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THE METRIC SYSTEM.

The metric system has been slow in making progress among English-speaking people, and its adoption and use in the regular work of life has been much slower than was anticipated by its friends a few years ago. The movement has received an impetus by the official announcement recently made that in the future all papers read before the American Electric-Chemical Society must contain measurements expressed in metric values. It is true these values may be inserted in parenthesis, but still, the compelling of their insertion is a distinguished gain to the metric system movement.

It is rumored that the American Institute of Electrical Engineers will shortly officially announce the adoption of a similar order.

The adoption of this plan will furnish a key to foreign engineers concerning matters that would other-

wise probably remain as ciphers on paper, and in addition it will supply a numerical check upon the statement contained in the papers read.

The metric system of measurement is in use in a number of countries, and descriptions containing this nomenclature are becoming so frequent that it is necessary for the reader of scientific articles to be thoroughly familiar with the system, its principle and characters.

We may not see its universal adoption, but its uniformity, elasticity and simplicity guarantee for it wider acceptance each year.

EXCLUDING FOREIGN ARCHITECTS.

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, at their annual meeting recently held in Winnipeg, took up the question of foreign architects practising in Canada. It was maintained that these architects, employed by Canadian capital, had no interest in Canada other than their commission, and that eventually this condition would ultimately tell to the injury of both the profession and their Canadian clients.

Canadian architects are always pleased to welcome visiting professional men, but the purpose of the Royal Institute is to protect its members, and this movement to insist on heavy import duty on architectural plans is in conformity with this object of the Association.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association is quite willing to work along with the architects to this end, provided they specify Canadian material only.

We wonder how many of the Canadian manufacturers who wish Canadian architects to specify Canadian material, use only Canadian machinery, Canadian insurance and Canadian trained men in their departments.

THE CRITIC.

The critic is one of the spurs that makes the publication of a good engineering journal possible. He provides interesting discussions, and the possibility of his criticism keeps the editorial department on the alert.

Recently, one of these kind friends deplored the supposed carelessness of "Engineering-Contracting" in allowing certain data to appear in their columns without the staff's personal verification of the statement contained. "Engineering-Contracting" very properly answers that to verify every statement submitted would make it impossible for them to produce a weekly journal.

Very recently a prominent consulting engineer took The Canadian Engineer to task for certain articles which, he claimed, did not outline good practice in a particular line. We discussed the matter very carefully with him, and found that his real reason for describing the methods referred to as not good practice were because they did not conform to his style of doing work. Too often we measure the correctness of the method by its conformity to our ideals.

An engineering journal records what has been done, and is being done, under various conditions and by dif-