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A reader is anxious to secure copies of the Canadian
Engineer for May 3rd, 1907, and is willing to pay 25 cents a
piece for these. Perhaps some of our subscribers can
accommodate him.

TORONTO, CANADA, FEBRUARY 7th, 1908.

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE.

Editorial:	Page.
A Successful Meeting	75
Testing Laboratories	75
Labor	76
Manitoba University Engineering Department....	76
Canadian Engineering Society Annual Meeting.....	77
Leading Articles:	
British Correspondence	81
Canals and Transportation	82
Canada's Railways	85
Drainage of Roadbeds	87
Arrangement of Railway Shops	90
Septic Tanks	95
A Suspended Sewer	98
Sewage Disposal Works, Regina	101
Correspondence:	
Curvature on Wyes	79
Concrete	79
Railway Crossover.....	79
Vertical Curves	80
Concrete Specifications	80
Lot Lines	81
Railway Orders	86
Book Reviews	105
Construction News	107
Markets	108

A SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

The twenty-second annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers was the most successful yet held. This was as it should be. Each year the attendance should increase, the interest should grow, the discussions should become more valuable anything different would indicate a dead institution. The Canadian Society is not dead, but very much alive—alive to the necessities of the profession, alive to the possibilities of the profession in Canada, alive to the advantages to be gained by the interchange of ideas.

If one were to ask the members who attended what they considered the predominant note of the meeting they would with one accord reply—Progress. Every discussion was on a high plane. Personal feelings and petty differences never appeared; everything was for the good of the order. Men differed as to methods—strong men often differ—but all had the same object, the improvement of the standing of the profession.

A number thought this would be secured if more members furnished papers describing completed works or explaining away the difficulties of engineering problems; others suggested that efforts should be made to secure a close corporation for engineers, while others maintained that such mechanical means as suggested were but poor makeshifts. What was required was the cultivation of a professional spirit, a kindly feeling for fellow-members, a willingness to lend a helping hand.

It was not decided which method would best strengthen the profession. We do not imagine men will ever agree on this, but we do believe that the spirit of the meeting just closed, if carried through the year, will do much to improve the engineering profession in the eyes of our fellow-citizens.

TESTING LABORATORIES.

The day has come—indeed, is long past—when the Government should aid in the establishing and equipping of large testing laboratories. It is not necessary that a new department should be organized, nor new buildings erected, but rather that the testing laboratories in our Canadian Universities should be voted appropriations to assist in making more complete the present equipment, to provide suitable directors, to prepare material for tests, and to arrange for the publication of the results secured.

The laboratories in the Applied Science Departments of our universities have now some equipment, which could at once be made use of in carrying on such work. In a small way they have been carrying on tests with very satisfactory results, but even yet our technical schools are lamentably weak in scientific research work. This is not a reflection upon the science faculties. Those familiar with the conditions know that the deficiency along this line has not been for want of men, but for want of money.