

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

COST OF SIDEWALKS.

The City Engineer of Toronto has prepared a comparative statement of the cost of sidewalks per foot frontage, showing the amount of annual payments, which extend over a period of ten years:—

Width.	Brick.	Concrete (Light)	Concrete (Heavy)
4 ft.	7 3-10c.	8 3-10c.	
5 ft.	9 1-5c.	10 2-5c.	
6 ft.	11c.	12 3-10c.	14 7-10c.
8 ft.	14 7-10c.	10 3-5c.	19 7-10c.
10 ft.	18 2-5c.	24 3-5c.
12 ft.	22 1-10c.	29 1-2c.

The annual payments for wooden sidewalks extend over a period of three years only, and are consequently larger, although the total cost per foot frontage is less. The cost of the wooden walks annually for three years is:— Three feet wide, cost 6 1-10c; 4 ft. wide, 7 9-10c; 5 1-3 ft. wide, 10 4-5c; 6 ft. wide, 11 4-5c; 8 ft. wide, 14 2-5c; 10 ft. wide 18c; 12 ft. wide, 21 3-5c.

LEGAL DECISIONS AFFECTING MUNICIPALITIES.

ORR VS. TOWNSHIP OF TORONTO.— Judgment on appeal by defendants from judgment of County Court of Peel in action to continue an injunction restraining defendants from causing water or other matter to flood or flow upon plaintiff's lands and to direct them to close a certain culvert built by them across the highway opposite his farm, and for damages. It was contended for defendants that they were under statutory obligation to keep the highway in repair, and in doing the repairs or acts complained of merely performed that obligation; that the repairs were necessary, that the construction of the culvert providing only for the flow of water accumulated on the west side of the road was proper, and in its construction they were within their statutory powers, and plaintiff's remedy, if any, was under sec. 437 et. seq. of the Municipal Act; that the damages, \$100, were excessive; and that both damages and injunction should not have been granted. Held, that, Semble this case does not come within the ratio decidendi of *Iratt. v. Stratford*, 14 O. R., 260; 16 A. R. 5 relied on at bar, but rather within the principal of *New Westminster v. Brighthouse*, 20 S.C.R., 520, but it is unnecessary to decide this because the finding below as to defendant's negligence is justified by the evidence, and therefore fatal to them, per *Strong C.J.O.*, in *Derinzy v. Ottawa*, 15 A. R., 712. Held, also, that taking into consideration the evidence as to bringing down of mustard seed as result of defendants' acts the damages were not excessive. As to the

injunction the proper course is to suspend its operation for a sufficient time to enable defendants to exercise the statutory power of expropriation and acquire the land to justify their otherwise wrongful act, and such time is extended until 1st May next. With this variation judgment below affirmed with costs and appeal dismissed with costs.

TO GET RID OF SEWER GAS.

Philadelphia is making tests of various methods of getting rid of sewer gas. Among those employed is one of a patent sewer gas extracting and destroying-lamp which has proved very successful in Europe. It is well known that the best means for the disposal of sewer gases is combustion through a high temperature. The lamp made use of is designed with a view to the production of this high temperature and its accompanying combustion. It is almost air-tight, and has three gas jets inside, of which one keeps constantly burning with a small flame. The other two are supposed to be burning when the gas is escaping from the sewer at its full capacity, which is generally in the day time. These two lights can be extinguished or lighted from the outside. When the illuminating gas is turned on, the sewer gas is highly exhilarated, and, according to tests already made, about 3,000 cubic feet of gas passes into the lamp per hour. In escaping it comes in contact with the flames, which in the lamp obtain a temperature of from 600 to 800 degrees Fahrenheit, and can be increased to probably 1000 degrees. The high temperature

decomposes the ammonia and destroys the bacteria. The air from the sewer supplies the oxygen necessary for the combustion of the illuminating gas.

BRITISH COLUMBIA GOOD ROADS ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the British Columbia Good Roads Association will be held in Victoria, B.C., during the session of the Farmers' Central Institute, which will open on December 17. Steps have been taken to organize the whole province through the several vice-presidents, so that there may be a thoroughly representative gathering at this meeting.

Mr. F. J. Deane, the president of the association, has caused to be circulated a letter to all vice-presidents urging upon them the necessity of at once taking up the matter of organization. Mr. Deane has also been in correspondence with Mr. A. W. Campbell, Provincial Road Instructor for Ontario, who has given suggestions in connection with the movement. Mr. Campbell states that the chief object of a Good Roads Association should be: To educate the people as to how roads should be made, and in the economy of doing work so far as possible in a finished manner, consistent with the requirements of travel; what kind of implements should be employed and how they should be operated; and to create general interest in the subject.

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