

## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The executive of the Canadian Cement and Concrete Association are undecided whether to hold a cement show during 1912. The secretary-treasurer has sent out a circular letter to the various cement manufacturers and others to find out their feeling in the matter.

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In reviewing the History of Bridge Engineering and Design and Construction of Mill Buildings in our issue of August 31st the name of the author, Mr. Henry Grattan Tyrrell, was incorrectly spelled. The correction is here made.

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Ontario farmers are to be shown the latest development in the use of electricity. The Hon. Adam Beck has made arrangements for the purchase of a number of electrical devices which he and Chief Engineer Sothman, of the Hydro-Electric Commission, saw in everyday use in Germany during their recent investigations in that country. The farmers with small motors pumped all the water used, cut the wood, milked the cows, sowed the seed and threshed the grain. This machinery will probably be installed at the Ontario Agricultural College, where the farmers of the province will have an opportunity to see the various mechanisms in daily use.

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Conservation history was written last week by the House of Representatives of the United States and important precedents established concerning the granting to private corporations of water power rights made possible by Government work on navigable streams. For six hours the body wrangled over the Senate bill to improve navigation in the Black Warrior River, in Alabama, which proposed a grant to the Birmingham Water, Light and Power Company for a period of fifty years, all power rights resulting from the improvement.

Instead of giving the Birmingham company a fifty year lease of the power privileges resulting from the Government improvement the limit was fixed at twenty-five years, and it was stipulated that the company should pay at least \$1 per horse-power per year for its privilege. Probably the most important amendment was one offered by Representative Madison, of Kansas, which prescribed that the Birmingham company shall sell its light and power directly to the consumer without the intervention of the "middleman."

## CEMENT AS AN IRON PRESERVATIVE.

Tests are to be made by the Panama Canal Commission to determine the value of cement mortar, applied to iron plates by the "cement gun," as a preservative of iron. Twelve plates, 63-8 by 14 inches, have been coated with a 1 to 3 mortar of cement and sand, after they were cleaned to grey metal by the sand blast process. Six of these have been covered with a ½-inch coating, and the remaining six with a one-inch coat on one side, and a 1½-inch coat on the other. Three plates of each kind have been sent to Balboa, and three to Cristobal, where they will be kept immersed in salt water to test the mortar method of preventing corrosion. Two plates of each kind will be taken from the salt water bath at the end of three months, and one-half of the coating will be removed to determine the condition of the metal. The duration of the test for the balance of the plates will be determined later.

## GENERAL NOTES.

The table shows for fifteen stations, included in the report of the Meteorological Office, Toronto, the total precipitation of these stations for August, 1911:—

	Depth in inches.	Departure from the average of twenty years.
Calgary, Alta. ....	4.4	+1.88
Edmonton, Alta. ....	4.5	+2.18
Swift Current, Sask. ....	2.4	+0.51
Winnipeg, Man. ....	2.3	—0.04
Port Stanley, Ont. ....	3.70	+1.26
Toronto, Ont. ....	2.0	—0.24
Parry Sound, Ont. ....	1.8	—1.20
Ottawa, Ont. ....	1.1	—2.10
Kingston, Ont. ....	3.0	+0.06
Montreal, Que. ....	3.7	—0.31
Quebec, Que. ....	2.3	—1.64
Chatham, N.B. ....	6.3	+2.30
Halifax, N.S. ....	2.6	—1.05
Victoria, B.C. ....	0.7	+0.11
Kamloops, B.C. ....	1.0	—0.03

## A NEW GAS-HOLDER.

One of the largest steel tank gasholders in America has been recently completed for the Consumers' Gas Company, of Toronto. This structure has been placed in conjunction with the company's new works, located in the eastern section of the city.

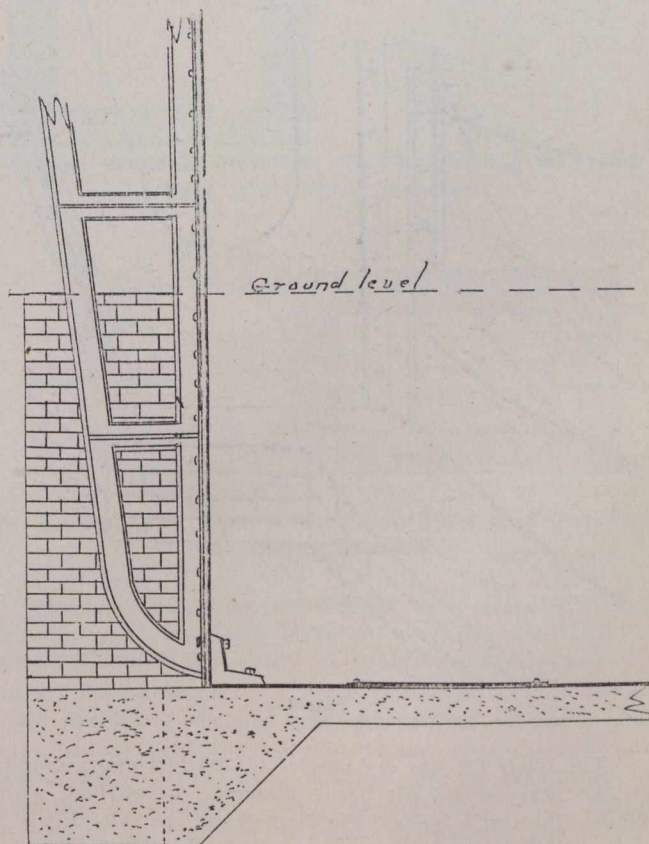


Fig 1.

This tank presents some unique features not found on the average gasholder; it is a four-lift telescopic holder of five million cubic feet capacity.

The inside diameter of the tank is 216 feet, the depth being 39 feet 9 inches; the shell of this tank is composed of