

# The Canadian Engineer

Established 1893

A Weekly Paper for Canadian Civil Engineers and Contractors

Terms of Subscription, postpaid to any address:

| One Year | Six Months | Three Months | Single Copies |
|----------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| \$3.00   | \$1.75     | \$1.00       | 10c.          |

Published every Thursday by

The Monetary Times Printing Co. of Canada, Limited

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## WILL INTERVIEW INSTITUTION

IN the November 7th issue, *The Canadian Engineer* suggested editorially that Col. C. H. Mitchell should be requested to make representations to the Institution of Civil Engineers of Great Britain regarding recognition of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Applied Science. Under date of November 18th, Sir Robert Falconer, president of the University of Toronto, has kindly written: "After reading your editorial, I wrote to Colonel Mitchell and asked him to take steps to secure if possible the recognition of the Faculty of Applied Science on equal terms with that of McGill by the Institution of Civil Engineers." This will be good news to the engineering graduates of "S.P.S." If men of action and prestige like Sir Robert Falconer and Col. Charles Mitchell take up the cudgels on their behalf, the Institution will give them more consideration than in the past. The refusal to recognize "Toronto" is obviously a misunderstanding anyway, and we will wager that Col. Mitchell succeeds in straightening it out if he can spare the time for the job.

## THE SASKATCHEWAN DRAFT BILL

THROUGH official channels, *The Canadian Engineer* some weeks ago received for publication a copy of the draft of a bill which the Saskatchewan engineers propose to introduce in the legislature of that province.

The draft was handed to *The Canadian Engineer* with the idea that its publication would call the matter to the attention of engineers throughout Canada,—all of whom are interested, whether members of the Institute or not

—and so result in valuable suggestions and criticisms being forwarded to the legislative committee of the Saskatchewan Branch or to the council of the Institute.

It was published because it was of vital interest and great importance to every engineer in Canada, and so that every engineer might have a copy of the draft to study and criticize. It did not for a moment occur to *The Canadian Engineer* that the Institute would desire to keep the engineering public "in the dark" in regard to any of its activities, even in regard to admittedly "rough drafts" of legislation. We were therefore much surprised in reading the following editorial in the last issue of the Canadian Mining Institute's Bulletin to note the words that we have here italicized:

"In its issue of October 10th *The Canadian Engineer* prints a 'rough draft of the proposed bill' as prepared by the legislative committee of the Saskatchewan Branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada, for the regulation of the engineering profession in that Province. The draft has been submitted to other branches of the Engineering Institute for discussion and suggestions, and to the Council of the society for approval. It is planned that uniform legislation along these lines shall be introduced in every Province of the Dominion. The Chairman of the committee is careful to state 'that the draft is admittedly incomplete,' and 'that certain sections are capable of improvement.' This is quite obvious. There is, for example, a provision in the draft requiring qualified engineers of every class, including of course mining engineers, to join the Engineering Institute of Saskatchewan before they shall be permitted to practice. This and other features of the draft are decidedly objectionable. *The Canadian Mining Institute is assured, however, that these proposals are not authoritative; that the publication of the draft in question in a public journal is regarded as premature and ill-advised; and that in accordance with the existing understanding between the Engineering Institute and the Canadian Mining Institute the views of the latter will be sought and given every consideration in the framing of any legislation of the kind proposed.*"

In whose opinion was the publication of the draft bill ill-advised? To men who prize freedom of action, compulsion such as suggested by the Saskatchewan committee is most irritating. The Council of the Engineering Institute agrees that such compulsion cannot be tolerated. An official statement which has been published by the Institute, referring to these Saskatchewan proposals, says:

"The intense interest which has been aroused shows clearly that there is a feeling on the part of the average engineer in Canada that something should be done, and soon. It is evident that there never was a more opportune time for the engineering profession to come into its own than at the present moment. Both during the present war and for a long period thereafter the engineer must play a very prominent part and it is natural that he should assume the position in which the importance of the work he is doing, in a national manner, would be recognized. Whatever the form any legislation that is to be sought, may take, it must be founded on the basic principle, that, in securing the elevation of the profession, who are members of the Institute, no attempt should or will be made to insert any clause or clauses, either designed to force engineers to join the Institute or to interfere in any way with the rights of qualified engineers, who are non-members other than to give them the benefits that they as qualified engineers may gain by any