

The Canadian Engineer

WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1893

Vol. 15.

TORONTO, CANADA, OCTOBER 23rd, 1908.

No. 43

The Canadian Engineer

ESTABLISHED 1893

Issued Weekly in the Interests of the

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

Editor—E. A. JAMES, B.A. Sc.

Business Manager—JAMES J. SALMOND.

Present Terms of Subscription, payable in advance:

Canada and Great Britain:		United States and other Countries:	
One Year	\$2.00	One Year	\$2.50
Six Months	1.25	Six Months	1.50
Three Months	0.75	Three Months	1.00

ADVERTISEMENT RATES ON APPLICATION.

HEAD OFFICE: 62 Church Street, and Court Street, Toronto
TELEPHONE MAIN 7404.

Montreal Office: B 32 Board of Trade Building. T. C. Allum, Editorial
Representative. Phone M 2797.

Winnipeg Office: Room 315, Nanton Building. Phone 3142. G. W. Goodall,
Business and Editorial Representative.

Address all communications to the Company and not to individuals.

Everything affecting the editorial department should be directed to the Editor.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:

Changes of advertisement copy should reach the Head Office by 10 a.m.
Monday preceding the date of publication, except the first issue of the month for
which changes of copy should be received at least two weeks prior to publication date

Printed at the office of THE MONETARY TIMES PRINTING CO., Limited,
TORONTO, CANADA.

TORONTO, CANADA, OCTOBER 23rd, 1908.

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE.

Editorial:	Page.
Strikes and a Solution	749
Present Prices and Demand	750
Leading Articles:	
Concrete Piles	7
Accidents During August	7
Concrete in Municipal Bridge Works	751
Topographic Mapping	752
Welding Concrete Reinforcing Rods	754
Mechanical Strains in Pole Lines	755
Canadian Society of Civil Engineers	757
White Portland Cement	758
Engineering Societies	753
Society Notes	754
Orders of Railway Board	756
Construction Notes	760
Market Conditions	763

STRIKES AND A SOLUTION.

The opinion has been often expressed that trades unions are better managed in the Old Country than in America. And the reason given for this is the large proportion of middle-aged or elderly men connected with their management. The younger and bolder men, probably prevail in the councils of the unions in the United States and Canada. Demands are made by them upon employers which workers of greater age and more experience know to be unfair, or at least impossible to be conceded. Business conditions will not admit of them. But the enthusiastic young worker or the truculent walking delegate cares little for business conditions, if they interfere with his demands.

Within the week, a piece of news comes from Yorkshire which ought to give pause to striking workmen and their leaders. A ship-builder and ship-owner of experience and wealth, Sir Christopher Furness, makes the declaration, at a conference between capital and labor held at West Hartlepool, that the relations between ship-building mechanics and ship-yard owners have become intolerable to the latter. He, therefore, asks that the following proposals be considered:—

First, that strikes must cease, or the works would be closed.

Second, if the trades unions thought they could carry on the business themselves, the firm was willing to sell out at a price to be fixed by assessors.

Third, if the unions would not, the firm was willing to admit its workers as partners on a profit-sharing basis; and,

Fourth, that a council be formed to settle all disputes, or refer them to accredited arbitrators.

If the trades unions really believe, as their actions indicate they believe, that their employers are always and everywhere making money and have no difficulties to surmount, here, in these proposals, one would think, is a chance for the men. Assuredly it looks as if this Englishman offered them the long end of the stick. For he says: "Come, now, lads; I'll sell out to you. Or, if you won't buy, I'll make you my partners, on a profit-sharing basis. And if you agree to neither, and will not consent to have all disputes settled by a council and stop this everlasting striking, the works will close." It would be as difficult to deny the fairness of these offers as to wonder at a capitalist, who rather than have his capital imperilled longer by unreasonable strikes, determines to close his works and put a stop to the men's earnings. But it is very doubtful if the obstinacy of the men will yield. Here is an instance of their unreason:—

Years ago, in the early nineties, if memory serves, masters and men in the iron trade of Great Britain came to loggerheads over a matter of wages. The furnaces were shut down, and for many months remained so. So great a commercial stagnation ensued and so widespread was the distress arising from lack of work that the foremost men in the kingdom came together to consult daily for weeks upon the situation. Bankers, members of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers, were closeted with iron-masters and trades union delegates, the object being to arrive at a solution of the vast industrial difficulty.

The solution was reached at last. A committee was formed, composed of prominent men in manufactures