

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

LEATHER PAVING BLOCKS.

There seems to be no limit to the ingenuity of man in his adaptation of materials to multitudinous uses. Yet another paying substance is about to arise to compete with the ordinary paving brick. A company has been organized in Boston with a capital of \$300,000 to manufacture railroad ties and paving blocks from leather. Naturally, the inventors are sanguine that their material will revolutionize the paving brick industry. Should this be the case, we will be able to see the advertisements on this new paving material with a war-cry "tough as leather."

These paving blocks are to be made of the little scraps which hitherto have been allowed to go to waste. The company controls a patented process by which it is claimed all waste leather can be utilized to the best of advantage so that the pavements which are employed daily in wearing out the "soles" of the pedestrians and their footgear will be repaired by the paving block product of the uppers. It is said by the officials of the company that in railroad ties alone, a saving of \$7,000 per mile can be effected in construction. This invention has the advantage of a novelty anyhow, and all we have to do is to wait and see whether its claims will be substantiated by the actual manufacture and use of the product. In the meantime we will advise our readers to save their old shoes and boots; they may have a market value. — Exchange.

LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

McCLURE V. TOWNSHIP OF BROOKE;
BRUCE V. TOWNSHIP OF BROOKE.— Judgment (R) in appeal by defendants from order of Divisional Court allowing appeal by plaintiffs from order of Meredith, C. J., dismissing their application to have all matters arising in the actions referred to the drainage referee as an official referee. The actions were brought for alleged injuries to plaintiffs' lands and crops by reason of the construction of certain drains by the defendants and the obstruction by them of certain ditches. Proceedings had also been begun by the plaintiffs under the Drainage Act for such damages as could be recovered, if at all, only at a trial before the drainage referee under that Act. Meredith, C. J., had been of opinion that the drainage referee was not an official referee, and that there was therefore no power to refer as asked in the absence of a consent. But the Divisional Court had thought that the drainage referee, being an officer of the court, was an official referee, and referred the actions to him. The township now appealed on the ground that a wrong conclusion had been arrived at as to the effect of the statutory provisions. Held, that no one could be an official referee who was not one of the officers named

in sec. 141 (1) of the Judicature Act, or had not been appointed an official referee by the Lieutenant-Governor under sec. 141 (2). The drainage referee, while an officer of the court, and holding office by the same tenure as an official referee under sec. 88 of the Arbitration Act, was not an official referee, his powers being defined by sec. 89. No reference to him could therefore be directed here except as a special referee by consent. Order of Divisional Court reversed, and that of Meredith, C. J., restored, with costs.

THE ORIGIN OF SEWER PIPE.

The extensive and ever-increasing use of sewer pipe in our large cities to-day leads one to endeavor to trace back in thought the origin of this utilization. Much interesting light has been cast upon the early history of the sewer pipe by some recent excavation in the ancient city of Nippur. The foundation of this great metropolis was laid four thousand years before Abraham, and the oculists in their investigation have unearthed a remarkable system of sewerage. The sewer was made by breaking up the bottom of stone-ware jars and inserting the neck of one jar in the bottom of the next, the joints being pasted with clay. It will thus be said that there is a very slight difference in design between the sewer pipe of the present time and that used by the ancient Nippurians. Nippur is located on what is supposed to have been the Garden of Eden.

Mr. C. A. Kingston, city clerk, of London, Ont., has tendered his resignation and a successor has been appointed in the person of Mr. C. B. Edwards, M. A. Mr. Kingston purposes residing in California for the benefit of Mrs. Kingston's health.

As nearly as can be determined there were used last year in fifty-five cities in Great Britain and Ireland from which returns were received by the British Columbia Information Bureau, 30,350,000 wooden blocks, valued at \$1,500,000.

Lyons Electric Co - Brantford, Ont.
Contractors, Specialists, General Supplies.
Close Fittings on High Class Work.

JOHN GALT, C.E. & M.E.
MEM. CAN. SOC. C.E. AND C.E.A., ETC.
CONSULTING ENGINEER and EXPERT
ROOM 12, ABERDEEN CHAMBERS,
Cor. Victoria and
Adelaide Sts., Toronto
Specialties—Water Supply and Sewerage.

WATERWORKS PUMPS

Municipalities contemplating the installation of waterworks pumps will find it to their advantage to investigate our pumps—both as to cost and service.

Northey pumps are giving satisfaction under all sorts of conditions in scores of towns in Canada.

WE MAKE

**Pumping
Machinery**
(For all Duties)

Write or telegraph and we will send a representative to you to make a personal inspection.

Northey pumps are designed for efficient, continuous work and meet the requirements.

**THE Northey
Company
Limited, Toronto**

Portland Cement..

ALL GRADES.

Write or Telegraph to

BELLHOUSE, DILLON & CO.,

30 St. Francois Xavier Street, MONTREAL,

for prices—Large stock constantly on hand.



Largest Makers in the World.

BELLHOUSE, DILLON & CO., 30 St. Francois Xavier St., Montreal
Sole Agents for the Compagnie Generale des Asphaltes de Franco (Rock Asphalt.)

**PORTLAND
CEMENT**

NORTH'S CONDOR

Paving and Fire Brick a Specialty

"DYCKERHOFF" and "WHITE CROSS" Brands

NORTH'S CONDOR BRAND AWARDED FIRST PRIZE AND GOLD MEDAL AT THE ANTWERP EXHIBITION