

ALBERTA IRRIGATION PROJECT

"THE reports of the irrigation conference have already gone far abroad and yesterday there were enquiries from construction contractors, who claim to be in a position to build irrigation works and take the Irrigation District bonds in payment. No doubt other tentative offers of this kind will be coming along," says the Lethbridge Daily Herald.

"There can be little doubt, however, that much better tenders on the engineering works could be got if the money were available separately, and if the financing were kept clear of the engineering. A man with ready money can always make the best deals.

"The construction work in connection with the Lethbridge Northern project, for instance, presents no engineering difficulties; and the head gates at Peigan are very small compared with the Bassano dam or the Nile barrage.

"It is impossible yet, of course, to foresee what may transpire in the matter of the provision of finance, but the Hon. Arthur Mieghe, Minister of the Interior, in his telegram the other day, repeated distinctly what he told Mr. Marnoch in Ottawa, namely, that if the Province of Alberta purchased district bonds and desired a Dominion loan against those, that proposal would be considered. The present time is opportune and we may not have that chance again.

"The delegation from the executive of the Irrigation Development Association, consisting of Chairman G. R. Marnoch; Vice-Chairman, John Powelson, and P. W. Crofts, along with S. Dunham, and P. Baker have arranged to meet with Premier Stewart and his Executive Council on Monday evening, and they are now leaving for Edmonton."

STORING TIMBER TO PREVENT DECAY

AS sometimes serious losses from decay of wood are doubtless due to the fact that timbers used were infected with wood-destroying fungi while in storage, the following hints as to how these losses might be avoided have been issued by the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory:—

Strong efforts should be made to store the products on well-drained ground, removed from the possible dangers of floods, high tides and standing water.

All rotting debris scattered about yards should be collected and burned, no matter whether it be decayed foundation and tramway timbers or stored lumber which has become infected. In the case of yards already filled in to considerable depths with sawdust and other woody debris the situation can be improved by a heavy surfacing with soil, slag or similar material. Weeds should be cut away from the piles to allow good ventilation.

More attention should be given to the foundations of lumber piles in order to ensure freedom from decay and better ventilation beneath the stacks. Solid foundations should never be used. In humid regions the stock should not be piled less than 18 to 24 ins. from the ground. Wood blocking used in direct contact with wet ground should be protected by the application of creosote or other antiseptic oils or else replaced by concrete, brick or other durable materials. Treated skid timbers would also be highly advantageous.

Foundations should be built so that the piles will slope approximately 1 in. to every foot of length.

In most regions lumber should not be close piled in the open, but should be "stuck" with crossers at least 1 in. thick. Lateral spacing is also very desirable. Roofing or cover boards on the piles should not be neglected, and should extend over for several inches in front and back.

Instead of throwing the "stickers" about on the ground to become infected with decay, they should be handled carefully, and when not in use piled on sound foundations and kept as dry as possible. If pine saturated with resin, or the heartwood of such durable species as white oak or red gum

be employed, the danger of possible infection will be greatly decreased.

In storage sheds the necessity for piling higher from the ground is very apparent in many cases. The same remedies apply here as for pile foundations in the open. The sheds should be tightly roofed and the siding should not be run down below the bottom of the foundation sills. Free air circulation should be allowed from all sides beneath the inclosure. Only thoroughly dry stock should be stored in close piles under cover.

Should fungus outbreaks occur in storage sheds not constructed to meet sanitary needs, the infected foundation timbers should all be torn out and replaced with wood soaked in an antiseptic solution or by concrete or brick. In all cases the new foundations should be so constructed as to keep the lumber well off the ground, and the soil and timber immediately adjoining the infected area should be sprayed or painted with an antiseptic solution of a water-soluble salt, like sodium fluorid, mercuric chlorid, zinc chlorid, or copper sulphate.

ENGINEERING INSTITUTE ELECTIONS

AT a meeting of The Engineering Institute of Canada held March 25th in Montreal, the following elections and transfers were announced:—

Members,—L. G. Denis, Ottawa; E. C. Gaines, Montreal; Robert Hobson, Hamilton; S. J. Hungerford, Toronto; C. H. Larson, Cabri, Sask.; R. K. Palmer, Hamilton; J. A. Reid, Cobalt; W. M. Tobey, Ottawa; W. H. Wardwell, Westmount; M. B. Weekes, Regina.

Associate members,—W. S. Bellows, Fort William; G. J. Brown, Winnipeg; C. A. Buchanan, Levis; Arthur Duperon, Montreal; A. H. Eager, Winnipeg; Charles Howarth, Calgary; F. W. Hubbard, Hamilton; A. D. Huether, Niagara Falls, Ont.; A. R. MacPherson, Hamilton; W. G. Milne, Hamilton; G. A. Mills, Winnipeg; J. H. Morley, Wabana, Newfoundland; St. John Munroe, Vancouver; E. A. Neville, Windsor; R. C. Robinson, Saskatoon; R. J. Sandover Sly, Campbellton, N.B.; Arthur Sedgwick, Toronto; F. H. Smail, Regina; C. H. Timm, Westmount; F. P. Vaughan, St. John, N.B.; Ephrem Viens, Ottawa.

Juniors,—W. I. MacTavish, Toronto; L. C. Nesham, Ottawa; J. E. Owens, St. John, N.B.

Transferred from associate members to members,—John Armstrong, Winnipeg; Maj. F. L. C. Bond, Montreal; J. M. Leamy, Winnipeg.

M. E. Crouch, Ontario Land Surveyor, of Nipigon, has received a contract from the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines of Ontario for the survey of the Pic River pulpwood limit, comprising an area of approximately 1,400 square miles. The easterly limit is near Heron Bay, the westerly near Jackfish. Mr. Crouch will commence the work about May 15th and hopes to complete it within three months. This is the largest survey contract made by the Ontario government for several years. E. R. Bingham, of Fort William, and Phillips & Benner, of Port Arthur, will survey certain townships this summer for the provincial government.

Walter J. Francis, Arthur Surveyer and F. B. Brown, of Montreal, were entertained at dinner last Friday by the Toronto Branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada. Later in the evening they addressed the branch on the affairs of the Institute. Mr. Francis urged the members to take a livelier interest in public affairs, and to advance the welfare of the institute in every way. Engineers, he said, forget that energetic service to the community is essential in creating a healthy public appreciation of the engineer's value. Mr. Surveyer discussed the question of legislation to secure a closed corporation. Mr. Brown advocated one great national institution of engineers for all Canada, in preference to Canadian branches of American societies.