

The Canadian Engineer

Established 1893

A Weekly Paper for Canadian Civil Engineers and Contractors

Terms of Subscription, postpaid to any address:

One Year,	Six Months	Three Months	Single Copies
\$3.00	\$1.75	\$1.00	10c.

Published every Thursday by

The Monetary Times Printing Co. of Canada, Limited

JAMES J. SALMOND
President and General Manager

ALBERT E. JENNINGS
Assistant General Manager

HEAD OFFICE: 62 CHURCH STREET, TORONTO, ONT.
Telephone, Main 7404. Cable Address, "Engineer, Toronto."
Western Canada Office: 1208 McArthur Bldg., Winnipeg. G. W. GOODALL, Mgr.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

Canada's Heritage in the St. Lawrence River, by Arthur V. White	507
Labor, Apprenticeship and Technical Educa- tion	511
Sewage Disposal From an Operator's Stand- point, by W. F. K. Durrant	512
Control of Stream Pollution, by Prof. E. B. Phelps	513
Keep the Main Roads Open in Winter, by G. H. Biles	518
Electric Power Generation in Ontario on Sys- tems of Hydro-Electric Power Commission, by A. H. Hull	520
Personals and Obituaries	526

NEW BRUNSWICK WATER POWERS COMMISSION

IN the interesting and valuably constructive article by Frank M. Small on the St. John River and its opportunities, which appeared in our last week's issue, there was the following statement:—

"The water-powers of New Brunswick were investigated by the Commission of Conservation this summer (1918), and pending the publication of its report, it is not desirable to discuss them at any length here."

It may be desirable to explain and correct this statement rather fully, as it is not in accordance with the facts and deals with an important matter. The author's error was entirely unintentional, and due solely to absence from New Brunswick for several months past.

James White, assistant to the chairman, and deputy head of the Commission of Conservation, in writing to *The Canadian Engineer* regarding the New Brunswick situation, calls attention to the fact that the report which the Commission of Conservation, after reconnaissance examination, made upon the water-powers of New Brunswick and of Nova Scotia, was published in 1911 in "Water-Powers of Canada." When the Commission issued this report, it urged fuller examination and the systematic gathering of stream-flow and other pertinent data in both provinces. "Subsequently," says Mr. White, "the provincial authorities of Nova Scotia requested the Commission to outline some course of action which would assist in the most advantageous development and conservation of the provincial water-power resources. Later, the Province of New Brunswick made a similar request.

"In the case of Nova Scotia, which province was first ready to proceed to action, the Commission of Conservation recommended that the province endeavor to effect some co-operative arrangement with the Dominion Government. Such an arrangement was brought about in 1915. The Nova Scotia Water-Power Commission was formed, and this Com-

mission in turn entered into an arrangement with the Department of the Interior for assistance from its Water-Power Branch.

"When, a little later, the Province of New Brunswick again asked counsel of the Commission of Conservation with regard to its water-powers, similar action was recommended. Early in 1916, upon the special request of the Premier of New Brunswick, the Honorable the late George J. Clark, the Commission of Conservation's Consulting Engineer, Arthur V. White, made a report upon the subject. The Premier took steps to initiate the work. These various efforts culminated in the formation, in the early summer of 1918, of the New Brunswick Water-Powers Commission, which also effected a co-operating arrangement with the Department of the Interior, corresponding to that made by Nova Scotia.

"In 1918, certain public organizations in New Brunswick consulted with the Commission of Conservation upon the subject of water-powers. Our consulting engineer, Mr. White, paid a visit to St. John and other places, and advised the various organizations that the arrangements already made, if energetically and faithfully carried out, should meet all present requirements and lead up to the publication of a more detailed report upon the water-powers of the province. Doubtless, Mr. Small has, unwittingly, been under a misunderstanding, which I trust this statement will clear up."

THE NEW CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION

LAST month about two hundred very representative Canadian contractors and sub-contractors assembled in Ottawa for the most important general meeting that the contractors of Canada have ever held, resulting in the organization of a permanent body called the "Association of Canadian Building and Construction Industries." By-laws are now being prepared and a charter will likely be obtained. Every engineering-contractor in Canada should lend his active support to this new association. He will receive as much from the association as he gives to it,—and much more. Looking at the matter purely from a practical business standpoint, no Canadian contractor can afford to remain outside of the association.

In the United States a similar association was recently organized for much the same reasons that prompted the Canadian contractors to meet. Discussing the aims of the American association, "Engineering News-Record," of New York, says editorially: "Briefly, the object of the association, no matter what the actual wording of the constitution, is the stabilizing of the contracting business. If there is any industry in which the 'competition of incompetence,' the competition of the man who does not know what he is doing, has had more serious consequences we do not know what it is. It has defrauded the public, made hard sledding for legitimate contractors, and has resulted in the development of an attitude of suspicion on the part of the public that has caused grievous losses to the contractor, through contractual provisions lacking mutuality and imposing conditions that encouraged poor rather than good work.

"The new organization will establish standards that will force the elimination of this type of business man—against whom the Federal Trade Commission has so strenuously objected, the type of man who, until he goes down in inevitable ruin, is a menace to the whole industry.

"As to the detailed work of the association, it does not require much imagination to realize the large number of questions on which uniform practice is desirable and others in which the public, both private builders and Government agencies, city, state and Federal, needs enlightenment."

It is remarkable that no such association has previously existed in Canada. True, there have been Builders' Exchanges and associated exchanges, but never before have the contractors and supply men met in such whole-hearted co-operation and organized an active national council. No contractor of standing should hesitate in lending his enthusiastic support to the new Canadian organization.