

# The Canadian Engineer

WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1893.

VOL. 18.

TORONTO, CANADA, MAY 13th, 1910.

No. 19.

## The Canadian Engineer

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Issued Weekly in the interests of the

CIVIL, MECHANICAL, STRUCTURAL, ELECTRICAL, MARINE AND  
MINING ENGINEER, THE SURVEYOR, THE  
MANUFACTURER, AND THE  
CONTRACTOR.

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Present Terms of Subscription, payable in advance:

Canada and Great Britain:		United States and other Countries:	
One Year	\$3.00	One Year	\$3.50
Six Months	1.75	Six Months	2.00
Three Months	1.00	Three Months	1.25

Copies Antedating This Issue by Two Months or More, 25 Cents.

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Changes of advertisement copy should reach the Head Office by 10 a.m. Friday preceding the date of publication, except in cases where proofs are to be mailed to distant points, for which due time should be allowed.

Printed at the Office of The Monetary Times Printing Company, Limited, Toronto, Canada.

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485.

### FARM DRAINAGE.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture is just now giving very special attention to the matter of farm drainage. Demonstrations are being given in different centres throughout the Province, and those who are interested in the production from farm land, who do not already appreciate the value of a carefully planned system of underdrains are receiving valuable suggestions as to the necessity, the method of procedure and the monetary results to be obtained from such a system.

It is not to be expected that the department will have a staff large enough to meet all demands. Having educated public opinion and impressed upon the farmers the desirability for improvement along these lines, it will become the work of the engineer and surveyor, in touch with agricultural districts, to plan and carry out drainage schemes.

In the past the engineer has not been called in unless in the matter of large ditches reaching for miles into flat country. The farmer has recognized that in matters of this kind the engineer has been able to save him money. In this new work there is being opened up a new field, and we will expect to hear that farmers with even forty or fifty acres to be drained will call in a local engineer who can prepare a complete scheme for small districts; proportion the cost to be borne by each landowner, and, even if all the work may not be done in one year, it will be possible for the property-owners doing little year by year to work towards the general scheme.

It is very true that the departments are doing all they can to make it possible for the landowner to be his own engineer in these matters. There are cases where the landowner will be able to do very well, using the simple methods outlined in the various bulletins prepared by the Department, but, just as in the past the farmer has wasted money in erecting unsightly buildings in attempting to save architect's fees, so he will put down in some cases useless underdrains if he attempts to save the fees by working with poorly-adjusted instruments and along crudely-thought outlines.

The agriculturist to-day is as much a specialist in his department as the engineer. No vocation requires so much careful study as does agriculture, and if he attempts to add engineering to the long list of subjects in which he must now be familiar, the movement for better underdrains throughout the older agricultural districts will receive a serious setback.

### TIMBER CONSERVATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The forests of British Columbia are at present the main source of timber supplies for large contract work throughout Canada. Any important step that the lumbermen of the West may take for the promotion of the proper conservation and use of timber will be of interest to Canadian contractors.