

# The Canadian Engineer

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JAMES J. SALMOND  
President and General Manager

ALBERT B. JENNINGS  
Assistant General Manager

HEAD OFFICE: 62 CHURCH STREET, TORONTO, ONT.  
Telephone, Main 7404. Cable Address, "Engineer, Toronto."  
Western Canada Office: 1208 McArthur Bldg., Winnipeg. G. W. GOODALL, Mgr.

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## PUBLICITY FOR HEALTH FACTS

MACNUTT, in his "Manual For Health Officers," says: "Almost every community is under the impression, fostered perhaps by the utterances of prominent but uninformed citizens, that it is one of the healthiest spots in the country. This impression is strengthened in numerous ways and is usually left untouched, if it is not supported, by the public press. It is an impression which people unconsciously wish to have strengthened, just as the individual likes to minimize any ailment he may have and avoids consulting the doctor, who, he knows, may prescribe some radical change in regimen. The average community will put up with a great many surface indications of radically bad conditions before it will turn its attention to the conditions themselves and their remedies. For one reason, such indications are usually scattered. One citizen or group of citizens has but a very limited view, and so long as there is no general 'survey', conditions in the mass are unknown to the citizens as a mass. If a citizen or society with the reform spirit rises and proclaims the salient results of investigation, he is likely to be treated at first to the same old indifference. If, however, he perseveres in urging a few striking points in such a way as to move his public without antagonizing it, he will eventually get a hearing. The problem then is to get a thorough survey and study of the facts, not a mere passing 'investigation' which leaves fundamental conditions untouched; and, finally, to get permanent remedial action."

A recent report issued by the city engineer of Atlanta, Georgia, points out that the great difficulty lies in obtaining this remedial action. Any detailed report must bring out facts that reflect more or less discreditably on a city; and there are many who deprecate their ventilation on the

ground that "it is bad for business," and that "it will hurt the city's fair name."

"It is high time," says the Atlanta report, "that we no longer endeavor to conceal these facts or discuss them in whispers. Any such policy but postpones the evil day, and continued tolerance of the conditions will in the long run injure the city."

One of the best assets that a community can have is a low death rate, and a well-earned reputation for cleanliness. Open-minded discussion of the health needs of a community is the prerequisite to their cure, just as diagnosis must precede treatment in any disease.

## ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS

WAR scholarships in the Faculty of Applied Science, Toronto University, have been inaugurated by the Toronto Branch of the University's Engineering Alumni Association, of which P. H. Mitchell, consulting engineer, is president and E. D. Gray, manager of the Imperial Oil Company's asphalt department, secretary-treasurer. In a circular letter to members, Mr. Mitchell says:—

"Through this association's close affiliations with the Faculty of Applied Science, Toronto University, and all the engineering societies and associations in the country, it has become appallingly apparent to us that our supply of engineers for both war work and peace work has become exhausted, with no prospect whatever of replenishing the supply, as our universities are practically empty.

"With a view to meeting this unfortunate condition, and as a means of stimulating the enrolment of engineering students, this association has undertaken to provide funds for eight scholarships. We are writing you in the hope that you will not only appreciate and approve what we are endeavoring to do, but will give us your hearty and much needed support in our endeavor."

The province of Ontario has been divided into four districts with approximately equal population. One scholarship of \$100 per annum and one scholarship of \$50 per annum have been allotted to each section, these scholarships to be paid for four consecutive years. A sum of \$600 is required for the scholarships this year, but this will be doubled next year and tripled in 1920; while in 1921 and succeeding years, \$2,400 per annum will be required. Subscriptions will be solicited from interested firms and individuals when money is needed. It is particularly stipulated that no subscriber need look upon previous subscriptions as a precedent; in other words, he need not consider his subscription an annual obligation.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

TO that great-hearted, patriotic Toronto firm, the T. Eaton Co., Ltd., we acknowledge our indebtedness for the permission to photograph the "Victory" statue which they designed and constructed. The statue stands in front of the City Hall at Toronto, having been presented to the Victory Loan Committee by Sir John Eaton. The illustration on page 419 of this issue is an exact reproduction of the photograph of the statue excepting as regards the base, which has been slightly altered. The employees of the T. Eaton Co. who are responsible for this inspiring statue, are to be congratulated upon their artistic and skilful work. It is the opinion of a number of experts that this is the best "Victory" figure yet produced.