

The Canadian Engineer

WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1893

VOL. 15.

TORONTO, CANADA, MAY 29th, 1908.

No. 22

The Canadian Engineer

ESTABLISHED 1893

Issued Weekly in the Interests of the

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

Editor—E. A. JAMES, B.A. Sc.

Business Manager—JAMES J. SALMOND.

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.

HEAD OFFICE: 62 Church Street, and Court Street, Toronto
TELEPHONE MAIN 7404.

Montreal Office: B 32 Board of Trade Building. T. C. Allum, Business and
Editorial Representative. Phone M 2797.

Winnipeg Office: 330 Smith Street. G. W. Goodall, Business and Editorial
Representative.

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.

TORONTO, CANADA, MAY 29th, 1908.

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE.

	Page.
Editorial:	
Toronto Labour Conditions	367
Consumption of Smoke	367
Leading Articles:	
Mixing of Concrete	368
Manitoba Rolling Mills	369
Industrial Accidents	372
As Seen by Others	371
Correspondence	
Old Rails for Stringers	373
Tidal Power Plants	373
Cameron Septic Tanks	373
Orders of Railway Board	370
Construction News	374
Market Conditions	377

TORONTO LABOR CONDITIONS.

Speaking of the condition of the skilled labor market in Toronto in the present month of May, a merchant of that city said:—

“When you talk of plumbers and steamfitters and their relations to their employers, and of the latter to the public, the word you ought to use is warfare. The investigation of 1906-7 showed how the employing plumbers made war on the public and bled them freely. In 1907 the workmen of the plumbers showed themselves equally grasping, and went on strike for rates of pay that were unreasonable. It was warfare all the same; the men were defeated, and many of them are ‘on their uppers’ now.”

Referring to the plumbers' strike, matters are taking a new turn. It is true that the Employing Plumbers' Association has kept a stiff upper lip, and by hard struggling maintained the open shop, until now we are told they can get all the men they want, and at their own prices; also, that the leading plumbers' shops are as busy as they can be.

Another Association has been formed, however, composed mainly of employers who did not join the first formed. They are more friendly disposed towards the strikers, and not averse to considering Union conditions. That is, the new body were, a week or two ago, tolerably unanimous upon a number of essential points, and numbered fifty-four shops. At a meeting of the body called last week, however, only nineteen were present, and there was a lukewarmness about the gathering that did not augur well for continuity. Facing both ways as to the employee is not the way to either attract him or control him.

CONSUMPTION OF SMOKE.

Some years ago a crusade against the “smoke nuisance” of our cities was launched. The campaign was successful in at least one particular: by-laws were passed in several municipalities prohibiting the emission of dense smoke from the chimneys and smokestacks within their boundaries. An official was appointed to enforce the by-law, but very little real progress has been made towards abating the nuisance.

The cause of the smoke is well known. The hydrocarbons are volatilized by the heat, the hydrogen unites with the oxygen of the air, the carbon is set free. If there is a sufficient supply of oxygen and enough heat, combustion will be complete. If not, some of the carbon will escape up the chimney as smoke.

Properly designed furnaces are necessary if this waste is to be prevented, but good furnaces alone will not prevent the escape of smoke. Intelligent firemen must be employed, and some means must be found to so interest them in fire-feeding that a uniform supply of coal and air will be secured. Without intelligent firing good furnace construction will be of little avail.

If the municipalities expect to do much towards lessening the smoke evil they must be the first to live up to the requirements of their by-law. In some cities which now and again attempt to enforce the smoke by-law the municipal buildings and schools are among the most noticeable violators of the smoke by-law. This should not be. The city officials should demonstrate that thick, black smoke is not necessary, that it can be avoided, and that economically. When they demonstrate this they will have little trouble to enforce the law—until they do they cannot expect to succeed.

MAY BE BIG STRUGGLE.

According to late reports the C.P.R. is preparing to fight to a finish the demands for a reinstatement of the old schedule of wages for machinists and mechanics. Employees of the road in the East are not affected financially, but are determined to stick to the Western men, and fight it out with the company along with the Western employees.