

Editorial

OTTAWA-PRESCOTT HIGHWAY.

On October 4th the Ottawa city council voted in favor of the Ottawa-Prescott highway, as projected by a number of municipalities, to be constructed in accordance with the provisions of the new Highway Act of Ontario. The council further resolved to petition the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to appoint a commission to carry the undertaking through to completion as soon as possible.

The animated progress of the scheme subsequently received a set-back when it was found that the Highway Act had not yet been made law. This important fact was communicated to the council by Mr. W. A. McLean, Provincial Engineer of Highways for Ontario. Obviously, there will be a reconsideration and a more thorough preliminary investigation.

For months the forces of the Ottawa-Prescott highway scheme and the forces of the Ottawa-Morrisburg highway scheme battled away for a decision on points. The referee, if one may venture the appellation on the sometime attentive municipal body, appeared to have left his stop-watch at home. The advocates of the Prescott route made an unrecoverable gain, however, when it presented the Board of Control with a petition carrying the signatures of over 500 of Ottawa's leading citizens and representing over 50 per cent. of the local assessment of the city. This petition asked that the board send the highway proposal along to council and adopt the Prescott route as superior to all others proposed.

This road, when constructed, will extend from Ottawa to the international boundary through the towns of Nepean, Kemptville and Prescott. Ogdensburg, whose leading citizens took a prominent interest in the contest, is connected with Prescott by a ferry, and Ottawa has high hopes of an extensive tourist traffic to and fro, with a straight run of 400 miles to New York City.

The cost of the proposed road is about \$600,000, of which Ottawa will pay \$180,000. The route chosen is 58 miles long. The rival Morrisburg project, with a contemplated ferry across to Waddington, would have cost Ottawa about \$150,000, if adopted, owing to its smaller mileage.

FORT WILLIAM AIMS AT BETTER MUNICIPAL SERVICE.

The city of Fort William, Ont., has established a Municipal Officers' Association that will undoubtedly facilitate a better understanding of municipal affairs among those in whose hands the government of the various departments rests. Membership is open to all department heads of the city and district and to such other municipal officials as may from time to time be considered eligible. The association holds regular monthly meetings and maintains a number of committees, whose activities cover well the entire sphere of municipal affairs. Its objects are chiefly:—

- (1) To encourage the study and promote a knowledge of the principles of municipal government.
- (2) To provide means of and to encourage social intercourse amongst the members for their improvement and benefit.
- (3) To deal with matters relating to the status of members.
- (4) To invite the formation of similar associations in other municipalities.

Among the various committees appointed there is a municipal management committee, whose duties are adequately indicated in its name. This committee has power to deal with all matters relating to policies referred to the association from time to time by the city council.

This organization as a whole is a progressive step that should invite the investigation of municipalities at large. As one of its objects is to invite the formation of similar organizations, the association will no doubt be attentive to all enquiries. Its secretary is Mr. R. R. Knight, city engineer, Fort William.

CANADIAN ARMY HYDROLOGICAL CORPS.

The present war has called forth many new ideas and organizations, each of which has a place and an object in our national life and struggle. But there is one theme pre-eminent in our minds: that is, the duty of national service. France of 1870 has been changed into France of 1915 by the clarion call to service, but it was only in recent years that French patriots succeeded in convincing the people of the imperative duty that they should undertake. The spirit of the Crusaders has gripped Britain, and everything is being sacrificed at the altar of national service. Belgium has suffered martyrdom in the cause of national service. Canada has imbibed freely of the same sublime spirit, and her sons have exhibited ability and valor equal to any on the battlefield.

But we cannot all fight, and yet assuredly in the hour of tremendous struggle there is some service that we can perform. Armies are composed of many branches of service, all of which are important and inter-dependent. At one time it was a popular belief that armies fight on their stomachs, but to-day we know that armies are vastly more efficient if they are healthy and vigorous. Almost every war has seen the sacrifice of battalions because of sickness which was preventable, and the present conflict is a singular proof of the possibility of conducting a war and yet of holding the carrions of disease at bay. Serbia and Austria, however, have suffered terribly from defective sanitary administration, and this exception serves to prove that disease is ever at the gates awaiting an opportunity to attack.

The work of attending to the sanitary requirements of the British Army is in the hands of the Army Medical Corps and the Royal Engineers. In Canada there is another organization called the "Canadian Army Hydrological Corps and Advisors on Sanitation." The name