

# The Canadian Engineer

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## The Canadian Engineer

ESTABLISHED 1893

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### CANADIAN CEMENT USERS.

Two meetings are called for Monday, April 20th, at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, when the question of forming a Canadian Cement Users Association will be taken up. A preliminary meeting is called for 11 a.m., followed by a meeting at 3 p.m. All interested cement men are requested to be present.

### PRESERVE THE STREAMS.

Canada has made great boast of her supply of "white coal." Has she not streams and lakes and waterfalls without number? Harness these and we thought we had electric energy at every door. Mr. Breithaupt's paper on "Stream Flow" should cause us to more fully consider this question and ponder whether we have not been too careless of that great heritage—running water.

In the early days of some districts the first task was to clear the land and prepare it for cultivation. The complete removal of the forest and the drainage of large swamp areas was here necessary. But much of our area is not suited for agricultural pursuits, but even here we allowed the lumberman to slash and cut and the forest fire soon followed and swept clean the hillsides and valleys that should have been wooded slopes and wide forest ranges and great storehouses of rain and snow and moisture to feed our rivers.

Yearly, the deforesting went on and yearly the streams ran themselves to death in spring-time. The powerful rivers of March and April became in July and August mere rivulets. Nature's reservoirs had been destroyed, and that which might have been stored-up energy wasted. Many waterfalls that might have been valuable for power purposes because of the great fluctuation in flow of water became valueless.

Some of the injury done in the Western Ontario peninsula may be corrected. All the important rivers of this great district have their sources within a comparatively small area. The reforestation of this area, or certain sections of it, would do something to regulate the run off. This commencement could be followed up in other ways.

The first thing that is required is a systematic survey, and it appears to us that this is one place where the Hydro-Electric Commission might properly employ engineers—it is not near so far afield as producer-gas. The Hydro-Electric Commission is doing good work in arranging for the distribution of power from Niagara, but they will defeat the purpose they were created for if they neglect all others but those dependent on Niagara Falls for power.

Other districts have claims, other municipalities are now receiving electric energy generated by water power, and in not a few cases their plants are becoming unreliable because of the great irregularity in stream flow. If the Government were to make an appropriation to the Hydro-Electric Commission, so that they might employ an engineer to investigate, make surveys, and report for until the people appreciate the necessity of reforestation of the head waters of our streams, grants large enough to be of value cannot readily be secured for such work.

### LUMBER PRODUCTION.

A comparison of the lumber-producing States of the American Union shows that since 1899 there have been many changes in their relative rank. Washington, which in 1899 stood sixth, now leads, while Wisconsin, which eight years ago led all others, is now third. In the same period Oregon, Louisiana, Mississippi, Idaho, and California made great strides as lumber-producing States, though Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio fell off in production anywhere from 29 to 54 per cent.

Last year showed the largest lumber-cut on record in the United States. The enormous quantity of 37,550,736 board