

AS SEEN BY OTHERS

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Contracts for Building Construction.

Woodcraft.—Some manufacturers hold the opinion that when a new building is to be constructed the best plan is to let it to the lowest bidder, hoping by rigid specifications to obtain a passable structure at a low price. This may result disastrously; sometimes for the concern, and at other times for the contractor. The number of ways in which a contractor can skimp work without getting caught is a thing to amaze and confound; and this is particularly true where concrete is involved in the construction. A better plan, and one adopted by some of the most progressive firms, is the system of employing competent inspectors, and then letting the work to a reputable contractor on a percentage basis. . . . For reinforced concrete work the percentage varies somewhat, but 12 per cent. is probably the most common rate. In cases, however, where forms of an irregular shape have to be used, the contractor is put to a good deal more trouble, and the work deserves and receives a higher percentage, this frequently amounting to 15 per cent.

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Georgian Bay Canal.

Montreal Gazette.—The preliminary estimate of the engineers is that to make a twenty-foot waterway from the Georgian Bay to Montreal by way of the French and Ottawa Rivers would cost from ninety-four to a hundred million dollars. This doubtless means that when it is undertaken it will be well to count on spending a hundred and twenty millions at least upon the work with a possibility of having to spend more. With the country loaded with responsibility for building Sir Wilfrid Laurier's frenzied railway through the sub-Arctic wilds from Winnipeg to Quebec, there is no prospect that for ten years the actually promising scheme can be touched.

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Mining Engineers in Politics.

The Canadian Mining Journal.—Canadian parliamentarians are drawn largely from the ranks of practising lawyers prominent merchants, doctors, journalists, a sprinkling of farmers and labor representatives, and a miscellaneous residue, including an occasional preacher. The profession of mining engineering has no direct representative. The mining engineer, from the extent of his field and the nature of his work, acquires a knowledge of his country that can hardly be equalled. He would bring to his legislative duties all the qualities of good citizenship with the added special equipment necessary to the practice of an exacting profession.

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Contract to the Highest Tender.

Prince Albert Times.—The Provincial Government has let the contract for the Provincial Parliament to Peter Lyall & Sons, of Montreal. The amazing feature of the letting of the contract is that the contract was not awarded to the lowest tender. The Western contractors were some \$120,000 lower than the Montreal firm. Yet the Western men were turned down. The Western contractors are not noted for figuring very close. They generally look for a good profit and get it. Why the Provincial Government should have turned down the Regina and Winnipeg contractors in favor of a Montreal firm is somewhat of a mystery, especially when over a hundred thousand dollars could have been saved.

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The Waste of Water.

Hamilton Spectator.—The same evil that confronts Hamilton in the daily waste of water is the subject of remark in regard to New York's and Brooklyn's supply. The prevalence of this leakage necessitates the addition in the latter

place, of an increased supply of 250,000,000 gallons daily, which is now being provided for. This, it is claimed would be unnecessary for many years to come, if honest consumption prevailed. After all's said and done, it's up to the people to foot the bill.

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Technical Degrees.

This is an age of specialization; also it is an age in which the desire for titles appears to be increasing. The University of Arkansas seems to have gone to the limit in creating a new course of instruction for the completion of which the degree of "Bachelor of Science in Cement Engineering" is to be conferred. However, it is to be congratulated upon its moderation in refraining to call its new degree "cement engineer."

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A Long Time to Wait.

The Prince Rupert Empire.—Twenty-five years ago the Canadian Pacific was bossed by Americans, who gave employment to American engineers and contractors in preference to Canadians. William Van Horne and Thomas Shaughnessy are American-born, but to-day they are titled Canadians, who give employment on the Canadian Pacific to men who grew up in Canada—for twenty-five years is a long time to follow one occupation or trade. The Grand Trunk Pacific is bossed by Americans, who give employment to American engineers and contractors in preference to Canadians. Twenty-five years hence Charles M. Hays and Frank W. Morse, American-born, will be titled Canadians, who will give employment on the Grand Trunk Pacific to men who grew up in Canada. Everything comes to those who can wait.

ENGINEERING SOCIETIES.

CANADIAN RAILWAY CLUB.—President, L. R. Johnson; Secretary, James Powell, P.O. Box 7, St. Lambert, near Montreal, P.Q.

CANADIAN STREET RAILWAY ASSOCIATION.—President, E. A. Evans, Quebec; Secretary, Acton Burrows, 157 Bay Street, Toronto.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION.—President, J. F. Demers, M.D., Levis, Que.; Secretary, F. Page Wilson, Toronto.

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—413 Dorchester Street West, Montreal. President, J. Galbraith; Secretary, Prof. C. H. McLeod. Meetings will be held at Society Rooms each Thursday until May 1st, 1908.

QUEBEC BRANCH OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Chairman, E. A. Hoare; Secretary, P. E. Parent, P.O. Box 115, Quebec. Meetings held twice a month at Room 40, City Hall.

TORONTO BRANCH OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—96 King Street West, Toronto. Chairman, C. H. Mitchell; Secretary, T. C. Irving, Jr., Traders Bank Building.

MANITOBA BRANCH OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Chairman, H. N. Ruttan; Secretary, E. Brydone Jack. Meets first and third Friday of each month, October to April, in University of Manitoba.

ENGINEERS' CLUB OF TORONTO.—96 King Street West. President, J. G. Sing; Secretary, R. B. Wolsey. Meeting every Thursday evening during the fall and winter months.

CANADIAN ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION.—President, N. W. Ryerson, Niagara Falls; Secretary, T. S. Young, Canadian Electrical News, Toronto.

CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE.—413 Dorchester Street West, Montreal. President, W. G. Miller, Toronto; Secretary, H. Mortimer-Lamb, Montreal.

NOVA SCOTIA SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS, HALIFAX.—President, J. H. Winfield; Secretary, S. Fenn, Bedford Row, Halifax, N.S.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (TORONTO BRANCH).—W. G. Chace, Secretary, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.