

The Canadian Engineer

Established 1893

A Weekly Paper for Civil Engineers and Contractors

Terms of Subscription, postpaid to any address:			
One Year	Six Months	Three Months	Single Copies
\$3.00	\$1.75	\$1.00	10c.

Published every Thursday by

The Monetary Times Printing Co. of Canada, Limited

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

	PAGE
Present Status of the Sewage Disposal Problem, by Dr. G. G. Nasmith	519
Saskatchewan's Public Ferry Service, by G. A. Palmer	523
Town Planning in Relation to Industrial Development, by C. W. Kirkpatrick	524
Corrugated Paper Used to Separate Wood Block in Paving St. Thomas Track Allowance, by J. S. Crandell	525
Amherstburg Filter Plant	526
Ideal Contract-Letting Made Practicable, by Dr. J. A. L. Waddell	527
Railway Situation in Canada To-day	529
Future Development of the South Shore of the St. Lawrence River	532

"CLOSING" THE PROFESSION IN ENGLAND

IN view of the fact that the Engineering Institute of Canada and the Joint Committee of Technical Organizations have recently drafted proposed legislation defining the status of the engineer in Canada, it is of interest to note that a Bill will be introduced in the next session of the British House of Commons to regulate and to establish registration for the civil engineering profession. The principal provisions of the Bill are as follows:—

By "civil engineer" is meant a person competent in the art described in the Royal Charter of the Institution of Civil Engineers of 1828 and its subsequent development through the advance of science. The definition of the profession of civil engineering is generally attributed to Thomas Telford, the first president of the institution, and reads as follows:—

"The art of directing the great sources of power in nature for the use and convenience of man, as the means of production and of traffic in states both for external and internal trade, as applied in the construction of roads, bridges, aqueducts, canals, river navigation and docks for internal intercourse and exchange, and in the construction of ports, harbors, moles, breakwaters and lighthouses, and in the art of navigation by artificial power for the purposes of commerce, and in the construction and adoption of machinery, and in the drainage of cities and towns."

The register as first established would contain: (a) All corporate members of the Institution of Civil Engineers and of the Institution of Civil Engineers in Ireland; and (b) other persons who are engaged as civil engineers and are members of important engineering societies; or who, although not members of such societies, have been engaged in civil engineering practice for a substantial period.

It is proposed that there be a time limit for the application of these conditions to the formation of the register.

For the purpose of determining the eligibility of engineers in the second group, a tribunal is to be established upon which the important engineering societies are to be represented, and by means of which the interests of their members who are civil engineers will be safeguarded.

ECONOMICS OF PLACING CONCRETE

MOST engineers agree that in order to use concrete towers and spout the mixed materials long distances, the mixture must be wetter than good practice would dictate. The work of Professor Abrams at the Lewis Institute, Chicago, has brought to the attention of the engineering profession more sharply than ever before the harmful effect of excessive water upon the strength of concrete. It is generally conceded that in order to use towers, from 30% to 50% more water must be used than if the materials are placed by other means. With this in mind, owing to the detrimental effect of too much water upon the strength of concrete, several construction companies have practically tabooed the use of towers.

Engineering opinion appears to have been modified somewhat upon this point during the past year, however, and it is becoming more clearly recognized that the whole problem is one of economy, and that towers are justifiable if by their use money can be saved in placing the concrete, provided that the proper cement-water ratio is adhered to at all times. Many engineers to-day are saying to their contractors:—

"Use towers if you wish, but you must keep the cement-water ratio constant. When you add more water in order to use your chutes, you must add sufficient extra cement to maintain the same cement-water ratio. If the use of your towers saves you more money than the extra cement costs, you are wise to use towers; but if the cost of extra cement is much greater than the additional cost of getting the concrete into the forms in some other way, it would pay you to abandon your towers."

PERSONALS

J. G. SULLIVAN, consulting engineer, Winnipeg, has been elected as a member of the Winnipeg city council.

C. F. GRAY, electrical engineer, Winnipeg, Man., has been re-elected mayor of that city by more than 2,500 majority.

SIR ADAM BECK, chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, expects to sail on Saturday next for England, on personal business.

J. M. STEVENSON, of Calgary, who recently returned from overseas, has been appointed resident architect at that city for the Public Works Department of the Dominion government.

HON. LIONEL H. CLARKE, who was recently appointed lieutenant-governor of the province of Ontario, has withdrawn his resignation as chairman of the Toronto Harbor Commission and has agreed to continue in that office at the request of the other members of the commission.

ROBERT FLEMING, civil engineer, of Aberdeen, Scotland, has joined the financial firm of J. & L. M. Wood, which will hereafter be known as Wood, Fleming & Co. Mr. Fleming served with the Canadian forces overseas. For several years prior to the war he was a railway contractor in this country.

STUART S. SCOVIL, of the Dominion Water Power Branch, Ottawa, has been appointed engineer in charge of the hydro-metric surveys in the province of Ontario, and JAMES R. BISSETT, of the same branch, has been appointed assistant engineer. This work in Ontario has formerly been taken care of by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission, but by arrangement with that commission it will be done in the future by the Dominion Water Power Branch, whose records will be used by the commission.

A. H. HARKNESS and R. E. W. HAGARTY, Toronto, have been appointed joint consulting engineers for the proposed