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Per A. W. LAW, Sec.-Treas.

Toronto, November 1, 1893.

THE CIVIL ENGINEERS.

The action of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers in appointing a committee to consider and report on the professional status, is well taken. The present age is one in which great demands are made on a man's intellectual resources; there is, perhaps, no calling in which this demand exists more extensively than in the profession of Civil Engineering. The prefix "civil" has a considerable amount of ambiguity attached to it, as it is becoming difficult to define the lines between mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, railway, sanitary, and other branches; it seems to us the best course would be to drop the term "civil," and employ the more comprehensive one of ENGINEERING, to designate the profession.

In every branch of the profession the highest qualifications of intellect are necessary to become a successful practitioner; the public has recognized this by making most liberal public and private grants of money for buildings and apparatus to further engineering education. The engineer is now received as a man of special technical training, whose opinion has to be sought before extensive outlays of capital are embarked in large enterprises; his standing is the guarantee of honesty of the estimates, and relying on this the capitalist lends himself to the project. All this bodes well for the present and also for the future of the profession, still it will be requisite for the profession to advance a step further. It requires to consolidate itself, and to obtain power for its members to practise throughout the whole

Dominion, through some stable and established medium which will give them a solid standing. Some coign of vantage is required from which a professional rank will be attained, making the title of engineer, with the special prefixes of railway, hydraulic, electric or sanitary, the guarantee of education and fitness. It will be well for the profession at the initial stage to consider this matter carefully, and to participate in this movement for improved recognition of the professional status; this can be readily accomplished, as the majority of the profession are already connected with the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, and they should join heartily in forwarding that movement.

THE SCHOOL OF MINES.

The School of Mines recently established at Kingston by the Ontario Government was formally opened on the 30th October. The whole staff has been appointed, and so far as the reputations of the gentlemen selected have preceded them, nothing is left to be desired. The majority of the men are, as is but right, Canadians, and we point with not a little pride to the fact that it was possible to make so many Canadian appointments, when we have been without means hitherto of special instruction in this particular department of science. We may expect the mining industries of the country to at once feel the invigorating influence of a school devoted wholly to the scientific study of metallurgy, assaying, and their kindred arts.

Those of us who are fond of the cry "economy," may criticise the establishment of the school at Kingston when it could have been maintained more cheaply in Toronto, in connection with the Provincial University and the School of Practical Science. To consider one item alone, why should the Ontario Government pay two professors of mineralogy and maintain lecture-ships and laboratories when the one already in Toronto could do the work?

But we must not complain, now that the development of the mineral wealth of the country is about to receive that encouragement which has been so long denied it.

The staff of the School of Mines is as follows:

Wm. L. Goodwin, B.Sc. (Lond.), D.Sc. (Edin.), F.R.S.C., Professor of Chemistry.

Wm. Nicol, M.A., Professor of Mineralogy, Metallurgy and Assaying.

Willet C. Miller, B.A., Lecturer on Geology and Petrography.

Wm. Hamilton Merritt, M.E., F.G.S., Lecturer on the Economic Geology of Ontario and the Discovery and Winning of Minerals.

R. Carr Harris, C.E., Professor of Engineering.

William Mason, Lecturer on Freehand, Mechanical and Office Drawing, Typography and Surveying.

T. L. Walker, M.A., and Dr. Isaac Wood, M.A., Laboratory Demonstrators.