

place the records of that office in a state of security, and I take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the council on its action in this respect. I would also draw your attention to the neglected condition of the streets and highways in many parts of the district, and I would earnestly suggest the advisability of a stricter supervision on the part of the councils and road inspectors of our various municipalities.

The action of the provincial government in distributing copies of the municipal code in all the local municipalities of the province will tend to facilitate the proper working of the municipal system ; and I venture to express the hope that when the acts respecting public instruction are consolidated the government may see proper to distribute the consolidated act in like manner among the school municipalities.

Within the last few days a great disaster has occurred in the city of Hull, which calls for our sympathy. A fire has destroyed the principal public buildings in the city, including the catholic church and presbytery, the convent, and the city hall and county court house, and has rendered over one hundred families homeless. The spread of the fire was most rapid, and this was due to the fact that almost all the dwellings and their dependencies were built of wood and that the water works, which the city corporation is now constructing, were not yet completed in the part in question of the city. It is sincerely to be hoped that the city council will now see the necessity of proceeding with all speed in completing and also in increasing the capacity of the water works, and of adopting measures to prevent the erection in future of wooden buildings within the city limits. If the prohibition of wooden buildings may seem on the one hand a measure of hardship towards the poorer classes of citizens, it must not be forgotten on the other hand that the liberty to erect such buildings is a cause of danger to the community at large