

The aldermen suggest that competitive plans be sought from architects. The intention is to construct a permanent city hall of architectural beauty, and so laid out that wings could be added to it if necessary later on, as the site is ample for city hall needs for many years.

Victoria, B.C.—It is reported that the estimates of Hon. Thomas Taylor, provincial minister of public works, contain an item of \$7,000,000 for new roads and public buildings throughout British Columbia.

ROADS AND PAVEMENTS.

Ottawa, Ont.—Premier Borden is to receive a deputation from the Ontario Motor League, who will urge on the Federal Government the necessity of maintaining good roads in the Province of Ontario and of making grants towards the same.

CURRENT NEWS.

Esquimalt, B.C.—Twelve carloads of steel plates and tank material have arrived for use in the alterations being made to the G.T.P. liner Prince George. The steamer is being equipped to burn fuel oil at the British Columbia Marine Railway Company's yards. It was necessary to construct special tanks in the steamers to contain the supply of oil.

Latchford, Ont.—An acetylene explosion occurred in the rear of the King Edward Hotel. Considerable damage to property resulted.

Ottawa, Ont.—The Dominion Government have decided to restore the bounties on pig iron.

Ottawa, Ont.—A deputation representing the iron and steel industry waited on the government in an effort to obtain from the new government the restoration of the iron and steel bounties and further encouragement for the iron industry.

Ottawa, Ont.—The statement of the municipal treasurer shows a deficit of \$78,085. The treasurer's statement is as follows:—

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| Deficit in city general account, excluding \$12,500 for extra land for Lady Grey Hospital, for which debentures are to be issued | \$68,163.72 |
| Deficit, interest and sinking fund account..... | 1,705.45 |
| Deficit, street watering | 5,071.11 |
| Total deficit | \$74,940.28 |
| Less surplus in hospital account | \$ 3,882.70 |
| Net deficit, exclusive of waterworks \$71,057.58 | |
| Waterworks deficit | 7,028.00 |

Total net deficit \$78,085.58

Province of British Columbia.—The penalties imposed by the timber branch of the Department of Lands for the year 1912 amounted to \$13,199. The total timber branch revenue for the province for 1911 amounted to \$2,297,452.25.

Province of New Brunswick.—A deputation from New Brunswick are at Ottawa seeking to have an experimental farm established in that province.

Province of Alberta.—The use of a common drinking cup in this province is now against the law.

Province of Manitoba.—At the next session of the legislature there will be inaugurated a "Public Service Commission" for the province. Under this commission will be placed all the public services of the province, including steam and electric railways, gas and electric lighting, telegraphs, telephones, grain elevators and any other public utility.

St. Boniface Man.—A plan to reclaim certain lands now occupied by the River Seine is being prepared for discussion by the municipal council. The plans show a cutting off of the Seine south of the city boundary, and a short cut to the Red River about opposite River Park. An alternate plan shows a cutting of the stream at the St. Boniface Road, which is the southern boundary of the city. Here it is proposed to run the water through a flume in the centre of the road to a point in the Red River shore opposite Bartlett Avenue, Fort Rouge. The ground thus saved is desirable

for railway purposes, as yards, and the filling in of the creek would obviate the necessity of bridges. All the railways will be able to use the territory, and new tracks laid east from Winnipeg will be opposed by no such difficulties as are now to be met. The lands are valued at approximately \$3,000 per acre.

Toronto, Ont.—The Works Committee have recommended the municipal council to discontinue its policy of insuring laborers against accident, as premiums have amounted to \$7,191.73 per annum, and accidents have been fortunately few.

Vancouver, B.C.—Amongst the suggestions made by Mr. Lea, the engineer preparing the plans for the sewage system, was that the city should provide him with an assistant resident engineer to secure data regarding surfaces, make the further investigations as to areas, and report to him. The commission passed a resolution authorizing the chairman to consult with Mr. Lea as to the selection of an engineer.

Winnipeg, Man.—It is the intention of the municipal authorities to construct a submarine telephone cable across the Red River.

Winnipeg, Man.—The faculty of the University of Manitoba has arranged a series of lectures to be given during the month of February. The syllabus is as follows: "The Pitch and Quality of Musical Sound," "Experiments on Flame," "The Mineral Resources of Manitoba," "Water Purification."

Winnipeg, Man.—The Minister of Public Works announces that the time for receiving competitive drawings for the new parliament buildings has been extended to March 1st, 1912.

BUSINESS.

Dauphin, Man.—Fire did considerable damage to the Canadian Northern Railway station at this point. The telegraph office was destroyed.

Kenora, Ont.—Fire destroyed the fire hall, police station and a business block. The damage is placed at \$50,000.

Kingston, Ont.—The municipal council are about to consider the installation of a heating system for the city hall, to replace the box stove method now in use.

Medicine Hat, Alta.—There is a probability of the Ogilvie flour mill coming to this city, and negotiations are in course of progress between the municipality and a representative of the company. The head office of this company is in Montreal, P.Q.

Montreal, P.Q.—\$125,000 damage was caused by fire to the building and contents of the Richelieu and Riendeau hotels, and the Hobb Glass factory.

Port Stanley, Ont.—It is stated that the Dominion Government will erect a fish hatchery at this point in the near future.

Port Arthur, Ont.—The fire, water and light committee have been instructed to purchase a new fire engine of not less than 600 gallons capacity.

St. Mary's, Ont.—\$10,000 damage was caused by fire to the plant of the St. Mary's Wood Specialty Company. The sawmill and part of the main building were destroyed.

Shoal Lake, Man.—A loss of \$25,000 was caused to the business district of Shoal Lake.

St. Boniface, Man.—The plant of the Winnipeg Steel Granary and Culvert Company, in the outskirts of St. Boniface, was totally destroyed by fire with a loss of \$15,000.

Sudbury, Ont.—The Canadian Copper Company's hospital was destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

Toronto, Ont.—Fire damaged the R. D. Fairbairn & Company and the Allen Manufacturing Company's building to the extent of \$250,000.

Toronto, Ont.—The Dominion Foundry at 400 East Front Street, owned by Messrs. Blatchford & Trelour, was damaged to the extent of \$10,000 by fire.

Winnipeg, Man.—\$100,000 damage was caused by fire to the plant and building of the Winnipeg Cold Storage Co.

Winnipeg, Man.—Damage of \$20,000 was caused by fire to the Lightfoot furniture storage warehouse.