

The Canadian Engineer

WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1893

VOL. 15.

TORONTO, CANADA, AUGUST 28th, 1908.

No. 35

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ESTABLISHED 1893

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	\$2 00	One Year	\$2.50
Six Months	1 25	Six Months	1.50
Three Months	0.75	Three Months	1.00

ADVERTISEMENT RATES ON APPLICATION.

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Address all communications to the Company and not to individuals.

Everything affecting the editorial department should be directed to the Editor.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:

Changes of advertisement copy should reach the Head Office by 10 a.m.
Monday preceding the date of publication, except the first issue of the month for
which changes of copy should be received at least two weeks prior to publication date

Printed at the office of THE MONETARY TIMES PRINTING CO., Limited,
TORONTO, CANADA.

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TO OUR READERS.

If you are coming to the Canadian National Exhibition
in Toronto in September, we would be pleased to have you
call on us. Have your mail forwarded in care of our office
if you do not know where you will be staying. It will be
pleasure to look after it for you.

STATIONARY ENGINEERS' EXAMINING BOARD.

At the last session of the Legislative Assembly for Ontario an Act was passed requiring that after January 1st, 1909, no person, not a holder of a certificate of qualification from the Provincial Board of Examiners, shall operate or have charge of any steam plant in the Province of Ontario.

The Government has recently appointed the chairman of the board, and it is presumed the other members of the board will be selected and arrangements for the issuing of certificates completed.

The present Act represents the method used by the Government to raise the standard of professional skill among stationary engineers without fostering a closed corporation. Some years ago a body of men were anxious that these examinations be placed in the hands of a society or association; others objected, claiming that this might limit the number of engineers without raising their qualifications. The course adopted by the Government is the most natural and satisfactory one.

The good results to be secured by this measure will be delayed by two clauses which provides that engineers now in employment and engineers of two years' experience shall be granted certificates. Among this class there will doubtless be a number who could not qualify under the regulations that the new board will doubtless prepare.

There are already about four thousand certificates awaiting inspection, and it is expected that there will be between eight and nine thousand applications altogether. Three application forms are used, one stating that the applicant has been in charge of an engine of 25 horse-power or over on and since April 20, 1907, the date of the passing of the Act; the second for a man who is a member of the Ontario Stationary Engineers' Association, and the third for a man of two years' experience.

BUILDING INSPECTION.

In many of our towns and cities the city engineer's office issues the building permits. Too frequently these permits are issued without the proper regulations. The recent disaster in London leads one to remark that nothing but short-sightedness on the part of the municipality is responsible. Time and again they have had warnings that their building regulations and inspection were defective.

It is very necessary that proper building regulations be prepared and made readily available. But good regulations will be of little value unless there be also thorough and informed inspection; inspection of new buildings during erection of old buildings under alteration and of public and semi-public buildings and of warehouses at regular intervals.

It will not be necessary to rebuild old buildings, but it would be quite possible to prevent the heavy loading of weak floors and the making of our warehouses, firetraps.

ONTARIO POWER SITUATION.

The outlook for a speedy completion of the Ontario power lines is not bright. The Government and the contractor agreed to sign a contract some weeks ago, but as yet no contract has been signed.