

## THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

In the words of Mr. A. W. Campbell, Provincial Instructor Roadmaking, we ask :

Do we actually want good roads? Or are bad roads preferable? Is the cry that has been raised throughout the length and breadth of Canada and of this continent: "We want good roads," the demand of men in their sober senses? Or has labor and money been placed on our roads for a century past merely to fill in time, and keep our surplus capital in circulation. If we do not want good roads, if bad roads are preferable, why should we want roads at all?

mud, is plowed under within a year and wasted. A good road is an economical road.

In building an economical road, improvements must be made in such a way that they will last. Roads in Ontario have been built on the same principle as is a wagon which breaks down under the first load, and is used for firewood after a year of service. Most of the leading roads of Ontario have been made and remade a score of times and are still bad roads. They are of the kind that "break up." A road that "breaks up," like anything else that breaks up, is a poor investment. When road building is rightly understood in this country, township councillors will no more think of building roads that will

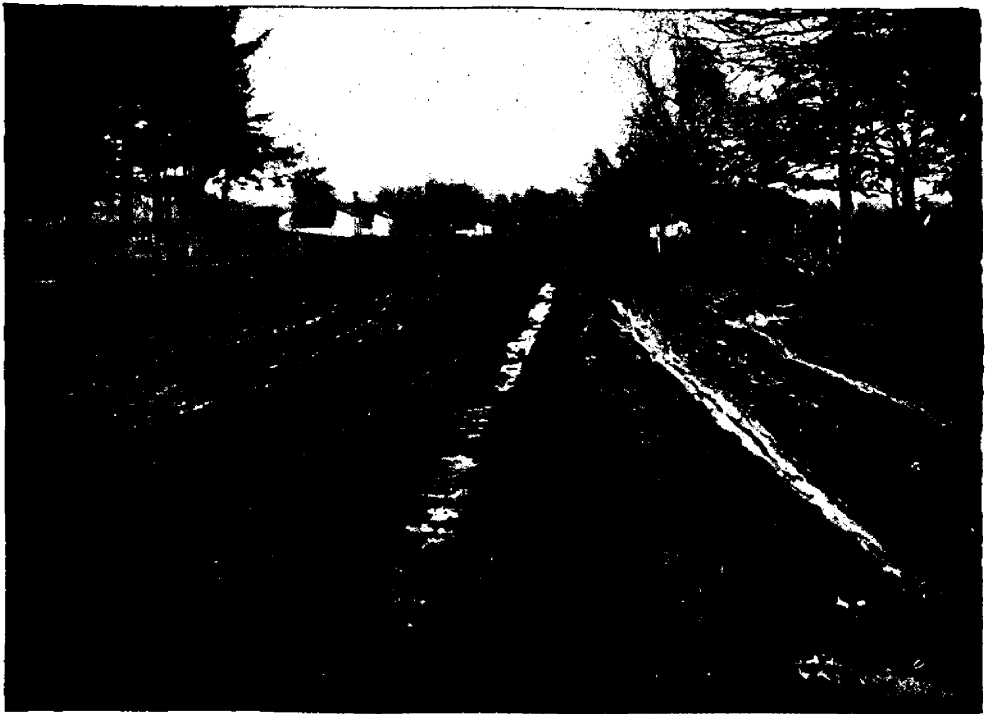


FIG. 1393 —A COUNTRY ROAD AS IT SHOULD NOT BE.

We must have roads. That necessity having been placed upon us, the experience which has taught us the wisdom of building other structures substantially, teaches us the economy of having roads that are good. We want roads which will withstand wear. We want the labor and money spent on them to be a paying investment. We want roads which will be good no matter what the state of the weather. We want roads which will not become rutted immediately the fall rains come on or when the frost leaves the ground in the spring, remaining in rough ridges for a considerable part of the summer. A road which does this is a bad road. The money and labor spent on it is largely forced down into the

break up in the spring than they will think of constructing houses that break up in the spring, barns that break up in the spring, or fences that break up in the spring

The road builders of this country have not given sufficient consideration to the effect of building bad roads. Year after year work of a flimsy, shiftless character is placed on the roads. The results are only temporary and are destroyed by a very little wear and traffic. In a very short time the work has to be done over again. But the evil does not end with this. This annual demand for repairs is so great that no township can respond to it. The roads instead of being repaired when