

unless each member of the profession does what he knows to be fair, right, and honorable. There are so many ways of keeping the letter and disregarding the spirit of the law that man is bumping his head against a stone wall when he attempts to raise the standard of his vocation professionally by legislation.

It is true in most professions, and we suppose it happens now and then in engineering, that men of high standing and unusual ability appear to depart from the paths of professional rectitude; and then how quickly we pass judgment, sometimes not waiting to learn the whole of the facts. A word in jest, a whispered word, a glance, and the doubt is sown. We will never raise the standard of the profession by arriving at conclusions, having studied but half the facts.

Unfortunately, there are engineers who forget their responsibility and betray their trust. Such men should not expect mercy. With their methods we have no sympathy. Nor would we defend the man who knowingly sails close to the wind, who uses his position to gain information, which he retails to friends, who uses his employer's time for his private gain.

But who shall be judge? Perhaps it would be better for each of us to make sure our own skirts are clean and allow our fellow-practitioner to do the same.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF ONTARIO.**

The statements of the Provincial Treasurer, although it shows a large increase in expenditure for 1907, also shows a substantial balance. The total receipts for the year amounted to \$8,320,419.19, and out of this \$606,173.58 was carried forward as a balance.

The Province aided railways to the extent of \$144,860.68; for repairs and maintenance of Parliament Buildings, \$95,336.40; appropriated and expended on colonization roads, \$316,906.30. For fire and forest ranging some \$107,000 was expended, nearly \$52,000 more than for 1906.

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission received \$40,524.21; of this, \$14,448.42 was for salaries.

In the improvement of our inland waterways \$16,841.06 was expended.

Among the receipts for the year the T. and N.O. Railway contributed \$235,090.69; woods and forests, \$1,219,051.32, while mining lands and royalties yielded \$1,462,248.69.

**"CANADIAN WOODWORKER."**

"We desire to produce a paper which shall be indispensable not only to the manufacturers of all kinds of woodwork, but also to the thousands of machine workers employed in their establishments." It is in these words Biggar-Wilson Company indicate the field they purpose entering and the class of journal they will produce in the new publication, "Canadian Woodworker," the first number of which is being distributed.

The subjects discussed are live subjects with the woodworker, and are treated in a manner that will hold the interest of the reader, and not repel him with theoretical discussions that are of interest to but a few. The men who are interested in timber and lumber, the men who work in the mill, the factory or at the bench, the men who design as well as those who execute work in wood, will find interesting information of practical value on every page of "Canadian Woodworker."

**WHAT'S NEW?**

There is nothing new. Everybody is waiting, confident that with the spring something good will open. We have not met a discouraged man. Perhaps it is the bracing air or the optimism born of years of prosperity.

We think, however, the hope is well founded. Now and then comes word of location parties being sent out on revision, of new offices being opened for canal extension work, of municipal improvements planned for the coming season, of new power schemes, all of which indicate activity in construction work this spring.

**THE TORONTO ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY.**

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Toronto Electric Light Company was of more than usual interest, not only to the shareholders because of the satisfactory financial report, but to the general public, and particularly engineers, because of the historical information and data contained in the president's address and in a report to the directors by Mr. W. A. Martin.

The financial statement shows that from 1884, with an authorized capital of \$200,000, and a paid up capital of \$175,400, the company has grown until in 1907 it had an authorized capital of \$4,000,000, and a paid-up capital of \$3,385,477.29 on which it paid dividends at the rate of 8 per cent.

The president's address is plainly meant to be educative, if not political. It is evidently meant to be a strong plea for private ownership of lighting plants. The first table submitted gives the contract prices with the City of Toronto for street lighting.

| Year.          | Amount of Contract.          |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1884 . . . . . | \$226.30 per light per annum |
| 1886 . . . . . | 200.75 per light per annum   |
| 1891 . . . . . | 108.59 per light per annum   |
| 1896 . . . . . | 74.83 per light per annum    |
| 1901 . . . . . | 74.83 per light per annum    |
| 1906 . . . . . | 69.35 per light per annum    |

While making such reductions as shown in the above table the company take some credit for the reduction in the price of gas, a reduction caused, so it is suggested, by competition. The table showing the reduction in the price of gas is as follows:

| Year.          | Price of Gas per thousand feet. |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1882 . . . . . | \$1.75 net                      |
| 1884 . . . . . | 1.60 net                        |
| 1885 . . . . . | 1.50 net                        |
| 1890 . . . . . | 1.12½ net                       |
| 1893 . . . . . | 1.05 net                        |
| 1896 . . . . . | .90 net                         |
| 1903 . . . . . | .80 net                         |
| 1906 . . . . . | .75 net                         |

But we doubt if any argument based on these facts alone will have much weight, as there were other factors than the competition of the Electric Light Company at work. As to the price of gas, it was coming down in price long before the Electric Light Company was organized.

- In 1870 the price was \$3.00 per thousand
- In 1871 the price was 2.66 per thousand
- In 1877 the price was 2.50 per thousand
- In 1879 the price was 2.00 per thousand

From this one will see the reduction in the price of gas in the nine years before the Electric Light Company entered the field was greater than in any nine years since.

A third table gave the rates charged in the American cities and one Canadian city, namely, Montreal:

| Light per K.W. Hour.       | Small Users. cents. | Medium Users. cents. | Large Users. cents. |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Average . . . . .          | 12.2                | 8.9                  | 6                   |
| Toronto Rates—             |                     |                      |                     |
| Small commercial . . . . . | 12.0                | 8.0                  | 6 to 4              |
| House lighting . . . . .   | 8.0                 | ...                  | ..                  |
| Power Rates—               |                     |                      |                     |
| Average . . . . .          | 10.2                | 6.6                  | 5.2                 |
| Toronto Rates . . . . .    | 8                   | 4                    | 2.66                |