

provincial water-power organizations, it is unfortunate that such a "get-together" meeting was not convened years ago. It is pleasing to note that further conferences of this sort are to be held soon, as it is apparent that consolidation of experience and co-ordination of effort are essential to the economical and consistent exploitation of Canada's energy resources.

DEATH OF COL. R. S. LOW

COL. Robert Smith Low, general manager of Bate, McMahon and Co., Ltd., contractors, Ottawa, died last Thursday morning at the Protestant General Hospital, Ottawa, after only one day's illness. Col. Low had suddenly become very ill the previous afternoon with acute blood poisoning, due to ear infection. He was removed to the hospital and operated upon that evening, but he did not recover consciousness after the operation. Col. Low was seriously ill with influenza and pneumonia last fall, which is thought to have been responsible indirectly for the fatal illness. He was 44 years of age and is survived by his widow and one daughter. The body was shipped for interment to Halifax, where the deceased's mother resides.

Although born in Michigan, Col. Low received his early education in Scotland, as his parents were Scotch and they

returned home soon after his birth. When he was twelve years old, his family again crossed the ocean, settling at Halifax, where the son commenced his career as a time-keeper in his father's business, later becoming assistant superintendent.

When of age he went to the United States for two years, returning to become superintendent of his father's company. In 1899 he entered business on his own account as a general contractor, and in 1912 he joined Bate, McMahon and Co.

At the outbreak of war, he was asked by Sir Sam Hughes to build Valcartier Camp,



British and Colonial Press Photo.

THE LATE COL. R. S. LOW

and he completed the work with exceeding rapidity. Subsequently he built eleven other camps, including Camp Borden, for the Militia Department and the Imperial Munitions Board. On account of the number of soldiers who were working under his direction, it was deemed expedient that he should have military authority, and for that reason on February 1st, 1916, he was gazetted as Lieutenant-Colonel. Two years previously he had been the recipient of an honorary colonelcy.

At the time of his death Col. Low and his firm had several million dollars' worth of work in progress, including a big plant for the British-American Nickel Co., at Deschenes Mills, P.Q.; a million dollar Dominion government office building at Ottawa; housing at Halifax; waterworks, temporary station and car-repairing facilities at the Ocean Terminals, Halifax; new plate mill for the Dominion Iron and Steel Co., at Sydney; military huts at Quebec, London and Kingston; and admission hospital and sewer at London. At the time of the armistice, he was also engaged in the construction of

aviation depots at Dartmouth and North Sydney for the United States Navy.

The first six months of last year were devoted by Col. Low entirely to relief work at Halifax, where, immediately after the explosion, he had been appointed manager of reconstruction. Col. Low refused to accept salary or allowance of any kind for himself or his personal staff at Halifax.

Most of his contracts with the government were upon a percentage basis, in which manner he completed several million dollars' worth of work; but he also, during the war, carried out for the government over a million dollars' worth of construction, including improvements to the Halifax fortifications, free of charge, even supplying the engineering and office staff and all necessary plant and equipment.

Col. Low's reputation was obtained almost entirely through his great organizing ability and his power to obtain the maximum amount of work from employees of all grades. At Halifax his day's business started regularly at 7 a.m., never finishing before 9 p.m., and more frequently midnight or later. His own capacity for work was extraordinary, and those who wished to stay very long in his employ were required to show the same zeal and endurance.

He was accustomed to handling big things in a big way, and stopped at no expense when time was the essence of the contract. He used the telegraph like most men use the mail, and no shipment was too large to send by express when machinery was needed. Although a master of detail and fond of elaborate card indexes and cost systems, he was intolerant of all petty things, especially of a monetary nature.

PERSONALS

ANDREW DODS, general manager of the Ontario Sewer Pipe Co., Ltd., has been elected Public Utilities Commissioner for the town of Mimico, Ont.

FRANK BARBER, consulting engineer, Toronto, will address the Engineers' Club of Peterborough on Thursday, February 13th. Mr. Barber's subject will be "The Proposed Hunter Street Bridge, Peterborough."

A. W. HADDON, acting city engineer of Edmonton, has been appointed Professor of Civil and Municipal Engineering at the University of Alberta, succeeding the late W. Muir Edwards. Prof. Haddon will still devote part of his time to the city's engineering department.

W. H. RANDALL, Superintendent of Water Distribution of the city of Toronto, has been named by the nominating committee of the American Water Works Association as trustee for the year 1919-20 for District No. 2, comprising Wisconsin, Michigan, the Dominion of Canada, and all of the New England States.

OBITUARY

GEORGE SHERWOOD HODGINS, editor of "Railway and Locomotive Engineering," of New York City, died last Monday morning of pneumonia at the age of 59. Born in Toronto, Mr. Hodgins was for a number of years on the engineering staff of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Going to New York about twenty years ago, he became engaged in editorial work, and also spent much time in scientific research work. Mr. Hodgins began his newspaper career with "Gas Age," and later was for some time on the "Railway Age." He is survived by a widow and three brothers, Hon. Frank E. Hodgins, of the Supreme Court of Ontario; Frederick B. Hodgins, of New York; and Brig.-Gen. Wm. Hodgins, who has just returned to Canada from France. Interment took place at Toronto.

The Hamilton & Toronto Sewer Pipe Co., Hamilton, Ont., has erected an addition to its plant which will afford an increase of over 50% in output capacity. The company was established in 1860 and is one of the oldest manufacturers of sewer pipe on the continent.