

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

TO MUNICIPAL OFFICERS.

The *CONTRACT RECORD* is desirous of publishing, as far as possible, advance information regarding projected works of construction in all parts of Canada, such as sewerage and waterworks systems, railways, street pavements, public and private buildings, etc. Municipal officers would confer a favor upon the publisher by placing at our disposal particulars of such undertakings which are likely to be carried out in their vicinity, giving the name of the promoter, character of the work, and probable cost. Any information thus furnished will be greatly appreciated.

THE LAYING-OUT OF PARKS, RECREATION GROUNDS AND OPEN SPACES.

(Continued.)

A very good effect is obtained by mixing the species of ivy, thereby obtaining the several shades of green, and the space around the arbour to the width of the trench might be either made into a flower border, a few shrubs planted, or the turf, if there was any, replaced. Upon the position of the walks or drives depends greatly the general effect of the laying-out of sites. How often are there to be found sites made hideous by a series of walks formed of tar paving interlaced over the grass surface of the site, for no rhyme or reason; and to still further accentuate their ugliness, flat flower-beds are formed along their borders, instead of a few sarubs and trees to hide the bad effect the walks give. The general appearance of such a site has somewhat the same result upon the eye that a discord has upon the ear. A walk should never be made unless there is some reason or apparent reason for its use, as an expanse of grass is much to be preferred. No two walks should run parallel with one another, as in this case one would be sufficient if it were made a little broader. Straight walks should be avoided, but, if a necessity, a clump of shrubs or other subject might be interposed to hide its length. The narrower the walk the shorter should be the length seen. If the walk is a broad one trees may be planted on both sides, such a distance from the sides that when they are well developed the branches would meet and overhang the walk. At the same time there must be some apparent reason for a curve, and to this a clump of shrubs or a tree might be planted for the necessity of having a circuitous path. All curves should be well set out; the narrower the path is the greater can the curves be made, and as in straight walks, but short lengths of curved walks should be visible, this being dependent upon their width.

Should a carriage drive be required, it

should not be made too close to the boundary, and should have a shrubbery to hide the boundary, and there should be a plateau of grass between the shrubbery and the edge of the drive. If another drive is wanted through the middle of the site a large bank of trees and shrubs should be planted, or a kiosk built, to break up its length, and also trees planted on either side. In the author's opinion there is nothing equal to good bright binding gravel for paths; tar paving appears to find favour in some localities, probably on account of its better wearing qualities, but undoubtedly for effect gravel is to be much preferred. Gravel no doubt breaks up when the traffic is heavy, and also on account of climatic influences, but this might to a certain extent be obviated by making the paths broader than if they were tar-paved. It is hardly necessary to state the paths should be well made and well drained.

With regard to the planting of trees and shrubs, the after results will greatly depend upon the manner in which the ground has been prepared. As by far the greatest expenditure will be incurred in the purchase of the trees and shrubs, it is always worth while not to stint the cost of the labour required, having regard to the fact that the lifetime of the trees and shrubs will be years, and, perhaps for ages. The ground in every case should be trenched in the following manner—viz., a trench should be dug, say, 4 ft. wide and in the manner previously described for planting ivy, and the surface soil from the trench wheeled to where the digging will be finished; a liberal quantity of rotten manure should be dug into the subsoil at the bottom of the trench, and the subsoil, if cloggy, well broken up. Another trench 4 ft. wide is then commenced, and the surface soil of this one deposited upon the already broken up and manured subsoil of the last trench, and the subsoil of the second trench broken up and manured. This process is continued to the further extremity of the plot of land, where the surface soil of the first trench was deposited, this surface soil being used to make up the last trench to the ground level. Great care must be taken that none of the subsoil is brought to the surface. It would be very difficult to estimate the quantity of manure required, as in the case of a porous and what is known as a "hungry" subsoil a load to a pole would be needed, whereas where a good marl is

met with, a cart-load to five perches, or 30 loads to an acre, would be sufficient; in the former case rotten cow dung would be preferred.

The first thing to do would be to plant indiscriminately forest trees where required for a back-ground, a couple here, one in another place, perhaps two or three in another position, except where a screen is required, when trees would be planted thickly, 20 ft. apart, or even in some cases less, the object in the latter case being to gain height for obstruction. In no case should hmes be planted adjacent to other trees, shrubs, or flower-beds, as probably there is no kind of tree which is subject to vermin, blight, or other vegetable diseases, and imparts it to other plants so much as a lime. Where the fruit or flowers of orchard trees cannot be interfered with, the author strongly recommends the planting of such trees amongst shrubs, as the foliage is not only equal in appearance to other deciduous trees, but the bloom is charming in spring and the fruit useful in summer and winter.

There is no time so suitable for planting most trees and shrubs as after the leaves of deciduous trees have fallen, after the first few frosts of late autumn and early winter. Sometimes this happens late in October, and sometimes extends to early in December. In no case should the plants remain long out of the ground; if they cannot be planted immediately they are received, clumps of them should be at once placed in a hole and the roots covered up with earth. If planting is deferred until spring, very often a spell of cold drying winds follows, which do more harm than any frost. Trees and shrubs are generally planted too deep, even by nurserymen. A hole should be made large enough for the roots to be spread and extended their full length, and deep enough to come up to the bole just above the roots, and after planting the ground should be made solid all around with the heel, and the shrub or tree staked to avoid disturbance of or movement in the root. All ground the subsoil of which is inclined to be wet should be well drained; it would be far better to plant a tree on a mound than in undrained soil—in fact, some trees and shrubs do better when thus planted, and where isolated trees are planted on wet subsoil it is better to form a mound; they not only thrive better, but also a better effect is given to a tree where the latter is not of very tall growth. In purchasing trees or shrubs it is essential that they should have a mass of fibrous roots, and not one or two thick tap-roots.

(To be Continued.)

The death occurred at Chatham, Ont., on September 1st, of Mr. John Tissiman, who for 40 years held the position of City Clerk, resigning on July 16th last. Deceased was the victim of a cancerous tumor.

JOSSON CEMENT .. Manufactured at.. NIEL ON RUPELL

Is the Highest Grade Artificial Portland Cement and the Best for High Class Work. Has been used largely for Government and Municipal Works.

TO BE HAD FROM ALL CANADIAN DEALERS

C. I. de Sola, Manager in Canada .. 180 St. James Street, MONTREAL

BELLHOUSE, DILLON & CO., 30 St. Francois Xavier St., Montreal

Sole Agents for the Compagnie Generale des Asphaltes de France (Rock Asphalt).

PORTLAND CEMENT NORTH'S CONDOR

Paving and Fire Brick a Specialty

SITTING LION and WHITE CROSS Brand

NORTH'S "CONDOR" BRAND AWARDED FIRST PRIZE AND GOLD MEDAL AT THE ANTWERP EXHIBITION