

Canadian Cement & Concrete Review

TORONTO - MONTREAL - WINNIPEG

An Illustrated Monthly Journal for the discussion, consideration, and development of all that pertains to this great and growing industry.

PUBLISHED ON THE FIFTEENTH OF EACH MONTH, AT 62 CHURCH STREET TORONTO
BY THE MONETARY TIMES PRINTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Editor: Alfred E. Uren.

Telephone Main 7404.

WINNIPEG OFFICE: 315 NANTON BUILDING. G. W. GOODALL, Business and Editorial Representative.

MONTREAL OFFICE: B 32 BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING.

Present Terms of Subscription, payable in advance:

Canada and Great Britain.....	\$1.00 per annum.
United States and Foreign Countries.....	\$1.50 "

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

Changes of Advertisement Copy should reach the Head Office by the 5th of each month.

Mark on your calendar the date of the Toronto Cement Exhibition, March 1st to 6th, and come prepared to become a member of the Association. Your co-operation is needed.

EDITORIAL.

Within a few days Canada's first Cement Convention and Exhibition will be in full swing. The exhibitions conducted during the past by various cement associations in the United States have, in most cases, been highly successful. They have, and are, attaining the desired end of educating the general public along cement and concrete lines. It is with this object in view that the Cement and Concrete Association of Canada laid the foundation for this, its initial effort. Like similar organizations, the educational side should predominate, and the Association be kept from commercial influences, so apt to prove detrimental to its best interests. Everything points to a big attendance and a successful Convention.

Had a prophecy been made, even a decade ago, that the cement industry would reach the proportions and occupy the place in the building world that it holds to-day, it would doubtless have been received with derision. The history of this wonderful material in nearly every country has been one of rapid progress and development. The tide of its expansion has flowed on from year to year, until to-day one hardly dares predict future developments or place a limit on its possibilities and achievements. The world's output of Portland cement during the last decade has increased enormously. This is particularly marked in Canada and the United States, where many new plants have been erected and old ones enlarged. While the recent financial depression has sobered the imaginations of many, there seems no indi-

cation that the supply and market of the future has been overestimated. In the eastern countries the spread of the trade is becoming particularly noticeable. Many countries that hitherto have imported the cement required for home consumption are erecting plants for manufacture, a fact which must possess considerable significance for foreign shippers. The production of cement in America has now reached the enormous figure of upwards of fifty million barrels annually, while twenty years ago not over forty thousand tons of Portland cement were manufactured. Few industries have made so remarkable progress. The advance has been smooth and even, unmarked by setbacks and devoid of the usual alternations of prosperity and adversity, characteristic of other industries. The recent depression has, however, had its effect on the cement manufacturers, many of whom have called a halt, in some cases for an indefinite time. In the scramble for business they have hovered around the cost mark. While competition and close prices benefit the community, excessive lowering of prices cannot permanently endure. The inactivities in the building trade are sufficiently depressing to manufacturing interests without undue price lowering, and, while low prices have undoubtedly improved quality, the margin of profit has been reduced accordingly. Prices will doubtless come to a level ultimately, as there does not seem to be a desire, on the part of any of the Canadian companies to create a pre-eminent hold on the market.

The fifth annual convention and exhibition of the National Association of Cement Users was held in Cleveland, Ohio, during the week of January 11th, this year. In the matter of attendance, excellence of the papers and calibre of the contributions, and dignity which characterized the discussions, the Association has little either to regret or to apologize for. Its aims at gathering valuable data for the use of its members, at disseminating authoritative information, at standardizing practice and specifications goes steadily on. Its task in these fields is a large one, because it is dealing with a new and comparatively unknown material, but it is undertaking it with intelligence and carrying it through as expeditiously and as thoroughly as can well be expected. All parts of Canada and the United States were represented on the floor of the Convention. President Humphrey is an outstanding figure. As a presiding officer he is ideal. With him the work of the chairman is a serious and responsible matter. Irrelevant matters are never introduced. Dignified, courteous, and firm, he holds the discussion to the subject under consideration, is prompt in his rulings, and rarely makes an error of judgment. In consequence, the business before the house is expeditiously handled, and none of the Convention's time is lost in discussions foreign to the matter in hand. The programme covered almost the entire field. The President's address was, in brief, a plea for fireproof building construction. Mr. Morris, Boston, contributed a timely article on the artistic possibilities of artificial stone. Excellent papers by Mr. Leonard Wason, Boston; Henry G. Quimby, Philadelphia, and Emile G. Perrot, Philadelphia, on the costs of concrete structures, elicited some lively discussion. However, one could not help but think that the programme erred by attempting too much. The discussions, while usually spirited, were often, because of the press of time, unfortunately very brief. The projection lantern was largely employed. The Committee on Insurance, Laws, and Ordinances presented an interim report which