

The Canadian Engineer

WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1893.

VOL. 19.

TORONTO, CANADA, JULY 14th, 1910.

No. 2.

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Issued Weekly in the interests of the

CIVIL, MECHANICAL, STRUCTURAL, ELECTRICAL, MARINE AND
MINING ENGINEER, THE SURVEYOR, THE
MANUFACTURER, AND THE
CONTRACTOR.

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Present Terms of Subscription, payable in advance:

Canada and Great Britain:		United States and other Countries:	
One Year	\$3.00	One Year	\$3.50
Six Months	1.75	Six Months	2.00
Three Months	1.00	Three Months	1.25

Copies Antedating This Issue by Two Months or More, 25 Cents.

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Changes of advertisement copy should reach the Head Office by 10 a.m. Friday preceding the date of publication, except in cases where proofs are to be mailed to distant points, for which due time should be allowed.

Printed at the Office of The Monetary Times Printing Company, Limited, Toronto, Canada.

Index of this
issue will be
found on page
53.

IRRIGATION CONVENTION.

The Western Canadian Irrigation Association will meet in Kamloops, B.C., August 3rd, 4th and 5th. Already, the "dry belt" of central Canada is taking a great interest in this gathering. The present dry season has forced upon the people in certain sections of the West the necessity of having irrigation ditches at their command. Even those who do not look upon irrigation as a necessary agricultural assistant in every season are forced to recognize its necessity in such a season as this.

Centuries ago, Asia and Africa developed extensive irrigation works. Great plains of Southern Asia and Northern Africa were the granaries of races now almost forgotten. Canals, in extent far larger than any dreamed of by modern engineers; storage basins, in size equal to large lakes; aqueducts and canals of immense proportions extend in all directions in these old countries.

More recently, irrigation schemes extended to Italy, Spain, and the Mormons of the middle Western States developed the art of irrigation to a most wonderful degree. To-day, the arid and semi-arid districts of the two Americas bear testimony to the skill and accuracy of the irrigation engineer.

In the past, Canadian irrigation schemes have been private enterprises or the undertakings of private corporations.

Lately, the Governments, both Federal and Provincial, recognizing the necessity of public control in such matters, have taken a deeper interest in this vexed question, and recent legislation indicates that, shortly, irrigation works will be under Government control, if not Government-owned.

The programme arrangement for the coming meeting includes papers by Mr. Newell, chief of the Reclamation Department of the United States; Clifford Sifton, M.P., chairman of the Canadian Conservation Commission; A. E. Ashcroft, C.E., of Vernon, B.C.; A. E. Meighen, of Kamloops, B.C. It is to be hoped that the interchange of ideas by these recognized experts on the different branches of this great problem will have a stimulating and encouraging effect on the work of irrigation in our Western Provinces.

THE GOVERNMENT AND ONTARIO'S MINING PROBLEMS.

Years ago we were taught that the chief industries of Ontario were agriculture and lumbering; more recently, manufacturing was added as an important industry of Ontario, but to-day the investor, the capitalist and the economist look upon mining as, if not the chief, at least the second in importance in the industrial life of the Province.

The Government of Ontario have nourished with great care the mining industry. They have granted bounties to certain mining ventures; they have encour-