

# The Canadian Engineer

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## The Canadian Engineer

ESTABLISHED 1893

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Editor—E. A. JAMES, B.A. Sc.

Business Manager—JAMES J. SALMOND.

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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.

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TORONTO, CANADA, APRIL 17th, 1908.

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### SPECIAL NOTICE.

Mr. Oswald Barratt no longer represents The Canadian Engineer at Vancouver. Subscribers and advertisers in British Columbia will please deal, for the time being, direct with the head office at Toronto.

### A NATIONAL CEMENT ASSOCIATION.

The cement users of Canada are planning for a national organization. The wonder is that they have so long delayed. Few departments of Canadian trade can show such steady and remarkable growth as the cement industry. From 500,000 barrels valued at three-quarters of a million in 1900, the industry has grown until in 1907 there was used over three million barrels valued at almost six million dollars. Few interests of this magnitude are without an organization to protect their trade, increase their business prospects, and lead in educational movements peculiar to their occupation.

Much fine spun ingenuity has been spent on adapting cement to various forms of construction, and many methods of cheapening construction have developed with usage, but these have not always been in the best interest of either the engineering profession, which is looked upon as responsible for safe design, the public or the cement users. Competition has been keen, unskilled labor, has been employed even to the danger point, and concrete poor in cement has been placed much to detriment of the cement trade. A national cement organization will remove many errors in method of construction and design, and will educate public opinion in the use of this comparatively new construction material.

First impressions are lasting, and the cement users must be careful to make a favorable impression at their first gathering—nothing must be done that may in any way suggest to the public a "cement trust." Public opinion is very sensitive just now on trusts and combines, and any organization that would suggest the regulation of rates and prices would not be received kindly by the public.

The object of the Association should be clearly defined and stated, and so long as its purpose is to promote the best methods to be employed in the manufacture of cement; in the mixing of concrete; and the erection of concrete structures, the Association will have good success.

Outside of the dissemination of information in the technical press perhaps the best method of encouraging the study and use of cement would be by the holding of an exhibition at which methods of working, materials and machinery could be studied, and men from different localities gather to exchange ideas, relate experiences, and gather practical ideas from practical men.

An organization of cement workers will be formed and it will be valuable to each individual cement user just in proportion to the support he gives it.

### THE QUEBEC BRIDGE.

It is now some eight months since the Quebec Bridge collapsed, yet we do not hear of any plans being prepared for its completion. For months the Commission were preparing the report, endeavoring, it is said, to fix the blame, but even during that time something might have been done that would have aided in reviving the venture.

The Quebec Bridge will be built. It will be built on the present site—why then this delay?

The financial history of the Quebec Bridge and Railway Company is not pleasant reading. The Government are certainly at fault for allowing an undertaking, national in character and extent to be promoted by a private company. Having learned their lesson and paid dearly for it, the Government will surely approach the task the second time as a public work.