

One cause for this condition of things is that everybody nowadays has, or thinks he has, a smattering of engineering knowledge which can reasonably be used. Then, again, many salesmen are sufficiently tactful to make what little knowledge they may possess appear to be much more important than it really is.

This does not necessarily mean that the buyer of engineering equipment is ignorant or that the salesman is intentionally endeavoring to sell an inferior article. The point is, is that article the best and at the same time the cheapest for the purpose for which it is required? The untrained buyer cannot know and there is just a danger that the seller consciously or unconsciously cannot but be biased in favor of his particular firm's production.

Circumstances alter cases. For example, there is a great difference between going into the market for a machine of standard design which by common experience has proved to be suitable for the work in hand, and inviting tenders for the supply of a hitherto unknown engineering device concerning the success of which there is but little common knowledge available.

Furthermore, distinction should be drawn between advice regarding design, preceding the actual carrying out of the work, and advice associated with inspection during construction.

One reason why the consulting engineer is not called in more frequently than he appears to be a suspicion that he may be biased in favor of some particular firm, or class of machinery, or that his services may increase the ultimate cost of contract, or perhaps he may be unnecessarily meddlesome and officious. Such a suspicion is, of course, most unfair to the qualified man.

The task of the consulting engineer who has nothing to sell but his services is not by any means an easy one. His work requires knowledge beyond the ordinary, as it is essential that he have practical as well as theoretical knowledge. He must be tactful, businesslike, just to his client and beyond the suspicion of partisanship.

His qualifications are not merely technical, but moral and temperamental. Character plays, or should play, an important part and the most successful consultants, whether in law, or medicine, or engineering, are men of a certain rare type of mind.

A little knowledge may indeed prove to be a dangerous as well as very expensive thing for those who would too readily dispense with the services of a consulting engineer with a thorough theoretical and practical knowledge of the requirements of the case and who by his education, training and experience is qualified for the special work he is called upon to perform.

PERSONAL.

LEON SPOOR LANDERS has been appointed assistant engineer, Canadian Government Railways, Levis, Quebec.

WILLIAM BEDFORD HARPER has been appointed resident engineer of the Laurentian Division, Quebec District, C.P.R., Montreal.

THOMAS J. McALPINE, of Summerland, B.C., has been appointed road superintendent for the South Okana-

gan riding by the provincial government of British Columbia.

T. C. MacNABB, A.M.Can.Soc.C.E., formerly division engineer, C.P.R., at Moose Jaw, Sask., has been promoted to the position of superintendent at Revelstoke, British Columbia.

J. H. VICKERS, Vancouver, B.C., has been appointed superintendent of works on the Vancouver Joint Sewerage and Drainage Board's portion of the Stanley Park sewer outfall.

W. R. HARRIS, M.Can.Soc.C.E., has moved from Regina to Winnipeg to take charge of the contract awarded to the Canadian Lock-Joint Pipe Co. on the Greater Winnipeg Waterways.

THOMAS LINSEY CROSSLEY, A.M.Can.Soc.C.E., has just opened an office and laboratory at 43 Scott Street, Toronto, for J. T. Donald & Co., of Montreal. He will specialize in municipal chemistry.

J. W. B. BLACKMAN, M.Can.Soc.C.E., city engineer of New Westminster, B.C., has enlisted for overseas service and has been granted indefinite leave of absence by the city council. H. STEWARDSON, A.M.Can.Soc.C.E., assistant city engineer, has been appointed to act in his place.

R. E. CHADWICK, eastern manager of the Foundation Co., Limited, has just returned to Montreal after an extensive western tour, having visited Seattle, Vancouver and the Pacific Coast generally; Winnipeg, Port Arthur, Sault Ste. Marie, and practically all portions of Canada west of Montreal.

Major JAMES A. DeLANCEY, of the engineering and surveying firm of Lighthall & DeLancey, Vancouver, B.C., has been awarded the Military Cross. He had been thrice promoted for meritorious actions since September, 1915, and was mentioned by General Haig in despatches after the Ypres engagement on June 3rd.

O. W. MEISSNER, M.E., has removed from Commissioners Street West to St. Antoine Street, Montreal. He represents a number of firms making railway, steel, and machinery supplies, is a special agent of the West Coast Pipe Company, Limited, Vancouver, patentee of the O.W.M. air track sander system, and president of the Steel Specialties for Canada, Limited.

J. H. CHOWN has been appointed superintendent of the Regina division of the C.P.R., to succeed J. K. SAVAGE, who has been transferred to the eastern division. M. McKAY, formerly superintendent of the Revelstoke division, has been appointed superintendent of the Saskatoon division, and T. C. McNAB, division engineer of the Saskatchewan division, has been appointed superintendent of the Revelstoke division.

OBITUARY.

THOMAS SCANE, C.E., one of the oldest land surveyors and engineers in the province of Ontario, passed away on February 9th at his home in Ridgetown. Deceased, who was in his 83rd year, was born in Howard township, and was township engineer of Howard and Orford townships for many years.

JOHN STOCKS, a member of the Alberta Provincial Utilities Commission, died suddenly at Edmonton on