

**CANADA'S BORROWING IN LONDON, ENG.,
FOR ENGINEERING WORKS.**

The Monetary Times, in last week's issue, gives a summary of Canada's public borrowing in London from Jan. 1st to date. The amount totals over £22,000,000. Of this amount almost £8,000,000 was borrowed for railways, mining and municipal work. The several items are as follows:—

Municipal:—

Calgary city	£ 325,400
Montreal city	123,800
Winnipeg city	500,000

£ 949,200

Mining:—

Canada Cement Company	£ 205,500
West Canadian Collieries	200,000
Amalgamated Asbestos	624,484
Standard Oil Company of Canada.....	160,000
Oklahoma Oil Company	67,000
Canadian Oil Company	75,000
Dunsmuir Collieries	2,054,800

Railways:—

Grand Trunk Pacific	£1,000,000
British Columbia Electric	530,000
Canadian Northern	1,000,000
Grand Trunk Pacific	125,000
Central Counties Railway	97,500
Duluth, Winnipeg and Pacific.....	950,000

£3,702,500

For the last five years Canada's borrowing in London, England, has been very heavy, the public flotations alone during that time amounting to over £121,000,000.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

Chief J. E. Buchanan, of Winnipeg, in a report on the fire service of that city suggests that lights be installed, designating the location of fire alarm boxes at night. At recent fires people have wasted time looking for telephones when fire alarm boxes were convenient. He suggests that such directing lights would call the brigade quicker, thus preventing the fire gaining great headway.

PRECIPITATION FOR MAY.

Over the larger part of the Dominion the rainfall was something less than average, but in the Province of Quebec and in parts of Southwestern Ontario and Southern Saskatchewan the average was exceeded by a small quantity. The largest deficiency occurred in the southern portions of Alberta and in the Ottawa Valley, but nowhere were departures from the normal sufficient to lead to injurious results.

The table shows for fifteen stations included in the report of the Meteorological Office, Toronto, the total precipitation of these stations for May.

Ten inches of snow is calculated as being the equivalent of one inch of rain:

Station.	Depth in inches.	Departure from the average of twenty years.
Calgary, Alta.	0.9	— 1.6
Edmonton, Alta.	1.2	— 0.6
Swift Current, Sask.	0.8	— 1.3
Winnipeg, Man.	1.7	— 0.3
Port Stanley, Ont.	4.5	+ 1.1
Toronto, Ont.	2.7	+ 0.2
Parry Sound, Ont.	3.3	+ 0.2
Ottawa, Ont.	1.9	— 0.6
Kingston, Ont.	3.1	+ 0.6
Montreal, Que.	3.7	+ 0.9
Quebec, Que.	4.0	+ 0.8
Chatham, N.B.	4.4	+ 1.6
Halifax, N.S.	3.3	— 0.4
Victoria, B.C.	1.8	+ 0.5
Kamloops, B.C.	0.6	— 0.4

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS.*

By Geo. Ross, O.L.S., Welland.

The Municipal Councils of townships, cities, towns and incorporated villages are authorized by the Consolidated Municipal Act of 1903 to pass by-laws for the purpose of effecting local improvements and works, the whole or a part of the cost of which may be assessed upon the real property especially benefited thereby.

These works or improvements are enumerated in Sub-sections 1, 2 and 3 of Section 664, and not only include the opening, widening, straightening or extension of streets, making, enlarging or prolonging any common sewer, macadamizing, grading, levelling any street or lane, for constructing sidewalks or footways in, upon and along any public street, lane, alley or place; curbing, sodding, planting, maintaining and caring for trees and plants, upon and in any public street, square or other public place; but provision is also made for the extension of water works, gas works or electric light, heat and power works, when the system is owned by the Municipal Corporation.

Besides the above, there are also provisions laid down for the construction or re-construction of other works, or improvements. However, the works most commonly taken up under the Local Improvement sections of the Municipal Act, in towns and villages, are the construction of sewers and sidewalks, and in this paper I shall confine myself to these.

The provisions according to which by-laws governing the construction of local improvements are to be drawn up are given in considerable detail in the Municipal Act, and it is essential that the procedure laid down in the by-laws be strictly adhered to, especially the formalities required in holding the Court of Revision, and in giving the proper notices to the parties assessed, as all these particulars will be enquired into when the debentures to cover the cost of the work are offered for sale, by the solicitors of the parties who may desire to purchase such debentures, and a little care as to some minor details would save the cost of having said by-laws confirmed by a special Act of Legislation.

The by-laws of many cities and towns relating to local improvements are very similar. The following extracts are taken from the by-laws of the City of Toronto:

"All future expenditure in the city for the several classes of improvements, works and services hereafter mentioned for which special provisions are made in Section 664 of the Consolidated Municipal Act, 1903, that is to say:

1. Making, enlarging or prolonging any common sewer.

*Paper read before the Ontario Land Surveyors.