

# The Canadian Engineer

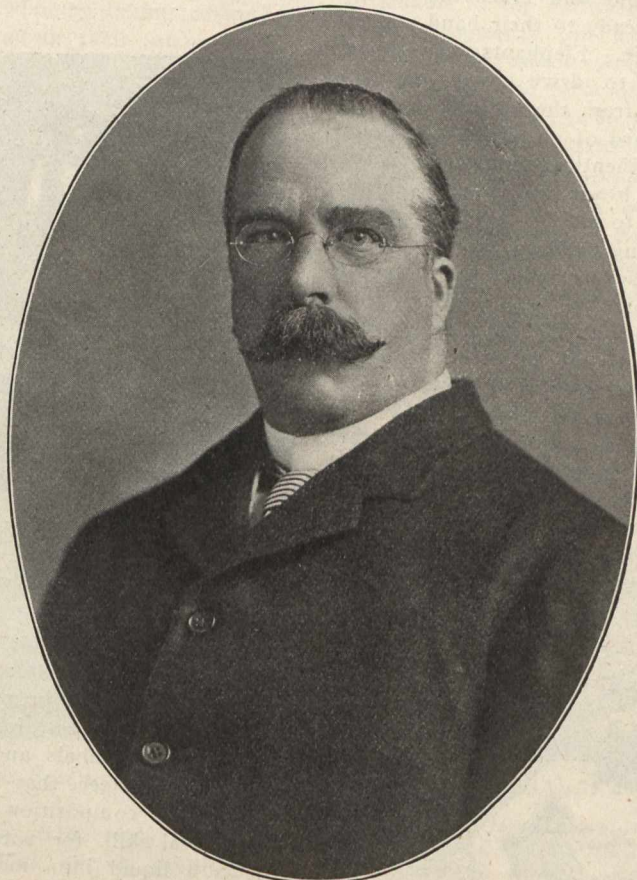
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We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing;  
but the world judges us by what we have already done."

—Longfellow.



FREDERIC NICHOLLS.

Herbert Spencer says—in his "Study of Sociology":—

"If you want roughly to estimate any one's mental calibre, you cannot do it better than by observing the ratio of generalities to particularities in his talk—how far simple truths about individuals are replaced by truths abstracted from numerous experiences of men and things, and when you have thus measured many, you find but a scattered few likely to take anything more than a biographical view of human affairs."

Judged by this standard, the subject of our first biographical sketch ranks high among the intellectual forces of the day. Among Canadian Captains of Industry, Mr. Nicholls has not a peer for broad generalization and comprehensive grasp of business affairs. That the business men of Canada have confidence in his judgment and *executive ability* is manifest; for he is President, Vice-President, or Director, of thirty of the largest manufacturing and commercial concerns in the Dominion: Vice-President and General-Manager The Canadian General Electric Co.; Vice-President Canada Foundry Co.; Vice-President Dominion Iron & Steel Co., Vice-President and Managing-Director of the Electrical Development Co. of Ontario, Ltd.; Director Canadian Bank of Commerce; President The Canadian Shipbuilding Company, etc.; together with directorate interests in Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, etc.

Although not a specialist in Civil, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering—as such, Mr. Nicholls is entitled to the place of honor in our gallery of men who have "done things;" for the remarkable development of Electrical enterprise in Canada, culminating in the colossal works now being built at Niagara Falls, is due more to him than to any other man; whilst the immense general Engineering

plant of The Canada Foundry Company—probably the best designed and equipped in the Dominion, and which will be fully described and illustrated in our August number,—is the work of his hands. His mind is now turned towards Marine Engineering, and the development of the shipbuilding interests of the country.

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."—Shakespeare.

Frederic Nicholls was born in England, November 23rd, 1856. Educated at Stuttgart, Wurtemberg. He crossed the Atlantic for Canada in 1874. When the philosophic historian comes to write the industrial history of Canada, the name of Frederic Nicholls will have an important place; as one who, by his fine business tact, unique executive ability, and indomitable energy—supplemented by a high code of ethics, helped mightily to develop the resources and shape the destinies of the greatest colony in the British Empire.

"The result of careful experiment is the voice of Nature speaking truth, the interpretation of it is the work of fallible humanity."

—J. E. Stead.