

# Municipal Officials

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### THE TORONTO AND HAMILTON HIGHWAY.

The following comparison of macadam and concrete in the maintenance of the Toronto and Hamilton Highway along which over 5000 vehicles pass each day is significant and places concrete as the best material by a long way for permanent roads.

Maintenance of Concrete Road Surface in 1916 (16 miles)	\$ 40.14 per mile
Maintenance of Macadam Road Surface in 1916 (1.17 miles)	1,116.17 per mile
Maintenance of Concrete Road Surface in 1917 (29 miles)	59.17 per mile
Maintenance of Macadam Road Surface in 1917 (17 miles)	1,116.17 per mile
Maintenance of Concrete Road Surface in 1918 (36 miles)	60.99 per mile
Maintenance of Macadam Road Surface in 1918 (1.7 miles)	5,721.75 per mile
Maintenance of Concrete Road Surface in 1919 (36 miles)	47.96 per mile
Maintenance of Macadam Road Surface in 1919 (1.2 miles)	6,243.25 per mile

### THE BRITISH WEST INDIES AS A MARKET FOR CANADA.

A booklet on "The British West Indies and British Guiana" just issued by the Bank of Montreal, is a most timely publication in view of the new trade agreement between Canada and West Indies now awaiting the ratification of the respective governments. The booklet gives a concise and interesting description of the salient features of the various Colonies which are party to the agreement, including the physical characteristics, area, population and principal exports and imports. It shows that there are most promising markets awaiting development by enterprising Canadian merchants and industrial firms.

At the present time, it is stated, the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras have a total population of over 2,000,000, with natural resources that have really only just begun to be developed, for instance, it is officially estimated that there are at least 20,000,000 acres of fertile land in the British West Indies not yet beneficially occupied, whereas the area under cultivation is only one and a half million acres.

The opinion is expressed that under the system of preferences granted by Canada and the United Kingdom, and with the growing world-demand for such commodities as the West Indies produce, development of these Colonies will proceed apace. There is every prospect of considerable and progressive increase of the population. If all the fertile land there were brought under cultivation the Colonies which are in the new agreement could easily support a population of between 30,000,000 and 50,000,000. Even at the present time the interchange of natural products between Canada and the British West Indies is only a tithe of what it well might be, and probably will be, with the larger preference now advocated and the much-improved steamship services provided for.

The booklet gives Canadians an excellent idea of the directions in which trade may be extended. It is replete with detailed and authoritative information of the imports and exports of the various Colonies, and gives most useful information as to the best methods to be pursued in getting into touch with the local business houses and building up trade relations.

The fact that the Bank of Montreal is now directly represented in the British West Indies, through its alliance with the Colonial Bank, places this institution in an advantageous and authoritative position for assisting Canadian firms in their trade relations with the various Colonies.

The booklet has a map showing the relative positions of Canada and the Colonies which are parties to the agreement. Copies may be obtained free from any branch of the Bank of Montreal.

There are now 1,896 municipally owned electric light and power plants in the United States, an increase of 316 in two years.