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CRITICISM OF MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS.

The criticism of municipal engineers and other officials appears to be as prevalent in England as it is in Canada. Mr. J. A. H. Green, the retiring town clerk of Nottingham, in a recent address condemned the abuse of city officials. Among other things he said: "Those whom we come into contact with in our daily work, and who know what we do for the most part, treat us generously and well. They appreciate the services that are rendered by officials, and they know that officials as a body do their utmost to serve the city to the best of their ability. But it is an intolerable thing that officials as a class should be liable to be branded by those who know nothing, and care nothing, simply for the sake of creating confusion and unrest. I want to protest here as strongly as I possible can against the reckless and indiscriminate abuse of officials as officials."

The above words apply with equal force to the criticisms, which are now so general, of town and city engineers. Municipal councils seem to have no regard for their faithful employees other than to stir up trouble for them. The life of the municipal engineer at best is a hard one. Their work is seldom appreciated, yet the management and construction and design of all the city's affairs are in their hands. An engineer who is employed by a private corporation has a comparatively easy task, for the people he must satisfy are few in number and quite amenable to reason. On the other hand, it seems to be a universal practice for certain members of town and city councils by their constant nagging and lack of fairness to make the life of their engineers a hard thing. We agree with Mr. Green when he says that no word can be said too strong in condemnation of these attacks.

WATER POWER.

Too little attention is paid by the Provincial and Dominion Governments to the conserving of our water power resources. It is true that the Dominion Conservation Commission have made an initial move towards a consideration of the problem, and the recent report compiled by Messrs. A. V. White and L. G. Dennis, and issued by the Commission, on the water powers of Canada, is a very valuable collection of data. This feature of the problem is very necessary, for it is impossible to do much on the conservation question until the requisite data and information are to hand. There is one feature of the conservation question, however, which is lost sight of, and that is the absolute necessity of securing the highest possible economy of water in all water power developments. Our water powers in the future will be too valuable to allow of their waste at the present time. To illustrate a little more clearly what we mean, the total head at Niagara Falls is 212 feet. One of the companies operating there uses of this available head only 136 feet. The turbines in operation have an efficiency of less than 75 per cent., or a combined efficiency of generator and turbine of about 70 per cent. Add to this the fact that very high velocities in the tail-race tunnel are used, or will be used, when the plant is under full development, with an additional preventable loss, and it can be easily seen that a very considerable percentage of the total available power is thrown away. From the standpoint of the company, this is perfectly legitimate and proper, for the whole expenditure on the plant is designed to secure the highest possible rate of interest on the investment. From the standpoint of the