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#### SNOW REMOVAL.

A discussion of the methods to be adopted in dealing with a fall of snow cannot yet be considered as unreasonable, and so we venture to direct the attention of our readers to the conclusions of a special committee which was appointed to submit a report on the subject at a recent conference of street-cleaning officials at Philadelphia. These conclusions are seven in number, and may be stated quite shortly. First of all, the plan of organization and the system to be employed should be worked out in advance of the snow season. Next, the work of removal should commence as soon as the snow has covered the pavements, and the indications pointing to the storm continuing, the operations should be carried on continuously. Further, it is recommended that the carrying capacity of the sewer system should be utilised as far as possible to get the snow away from the streets. This at once reduces both the handling and haulage of the material. As regards the class of labor to be employed, the committee state that, when practicable, where there is only a small area to be cleaned, the work should be performed directly by the local authority by day labor. This method is at once flexible and capable of easy administration, and it avoids the necessity for the checking and measurement which are required in the event of the employment of contractors. The committee also call attention to the desirability of co-operation with haulage contractors and the police force, and of securing, as far as possible, the assistance of householders. These general principles, having been determined by a committee of experts, are worthy of the careful consideration of those responsible for the work of snow removal in this country. —"Surveyor."

# Engineers—And what they are doing

#### HYDRO-ELECTRIC.

Owen Sound, Ont., is now connected with the Falls power plant of the Hydro Electric system.

#### WELLAND.

Building permits for month of Nov. this year	\$ 32,464.00
Building permits for month of Nov. last year	7,488.00
Total for year to end of above month is . . . .	171,597.60
Total for corresponding period last year . . . .	335,668.00

#### SASKATCHEWAN RURAL TELEPHONES.

The provincial rural telephone system has developed rapidly during the past year. There were 151 companies organized, and 126 companies incorporated. There were 157 debenture applications received, amounting to \$904,800.00, and 176 debentures issued, totalling \$971,100.00. During the year, also, there were 152 rural and private telephone systems placed in operation, with an increase of 4,783 of mileage. There was an increase of 4,743 rural and private telephones in operation.

#### A RECORD.

"I believe that the City of Calgary holds a record. The Corporation of Calgary alone has sent 250 men to the front, and these went without receiving any bonus whatever, or any pay, merely the understanding that when they come back, if they are fit, they will receive their positions again. The list includes policemen, firemen, street railway employes and clerks."—Dr. Costello.

#### THE CHICAGO OF CANADA.

Mayor Waugh of Winnipeg told the St. Andrews Society of Illinois, recently, that he came from "the Chicago of Canada, where the spirit of aggressiveness, restless energy and growth is quite as well defined as it is in the American City."

#### OLD COUNTRY UNIONS AND CITY GOVERNMENT.

In the wide survey of social and economic affairs made by the members of the trades union congress at Liverpool, it was inevitable that matters of direct or indirect interest to local authorities should have been discussed. That of widest importance was the question of the organization of municipal employes. The terms of the resolution on this subject were: "That any method of organization which seeks to divide workmen employed by public authorities or private employers from their fellows in the same occupations employed by private firms is detrimental to the best interests of trade unionism, and that the parliamentary committee use its best endeavors to prevent the spread of such methods of organization." The mover of the resolution instanced the case of the Municipal employes' union, which, he pointed out, had induced workmen to join its ranks from other organizations. It would be dangerous, he contended, to endorse that principle. A representative of the Municipal employes' association, South London, moved as an amendment to the resolution to delete all the words after "detrimental to the" and substitute "financial interests of the amalgamated association of tramway and vehicle workers, the national amalgamated union of labour, and the gas workers' and general laborers' union, by the unskilled workmen of municipal bodies having a union of their own, the same as the postal and government workers, the railway servants, the miners, the builders' labourers, the cotton operatives and others." He said that when, 16 years ago, he entered the municipal service, he found that the men employed by the local authorities were not organized. He did his best to get men inside the ranks of that organization, and with a fair amount of success. On a vote by card the amendment was lost by an overwhelming majority, and the original resolution was then put and carried.—National Municipal Review.