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With the recent Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities fresh in their minds, the readers of the "Canadian Municipal Journal" may be interested to learn a little about the American Society for Testing Materials which has also just held its Annual Convention, at Atlantic City, N.J.

The A. S. T. M., affiliated with the International Association for Testing Materials, is much more comprehensive than the uninitiated would at first suppose. Its objects are to investigate, improve and standardize. It deals with the chemical composition, processes of manufacture and methods of testing most of the important materials and units of equipment in use in modern commerce. The field covered by its recommended practice and specifications is continually being enlarged, and as appreciation of the value of such standardization and scientific control becomes more widespread, this field will come, no doubt, to embrace practically every important material and commodity of civilization.

Perhaps a more precise idea of the nature, and a better idea of the scope of the work accomplished will be given by citing a few typical titles of the papers and reports at the recent meeting.

- 1 Papers by individuals on:
 - Rail Failures and their Causes.
 - The Action of Various Substances on Cement Mortars.
 - The Testing of Refractories.
 - A Magnetic Criterion of the Mechanical Properties of One Per Cent Carbon Steel.
 - Conservation, and Shipping Containers.
- 2 Committee reports on:
 - (a) Standard Specifications for Coal, Steel, Cement, Lime, Brick, Drain Tile, Sewer Pipe, Road Materials, and Rubber Goods.
 - (b) Heat Treatment of Iron and Steel.
 - Preservative Coatings for Structural Materials.
 - Reinforced Concrete.
 - Waterproofing Materials for Cement.
 - Non-ferrous Metals and Alloys.

It should be pointed out that these, and the other reports and papers presented at the meeting represent only recent progress, and that the Society already has a long list of adopted standard specifications and recommended practice.

From the nature of the case, the A. S. T. M. is not a closed corporation, and any reputable individual or Company, interested in its purpose, may become a member. Thus the membership consists of College Professors and scientific scholars, engineers practising in the various branches of the profession, chemists and engineers of tests of both manufacturers and consumers, and even officials who are not strictly technical men.

The Executive Committee, Special Committees, and Special Sub-Committees hold Meetings when and where most convenient to their members, but the Annual General Meeting of the Society is usually held at Atlantic City, where it is pleasant to spend spare time, and which is fairly convenient to the great manufacturing and railroad centres of the United States. At this