

The Town of ——— contemplate building, during the coming summer, Granolithic Sidewalks of four (4) feet and upwards in width, and will be pleased to receive suggestions and figures as to style of construction (specifications) and cost of same, from parties in that line of business.

Cheap and durable walks are what are wanted.

It is not necessary to point out the defects in such a method of carrying on public works, except to say that the chances are that the honest contractors will be beaten and good work will not be secured. Undertakings of greater importance, such as water-works and sewerage, are often advertised as open for tenders, each contractor to furnish his own plans and specifications, and the contract is awarded by a council composed, perhaps, of good business men, but men who know very little about the engineering questions involved.

The favored contractor is profuse in his thanks to the Council for recognizing the advantages (?) of his tender, and takes the first opportunity of confidentially informing this body that it is entirely unnecessary to go to the expense of employing an engineer to see that the specifications are carried out. In other cases, after the contract is signed and an engineer appointed, it is found that the specifications are vague and full of loop holes, so that a large bill of extras is piled up and the contract settled by an expensive law-suit. The fact is that, except perhaps in a few of the larger cities, there is room for much improvement in the matter of designing and constructing public works in the different municipalities in the province.

The remedy for this state of affairs, the writer is convinced, does not lie in the way of legislation, as in this democratic country no coercive measures can be adopted even if the end is for the common good. Public opinion will have to be educated up to put more reliance in permanent and responsible officers to take charge of the spending of public moneys. In this the rural municipalities are leading the way, for, through the working of the "Ditches and Watercourses Act" and the "Drainage Act," the township engineer has become a very useful officer, and in the matter of drainage is the recognized authority. Many of these men are engineers of experience and practically all are Ontario Land Surveyors, possessing the qualifications necessary for this work. However, when we come to look into the question of engineering for the larger villages and towns, we find that little attention has been paid by engineers in this country to this class of work. The bulk of the students in the engineering col-

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