

This effort of the expiring term appeals to one in a sympathetic way. When all other subjects of legislation are exhausted, when the weary, and sometimes wearisome, representatives have probed every other enactment to the bottom, and when there is nothing else on which the legislator can operate, and pose as a statesman before the admiring eyes of his wondering constituents, he turns with all the fondness of a mother for her child to the perennial Ditch and Watercourse, and there finds a congenial theme, and one worthy the aspirations and genius of the greatest minds of the Province, of which his mind is always the most prominent. To most readers, this enactment will prove as interesting as the most sensational novel. Even in the usually prosaic interpretation clauses we find poetic fancies. It is said in the opening sections of this Act that "engineer" shall mean civil engineer, that "owner" shall mean an owner, and that a "ditch" shall mean a drain. This is really sublime! And so on throughout the Act we find erudition and the very refinement of phraseology rampant, if we may use the expression. The classic spade and pickaxe stand out in bold relief, and one might easily fancy that he stood knee-deep in mud and water, hewing out a track through the rear field of some ancestral farm to join the great drain in the tenth concession, as he reads the brilliant paragraphs and romantic episodes contained in this now, let us hope, final masterpiece. The engineer takes a solemn oath of office before he is admitted to the mystic lodge of Ditchers and Watercoursers. He becomes a sort of Grand Templar of the Ancient Order of Drainers. Then, under solemn form, the man who dares to make a ditch must provide it with an outlet. Think of that grave responsibility! This long-felt want must not be "cribbed, cabbined, and confined," although its capacity is limited modestly to seven lots. What is home without a mother? and, *ergo*, what is a ditch without an outlet?

The sacred line of liability of co-owners is marked at seventy-five rods, but this, by special dispensation of the grand council, may be extended twenty-five rods further, if the ditch falls in pleasant places anywhere east of the historic county of Frontenac. Some further swearing is done, but the engineer, having exhausted his vocabulary, the function devolves upon the owner, who, as we have seen, is graphically declared by the Act to mean the—owner. If the rural birds in their little ditches do not agree, the duty of