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KING EDWARD VII HIGHWAY.

THE Hon Mr. Caron, Commissioner of Agriculture of the Province of Quebec, on Wednesday assured a deputation of mayors and farmers, that he would recommend the Legislature at its next session to assume three-quarters of the cost of the King Edward VII road from Montreal to Rouse's Point, there to connect with the New York State road to New York City. The New York State Senate on Monday appropriated over \$1,500,000 for its section of the road, and it is stated that the Dominion Government has appropriated \$20,000 for a dyke along the Laprairie road to protect the south shore of the St. Lawrence from floods. The cost of the Montreal-Rouse's Point section is estimated at \$105,000, and it will not be hard to raise a quarter of this by municipal and other subscriptions. The idea is a most happy one. The new highway will be a great convenience, will attract thousands of tourists, and will be a splendid object lesson on the subject of good roads. When the new military school is built at Longueuil, we believe it is the intention of the Dominion Government to boulevardise the whole road along the river front from Longueuil to Laprairie Common, where the military camps are held. This will enable Montrealers and their guests to get the only view of the river and harbour now to be had from a carriage or automobile, and the biggest and best view of the city. There is no spot in Montreal from which so much of Montreal can be seen at a glance as from the south shore. The idea of the King Edward VII road has been taken up with the greatest enthusiasm by the municipalities, and the farmers along the route. There is money in it for them, and there is money for other municipalities and other farmers in an extension of the idea to other localities. We have actually had a case of an automobile party starting from one of the cities of the Western States for Montreal, and being turned back near St. Anne's through the bad roads.

CANADIAN MARRIAGE LAW.

THE indications are that all the Protestant churches in Canada will take vigorous action to defend their rights in the matter of mixed marriages, and that they will win either by a judgment of the Privy Council or by the action of Parliament. They will win not so much because it is a question of clerical rights, but because serious questions of morality and justice are bound up with the assertion of the rights

of the Protestant clergy. Nobody questions for one moment the right of the Roman Catholic Church to prescribe the rules under which marriage may be administered to members of its own communion. But there is something else as well as a religious ceremony involved in a marriage. There is a distinct civil contract between the parties, and there is an implied contract between the parties and society, represented by the state. Public opinion has been shocked by the callous manner in which a certain individual took advantage of his own deceit in misrepresenting himself as a Protestant at his marriage to a Protestant before a Protestant minister in order that he might divorce his wife and illegitimize his children. Of course, the Roman Catholic Church is not behind any other church in its desire to preserve the sanctity of the marriage relationship, but at least in a mixed community, its system is productive of some curious results. One effect of the controversy and of the inevitable appeal to the Privy Council will be to bring up the whole question of the respective jurisdictions of the Federal Parliament and the Provincial Legislatures in the law of marriage. This, by tacit consent, has lain dormant so long that most people have quietly acquiesced in the assumption by the provincial legislatures of exclusive control in the matter. Only in the Province of Quebec, of course, is this a matter of importance, and here there is a commendable disposition to avoid stirring up controversial issues of this character. But it must not be forgotten that while the British North America Act assigns to the provincial legislatures the sole right to legislate upon "The Solemnization of Marriage in the Province," it also assigns to the federal parliament the sole right to legislate upon "Marriage and Divorce." Exactly what the distinction means may be matter for argument, but the authority given to the federal parliament means something.

FIRE COMMISSION ASSESSMENTS.

THE judgment in its favour obtained by the Ontario Fire Insurance Company, in the action taken against it by the City of Montreal, might be described, as a moral and practical victory won upon the merest technical grounds. The city sued to recover the sum of \$20.56, the amount of the assessment levied upon the Company for its share of the cost of the Fire Commission, \$6,900. The Company resisted the claim on the ground that several companies doing business in the city were exempted from the assessment. In prac-