

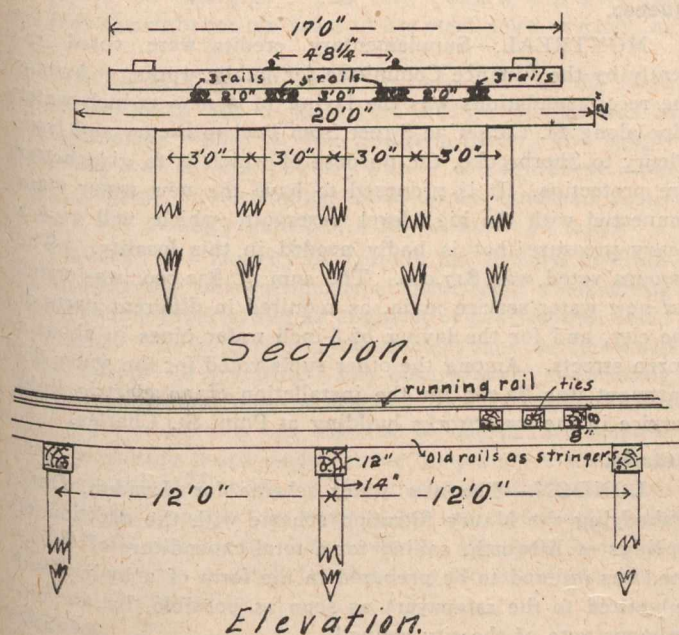
# CORRESPONDENCE

[This department is a meeting-place for ideas. If you have any suggestions as to new methods or successful methods, let us hear from you. You may not be accustomed to write for publication, but do not hesitate. It is ideas we want. Your suggestion will help another. Ed.]

## OLD RAILS FOR STRINGERS.

Sir,—One of the heavy items on railway maintenance is bridges. Anything that will make a saving in bridge building is appreciated.

Herewith you will please find a sketch showing how one Canadian Railway Company has attempted to deal with the matter.



On this branch 65 pound rails were being replaced by 80 pound rails, and in renewing the bridges the old rails were used as stringers. Under the running rails a cluster of five 65 pound rails were used, and over the outside piles a cluster of three rails used. By means of spikes and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch bolts through the fish plate bolt holes the rails are held in place. This bridge has carried for years the heaviest freight engines. Yours truly,

B.

May 22nd, 1908.

## TIDAL POWER PLANT.

Sir,—I would be greatly obliged if you could give me an idea of the general principal of design of the plant referred to in the attached clipping.

"A tidal power plant, capable of supplying 25,000 horse-power, is to be established on the shores of Back Bay, near Portland, Me. The projectors have already experimented with a smaller plant at Thomastown, Me., and it is claimed from the experience gained in this venture that the success of the larger one is assured."

As others than myself on this coast, where there is a considerable tidal range, might be equally interested, I am sure an item in your columns relating to the subject would be read with interest. Yours truly,

Hugh Youdall.

Vancouver, May 20th, 1908.

[Perhaps some of our readers can tell us of this proposition or a similar one.—Ed.]

## SEPTIC PROCESS PATENT SUSTAINED BY RECENT ACTION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

### Cameron Septic Tank Co. vs. Saratoga Springs et al.

Sir,—After five years of litigation, ending in the Supreme Court of the United States, the claims of the Cameron Septic Tank Company have been sustained; existing sewage disposal plants, involving the unlicensed use of the septic process, are, therefore, declared to be infringements of the Cameron patents.

The Cameron Septic Tank Company, desiring to comply with the wishes of its many clients, offer the following alternatives:—

1. To design sewage disposal plants, and take contracts for complete construction.
2. To furnish plans and specifications, and license the use of plants constructed thereunder.
3. To license the construction and use of plants designed by other engineers.

Before the validity of the Cameron patent had been established by the courts, the Cameron Septic Tank Company refrained from any interference with the operation of unlicensed plants, but now that this patent has been so completely sustained by the recent action of the Supreme Court of the United States, the same respect and consideration will be expected for it as has been accorded by the highest court. An invitation is, therefore, extended to municipalities and others owning infringing plants to communicate with the Cameron Septic Tank Company, 352-6 Monadnock Block, Chicago, Ill., for the purpose of effecting settlements, which may be secured on very reasonable terms, provided useless litigation is avoided.

Yours very truly,

H. W. Wyllie,  
General Manager.

## OBITUARY.

MR. ARTHUR KOPPEL, founder of the Arthur Koppel Company, died in Berlin, Germany, on May 13th, 1908, in his 57th year.

Mr. Koppel was born in Dresden, Germany, in 1851, and started in business at the early age of seventeen years. He was first interested in a concern in the handling of structural iron and established his own firm in 1876, taking up the problem of transporting all kinds of material for narrow gauge railroads. He made the idea of portable industrial track popular, and this material is to-day known all over the world, in all industrial, agricultural and mining concerns as the Koppel material. The concern, which in 1905 was made a stock company, owns fifty-two branch houses, all over the world, eight plants, of which three are in Germany, one in France, one in Austria, one in Russia, one in Spain, and one in the United States. The American business was established ten years ago, and Mr. Arthur Koppel came to the U.S. and decided to build in 1906 a most modern American plant. He therefore purchased 700 acres of property in Beaver County, thirty miles west of Pittsburg, Pa., where he founded the township of Koppel and erected the most modern plant in this line in the United States. With his family, wife, three sons and one daughter, 6,000 men in the different plants and concerns and 1,500 employees, commercial men and engineers, are mourning the loss of this genius, who always had the welfare of his men at heart.

There will be no change in the concern, which has a board of directors. One of the managers of the New York office is Mr. Kurt Koppel, a son of the late Mr. Arthur Koppel. He is at present on his way to Germany.