

this individual case, but it will serve as an example of what might be done in these matters were the profession as a whole to take more interest in civic, provincial, or Dominion affairs as the case might be, even if the members were compelled to "butt in" through the medium of the public press.

The illustrating herewith of this particular grand stand is intended not so much to show what has been done, as what might be done. As a matter of fact, although as a single building it is one of which any city might be proud, it is practically ruined by its surroundings at the present time, and likely to be permanently so if the present scheme of year-to-year extension is proceeded with, without first preparing a really comprehensive plan.

Many articles and letters written by engineers have appeared from time to time complaining that the claims of the profession have not been duly recognized in appointments to positions of responsibility on works which come directly within the meaning of the word "engineering," but it is the opinion of the writer that the members of the profession have the remedy in their own hands by placing themselves and their qualifications directly before the public. Indeed, it is their duty to do so in matters of public interest such as the one under discussion, where the general public is in all probability ignorant of the mistakes which are being made, and will continue to remain in ignorance until its attention is drawn to the facts, or until the result has reached such a stage as to become apparent even to the casual eye, when it will be too late for remedy. An open discussion by trained men of just such questions as exhibition grounds will do much to place before the public the need of reform in such a manner as to eventually bring it about.

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A.M.Can.Soc.C.E.,  
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Quebec, P.Q., October 10th, 1917.

### AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, TORONTO SECTION

The next meeting of the Toronto section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers will be held in the lecture room of the Engineers' Club, 96 King Street West, on Friday, October 19th, at 8 p.m., when a paper will be presented by Mr. Frank T. Wyman, electrical engineer, Packard Electric Co., St. Catharines, Ont., on the subject of "Transformer Design as Influenced by the Quality of the Steel employed for the Magnetic Circuit."

On Friday afternoon, October 26th, through the co-operation and kindness of Mr. E. L. Cousins, general manager of the Toronto Harbor Commission, the officers of the institute have arranged for a visit to the Toronto harbor developments. The starting point will be the foot of York Street and the tour will be made in motor launches, leaving at 1.30 p.m. and returning about 5.30 p.m.

According to the railway returns for 1913—the last published in a complete form—there were in England and Wales 77 railway companies working railways, seven in Scotland, and 23 in Ireland. There were also 68 in England and Wales, 19 in Scotland and 13 in Ireland, whose railways were worked by other companies, and in England and Wales 76 railways or joint committees which owned rolling-stock, eight in Scotland and 23 in Ireland.

### OTTAWA BRANCH OF CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS TO VISIT AYLMER FILTRATION PLANT

The Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers has accepted the invitation of the mayor and council of the town of Aylmer to inspect its new filtration plant on Saturday, October 20th, when it is expected that the whole apparatus will be in actual operation.

It is expected that Mr. James O. Meadows, the town's consulting sanitary engineer, who designed the filters, will personally conduct his fellow-engineers through the plant and explain its operation as well as its construction to them. In any event, Mr. H. L. Seymour, C.E., of the Topographical Branch of the Department of the Interior, will read a paper to his confreres after luncheon at the British Hotel at Aylmer, in advance of their visit to the filtration plant. Mr. Seymour is a resident of Aylmer. He has for years taken an unusually keen interest in sanitary engineering and as he and his family will be served with the water from this new filter plant, he has followed with persistent energy every step connected with the construction of it. His paper is expected to arouse much interest and perhaps discussion, because the question of filtering Ottawa River water by various processes has long been a topic for popular debate. The engineers are strong believers in the old adage: "One look is worth a thousand words," and on Saturday next they will do some investigating on their own accounts.

If the British Hotel can accommodate others in addition to the members who signify their intention of making the excursion to Aylmer at noon on Saturday next, it is expected that members may invite friends to accompany them. In any event, Aylmer's mayor and council will, later on, undoubtedly welcome everyone to inspect its water filtration plant.

Mr. Fraser S. Keith, the new general secretary of the society, will make his first official visit to the Ottawa branch on the 20th instant, and will probably address the members at the luncheon at the British Hotel, Aylmer, on the occasion of the visit to the filtration plant.

### MONTREAL THANKS RATEPAYING ENGINEERS

W. F. Tye, chairman of the committee of ratepaying engineers of Montreal, who have been criticizing the city's aqueduct plans, has received the following letter from the Montreal city clerk's department:—

"I beg to transmit to you herewith a resolution of the City Council concerning the report of the engineers, ratepayers, of Montreal, submitted to the city some time ago.

"Copy of extract from minutes of the City Council meeting, held September 10th: 'On motion of Ald. Blumenthal, seconded by Ald. Macdonald, it was resolved: That this Council desires to express its most sincere thanks to the ratepaying engineers of Montreal for the disinterested work done by them in connection with the proposed improvements to the aqueduct, and to enable the administration to exactly know the value and usefulness of the works undertaken within the past few years for the purpose of enlarging the aqueduct and of developing electrical energy.'"

Argentina has built near Bahia Blanca the largest dry-dock in South America, capable of handling the Dreadnoughts of its navy.