

TOWNSHIP HAD TO PAY

Division Court was held in Embro on November 1st before His Honor Judge FINKLE. The principal case on the docket was that of YOUNGS v. Township of West Zorra. Mr MCKAY for plaintiff and Mr. PETER McDONALD for the defendent township. The plaintiff claimed that while gravel was being drawn from the pit on his farm the men were negligent and allowed a gate to be left open, by which means a valuable steer got out on the road and was killed. He therefore wanted damages. Several witnesses were called and as the evidence showed that the men hauling the gravel were negligent in leaving the gate open, judgment was given the plaintiff for \$30.

At the January elections the ratepayers of Chatham will vote on a by-law to loan \$20,000 to a concern known as the Canadian Pin Company, who propose to locate there. They agree to pay off the loan in twenty annual payments and interest at five per cent. The company has a paid-up capital of \$40,000, manufactures safety pins, buckles, stamped goods, etc., and will employ sixty hands and pay \$18,000 per annum in wages, outside that paid to officers. They also ask for water for ten years at seven cents per thousand gallons, and exemption from all taxes, with the exception of school and frontage taxes, for a term of ten years.

A Montreal exchange says: "A report completed at the city hall on Friday shows that property is exempted from paying real estate assessments to the city for the current year to the amount of fifty-four million dollars. Never in the history of the city were the exemptions so large. The figures show that during the past three years exemptions have increased by fully twelve million dollars. Last year's exemptions amounted to \$50,350,195.

In Midland a discount of two per cent. is allowed on taxes paid on or before a certain date. This year \$23,260 were paid in in twenty-four days previous to October 25th. Other towns follow this practice, but in Collingwood the corporation has the whole thing, which appears to be a mistake. Had the financial end of Collingwood at the present moment the amount of money paid in in Midland, interest at the rate of 6 per cent. would be saved and the ratepayers would be reaping the benefit, directly and indirectly.—Ex.

Toronto *Saturday Night* has the following to say in reference to the granting of bonuses to manufacturing institutions by municipalities: "A correspondent sends us a clipping from a Toronto evening paper reporting the voluntary assignment of a company owing one of the towns in Ontario a very large sum of money, which was granted the firm as a bonus, repayable in twenty years. 'It would seem fair to suppose,' writes our correspondent, 'that in future the town in question will be slow to go fishing for infant industries. But quite aside from the possibility of failure, why in the name of common sense should any municipality fall all over itself to bribe into its midst a concern too weak to stand on its own hind legs? Or why should a town without the natural advantages necessary to induce an industry to settle there attempt by a bonus to take it from another town that has these advantages? It is not the giving of bonuses by municipalities wrong in principle, as well as often disastrous in its results? Does it not put a premium on business adventure, and therefore hinder, rather than help, a legitimate enterprise? Would it not be better for the self-respect and for the ultimate good of the community if the money squandered in bonusing mushroom manufactories, etc., were invested in municipal improvement?'"

Re McLEOD AND TRUSTEES OF SCHOOL SECTION
No. 11, TOWNSHIP OF TAY.

School Site—Compulsory Purchase of—Award of Arbitrators

Judgment on appeal by McLEOD and NORRIS from order of TEETZEL, J., dated 25th July, 1907, dismissing application for an order of mandamus directing the board of public school trustees of School Section No. 11, township of Tay, to purchase or acquire the necessary property for a school site, pursuant to the award of arbitrators fixing the same. Appeal dismissed with costs.

STEEL PAVING

A section of steel pavement has recently been laid in the Rue St. Martin, Paris, to test its usefulness, says *Youth's Companion*. The steel blocks are nearly seven inches long and an inch and a third thick, and are ridged on both sides. They are laid in cement so that the tops of the ridges just reach the surface. The ridges are so close together that a horse's shoe covers at least three ranges of them. It is believed that such a pavement will prove superior to asphalt, in being less slippery and more durable than a pavement of wooden blocks.

Many an officer who has performed his duties honestly during the year and has become better acquainted with the members around the board will no doubt be found fault with if he does not take the same stand towards his fellow-councillors at the approaching elections as at the last. A healthy strife for office should be devoid of all personalities. Every candidate will work for the good of his municipality and incidentally for a little personal glory. This is as it should be. If a better acquaintance with his fellow-representatives changes a man's opinions, it is only another evidence that candidates are not always as black as they are painted at election time.

It will be of interest to many to know that the Westinghouse Company of Pittsburg has recently issued a new storage battery catalogue. The Niagara power discussions will be simplified if the use of storage batteries is included with the estimates for each municipal distribution plant. Manufacturers using power at irregular intervals can, by the use of a storage battery, contract for the average power required during 24 hours, the storage batteries receiving and storing the current when not otherwise required. Write for catalogue, S-2 for stationery batteries and catalogue "P" for portable batteries.

Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, has a peculiar municipal franchise. Every person who pays a \$2 dog tax is entitled to vote in elections for mayor and aldermen. The system has led to abuses. It has been discovered that six enterprising women voted on the strength of a single dog. Worse still, one ingenuous woman, unable to get a real dog in time to qualify, took out a license for a china dog on her mantelpiece. Municipal franchise reform is now regarded as a question of urgency in Victoria, and the unkind association of dogs with mayors and aldermen is doomed.

Orillia's reputation for cheap power seems to have been somewhat shattered, Gravenhurst having just completed a scheme whereby hydro-electric power is developed and transmitted eight miles at a cost of \$7 per horsepower.