

# The Canadian Engineer

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JAMES J. SALMOND  
President and General Manager

ALBERT E. JENNINGS  
Assistant General Manager

HEAD OFFICE: 62 CHURCH STREET, TORONTO, ONT.  
Telephone, Main 7404. Cable Address, "Engineer, Toronto."

Western Canada Office: 1208 McArthur Bldg., Winnipeg. G. W. GOODALL, Mgr.

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## ENGINEERING STANDARDS COMMITTEE

AS the result of a happy suggestion made some time ago to Sir John Kennedy, an Engineering Standards Committee has been organized in Canada. Fortunately, the suggestion was made to the right man. Sir John was quick to recognize its value, and persistent in his efforts to interest others in the idea. The enthusiasm of a number of other engineers in Montreal was aroused and they helped Sir John to secure the support of departments of the government, the universities, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Canadian Mining Institute, the Engineering Institute of Canada and other important technical bodies. An organization has now been effected with strong membership, representing the various engineering interests.

The work of this committee will be of real importance to economic production in Canada. In fact, Canada's future position in foreign markets and the extent of her overseas trade will depend in no small measure upon the success of the work which this committee is ambitious to accomplish. It desires to standardize engineering practice as applied to industry.

In organizing this committee Sir John Kennedy has added merely another page to a long record of usefulness to the community, and has proven once again that a proper selection was made when he was honored by knighthood as the dean of Canadian engineers.

The Canadian committee has been patterned upon the British Engineering Standards Committee. The latter works in conjunction with the Board of Trade, and is representative of the whole engineering industry of Great Britain. It is competent to examine all proposals for improved standards and to make proper recommendations upon which new developments can be correctly founded.

From the time of its inception, about sixteen years ago, the British committee has carried on this work with proper appreciation of the interests of both producers and users.

Co-operation will be arranged with the Engineering Standards Committee of the United States, recently established, and by this means Great Britain, Canada and the United States will be linked together in work which will help to stimulate allied trade and to resist German penetration. There is a great difference between some of the methods in vogue in Great Britain and those followed in the United States. Canada, having selected the best ideas from both countries, is in a unique position. The Canadian committee will be of great use in harmonizing British and American standards. The work of the three committees will increase the industrial supremacy of the English-speaking nations.

## TO CONVERT BEE-HIVE OVENS

AN apparatus for converting bee-hive coke ovens into by-product recovery ovens, without altering or destroying the oven structure, has been recently issued in the United States. If this process be successful it will be of great economic importance, as the bee-hive ovens of the internal combustion type are generally considered to be very wasteful.

Assuming that the invention is successful, a problem has now been solved upon which engineers have worked for the past fifty years without reaching a practical solution. Instead of costly and entire reconstruction of the ovens, the inventor claims it is now possible to convert the existing bee-hive coke ovens at comparatively small expense into ovens which will save the by-products.

Canada has some modern by-product ovens, but the greater number of ovens in Canada are of the bee-hive type, so there will no doubt be a considerable market in this country for this invention, if successful. At the beginning of this year there were approximately 1,874 bee-hive ovens in Canada, 240 Bernard ovens, 30 Bauer ovens, 620 Otto Hoffman ovens, 224 Koppers ovens, 60 Solvey ovens and 101 Mitchell ovens. The principal owners of bee-hive ovens are the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co., Limited, with nearly a thousand ovens, and the Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir), Limited, with a little less than half that number. The chief owners of by-product recovery ovens are the Dominion Iron & Steel Co., Limited, Sydney, N.S.

## EFFECT OF TIME OF MIXING ON STRENGTH OF CONCRETE

IN this week's issue appears the second and principal portion of Prof. Duff A. Abrams' article on "The Effect of Time of Mixing on the Strength of Concrete," the first or introductory portion having been printed in last week's issue. Nearly every civil engineer and contractor has occasion at some time to design in concrete, to prepare specifications for structures including some concrete construction, or to inspect or report upon concrete work. Prof. Abrams' investigations and conclusions will therefore be of very general interest. The laboratory of which he is in charge has probably completed more experimental and research work in regard to concrete than has any other laboratory. They have made