

MUNICIPAL CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

O. J. Godfrey, F.C.A., past president of the Dominion Association of Chartered Accountants, has contributed an article to a western municipal journal, in which he makes a direct and unjustified attack upon the engineering profession. To sum up his charges, he alleges:—

(1) That municipal consulting engineers purposely underestimate the cost of improvements so as to obtain the voters' consent to the projects;

(2) That the over-expenditure would not occur if the engineers did not get a percentage on the over-expenditures;

(3) That he knows of no case where the actual cost of waterworks or electric light came within the original estimate made by the consulting engineers.

Of course, Mr. Godfrey's charges were not quite so bluntly worded, but when stripped of their excess verbiage, they are in fact exactly as above stated. As a remedy he suggests that a board of engineers be organized by the province (his argument deals principally with conditions in his home province of Saskatchewan), the board's services to be placed at the disposal of all towns and cities in the province. The provincial officials are subsequently to fix the amounts to be paid by the municipalities to the province for any services rendered by the board.

Mr. Godfrey's three charges are hardly likely to be taken seriously by any municipal official who has the slightest knowledge of the ethics and standards of the engineering or any other profession. To engineers themselves the charges are mildly amusing. They are on a par with some other ideas prevalent among some very narrow-minded laymen, such as that surgeons operate unnecessarily for the fees derived; that lawyers drag cases through pre-arranged red tape in order to increase the legal costs; and that dental surgeons drill holes in perfectly good teeth in order to create something to fill.

Any number of cases can be cited where the costs of finished engineering work have been within preliminary estimates. And frequently it is not the engineer's fault when estimates are exceeded. Additions to the original work contemplated, failure of councils to provide the necessary funds when needed, depreciation due to mismanaged sales of debentures, change in sites, increase in prices of materials while council is "getting together" on the proposition, and many other factors beyond the engineer's control often result in excess expenditures.

Any engineer who would indulge in sharp practice such as alleged by Mr. Godfrey, would be disciplined unmercifully by his fellow-engineers. It is not likely that Mr. Godfrey can quote chapter and verse in substantiating his sweeping but vague charges, but if he can, the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers would no doubt be glad to take prompt action upon any real facts that he is able to produce.

Failing the ill, no remedy is needed. But even if such evils did exist, Mr. Godfrey's proposed remedy is unsound. Socialistic action such as suggested by Mr. Godfrey generally results in monopoly, despotism, inefficiency and loss of personal enterprise. This sort of community municipal engineering service has been tried before, not a thousand miles from where these lines are penned, with results that apparently do not outshine individual effort, taking the whole facts of the cases into consideration, and carefully weighing them in the balance. — Canadian Engineer.

A. McKIM LIMITED ADVERTISING AGENCY NEW EXECUTIVE.

The new Executive of A. McKim, Limited, Advertising Agency of Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and London, Eng., has been announced.

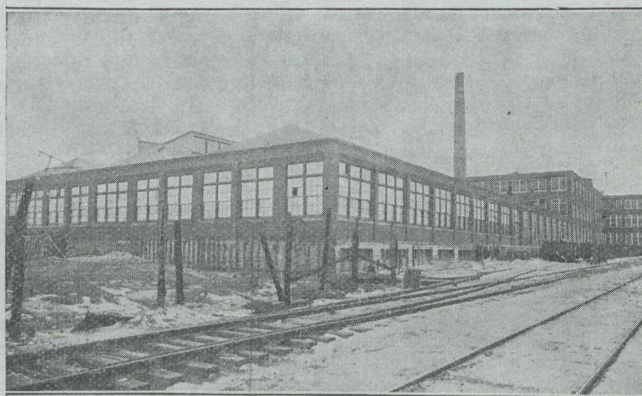
During the last few years, the late Mr. Anson McKim had gathered around him an executive staff capable of relieving him of all but a general oversight of the rapidly growing business of the advertising agency which he founded nearly thirty years ago, and which now comprises four offices in different cities and over 140 employees.

Since his death, these experienced men have been carrying on the work in the same efficient way that has characterized "McKim's" for so many years. The personnel of the executive as now organized is J. N. McKim, President and Treasurer; Mrs. Anson McKim, Vice-President; W. B. Somerset, General Manager; H. E. Stephenson, Secretary; C. T. Pearce, Manager at Toronto; Thos. Bell, Manager at Winnipeg; W. Keeble, Manager at London, England.

STANDARD UNDERGROUND CABLE CO. INCREASE ITS PLANT.

In preparation for the prosperous times which the company anticipates will prevail after the close of the war, the Standard Underground Cable Co. of Canada, Limited, is making an addition to its factory at Hamilton, Ont., which when completed and equipped with the necessary machinery will represent an investment of \$50,000.

The illustration shows in the foreground this addition with a portion of the former factory in the background to the right, the new part extending about to the point where the car is to be seen standing on the switch. The new structure consists of one story with basement built of brick and concrete and is 125 by 120 feet in dimensions, which



gives a total increase in floor space of 30,000 square feet. It is most modern in type and equipped to secure the lighting, heating and ventilation necessary to the best working conditions. Ample fire protection apparatus is also provided for, which includes a complete automatic sprinkler system. The architects are Prack and Perrine, of Hamilton.

The new building will be devoted exclusively to the uses of the wire drawing department, and in addition to housing the former equipment will contain material additions of new machinery of the latest design capable of drawing wires ranging in size from No. 40 B. & S. G., which is about the thickness of a hair, to the largest size of trolley wire; also machines for grooving trolley wire and for rolling flats and squares such as are used in the manufacture of magnet wire. There will also be two new "Bright-annealing" furnaces for annealing or softening the wire after it has been drawn. This addition will not only give room for a considerable increase in the output of the wire drawing department, but the space released will allow for expansions in the stranding and cabling departments.

All of the machinery in the new plant will be electrically operated by 3 phase alternating current motors of 550 volts, 25 cycles, the current being furnished by the Hamilton Hydro Electric Department and carried from the overhead transmission lines of the department to the transformers on the company's property by underground cables. Power is now taken for other uses in the plant from the Dominion Power & Transmission Co.

This increase in the manufacturing capacity of a plant erected just six years ago and still modern and highly efficient, considered in connection with the unexcelled rail and water shipping facilities afforded by its being located on two great railway trunk lines and on the shore of Lake Ontario, puts the Standard Company in an unexcelled position to meet promptly the electric wire and cable requirements of its customers, both domestic and foreign.

AN ART GALLERY IDEA.

As so many poor people will not go to see the famous pictures in the Art Gallery, the York City Council (England), is taking the pictures to the people. Already a selection of the pictures in the Art Gallery has been loaned to several of the council schools for a period for instructional and educational purposes. The pictures will be sent to other schools in due course.

Now the curator has been directed to try the experiment of engaging a room in some working-class locality and exhibiting some of the pictures so that the people living in these districts may have the opportunity and pleasure of viewing the pictures near their own homes, whereas, under ordinary circumstances, they would scarcely ever see them. —Municipal Journal.