

The Canadian Engineer

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THE ROAD CONGRESS IN DETROIT.

Now that Canada has fully entered upon a new era of road development whereby the introduction of heavier, faster and more numerous traffic will be met by the adoption of more scientific methods in road engineering, Canadian municipal and highway engineers should come forward with keener desires for closer relations with those in the van of highway engineering throughout the world. It was not the good fortune of many to have been able to attend the London Congress in June. Doubtless the substantial gain therefrom in acquiring a fund of information of utmost practical value to them in their work would have vindicated the sacrifice of time and duties, had not such factors so strongly asserted themselves at that stage of the summer. From those who did attend Canada hopes to acquire many improved ideas, of practical value.

The Canadian Engineer has several times, of late, called the attention of its readers to the Third American Road Congress, Sept. 29th to Oct. 4th, in Detroit. The official programme appeared in Sept. 4th issue. No phase of highway work seems to have escaped the designs of the committee responsible for the programme, and the coterie of speakers is a substantial inducement in itself.

The educational advantages of the Congress should be grasped by Canadian municipal authorities. Many municipalities are not content with traffic conditions, and, while on the lookout for the essentials of better construction, their officials should not overlook the Detroit meeting, where papers and discussions will provide them with the brand of information which they find to be indispensable. Considering the enthusiasm which is being put into the movement for better Canadian roads, and the value that the Third American Road Congress will prove itself to be in this respect, a good representation of Canadian highway and municipal engineers should be in evidence.

EDMONTON'S WATERWORKS PROBLEM.

Like many another city, Edmonton has before it an acute problem in the acquiring of a better and a greater water supply. The question has been under heavy fire during the past year. Like many a western city, also, geographical and other conditions forbid placing material reliance, toward a solution, upon the designs carried out in the older and slower-growing cities of the East. The application of engineering skill must be direct. A thorough conception of principles underlying water service, blended by an exhaustive knowledge of all contingent conditions of the past and present, and a judicious forecast for the future, makes it a problem that only highly qualified engineers may be relied upon to handle. A water problem for a city differs from city planning, street paving, transportation, and others prominent in the category of municipal affairs, in that it has such a direct bearing upon life and health. It thereby maintains a degree of importance calling for the best, whether or not the attached expenditure is away and beyond comparison with that for other municipal works. Water supply is the chief contender for the most expert attention and advice in any municipality.

Edmonton is certainly not exempt from difficulties in the way of a pure supply, and the civic authorities are fully awake to the acuteness of the situation. The Saskatchewan River, the only feasible source, flows directly through the city, and its water is subject to dangers of