

Engineering Department

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County Roads in Brant.

A conference of municipal councillors was held in Brantford on Feb. 18th, at which all township and town councils were represented, for the purpose of considering the action to be taken with regard to the Provincial Highway Improvement Act, and the portion of the grant due to the county of Brant.

The convention was most successful, and at its conclusion a resolution was adopted suggesting that the various municipal bodies of the county hold a conference in the near future for the purpose of further considering whether some method may not be adopted for improving the various roads throughout the county. There are a number of toll roads to be dealt with, which, it was suggested, would form a nucleus for a county road system, similar to that adopted by Wentworth.

Municipal Statistics.

A report of the Bureau of Industries has just been issued, giving municipal statistics for the years 1899, 1900 and 1901.

The population of the townships in 1901 was 1,092,181; of the towns, 330,412; of the villages, 126,836; of the cities, 479,460; a total for the Province of 2,028,889. The assessed values in 1901 were: Townships, \$458,811,926; towns, \$99,921,377; villages, \$29,849,933; cities, \$247,114,371; total for the Province, \$835,697,607. The taxes imposed for all purposes in 1901 were: Townships, \$4862,630; towns, \$2,330,691; villages, \$589,798; cities, \$5,558,236; total for the Province, \$13,341,355.

The debenture debt outstanding in 1900 was: Townships, \$2,554,167; towns, \$11,690,536; villages, \$1,187,919; cities, \$40,022,189; counties \$1,717,991; total for the Province, \$57,172,802. The assessed areas in 1901 were: Townships, 23,636,178 acres; towns, 151,053 acres; villages, 97,424 acres; cities, 43,552 acres; total for the Province, 23,928,207 acres. As opposed to a Provincial population of 2,028,889, given by municipal officers, a table of population under the Dominion census included in this report shows a population of 2,182,947.

The usual statistics of each municipality are given in detail showing population, area, assessed values and taxation; receipts disbursements, assets and liabilities, with comparative aggregates for ten years. In addition to the table of population by Dominion censuses and municipal assessment, compared for three years 1881, 1891, 1901, is a statement showing, by municipalities, the exemptions by by-law from taxation. These reports, compiled under

the direction of Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, are of service in many ways, and lead to important results, one of the chief being that they are at the basis of the system of issuing municipal debentures, enabling prospective purchasers of debentures to decide as to the security of their investment, thereby facilitating the sale of municipal debentures and tending to increase their value.

Ottawa Road Convention.

An excellent programme has been prepared for the convention of the Eastern Ontario Good Roads Association to be held in Ottawa on the 12th and 13th of March. Thursday morning will be devoted to a discussion of the methods townships should adopt in maintaining their roads. Thursday afternoon, county roads will be considered. On Thursday evening it is expected that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. R. L. Borden, M. P., and other leading members of Parliament will attend, the general public are invited, and the programme will be of a popular nature. Friday forenoon will be devoted to a consideration of the cost of various types of bridges, and the afternoon to answering questions in the question drawer and a general discussion of matters raised during the convention.

Among those who will address the convention are, Hon. F. R. Latchford, Commissioner of Public Works; Professor J. A. Holmes, of North Carolina; Warden W. H. Kerr of Huron county; H. B. Cowan, editor of the *Ottawa Valley Journal*; A. W. Campbell, Commissioner of Highways; County Councillor, S. B. Morris of Elgin County, and others. Heretofore the conventions of this association have been extremely interesting and thoroughly practical, and the present prospects would indicate that the coming gathering will, in this respect, surpass those previously held.

All railway companies have granted reduced rates, every county and township council should be represented, and all interested in road improvement should not fail to attend.

Mr. Alex. Saunders, solicitor, who for some years past has been clerk of the village of Watford, has been appointed Deputy Clerk of the Crown, Clerk of the County Court and Registrar of the Surrogate Court, in and for the County of Lambton.

Mr. F. A. Hutt, clerk of Stamford township, died suddenly of heart failure on the 17th ult. He had been clerk for 21 years, and during that time he had been absent from only one meeting of the council

Electric Power From Niagara.

An important convention was held at Berlin, Ontario, on the 17th of last month for the purpose of considering the best means of procuring cheap electric power from Niagara. The municipal councils represented were those of Toronto, Stratford, St. Thomas, Hamilton, Guelph, Ingersoll, London, St. Catharines, Galt, Dundas, Waterloo, Brantford, Berlin, Bridgeburg, Woodstock and St. Mary's; also representatives from several Boards of Trade, and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. The convention was the outcome of a previous conference held in Berlin last July, at which a committee was appointed to prepare a report on the subject. The report of this committee stated that the prospects for proposed electrical transmission within a short time were very encouraging; that electric power would be obtainable at the Falls in large quantities for about \$7 or \$8 for continuous h. p. at the Falls; or from \$14 to \$15 delivered to the various municipalities. The report of this committee suggested that municipalities should co-operate as to the means of transmission only, procuring power from existing companies, two of which will within two years have ample power developed. The result of the deliberations was that a committee was appointed to wait on the Government to see if the Province will undertake the transmission of power. If the reply is in the negative they will prepare a plan for municipal co-operation, to be submitted to the Government, and should that fail will try to make the best terms possible with private corporations.

The committee appointed was as follows: Geo. McLogan, of Stratford; Ald. F. S. Spence, of Toronto; Mayor C. F. Maxwell, of St. Thomas; Mayor J. H. Hamilton, of Guelph, ex-Mayor W. Mills, of Ingersoll; Mayor Burgoyne, of St. Catharines; Mayor Beck, of London; Mayor Cant, of Galt; Henry Bertram, of Dundas; Wm. Snyder, of Waterloo; Mayor M. K. Halloran, of Brantford.

The by-law voted on in Berlin for the purchase of the local electric light and gas plant, at a cost of \$80,000, was carried by a large majority.

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The water commissioners of Brantford have decided to purchase their supply of soft coal direct from the mines hereafter. They find that they can effect a saving thereby of \$1.25 a ton.

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Mr. Geo. B. Anderson, of Medina, has been appointed clerk of the Township of East Nissouri, in the place of Mr. W. E. Andison, who recently resigned that office.

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Mr. W. S. Fuller has been appointed clerk of the village of Watford, to succeed Mr. Alex. Saunders, resigned.