

THE DESTRUCTION OF SURVEY MONUMENTS

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*The difficulties arising from the destruction of survey monuments is a subject of discussion at almost every meeting of surveyors.*

*This problem is not new or peculiar to any country or civilization. Consider the following extract from the 8th Book of the Laws as written by Plato about 2300 years ago. It has a familiar ring, even if the translation is not perfect.*

"Let us commence with the laws affecting farming. First we pray to Jupiter, the guardian of boundaries. Let no one disturb the monuments that separate his land from that of his neighbours, or those that mark the frontier of his country. May everyone fully understand that he must not disturb that which has been set, rather he should try to support and perpetuate the monuments by adding stones to those placed to mark the limits between friendship and hostility. Let him swear to leave them in place. Jupiter, guardian of the rights of both citizen and foreigner, has heard your oaths. If broken, there is a danger that war may result.

"Whoever remains true to this law will never suffer the penalties that follow its infraction, but anyone who disregards it, will be doubly penalized for his temerity, first and most important by the wrath of the gods and secondly by the penalties prescribed by law.

"Let no one wittingly disturb the

boundaries between himself and his neighbour. If anyone dares to do so, the first person to notice it must denounce him to the owners, who will carry the complaint to the courts. If the accused is found guilty, the judges will decide the penalty or fine that a man deserves who works either secretly or openly to confuse the partition of lands.

"Secondly, we have disagreements between neighbours. These, while less important, often engender hostility, which results in vexatious and unbearable situations. That is why it is necessary that, as far as possible, no one gives his neighbour cause for complaint, and particularly to avoid encroaching on his neighbour's field while carrying on his farm work.

"It is very easy to harm others; anyone may do so involuntarily. But everyone does not have the same regard for the rights of others. So whoever oversteps his boundaries and uses as his own the lands of his neighbour, will pay damages, and to cure him of his insolence and lack of conscience, will pay in addition a fine equal to double the amount of the damage. The assessment, judgement and punishment of misdemeanours of this kind is the duty of the farmers. More serious offences will be tried by magistrates."

DEGREE COURSE IN SURVEYING NEW FOR N.B.

The University of New Brunswick at Fredericton has just announced the first English speaking Canadian University degree course in surveying. It is patterned after the courses in surveying at several European universities and the course given at Ohio State U. After three years in either Civil Engineering or Forestry the student desiring to graduate with a surveying degree specializes in surveying in his last two years.

This announcement will have a tremendous impact on the field of surveying in Canada. Full details of the course will be published as soon as available in a later issue.