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THE DOMINION SECURITIES CORPORATION LIMITED

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town in the southern part of this province, for which an engineer he may wot of, estimated the cost of a water-works system at a certain figure, and who, when the bids for the work were found to be in excess of his estimate, and that the money to proceed with the work would not be forthcoming, pared his estimated and received bids within the amount available, after assuring all concerned that his first figure was an over-estimate for the work proposed.

"Oh wad some one the giftie gae us
"To see ourselves as others see us."

You overlook entirely the other phase of my article. In it I blame councils for the lax manner in which they enter into arrangements with their engineers, and I attribute many existing municipal financial embarrassments to this cause. One case came within my notice where the only document relating to the engagement of an engineer was a telegram from his stating his terms. And this for work estimated at over half a million, and as a result, when the final settlement came to be made, the engineer did not apparently know to 25 per cent. the exact cost of the work, having merely taken the annual financial statement as a basis for commission, so that he might be claiming on his own fees, legal fees, debenture discount, and all sorts of other things.

I still contend that a fixed sum for the work covered by the original estimate is the fairest all round, and, of course councils would expect to pay extra for any additional work performed by their instructions. Can you tell me any good reason why an engineer should receive \$600 extra commission if, between the date of the report and the acceptance of the tender for cast iron piping and specials estimated to cost \$60,000, the market should suddenly soar, so that the lowest tender was \$72,000, or why on the reverse, if the market should drop so that the material could be bought for \$48,000, the engineer's commission should be reduced by \$600.

There is a provision in the Municipal Acts of this province, that where special work is performed for Municipalities by members of my profession, the bill can be submitted to the government for approval, before payment. My profession sees no objection in this. Would the engineering profession be satisfied with a similar provision?

Happily, nowadays in Saskatchewan capital expenditure by Municipalities is under very strict control, and we do not think we shall have the same trouble in the future from engineers' and councils' extravagance that we have had in the past. Other provinces please note.

Now, Sir, in concluding an article already too long, may I say that I am proud my father was an English civil engineer, my brother is, or was, president of a society of civil engineers in China, and that I am and all my brothers are, or have been municipal men. It is not likely, therefore, that I should make an "unjustified attack" upon a profession of which my nearest and dearest relatives are members, without I felt that in spite of your assertion to the contrary, an evil existed of which my municipal experience, not merely in my own province, seemed to fit me to draw attention. It is only natural that you, Sir, as the monthpiece of the engineering profession should, to some extent, resent my article, but if you are typical of your profession, you are a sportsman, and will bear no ill will.

Yours, etc.,

O. J. GODFREY.

"FINANCIAL SUGGESTIONS TO PROVINCE OF QUEBEC MUNICIPALITIES."

This publication by Messrs. A. E. Ames & Company, may profitably be read by every Municipal and School official in the Province of Quebec. It aims to encourage Municipal Finance along the most economical lines. Common errors are frankly discussed, and remedies suggested.

Model forms of by-laws, resolutions, bonds, etc., are reproduced, which will prove a boon to small Municipalities that are infrequent borrowers.

The difference between Sinking Fund and Installment Bond issues is clearly demonstrated, and this much debated question receives careful consideration.

The Administration of a Sinking Fund is another interesting subject. Many Province of Quebec Municipalities have paid too little attention to this in the past.

This booklet was prepared by J. B. How, manager of the Montreal office of A. E. Ames & Co., and is printed in both French and English.

Complimentary copies may be procured from the publishers.