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1907 INDEX READY.

Index for Volume 14 (1907) of the Canadian Engineer is now ready. Subscribers desiring copies will kindly drop us a postal to that effect.

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WANTED—MEN.

Annual elections bring the annual crop of election promises and promised reforms. The Works Departments, or the Engineer's Department is the great spending bureau of the municipalities, and it is these departments that receive the most attention at such times.

Reorganization is the word that is expected to work magic, but it is not usually reorganization, but men that are required—and not always men in the Engineering Departments, but men in the city councils.

Not only men big mentally and of master minds, but men too big to be mean. It is the mean man who disorganizes any service, we want men big enough to inspire

confidence in the municipal departments. Annually the councils change, it is the public servants that give steadiness and continuity to the city's government. How can we expect the best from them unless they feel their governors are too big to lie, too strong to bow to popular disapproval, too wise to be penurious?

Men in public office must be imaginative, men of wide vision, courageous men, then, and then only will we secure a good public service.

But sometimes bigger men are required in the service. Men so big that their own interests are not always in sight. Men with some patriotism and public pride, unselfish men. Men not too big for their office, yet bigger than their office. Then they will always be ready to attack new problems; ready to do what is required of them. Loyal men they should be, loyal to the men above them, loyal to the men below them, loyal to their profession and occupation.

It is not so much organization but bigger men that we require at the beginning of the year.

TORONTO'S SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

The annual address of the Mayor of Toronto is always looked forward to with much interest. The city council yearly appropriate an amount for city services equal to that appropriated by the Provincial Government for the Province, and this year will be no exception.

Mayor Oliver first paid his compliments to party politics in municipal affairs, and it is well that Mr. Oliver sets his face against party politics; it will be better if he can lead the council for a year without allowing them to deal with measures and appointments regardless of their influence on party affairs. City finances he declared to be satisfactory, but not so the manner in which heads of departments submitted their estimates. Estimates must be submitted early, and they must be complete, for little encouragement will be given towards allowing interim appropriations.

The city water supply, the Mayor considers defective as to purity, which he thinks can be corrected by filtration beds; as to quantity which he suggests may be improved by enlarging the reservoir and increasing the capacity of the pumping station. The new six million gallon pump is expected to be completed in three months.

A trunk sewer has been advocated for years, the new Mayor is one of those who appreciates its necessity, and although he speaks well of the scheme, yet he gives but little hope of it being carried out in the immediate future.

In railway matters, the erection of the new Union Station, the extension of the street railway, and a petitioning of the Government as to a two-cent rate are discussed, but here, too, little hope of success is expressed.

The reorganization of two departments is suggested, Works and Treasury. The Works Department because the City Engineer has to devote too much time to office routine and detail, and cannot give the large engineering questions of Toronto proper attention; the Treasury Department should be separated from the audit department, and the audit department strengthened.

The Bell Telephone Company's franchise, public baths, and the city jail control were also dealt with.

Taken altogether the address was progressive in its tone. It showed a man experienced in civic affairs with a thorough grasp of the city's requirements. A man of constructive ability ready with a solution of the problems that were presented. A man of thorough business training not likely to be stampeded should trying times arise.