

similar method of construction was employed as early as 1908, where the work was carried along on somewhat similar lines, but differing on one or two important points from the methods adopted at Goderich, Ont. In the work at Wisconsin the concrete superstructures were built on shore, launched, towed to position and sunk. The design and dimensions varied somewhat from the method employed here.

Because of the increased price of timber, the scarcity of large quantities of sound timber, because of the permanent efficiency of concrete work, and because of the difficulty of working in open water on wharf and break-water construction in stormy weather, this experiment of using concrete and building it up in sheltered harbors will be watched with special interest by those having to do with river, lake, and harbor extension and protection works.

FIRE HYDRANT STANDARDS.

A few weeks ago we referred to the matter of uniform sizes of fire hydrant connections. We again draw the attention of our readers, and particularly the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, to these matters, urging upon them the necessity of prompt enquiry into this matter.

The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers has done good work in adopting uniform specifications for various classes of work. At the last annual meeting a committee was appointed to prepare standard specifications for cast-iron pipe, and it is expected that their report will be printed and ready for distribution in good time for adoption at the next annual meeting. This should be followed up by a report on the standardization of fire hydrants and fire hose connection. At the time of the last big fire on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, it was found that there was one-quarter of an inch difference in size between the fittings for hose in Parliament Buildings and the city of Ottawa fire equipments.

At the present time cities so close together as Toronto, Hamilton and London have fittings different in size and different thread number. Establishments that are to-day supplying these fittings require many patterns, differing sometimes by very little in size and number of threads, yet making it necessary that their order shall be handled as separate orders.

Standard sizes and standard specifications will lessen the cost to the manufacturer and the consumer, and would make it possible to stock the goods and ship promptly, lessen the confusion that now occurs in ordering, and make possible, in cases of serious fires, the using of equipment from other cities.

THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMISSION.

The Dominion Government have announced the personnel of the Commission on Technical Education. The men who will compose the Commission are:—

James W. Robertson, C.M.G., LL.D., of Montreal, Que., chairman.

Hon. John N. Armstrong, of North Sydney, N.S.

George Bryce, LL.D., F.R.S.C., of Winnipeg, Man.

M. Gaspard DeSerres, of Montreal, Que.

Gilbert M. Murray, B.A., of Toronto, Ont.

David Forsyth, M.A., of Berlin, Ont.

James Simpson, of Toronto, Ont.

Secretary and reporter to the Commission, Thomas Bengough, C.S.R.

It is fortunate that the Government have been able to secure for the work men who have taken such an interest in educational matters and who at the same time are so representative of the various phases of the educational and industrial interests of Canada.

Matters of education are under Provincial control, and it is not to be expected that this inquiry, being carried forward by the Dominion Government, will in any way interfere with the relation of the Provinces to educational affairs, but it is felt that the information which the various Provinces require, and which they might be called upon to secure separately, could be secured at less expense by the Dominion, the Provinces accepting and acting upon such sections of the report as would refer to their own particular conditions.

The appointment of this Commission was in response to a widespread and persistent desire for fuller information on what was being done in the way of technical education in other countries and what might be accomplished in our own Dominion. The Manufacturers' Association, the labor organizations, the technical schools and colleges and the educationalists of the Dominion have repeatedly made representation on this question.

For a number of years the movement in favor of providing educational advantages, such as those following industrial pursuits would appreciate has been very strong. In the matter of educational training Canada has not made the most of her opportunity.

Experiments in modern technical education have been carried on for years in Germany, France, United States and Great Britain. As is usual with new movements, there has been considerable groping for best methods, and, whether our Canadian Commission are familiar enough with industrial conditions and educational methods now in vogue in Canada, to make definite, strong and convincing recommendations without befogging the discussion that those having the training of young people and the industrial future of the country at heart will expect, will depend as much upon their conception of present conditions and their knowledge of the educational value of various kinds of training as upon the time and energy they may put upon the task.

Frequently we are disappointed that on this Commission there was not appointed a Commissioner familiar with the methods employed and the work done in the Applied Science Faculties of our Canadian Universities and Canadian Technical Colleges. A representation of the Applied Science Faculties would be more than a teacher or college professor in our large industrial enterprises. His early training would be brought more in close touch with these workmen. He would know not only what assistance men require, but he would know how it might be most easily given.

Labor is well represented. The manufacturers are well represented. Educational ideals are well represented. The junior schools are well represented, but the men who make the bridge between the junior schools and the industrial life of Canada; the men who come in close touch with the young man as he enters upon his life work; the men who, from their training, are called upon to look at the broader questions—these men and the step in industrial developments which they represent do not find a place on the Commission.