

**MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS, CONTRACTORS, AND MATERIALS.**

or gravel, and whatever is used must be of the best quality and cleansed from all foreign substances. The stone must be broken up so that each piece may pass through a ring 2 1/2 in. in diameter. It is then spread evenly over the road, the interstices being carefully filled in with smaller pieces, so that the whole is smooth and free from abrupt eminences and depressions. A steam roller then crushes and levels the whole, after which a superficial layer of clay and earth completes the work. In Normandy, where the roads are perfect, they are made slightly convex, with a trench on either side, and are diligently scraped to keep them dry. One of the most important ingredients used in roadmaking is a little chalk, which helps to bind and consolidate the macadam or small stones into a firm and hard mass. If too much chalk were used it would render the roads sticky after frost.—*Contract Journal.*

**LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.**

**ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF CANADA v. CITY OF TORONTO.**—By statute 35 Vict. ch. 79 (O.), as amended by 41 Vict. ch. 41 (O.), the corporation of the city of Toronto was empowered in regard to the city water works, to fix the price, rate, or rent which any owner or occupant of any house, lot, etc., in, through, or past, which the water pipes should run, should pay as water rate or rent, whether the owner or occupant should use the water or not having due regard to the assessment and to any special benefit or advantage derived by such owner or occupant or conferred upon him or his property by the water works. The corporation was also empowered to fix the rate to be paid for the use of the water by public buildings. Pursuant to these powers, a by-law of the corporation was passed providing that the half-yearly rates "paid within the first two months of the half-year for which they are due, shall be subject to a reduction of fifty per cent. save and except in the case of government or other institutions which are exempt from city taxes, in which cases the said provisions as to discount shall not apply."

Held, that "government institutions" in the by-law meant government buildings in which some public business is carried on, and were "public buildings" within the meaning of the Act:—

Held, also, that the "price, rate, or rent," paid for the water, was not a tax but merely the price paid for the water supplied to the customer, and that the corporation were not obliged to allow, for water supplied to public buildings, the discount allowed to taxpayers."

The Court of Appeal concurred in this decision.

The Montreal Board of Health has decided to recommend to Council in favor of the appointment of Mr. U. P. Boughier, C.E., to the position of Sanitary Engineer.

Cleveland has gas at 80 cts. per M. ft. as a result of recent litigation between the city and gas companies. A year ago the City Council passed an ordinance reducing the gas rate from \$1 to 60 cts. The gas companies fought it in the U. S. Circuit Courts, claiming that their property

was practically confiscated. After the suit had been on trial for some months a compromise was reached under which gas is supplied at the moderate rate above stated, the company paying besides 6 1/2% of its gross earnings into the city treasury.—*Engineering News.*

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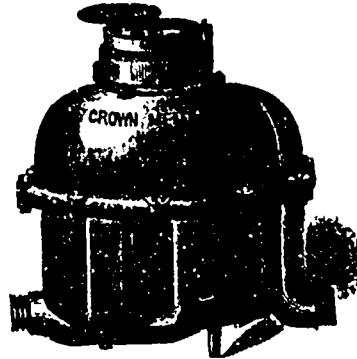
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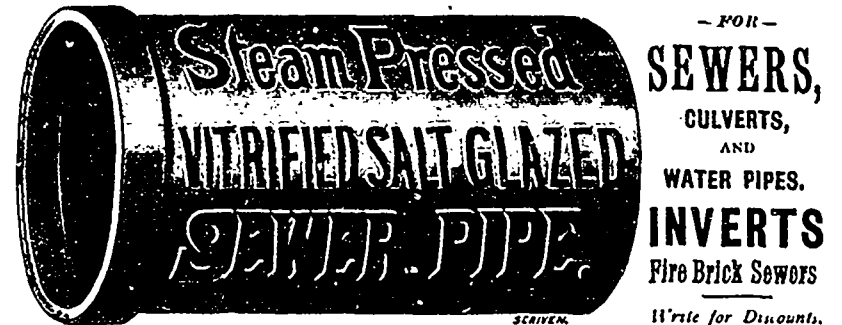
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