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INDEX

	Page
Buyers' Guide	6
Advertisers' Index	14
Editorial Matter	209

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR CAST-IRON WATER PIPE.

At the meeting of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, which was held in Ottawa on January last, a Special Committee was appointed to prepare specifications for cast-iron water pipe and special castings.

The Special Committee got to work on the matter at once, and their report was presented to the Council of the Society. On June 11th the Council approved of the Special Committee's report. The report has been printed in pamphlet form and is now ready for distribution among the members of the Society.

Together with the general specifications there are given tables and dimensioned sketches showing the dimensions of pipe and special castings.

It is to be hoped the Society will keep on hand a number of copies of these specifications, so that those who are not members may secure a copy upon the payment of a small fee. The establishing of a standard in

these matters will make it possible for the manufacturer to stock pipe and special fittings, and the inserting in contracts of the specifications of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers will simplify matters for inspection purposes. Those familiar with specifications for cast-iron pipe will recognize that the committee have adopted almost line for line of the specifications of the American Waterworks Association, the variations being unimportant, but being such as the Canadian manufacturers wish to consider. The specifications of several consulting engineers and one or two of the more important engineering societies were considered by the committee, and it was generally felt that the specifications of the American Waterworks Association were the specifications which were most used among Canadian engineers.

ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

In addition to the large number of engineering societies which Great Britain now has, another, the Association of Consulting Engineers, has recently been organized. It is expected that this new association will work in sympathy with the Institute of Civil Engineers, but it has been felt that the regulations and constitution of the Institute limited the powers of the consulting engineer rather than helped him. It will not be the purpose of this society to read papers, but rather form a board, which would look after the interests of their membership from a purely professional standpoint. It is expected that they will be able to form regulations which will clearly state what a consulting engineer might or might not do.

ADVANCE IN FREIGHT RATES.

Investigations being carried on by the Interstate Commerce Commission of the United States in reference to the proposed advance in freight rates on a number of the United States roads is a matter of some considerable interest to Canadians, because of the conferences being held between the chairman of the Dominion Board and the chairman of the Interstate Commission.

The railways contend that the increased cost of operation justifies the increases. They claim that everything that enters into operation has increased in cost, while the only commodity which the railways have to sell, transportation, has not increased in price, and in many cases has decreased. The recent increase of wages on Eastern lines will total \$100,000,000 yearly. The increase in taxes in many cases has been one hundred per cent.

The Lackawanna Railway has prepared a table showing that the cost of labor in 1890 represented 32.3 per cent. of their total receipts. In 1909 it had risen to 36.6.

In the light of these increased operating charges the railways will attempt to justify their increase schedule, and the railroad men hope to have little difficulty in establishing the reasonableness of their claim.