

MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS, CONTRACTORS, AND MATERIALS.

authorizing the creation of such an indebtedness; legislation having in view a systematic form of road construction within the limits of the various States; slow road construction and improvements based on the principle of cash payments.

The proposition has been made in many quarters to make the matter of road construction a national matter. The proposition is not practical, because of the vast extent of country roads.

In England a road inspector is appointed for every county, who has a staff of roadmasters, or two in every parish, whose duty is to attend to the condition of the roads all the year around. The farmer who picks stones off his land can always sell them for a shilling or two per load to the roadmasters. The trees alongside the road are all trimmed, so that the roadbed is not shaded.

What is especially wanted for the improvement of American roads is a few portable engines and roadbreakers for each county. The crushers should be mounted on a strong carriage or truck, so that they could be moved to points where rock can be obtained cheaply and handily; with a small drill driven by steam from the portable boiler, rock can be got very easily from ledges near the roadside. Then pay the farmer for the stones which he picks from his land. Use these stones on the roads, and the latter will be in such condition that we may be proud of them.

At present there is an urgent demand for practical knowledge pertaining to street paving, especially in this country, where we are now passing through a transition stage and seeking to better the condition of the thoroughfares. The knowledge which we should therefore seek is to note the disadvantages of the various kinds of paving materials now in use.

LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

O'DONNELL v. CITY OF HAMILTON.— Judgment in action tried at Hamilton. Action to restrain the defendants from opening up a street through the plaintiff's property. It was charged that the by-law for the opening up of the street was passed in the interest of one T. H. Pratt, and not of the public. The learned judge is satisfied that this by-law was passed solely in the interest of Pratt, and that if he allowed the defendants to enforce it against the plaintiff, the latter would suffer a grievous wrong. He also comments unfavorably upon the conduct of a member of the defendants' municipal council who, as the learned judge finds, was acting on behalf of Pratt in relation to this by-law. Judgment for an injunction restraining the defendants, so far as the plaintiff's lands are concerned, from expropriating them for the purposes mentioned in the by-law, with costs to be paid by the defendants.

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