

thereby. Toll gates are a relic of the past, and in this enlightened age ought to be done away with.

When the people can be made to understand that it actually costs more in time and money to travel over a poor road than it does to travel over a good one, they will be less inclined to begrudge the expense of good roads, and will be willing and anxious to put the road-making into the hands of intelligent men who understand the business. Poor roads are expensive things and curse a country district.

A Commendable Example.

The City Council, of Allentown, Penn., have taken steps to lessen the local fire waste. The ordinance being adopted provides that, the chief engineer of the fire department shall inspect all new buildings as to their safety and protection against fires and others where defective construction is likely to increase this danger. The chief is authorised to enter any yard in the city for the purpose of examining heating and lighting apparatus, to see whether any woodwork is in danger of igniting, and to examine the heaters, chimneys, steam pipes, gas brackets, electric wires of all kinds, oil lamps, ash bins, rubbish piles, and all such other things as may increase danger of fires. Wherever the engineer shall find anything in or about any building or premises, which may tend to increase the danger of fires, or any obstruction in or about any building, which might interfere with the firemen from freely entering such building, through any door or window, in case of fire, he shall notify the owner or occupant, whose duty it shall be to immediately remove the danger of obstruction, or in case of refusal or neglect, he shall, upon conviction, be fined, not exceeding \$50.

Ontario Drainage Commission.

The Drainage Commission held sittings at Chatham to take evidence on December 18, 19, 21 and 22. During the month of January sittings will be held at Leamington, Essex Town, Amherstburg and Windsor, in Essex County; at Tilbury Centre, Ridgeway and Wallaceburg in Kent County; at Sarnia, Petrolia, Alvinston and Forest in Lambton County; and during February and March sittings will be held in other parts of the Province.

Georgetown Waterworks.

GEORGETOWN, Nov. 27.—The system of waterworks for supplying the Village of Georgetown was completed, with the exception of a few details, last night, when the water was let into the pipes at the reservoir. The contractors are Messrs. Garson & Purser, of Hamilton, and the price is in the neighborhood of \$30,000. The water is supplied by springs from the limestone ridge running from Hamilton. The reservoir has a capacity of 320,000 gallons, and gives an average pressure of 87 lbs. to the inch.

The Edison Company have been granted the franchise for the electric railway in Peterborough.

ARNPRIOR, ONT.—The residents and council are discussing the project of obtaining their water supply from a neighboring spring. The scheme would cost about \$30,000.

CHATHAM, ONT.—The council are considering the construction of a sewerage system.

The council of an Ontario town recently sent inquiries to nearly all the cities and towns of Canada as to the yearly cost of each electric lamp in use for street lighting. The lights are paid for from 200 to 365 nights per year. The figures are Montreal, \$146; Toronto, \$108.59; Hamilton, \$102.10; Ottawa, \$80; Halifax, \$79; London, \$94.05; Kingston, \$65.80; St. Catharines, \$77.10; Brantford, \$105; St. Thomas, \$102.20; Windsor, \$80.30; Peterborough, \$60; Stratford, 66; Belleville, \$105; Woodstock, \$56.50; Brockville, \$101.50; Berlin, \$60; Galt, \$66; Cornwall, \$17.

A DEADLY STREET SWEEPER.

How Microbes are Sent to the Nostrils of Citizens.

At the Toronto University Saturday, Nov. 21st, Prof. Ramsey Wright lectured on "Koch and his Cure for Tuberculosis." After giving a resume of the progress made by bacteriological science in the hands of Prof. Koch, the lecturer expressed himself severely regarding the hygienic conditions of the city of Toronto. The prevalence of typhoid fever and diphtheria he pronounced a disgrace. The present method of sweeping the streets he condemned strongly. The thoroughfares he held should be cleaned every twenty-four hours, at a time when people are supposed to be in bed. The present habit of doing the work in the day time or early evening gives the citizen an excellent opportunity to imbibe the disease germs stirred up and sent floating about through the air. The meat supply of the city needs looking after. If absolute safety in this respect is to be obtained public abattoirs must be provided and a rigid system of inspection established. Notwithstanding the almost universal disrepute into which Koch and his cure have fallen Prof. Wright warmly supported its efficiency and possibilities.

Individualism and Highways.

Single taxers are individualists, not Socialists. They are utterly opposed to the assumption by government of private business. Most of them, however, protest against the continuance of the practice that transfers to private individuals and corporations the transaction of public business and the performance of public functions, and they demand that the government shall resume its proper functions and cease to farm out the taxing and other powers to private individuals to be used for their personal advantage and profit. On this general principle they are all agreed, though they may be differences as to detail. For instance, they are all agreed that the maintenance of public highways is a function of the state, but many insist that highways thus maintained shall be operated by private enterprise, while some (mistakenly, we think,) regarding this as impracticable, insist that the state shall not only own the roadbed, but that it shall operate its own rolling stock on railways. All are, however, agreed that the principle involved is that private parties shall not own and monopolize public highways. If this is called socialism it ought to insist on the sale of the St. Lawrence and other rivers to private parties, who would doubtless pay the federal government an enormous sum for the privilege of exacting tribute from all craft sailing on their rivers.—*Social Problems.*

Prison Reform Conference.

TORONTO, Nov. 27.—About 150 delegates from the various philanthropic organisations of the province and from the various public institutions met this morning as the Ontario Prison Reform Conference. Dr. E. A. Meredith presided, and W. H. Howland made the opening address. The subject of Saving Children from a Criminal Career was the sole subject of discussion at the morning session, it being stated that this was the foundation of the whole question. A resolution introduced by J. J. Kelso, of this city, and seconded by Rev. Thos. Geoghegan, of Hamilton, was adopted approving of the recommendation made by the recent prison commission regarding children. Addresses were delivered by Sir Daniel Wilson, Rev. Canon Dumoulin and others.

Something New.

The County Council of Leeds and Grenville at their session November 26, 1891, accepted conditionally a proposition of Mrs. Rivers, of Brockville, to loan her collection of valuable paintings to decorate the council chamber.

The following was received from the Deputy Minister of Education in reply to a question submitted by the secretary of the Thorold school board.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,
Toronto, Dec. 10th, 1891.

DEAR SIR,—A public school trustee, if not a member of a board of education, may be a member of the municipal council.

Your obedient servant,
JOHN MILLAR,
Deputy Minister.

The "board of education" to which Mr. Millar makes allusion has reference to cities or towns where the public and high schools are under a joint board.

By order of the council the bell on the town hall at Listowel is now rung at 9 o'clock every evening as a warning for all boys under 15 years to get to their homes. Any lads under this age found on the streets after 8 p. m. unless accompanied by their parents, will be taken charge of by the constable.

The payment of all county officials by salaries instead of fees is still being advocated in many municipalities.

The Norfolk County grand jury in their presentment at the December sessions favored the continuance of the grand jury system. It is noticeable that although the judges are pretty divided evenly on the question, grand juries almost invariably report in favor of its retention.

The editor of the Norfolk Reformer says this is noticeable but not at all curious considering that a generous country pays its Grand Jurors two dollars per diem.

No County Council should neglect the appointment of a student to attend the Agricultural College at Guelph.

The County of Simcoe law association is to have a library. It is to be in the court house, Barrie, where the legal fraternity of the county are most wont to assemble.

The Torrens system of land transfer is receiving considerable attention throughout the province. The Councils of Wellington, Middlesex and Elgin have taken the first steps towards introducing it into their respective counties.

The change in the Municipal Law relating to bridges of 100 feet in length and over, crossing rivers and streams, provides that under certain circumstances, a percentage of the cost of construction and maintenance shall be borne by the counties. In determining this question, the keenest vigilance on the part of township representatives at the coming sessions of County Councils will be required.

The audit of County Registrar's fee books is something for councils to consider. In many counties this is not necessary, but from frequent reports this will be appreciated in many counties, if, as the result of the audit, they are enabled to obtain the amount of surplus fees past due.

The County Council of Charlton is considering the advisability of lighting the gaol by electricity.

Mr. Ira Morgan, ex-Warden of the County of Carleton, was killed recently by an electric street railway car at one of the principal crossings in the City of Ottawa.

Middlesex County Council has withdrawn its support from the Model School in the City of London. In future the only County Model School in Middlesex will be at Strathroy.

Hon. Alex. Vidal, Treasurer of the County of Lambton for the last 38 years, resigned at last session of the County Council. As an official he has always displayed rare ability and an intimate knowledge of our municipal system. His son, Emrie A. Vidal, who has managed the office for the past few years, was appointed to succeed him.

Mr. John A. Murphey, Governor of the Haldimand County Gaol, is a law student, and recently passed the intermediate law examination. He stood first out of a class of 30 candidates.