the side gutters. If the gravel or other

road metal is dropped from the wagon

loosely on a soft earth foundation, water

passes into the subsoil as through a sieve.

Wheels passing over the road when in

such a condition at once sink into and rut

# MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

#### THE ROAD ROLLER.\*

A number of townships in Ontario report the use of horse road rollers in constructing their roads. Counties having county road systems either have steam rollers or are about to purchase them. Numerous towns and cities of which a list is given use this, the most valuable of modern roadmaking implements.

For economical, durable and serviceable roadmaking, a heavy roller is indispensable. A road should be sufficiently smooth and compact to shed the water readily to 
\*From the Righth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Highways for Ontario.

not only the gravel, but the earth beneath. Water is held in the ruts, and each succeeding vehicle renders their condition worse. The road is less durable, since the gravel, being mixed with the earth from beneath it, cont ins, when finely consolidated, a dusty, easily worn surface.

The consolidation of loosely spread stone or gravel by traffic is a slow process, causing much inconvenience to travel, during which the earth of the subsoil be-

stone or gravel by traffic is a slow process, causing much inconvenience to travel, during which the earth of the subsoil becomes mixed with the stone. Earth intermixed with stone prevents the strong mechanical bond which clean metal will assume when the stones are wedged one against the other by a roller. The particles of earth, when wet, have a lubricating influence on the stone, and, under the

action of wheels the surface is more readily broken up. By the use of a roller the earth subsoil should be first thoroughly consolidated. The stone should be placed on this foundation in layers, and each layer well compacted. In this way a smooth, durable, waterproof coating of stone, free from earthy material, can be laid over a firm foundation. A road should be made for traffic, not by it. To leave loose gravel and stone in the roadway is neither an agreeable method of constructing a road, nor will it produce the most durable road.

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