MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS, CONTRACTORS, AND MATERIALS.

by Mr. Stephen H. Babcock read before the American Water-Works Association in 1888 (Eng. News, April 18, 1888). Mr. Babcock, in the vitrified pipe mains laid under his direction, has taken great pains not to subject the pipe to internal pressure and has used Cast-iron pipe whenever it was necessary to drop below the hydraulic grade line. In the discussion on Mr. Babcock's paper, however, Mr. J.T. Fanning said that a 2 ft. vitrified pipe conduit 7,000 ft. long was in use under an average head of 15 ft. on the water-works of an Eastein city. The pipe forms the supply main leading from an impounding reservoir toward the city, and is connected at its lower end with an iron pipe. To prevent any water hammer coming on the vitrified pipe an open-topped standpipe was placed on its lower end, with its top 3 ft. higher than the water covered with wrought-iron sleeves packed with Portland cement. This conduit has been in use for 20 years and has given perfect satisfiction.—Engineering News.

LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

In erecting a market place under the provisions of its charter a city is exercising a private or proprietary right, and will be held to the same degree of care, not only in the construction, but in the plan of the construction itself, and liable for the degree of negligence as would a private corporation or an individual, according to the decision of the Supreme Court of Michigan in the case of Barion vs. The City of Detroit court said that the case was not like the case of a public highway or building of a bridge, where the duty is cast upon the municipality by general law to build or maintain them.

VILLAGE OF THORNBURY AND COUNTY OF GREY.—Judgment on appeal by the village corporation from an order of Street, J., in Chambers, allowing an appeal from a taxing officer, who taxed the appellants' costs of an arbitration, and as part thereof the fees paid to the arbitrators. The question arose as to the arbitrators' fees, as to whether they were to be allowed so much a day, no matter what the length of the day, or whether they were to be allowed for a day of six hours and an extra amount where they sat longer than six hours. Appeal dismissed with costs, the court holding that the ordinary rule must be followed and that the statute could not have the effect of making each six hours' sitting a separate day.

Jackson v. Township of London was a sut brought by George R. Jackson, a farmer, against that corporation to recover damages as the result of an accident with which he met on the public highway. At the place where the accident took place a washout occurred, and he claims the road had been narrowed as a consequence from a width of 24 to 11 feet at the approach to a bridge 14 feet wide. Plain-

tiff was returning home from the city one night last August about 10 o'clock and deviating about one foot from the usual path of the wheels of a vehicle, the rig was thrown down an embankment. He sustained injuries which might be permanent. The washout had occurred over a month before the accident, and the plaintiff claimed that there was negligence on the part of the corporation. Verdict for plaintiff and \$1,000.

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