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Union of Canadian Municipalities.

Provincial Unions of

Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION.

CHIEF CONSTABLES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

Although the Canadian Municipal Journal is the Official Organ of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, the Unions of Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick Municipalities; of the Chief Constables' Association of Canada, and the Canadian Independent Telephone Association, these are not responsible for any other matter published in it than what in each article or item itself is stated to be authorized by either of these bodies.

Letters are invited on all subjects relative to municipal matters, and those of a critical nature will be welcomed and given a place so long as they are proper and free from personalities.

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An Apology

The February number of "The Engineering Journal of Canada" contained the following paragraph:-

APOLOGY TO MUNICIPAL JOURNAL.

We, publishers of the Engineering Journal, apologise for having taken from the pages of THE CANADIAN MUNICIPAL JOURNAL, which were protected by Copyright, without permission and without crediting such articles, the following articles :-

From The Canadian Municipal Journal of July, 1908*, an article entitled "Electric and Power by Gas Producers and Gas Engines", and another, "Westmount, Que., Garbage Destructor".

From the Canadian Municipal Journal of July, 1907, an article and the cuts illustrating it, "The

Hydraulic Lift at Kirkfield, Ont."

It is perhaps as well to explain that the heading of the quotation applies to this paper, which is "The Canadian Municipal Journal", the real name being thus obscured by slovenliness or design.

It may be well to explain to our readers how this apology has been wrung from the offenders. In 1906 we published two articles which were contributed to this paper, and the whole issue was duly copyrighted at Ottawa. The Engineering Journal, however, appropriated these articles, and when an explanation was requested, refused any apology but published a very flippant article, stating that their position legally was secure, probably reasoning that the trouble and expense of having them punished was too much-while the moral side of the question did not bother them.

In 1907, we again published an article, contributed along with illustrations, to our pages, and again, though copyrighted, did the Engineering Journal steal both article and illustrations. Patience seemed no longer a virtue and through this Company's Solicitor, Mr. W. D. Lighthall, we placed the matter in the hands of Messrs. Urquhart, Urquhart & Page, of Toronto.

After long delay, the offender has published the apology we dictated, except that the final clause was omitted, which explained that we did not press the prosecution.

It is well to add that when we asked the Copyright Department as to what they did with those who stole the articles to which they had given protection, and who had the cheek to copyright them a second time, the reply was that no action could be taken unless the injured party first took a case in the courts.

It appears as if the Copyright Department should have some machinery for punishing when it can be shown that a person secures a copyright for an article already copyrighted by another.

However, it is sometimes easier—and cheaper—to accept an apology than to follow an offender into the

courts.

*(This should be 1906, instead of 1908, Ed.)