

HIGHWAYS IN ONTARIO.

SUGGESTIONS FROM AN EXPERT AS TO THEIR CARE.

Provincial Road Instructor Campbell's First Report on the Work of the New Department—An Interesting Pamphlet.

A. W. Campbell, is a clever young engineer, who was appointed Provincial Instructor of Road-making of Ontario, by an Order-in-Council, dated April 15, 1896. Since then he has been lecturing and working at the good roads problem all over the country. His official report has recently been issued, and contains much valuable information.

Mr. Campbell notes the fact that the improvement of roads in Ontario has not kept pace with the progress made along other lines. He illustrates his system of personally pointing out roadway defects to Boards of Works, examining available material, deciding on the best system, and presenting the Council with an oral report, in addition to an address, covering the ground. During 1896 he visited the following places:

Towns and villages—Cobourg, Arrprior, Ingersoll, Winchester, Pembroke, Seaford, Berlin, Orangeville, Brighton, Carleton Place, Iroquois, Galt, Clinton, Paisley, Barrie, Port Hope, Cornwall, Morrisburg, Newmarket, Woodstock, Paris.

Townships—Beckwith, Matilda, Williamsburg, Roxborough, Charlottentown, Pembroke, North Norwich, Elderslie, West Zorra, Hamilton, Mountain, Finch, Cornwall, Lochiel, Tucker-smith, Cavan, Greenock, Puslinch, York; Winchester, Osnabrock, Kenyon, Lancaster Stanley, East Nissouri, East Zorra, Hallowell.

The report advocates a reorganization of the statute labour laws, especially as to the collection of the road tax, which is now said to be ineffectual, wasteful and unjust. In Malden Township, in Essex County, the people abolished the statute labour system by by-law. The vote was two to one, and they are now framing plans for a new system.

WHERE THE FAULT LIES.

As to road construction, Mr. Campbell says the question of tires is an important one, and if tires of suitable width were used, a very great part of the road question would be solved. The proper application of the energy which is now wasted would, he thinks, give us a system of roads that would render the good roads movement unnecessary. As a country we should conserve our energies and exercise them in the most judicious manner. We should learn of the history of roads in countries where they dated back a thousand years, and not waste money in speculative efforts. The question is both very broad and very local. No one class of pavement can be clearly specified for all streets, and no one class or road can be adopted in rural districts, but these can all be divided into classes and placed before councils and the people in such a manner as to materially aid in proportioning pavements to requirements, and to the ability of the various communities. There are the country roads which are least travelled; there are those more heavily travelled leading to highways; there are the main highways which carry the traffic of extensive areas; there is another class of roads most largely travelled of all, necessarily rare, which verge finally into the streets of large cities; there are the streets of villages, of towns, of cities, all of varying requirements, regarding which the most reliable information should be procured. There are materials suitable for all classes of roads, and there are principles involved in the construction of pavements as with any other structure.

SOME SUGGESTIONS.

The data for determining the annual expenditure of money and labour on the streets and roads has never been collected with sufficient accuracy to permit a close statement of this element of our national taxation. Enough is known, however to warrant the assertion that it is millions annually. Of this vast sum the greater part is wasted in ill-contrived, and temporary repairs needed to keep the roads in a passable condition in the present state of our taxation it is difficult to expect the people to impose a special tax to speedily improve country roads generally. It will be found that to attain the end in view the best plan is to assemble as far as possible the forces at work, concentrating the expenditure of money and diverting to durable as much as possible of that which is now paid for merely temporary repairs. The most reasonable explanation of existing conditions is to be found in the little attention which has been paid to the effect and value of good roads. This in turn has permitted the administration of our laws to be neglected, and has not stimulated sufficient thought to develop an efficient organization of the ways and means available. No city, town or township, county or province can afford to rely solely upon its own efforts, but each should be a source of experience for the other, and all should be able to draw upon the experience of other lands, past and present, to the fullest extent. There is a great deal of past experience on which to draw, but there is more important, present and future experience which should be indexed and made available for reference.

The report contains about 100 pages, and is full from cover to cover with valuable information which every municipal council will do well to take to itself. Much interest is being taken in this question and many have been waiting anxiously for the report upon this new departure of Government work.

FICKLE.

Clara—You know Mr. Smackerton the fellow that was engaged to Miss Trapper? That fellow never could be depended upon.
Maud—What has he done now?
Clara—Married her.

A HUNTER'S STORY.

EXPOSURE BROUGHT ON AN ATTACK OF RHEUMATISM.

Nervousness and Stomach Troubles Followed—Sleep at Times Was Impossible—Health Again Restored.

From the Amherst, N. S. Sentinel. The little village of Petitcodiac is situated in the south-easterly part of New Brunswick, on the line of the Intercolonial Railway. Mr. Herbert Yeomans, who resides there, follows the occupation of a hunter and trapper. His occupation requires him to endure a great deal of exposure and hardship, more especially when the snow lies thick and deep on the ground in our cold winters. A few years ago Mr. Yeomans tells our correspondent that he was seized with a severe bilious attack and a complication of diseases, such as sour stomach, sick headache and rheumatism. Mr. Yeomans' version of the facts are:—"I became very ill and suffered the most excruciating pains in my arms, legs and shoulders, so much so that I could not rest in any position. I frequently could not sleep nights, and when I did I awoke with a tired



feeling and very much depressed. My appetite was very poor, and if I ate anything at all, no matter how light the food was, it gave me a dull, heavy feeling in my stomach, which would be followed by vomiting. I suffered so intensely with pains in my arms and shoulders that I could scarcely raise my hands to my head. I tried different remedies, but all to no purpose. A neighbor came in one evening and asked 'have you tried Dr. Williams' Pink Pills?' I had not but then determined to try them, and procured a box, and before the pills were all gone, I began to improve. This encouraged me to purchase more and in a few weeks the pain in my shoulders and arms were all gone, and I was able to get a good night's rest. My appetite came back and the dull, listless feeling left me. I could eat a hearty meal, and have no bad after effects and I felt strong and well enough as though I had taken a new lease of life. My old occupation became a pleasure to me and I think nothing of tramping eighteen or twenty miles a day. I know from experience and I fully appreciate the wonderful results of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills as a safe and sure cure and I would urge all those afflicted with rheumatism or any other ailment, to try Pink Pills as they create new vigor, build up the shattered nervous system and make a new being of you. The genuine Pink Pills are sold only in boxes, bearing the full trade mark, 'Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.' Protect yourself from imposition by refusing any pill that does not bear the registered trade mark around the box.

A CLEVELAND'S WIFE BEATER.

Drunkard Nearly Kills His Wife Who Had Borne Him a Child Three Days Before.

A fifteen-year-old girl rushed from the house 28 Berge street, Cleveland, Ohio, late on Saturday afternoon shrieking for the police. Patrolmen Bidding, Meyer and Jacobson were attracted by her cries and following her into the house found Steve Ataraski standing over the unconscious form of his wife. In his hand was a cat-o-nine-tails, and even as the police entered he brought it down again and again on the head, face, and shoulders of the woman. A blow on the head, none too gently applied, sent him reeling to the wall, and the police snapped the manacles on him before he could recover. The woman's face, head and body were covered with great welts, showing where the blows had fallen. In places the flesh was cut.

Mrs. Ataraski gave birth to a child three days ago. On Saturday the husband returned home drunk. He commanded his wife to get out of bed and prepare his dinner. She protested that she was too ill. Enraged, the man seized the cat-o-nine-tails and beat her. Frightened, she got up and tried to do as ordered. Too weak to stand, she fell over and sank into a chair. Crazed with anger, the husband renewed the assault, and blow after blow was rained upon the woman. She rolled unconsciously from the chair, and then it was that the police, summoned by the couple's daughter, burst in upon the scene. The woman was taken to a hospital. The physicians do not expect her to recover.

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WHAT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW.

Teacher—What makes you insist Willie that fourteen ounces make a pound?
Willie—I've helped pap tend grocery for two years an' I guess I orter to know.

A FEMINE PARADOX.

There's another thing about woman that is paradoxical, growled Cynknyk. What's that?
The less she puts on the longer it takes her to dress.

CURIOUS SUPERSTITIONS.

Stopping the Clock at a Death or Birth is Still Practiced

The superstitions which have clustered about the closing scene of human life are almost innumerable; some, perhaps, the greater portion, now seem to be meaningless. But a few had in early days a significance which they have since lost. The stopping of the clock at the moment a death occurs in the house is still practiced in many families in this country and Europe, and originated in the fact that according to the laws of several European states it was necessary to have evidence of the exact moment of births and deaths occurring in the royal family. When a king died an attendant was always present, whose duty it was to stop the clock in the royal apartment at the moment when death occurred, and the timepiece was thus a mute record of the event. From the royal families the descent of this practice to aristocratic, and finally, to families of low degree was easy, and many persons adopted it as a mere superstition without knowing anything of its former significance. Turning the looking-glass to the wall is a superstition which is said to have originated in the country districts of Germany during the days when mirrors were novelties. Mirrors of glass with quicksilver backs are said to have been made at Venice in 1300 A.D., and were first made in England in 1673, but did not come into common use among the middle classes until the beginning of the last century. At first they were regarded with superstitious awe, the idea being that the reflection of the face in the mirror was a sort of specter or second soul of the individual. When a death occurred the looking-glass which the person was accustomed to use was turned to the wall, lest his ghost should be disturbed by others using the mirror before his spirit had finally departed from the neighborhood, there being an idea that the spirit of the departed lingered about the vicinity for several hours, or perhaps days, after it had separated from the body.

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HE STATES FACT.

Is Humpty telling the truth when he says he was never whipped?
Oh, yes. He's the fastest runner in town.

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