

MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING IN ONTARIO.

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In the Ontario "Municipal Act" it is provided that

"The Council of every county, township, city, town, and incorporated village may pass by-laws for appointing such Pound-keepers, Fence Viewers, Overseer of Highways, Road Surveyors, Road Commissioners, Valuers, Game Inspectors, and *other officers* as are necessary in the affairs of the corporation, or for carrying into effect the provisions of any Act of the Legislature or by-law of the Corporation, or for the removal of such officers; but nothing in this Act shall prevent any member of a corporation from acting as commissioner, superintendent or overseer, over any road or work undertaken and carried on, in part or in whole, at the expense of the corporation; and it shall be lawful for the municipality to pay such member of the corporation acting as such commissioner, superintendent or overseer."

The foregoing extract may suggest that in the past municipal engineers have not been of such frequent occurrence or importance as pound-keepers, etc., having been classed with the nameless "other officers" of corporations. In a great many of the smaller towns, although expending considerable sums on waterworks, drainage, road improvements, etc., no engineer is employed. A committee of the municipal council is given complete charge of certain work and proceed to carry their ideas into effect, or the whole matter may be left in the hands of the chairman, the other members of the committee being too busy or lacking in interest. If the chairman does not take personal charge of the work, he secures some other "practical" man to act as commissioner, superintendent or overseer, usually some ambitious carpenter or other mechanic, the proud possessor of a spirit level and a two-foot rule, and the work is proceeded with.

If, however, the work in hand is to be let by contract and the "practical" man does not feel equal to the emergency of preparing specifications, an advertisement is prepared after the manner of the following printed in a late paper: