

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

Justice Lount, of Toronto, has handed out a decision in Gloucester Township vs. Canada Atlantic Railway Co., in a special case heard at Ottawa, giving plaintiffs all relief they ask with full costs. Action was for an injunction to restrain defendants from obstructing the highway between the 5th and 6th concessions of the Township of Gloucester, with fences on either side of the tracks of defendants where they cross the highway, and for a mandatory order compelling the removal of the fences. The defendants contended that the highway in question being a highway in law and not in fact—that is an open public road used and travelled upon by the public—it is not a highway within the meaning of the railway act.

GOOD ROADS CONVENTION.

The convention to be held at Ottawa next month under the auspices of the Eastern Ontario Good Roads Association promises to be of a most instructive nature. It will last two days.

One of the morning sessions will be devoted to a thorough discussion of the statute labor system. In this connection speakers will be present from a number of township which have commuted statute labor, who will describe the new systems they have adopted and show how they have worked out.

On the following morning a talk will be given on the use of concrete culverts and arches, and figures will be given showing their cost of construction as compared with wooden structures. It is possible some sample pipes may be made right at the convention. Sample pieces of road making machinery will also be on hand. Their uses and cost will be described by an expert. In this connection crushed stone of various sizes will be on the platform to show the size of the stone that should be spread on the road.

The afternoon sessions will be devoted to discussions in regard to

county systems of road. Speakers will be present from the counties of Hastings and Huron, which have several hundred miles of stone road, who will describe how these roads were secured, what they cost, how long it took to build them and how they are maintained.

A discussion will be held after every address to give the people present an opportunity to ask as many questions as possible.

All the county and township councils of Eastern Ontario are invited to send representatives.

Mr. Cowan, the secretary of the Good Roads Association, states the convention will be the most important event of the kind ever held in the Dominion.

MACHINE FOR CUTTING BLOCKS.

With all the improved methods for stone working that have been perfected paving blocks are still gotten out by hand by the same method that has been followed ever since they were first introduced. A New Zealand man, Mr. Pierce

Laugan, has just invented a machine to do this work. It consists of a stationery chisel on which the stone is placed, while another chisel worked by a steam hammer cuts the stone from above. It is said that the machine breaks the stone with wonderful accuracy and great rapidity. A trial was recently made in the presence of a number of contractors, and a pile of blocks were finished in a few minutes. In this case a local stone was used. It may not have been as hard as granite, but there would seem to be nothing in the nature of the latter stone which would prevent the same principle being applied in the getting out of granite blocks.

John Galt, C. E., M. E., of Toronto, has devised a new and simple system of natural ventilation in sewers, which he claims is thoroughly efficient and as near perfection as possible. The plan involves very little additional expense in designing a new system. We understand he proposes to patent it in various countries. As the question of sewer ventilation is a very old one and becoming more important every day, any satisfactory solutions are of great interest.

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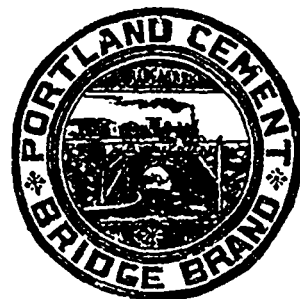
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