

## MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

### USE OF FERRO-CONCRETE PILES.

Ferro-concrete piles are being used for the foundations of the new law courts at Berlin-Wedding, which are placed in treacherous ground, with a very unstable coefficient of resistance. They are triangular in form with the corners cut off, and are composed of clean, hard river ballast and Portland cement of the best quality, in the proportion of one part of the latter to three of the former. Their length varies from 17 ft. to 26 ft. The armature consists of three iron rods tied together at regular vertical distances by eye rods, spaced every 10 inches, having a diameter of a quarter of an inch, and set into the concrete with a blunt point at their lower end. The concrete, slightly wetted, is carefully prepared in a pug mill, and deposited in vertical wooden moulds, in layers 8 inches in thickness, subsequently reduced by pressure to about half that amount. Before fixing the tie rods and adding fresh doses of beton, the surface of each preceding layer is roughened, so as to ensure a thorough mixture and incorporation of the whole mass. Thus manufactured, the pile is left to itself for a period varying from twelve to twenty-four hours. During the next seven or eight days, it is watered constantly and abundantly. It is then taken out of the mould, and again watered for the next eight or ten days, and becomes sufficiently hardened and consolidated to be safely transported to the site of the works. The piles are allowed to remain in this condition until they are about a month old, when they are fit to be driven, which operation is effected by means of a steam pile-driver, with a ram weighing two and one-half tons. To prevent the heads being damaged by the fall, which is 5 ft. inches, they are protected by a buffer, built up of sheets of lead, plates of iron, and timber packing, all held together by a iron ring. Special arrangements are made for guiding the piles in their descent.

### DECISION OF INTEREST TO MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

Before Meredith, J., in Single Court at Osgoode Hall, Toronto.—Re Meldrum and town of Peterboro.—E. A. DuVernet, for W. H. Meldrum, a ratepayer of the town of Peterboro, moved for orders quashing two by-laws passed by the Town Council on the 5th of October, 1903, authorizing the execution of contracts between the town corporation and the Peterboro Light, Heat and Power Company and the Peterboro Radial Railway Company for the lighting of the streets of the town and the granting of a franchise for an electric railway upon the streets of the town, the principal ground of complaint being that the town corporation were indirectly granting a bonus of \$14,000 to the companies, because the contract for lighting the streets allows the light company \$1,400 a year for ten years in excess of what another company tendered to do the lighting for, and this is alleged to be a reward for introducing the electric railway. The applicant also contended that the by-laws were bad, because the Mayor of the town was interested in one of the companies as secretary, and because the dividends of the railway company were exempted from taxation. G. F. Shepherd, K. C., and E.

H. D. Hall, Peterboro, for the town corporation contract. W. E. Middleton and R. M. Dennistown, Peterboro, for the companies. Order made quashing with costs the by-law authorizing the execution of the contract with the light company, the learned judge holding that there was an intention to give and get a reward for introducing the railway. Stay for thirty days. The other by-law is unobjectionable, except upon the ground that the dividends are exempted. It was said that it was not intended that it should provide for that exemption. The motion to quash this by-

law is adjourned till the first court day after the Christmas vacation, to enable the Council to amend. If the by-law is in the meantime amended, the motion will be dismissed without costs. If it is not amended, the motion will be further considered.

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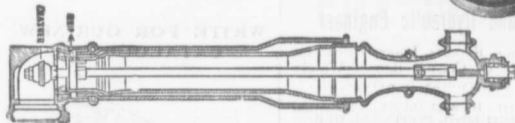
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