

# CONSTRUCTION

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M. B. TOUTLOFF, Editor

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**CORRESPONDENCE.**—All correspondence should be addressed to "CONSTRUCTION," Corner Richmond and Sheppard Streets, Toronto, Canada.

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## Technical Training and Opportunities

In his very interesting and carefully thought-out paper on "Why the Practice of Technical Professions in Canada Should be Regulated by Law," Mr. J. P. Hynes presents an argument which strongly advocates for progressive measures of polity in reference to the subject which he discusses.

The contention put forth that the opportunities for technical practice in Canada should be conserved for resident practitioners and those whom the Government through its system of education aims to qualify for such work, is something which on both logic and economic grounds is entitled to full support.

Obviously one of the fundamental objects of the state is to provide an educational system which will in all lines of endeavor qualify men to meet the community's needs. The more involved or complex its social and economic life becomes the more does each province owe it to itself to train and equip men who can intelligently and successfully grapple with the problems that

arise. Along with this object it is the duty of the Government to see that the opportunities for practice within its jurisdiction are protected from undue outside encroachment in order that its system of education might give practical and efficient results. That architecture, engineering and other branches of technology come fully within this meaning, is evident in the fact that they are basic branches of service necessary to the community's progress and development.

Unfortunately, however, as regards these professions, Canada finds herself in a somewhat anomalous position. While educational facilities for technical training, and which now in Ontario and most other provinces include a university course for architectural training, have been established, nothing has been provided in the way of legislation to give the member of these professions a legal status. As a result the tendency has been not only to lower the standard of practice by subjecting resident practitioners to unwarranted and unfair alien competition, but also owing to this condition to place the graduates of Canadian universities under the necessity of exploiting their educational advantages elsewhere, thus depriving the community of the services of those who have been specially trained to do a particular work.

In view of this situation, Mr. Hynes' plan is both remedial and progressive. While the suggestion he puts forth refers to the Province of Ontario, its principle can be applied generally to all other provinces.

The proposal is to have the Government establish in the Department of Education a Registrar who shall register all present resident practitioners of technology in the Province, and after the date of the first registration, all graduates in technology from the universities of the Province and such others who, on becoming residents of the Province, comply with the provisions set out in an Act which would control the practice of technology in all its branches.

While this recommendation may not be generally accepted, it is nevertheless the growing consensus of opinion that it offers the only sure way out of the present unsatisfactory state, and would have the effect of placing the control of technical practice where it rightfully belongs.

This much at least is certain, that education in itself is only means to an end. The end must exist in the way of opportunities which it is the duty of the Government to conserve. Unless technical professions are given by legal protection the same encouragement to high attainment as is given to medicine and some of the other professions, and likewise are accorded full advantages to practice which are inherently theirs, the Government fails in the fulfilment of an important economic obligation and operates against its own educational facilities in providing the best results.