

CHAP. VII.

COLONIZATION ROADS.

COLONIZATION SOCIETIES.

The present system, or rather absence of system, in making colonization roads is wasteful, and productive of very unsatisfactory results.

In the year 1901 the sum of \$119,000.00 was spent distributed over 42 counties in sums varying from \$194 to \$14,000.

In many cases appropriations are obtained and expended in settled municipalities which are abundantly able to pay for the work carried on, which really ought to be paid for out of municipal funds. In other cases roads are laid out and made to accomodate isolated settlers in places difficult of access, the roads costing more than the value of the farms which they are built to make accessible.

It frequently happens that impracticable routes are selected and money expended on them. Some are abandoned and better routes chosen, others are abandoned entirely because of the injudicious selection of the route.

The roads are mostly located by non-professional men, and are generally laid out without regard to steep hills or deep valleys. No effort is made to select the least costly routes. Wet and swampy places are macadamized with spruce or sapin branches, drainage of the road is not attempted. Side drains are forgotten. A heavy shower or two of rain washes a road of this description away and destroys it. No more expensive and unsatisfactory system of road making could be devised. The funds expended are, as a rule, entrusted to the county member, who invariably selects workmen who have been devoted to him at the last