 per cent.—Telephony.

PARIS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

The Paris municipal council has imitated the example of the National Council and instead of following its general custom of filling its offices on the usual party lines, it has formed, in effect, a coalition government, and the posts have been divided between all the various parties that are grouped in the municipality. M. Mithouard, the president of the council, on being re-elected, made a easily possible, since their aim was not only quite clear, but also very elevated, for they desired nothing less than that the municipal government should reflect French public opinion itself. In following the influences of the present state of feeling in France the municipal council was, the president said, merely fulfilling its part in the magnificent moral effort which was welding together in one united whole all national desires.—Exchange.

CITY PUBLICITY THROUGH MOTION PICTURES.

Through its Commercial Club, Grand Forks, North Dakota, is doing some publicity work by means of the moving picture. For several months the Commercial Club has had in circulation throughout the Northwest several films showing scenes in Grand Forks, and in the northwestern territory generally, including picturesque scenes from the western mountains, views illustrating advanced farming methods, and scenes from the "Pageant of the Northwest," which was produced on the occasion of the meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Society in the summer of 1914, and is in itself a remarkable feature. The pageant was planned and produced by a society of the State University of Grand Forks and depicts important scenes from the history of the Northwest, including the organization of the Hudson Bay Company, the exploration of the Great Lakes, the discovery of the Mississippi River, and the Lewis and Clarke expedition across the continent. These were all presented in costume, with appropriate lines. The pageant was staged in a natural amphitheatre on the university campus, where a little winding stream separates the level ground used for stage purposes from the spectators seated on the sloping banks on the farther side. This "Bankside Theatre," as it has been named, is being fitted up by the planting of shrubbery and the making of other improvements, for permanent use as an out-of-door theatre, and another pageant will be produced there this year.

The films have been in constant use all winter. The Commercial Club had them prepared at its own expense and under its own direction, and loans them without charge to communities desiring them. The demand for pictures, therefore, has been greater than could be met. It is the intention of the directors of the Club to extend the service another year.—American City.