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We will give a month's extension of subscription for a
copy of the Canadian Engineer of January 8th, 1909. If you
do not file yours, we should be glad to have it.

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

The annual meeting of the Society will be held in
Toronto, January 28th, 29th and 30th, 1909.

Mr. Wm. Kennedy, Jr., Montreal, Que., says: "As
Toronto is a large engineering and commercial centre—
the second in the Dominion—and furnishes a large
number of members to the Canadian Society of Civil
Engineers, it is fully entitled to the holding of the annual
meeting of the Society, and should be well attended by
the members of the Society. I am sure the resident
members will give the visitors a royal welcome to the
"Queen City."

STREAM POLLUTION.

A question of ever-increasing difficulty for our sani-
tary engineers and boards of health is the prevention of
stream pollution. In the earlier days of sewage disposal
works in America the waste material was turned into
the most convenient stream or lake. Quickly this method
of disposal became a public nuisance and contaminated
the water supply. One of the most complete investiga-
tions that has been made into this subject is reported in
a report on the River Pollution in the State of Rhode
Island, U.S.A., the results of an examination of the
conditions causing the pollution of the Moshassuck,
Woonasquatucket, and Providence Rivers, published by
the Rhode Island State Board of Health. This report,
published in the form of a brochure, will be found of
great value, not only to those locally interested in the
above-named rivers, but generally to engineers and
others who may have to deal with the purification or
clarification of objectionable trade wastes. The report is
compiled by and is the result of extensive investigations
under the direction of Mr. Herman Stabler, assistant
engineer, U.S.A. Geological Survey. Much of the value
of the work is also due to Mr. Gilbert H. Pratt, chemist
of the Rhode Island State Board of Health, under whose
direction fell a very large portion of the chemical ex-
aminations.

Providence River, the name applied to the head of
Narragansett Bay, is formed near the centre of the city
of Providence by the junction of the Moshassuck and
Woonasquatucket Rivers, and flows under bridges and
through open channel for several hundred yards before
it widens out to form the city harbor. For many years
the Providence River has been a foul-smelling stream,
and its serious pollution a menace to public health. It
is, in fact, a striking example of the result of want of
forethought, and of the serious difficulty and great ex-
pense of rectifying the negligence of the past.

Time was when the citizen might inhale the salt
sea odor, calling to his senses not far distant marshes
of sea green weeds, oysters, clams, and fishing grounds.
Gradually the tide of civilization, with its varied in-
dustries, utilized the streams which join to make the
Providence River—some for power purposes, and others
for bleaching and cleansing cloths and yarns, others for
the dumping or disposal of their refuse, not only human
excreta, but also waste material.

The city of Providence fell into the common error
of utilizing its own river for the disposal of its sewage
wastes by entering the numerous sewers into the stream.
But not only is the city of Providence to blame in the