

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

In the Practice Court, Montreal, Mr. L. E. Bernard, counsel for Mr. N. F. Bedard, a property owner and ratepayer of St. Henri, applied for an interlocutory injunction to enjoin the corporation of that town from proceeding with the work awarded to A. Bray & Co., and amounting to \$73,000, for drains, until such time as the court has adjudicated upon the action of the council in awarding this contract to the highest tenderers. It was alleged that the council could only award this contract after having provided means to meet the outlay, and this could only be done by means of a by-law which should have been submitted to the ratepayers for ratification by them as well as by the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council, as provided by the town charter. It was alleged in support of the petition that the contract was awarded by a resolution of the council, and that such a proceeding was illegal, as no provision had been made to raise funds to meet the expense. By this contract it was contended that the municipality is losing \$3,000. Mr. Justice Curran declined to grant the injunction. The court ordered that the prothonotary receive the first petition contesting the legality of the council's proceedings, but the court failed to see any reason why the work should be stopped. It had not been shown that any serious injury would result to the plaintiff by the construction of these drains, while there might to other ratepayers. Besides, very serious damages might result to the contractors. The validity of the proceedings would be decided in the regular course. "To grant the injunction asked for now," remarked His Honour, "would be to inaugurate government by judges and courts, instead of by the electorate."

GOOD ROADS CONGRESS.

Extensive preparations were made for the first annual meeting of the International Good Roads Congress, held at Port Huron, Michigan, on July 2, 3, 4 and 5. The congress is working in connection with the United States Road Inquiry Department at Washington and the League of American Wheelmen. It is designed to unite into one object all the varied interests working for good roads in the United States and Canada. Prominent men from both countries who have been identified with the movement for road improvement were present, and a large number of these delivered addresses on various phases of the good

roads problem, and took part in the discussions of the congress, which proved to be interesting and valuable to all who attend.

By the efforts of the people of Port Huron funds were raised to build one mile of sample road on July 2. During the construction of this, under the supervision of Mr. E. C. Harrison, United States Road Expert, there was held a school of instruction, which consisted of explanations of the work being done that proved valuable to all present. The auditorium, building in which the congress met will seat 3,000 people, and extensive preparations were made for the entertainment of visitors.

Mr. Geoffrey Stead, C. E., of St. John, has been temporarily appointed assistant to Mr. E. T. P. Shewen, C.E., chief engineer of public works in New Brunswick.

A German scientist and inventor is credited with having produced an invention which claims to be a preventative against the bursting of water pipes through the action of frost. The object of this invention, as described by a contemporary, is not to prevent the freezing

of the water in the pipes, but to divert the bursting strain, which, during the expansion, causes the accident. For this purpose a narrow tin or lead tube, with very thin walls, filled with an elastic preparation of India rubber, is placed inside the whole length of the supply pipes. This inner tube completely resists the ordinary water pressure, but as soon as the pressure increases, owing to the freezing of the water, the inner tube is compressed to an extent corresponding to the expansion of the congealing liquid. The inner tube, therefore, acts as a safety valve, relieving the walls of the outer tube from the bursting strain. When the thaw sets in, the process is reversed, the inner tube expanding to its normal size under the decreasing pressure, to be compressed again when once more the water freezes. The object of surrounding the elastic core with a tin or lead coating is to prevent the water in the pipes from coming in contact with the core, and thereby acquiring a disagreeable taste or smell.

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