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1907 INDEX READY.

Index for Volume 14 (1907) of the Canadian Engineer is
now ready. Subscribers desiring copies will kindly drop us
a postal to that effect.

PROSPECTIVE.

New Year time, in the business world, is a time of
much uncertainty and speculation. With many firms it
is the closing of their financial year. A time of review
for the past year, a period of planning prospective work,
the enlarging of present facilities, the branching into new
channels. The cities, towns and counties of our country
elect new councils; the electors vote on money by-laws.
If the policy of the new year is a policy of retrenchment,
the engineer and the contractor will not be in such
demand.

Just now there is some uneasiness in the commercial
world lest in the immediate future industrial depression
should decrease the volume of trade. The tightness in
the money market appears to be delaying important
works. Laborers in our cities seeking employment add
a touch of pathos to the situation. Even in view of the
apparent temporary depression, we express the belief
that 1908 will see business as brisk, labor as much in
demand, as large works undertaken, and as much im-
provement and expansion outlined as has other years.

The past year has been an active year of railroad
construction work. The present year will be just as
busy. The Grand Trunk Pacific and Transcontinental
Railways have each over a thousand miles either under
construction or under contract. This work will be
rushed to an early completion.

The Canadian Pacific Railway are preparing for the
opening up of new work in Western Canada, where
they are determined to hold their supremacy, and to lead
in opening up new districts; and in Eastern Canada,
where they are seeking a fair share of the business in
the more thickly-settled districts and business centres.
On grade revision and double-tracking they are expected
to open up several sections. This year will see the
opening of their new Toronto-Sudbury line.

The Canadian Northern Railway secured at the last
session of Parliament permission to build several new
lines, and have now location parties in the field.

In canal construction the outlook is not so bright.
The Georgian Bay Canal scheme will require more
study. The Canadian people are not yet prepared to
give it the necessary support. But without new work
the completion of the Trent Valley Canal and the im-
provement and repair of the other systems will employ
large forces.

The past year has seen large additions to the popu-
lation of our towns and cities. The present year must
see constructed more complete waterworks systems and
more hygienic sewage plants. Each year purer water
is demanded; each year it is more difficult to secure.
Each year more scientific methods of sewage disposal
are required; each year sees it more costly to provide.

Sanitary engineering in Canada is but in its infancy.
Our city and town engineers have great opportunities.

The mining industry will not suffer during the
coming year. The present temporary depression will
have the effect of checking speculation and directing
attention to development and production.