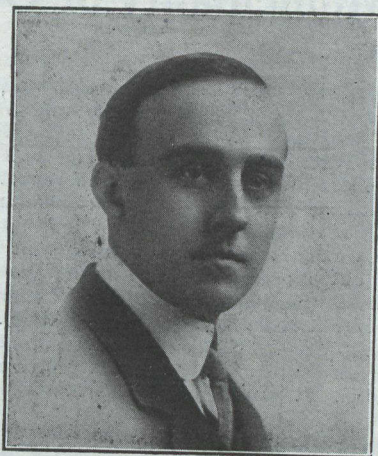




GEO. MacNAMEE,

Secretary, Canadian Good Roads Association.

THE OWNERSHIP OF OVERHANGING TREES.

A man has no right to any portion of a tree or the fruit thereof that may overhang his property, while growing on a neighbor's land.

Such is the interesting verdict reported by the Royal English Arboricultural Society as follows:

"A case dealing with this point came before His Honor Judge Parry, at Maidstone, on November 13 last. The plaintiff had several apple trees growing on his land about eight feet from the boundary. The branches of these trees overhung the land of the defendant. The defendant picked the apples off the branches and sold them. The plaintiff brought an action for wrongful conversion, and was awarded £10 damages. The contention on the part of the defendant was that, as he had the right to lop the branches of the trees which overhung his land, he had the right to pick the apples.

His Honor said (inter alia) the defendant's right to lop could not be contested, assuming that it was done in a reasonable way, in accordance with the custom of fruit farmers, at a proper season, and without unnecessary injury to the trees. When the branches were severed, however, that did not give the defendant any property in them or in the fruit on them. In law the branches or fruit, which formerly savored of real property, had then by severance become personal property, but the property remained the owner of the tree." — Canadian Forestry Journal.

Housing Schemes.—(Continued.)

provided for.

By this method about nine thousand workers built or bought their own homes in the seven years' operation of the act ending with December, 1913. During the year 1913 there were over thirteen hundred houses thus built or acquired, and the amount loaned was over two million dollars.

The housing problem is much more important than most people imagine. It is not simply a question of comfort which is involved but one of life and death. In Chile, for instance, where very high rates prevail for both birth and death, so that the population is practically stationary, it is argued that the reason why the death-rate is over 33 per thousand is the insanitary conditions of the houses. In the municipal dwellings erected by the London County Council the death-rate is 8.5, while it is 15 for the whole county. Any one that will take the trouble to compare the death-rates of any central and suburban ward in any Canadian city will convince himself that the same fell influences are at work among ourselves, and that the housing problem is in Canada, as elsewhere, a matter of life and death.—Journal of Commerce.

ELECTRIC GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION IN CANADA.

Though only a comparatively short time has elapsed since electric lighting and electric power were introduced, the development in Canada has been phenomenal. This growth is strongly emphasized in a report just issued by the Commission of Conservation, entitled "Electric Development and Distribution in Canada," which covers all plants that sell electric energy.

The principal object of the report is to give complete and accurate information respecting power developed at any point, amount that is used and amount that is unused, prices charged for electric energy and similar pertinent data. Thus, with this information before him, an individual or company desiring to erect a plant, manufacturing or other, can decide which locality presents the maximum of advantage respecting one of the most important items of cost, namely, power. Then, balancing the advantage respecting power against such important considerations as freight rates, accessibility to markets, etc., he can intelligently select the site which offers the maximum of advantage particularly as regards the point of the highest importance, namely, ability to market his product at lowest cost.

It includes data respecting the kind of primary power, that is, hydraulic, steam, gas, oil engines, etc., used to produce electrical energy in Canada. To be able to judge of the relative importance of each kind of primary power, the total quantity of horse-power is also dealt with. As was to be expected, water-power occupies an outstanding place. The total amount of power reported is 2,107,743 h.p.; of this, by far the greater portion, namely, 1,806,618 h.p., is water-power, the remainder being divided 238,202 h.p. steam, 8,157 gas, and 4,766 h.p. oil or gasoline plants. Although the report only comprises electric plants supplying energy as a public utility, it may be seen how Canada is favorably endowed with primary power resources and what is the most advantageous kind to use in the various portions of the Dominion.

Respecting ownership, there are one and one-half times as many privately-owned plants as there are publicly-owned plants and the total capacity of the privately-owned plants is almost four times as great as that of the publicly-owned. Typical examples of the two kinds of ownership are furnished by two of our largest systems: the Niagara system of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, and the Shawinigan Water and Power Company in the Province of Quebec, each supplying over 200,000 h.p.

Among the largest plants described are those on the Canadian side at Niagara Falls, with a total installation of 488,800 h.p., one plant alone having a capacity of 211,300 h.p. The largest units, in point of capacity, at present in use are at Grand'mere, each having a capacity of 20,000 h.p., but this figure will be surpassed by the 50,000 h.p. units in the Chippawa plant of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission now under construction to utilize additional Niagara power. The largest units in point of dimensions are the 10,000 h.p. units in the Cedars Rapids plant, St. Lawrence river, Que.

All our large plants are of relatively recent construction and are of a highly desirable type. Usually the works are of most substantial construction, while the equipment comprises both hydraulic and electrical machinery of the most efficient type. On the other hand, many of our small plants could be improved by more efficient machinery and by stopping losses and waste.

Long distance transmission of electric energy has played an important part in our power development. The transmission lines operate under many different voltages up to 110,000 volts, the lines of 10,000 volts and upwards, aggregating 5,490 miles, of which, 577 miles operate at 100,000 to 110,000 volts.

Another item which should prove of interest, both to operators and the public in general is the information respecting rates charged by the vending companies for various services. The rates charged throughout the country show great variation inasmuch as they are based, to a great extent, on local conditions as well as on the cost of producing the power.

Street lighting is also included; the information under this heading shows the kind of lamps used and costs of such service.