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CANADA GETS NEXT CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

MONTREAL has been chosen as the city in which will be held the fortieth annual convention of the American Water Works Association. At the thirty-ninth convention, held last week in Buffalo, N.Y., Montreal secured 62 votes on the first ballot, while eight United States cities divided the remaining 59 votes, Detroit being the "runner-up," with 29 supporters.

By the time the convention will be held in Montreal—about June, 1920—it will have been thirteen years since this association last visited Canada, as its last annual convention on Canadian soil was in 1907 in Toronto. As pointed out in the June 5th issue of *The Canadian Engineer*, Canadians form one-thirteenth of the association's membership, and Canada should, therefore, be entitled to at least one out of every thirteen conventions. The reasonableness of this contention appealed to the majority of the delegates at the Buffalo convention, and Montreal just managed to secure the necessary majority of votes cast.

The Canadian Engineer believes that it can speak for all civil engineers in Canada in heartily thanking the water works engineers and officials who voted for Montreal. Canada appreciates the honor, and Canadian engineers will undoubtedly plan ahead and co-operate in making the Montreal convention a memorable one.

The convention will probably attract to Montreal about a thousand of the brightest minds in water works engineering and contracting from all parts of the United States and Canada. It will induce important United States manufacturers who have never been in Canada to visit this country, and it will enable others who already know Canada to a certain extent, to become better acquainted with our ideals and institutions. It will help materially in

cementing the friendship and mutual respect that already exists to so large a degree among the sanitary engineers of these two great and neighborly countries.

WELCOME TO GENERAL MITCHELL

ONE of the most distinguished members of the Canadian engineering fraternity is Brig.-Gen. Charles Hamilton Mitchell, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Great Britain; Officer de la Légion d'Honneur, France; Croix de Guerre, and Officer of the Order of Leopold, Belgium; and Croci di Guerre and Officer of the Crown of Italy, Italy. Gen. Mitchell went overseas with the first Canadian Expeditionary Force as Major in the Intelligence Department, but was soon transferred to the Imperial Army and placed on the general staff in charge of all intelligence work for the 2nd British Army, later occupying a similar post with the British Expeditionary Force in Italy.

As a mark of respect for his services during the war, and in honor of his appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science of the University of Toronto, a dinner was tendered to Gen. Mitchell last Friday by Montreal engineers upon his arrival in that city, and a similar function was held Tuesday of this week at the Engineers' Club, Toronto, after his safe return home. Over one hundred engineers attended the banquet in the ballroom of the Ritz-Carlton at Montreal, and nearly that number were at the Engineers' Club, Toronto, to welcome the man who, like many others, so ably upheld Canada's honor and reputation during the titanic struggle which we all so fervently trust is now definitely ended.

In his new and very responsible position at the University of Toronto, Gen. Mitchell will, he declared, bend all his energies toward broadening the educational facilities for students in engineering courses, and toward stimulating scientific research. Hon. Dr. Cody, Minister of Education of the Province of Ontario, in speaking at the Toronto banquet, promised that the purse-strings of his department would be opened to any demands that Gen. Mitchell may make in the up-building of the engineering courses at the University of Toronto.

COST-PLUS FORM OF CONTRACT SAVES MONEY FOR ESSEX BORDER CITIES

TENDERS for the construction of certain sections of an intercepting sewer were received in July, 1918, by the Essex Border Utilities Commission. The figures were considered too high and the work was re-advertised on a cost-plus basis. Three bids were received upon the lump-sum basis, but ten contractors submitted figures upon the cost-plus basis. The lowest lump-sum figure quoted was \$163,600 and the highest was \$172,400. The estimated costs submitted by bidders, August 22nd, 1918, after the second advertisement had appeared, ranged from \$120,600 to \$181,200. These figures included the contractor's profit of about \$12,000. The work has now been completed at a cost of about \$124,200, indicating a saving of about \$41,400 as compared with the lowest lump-sum bid. The contractors for the work were Merlo, Merlo & Ray, Ltd., of Walkerville, Ont., and the work was done under the direction of Morris Knowles, Ltd., consulting engineers for the Essex Border Utilities Commission.

The Toronto Hydro-Electric System has distributed its annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1918. The net income from operations was \$21,667, and the balance carried forward to 1919 is \$63,970. The report of the general manager, H. H. Couzens, states that in spite of the discontinuance of the demand for munitions and war supplies, which brought the load on the Toronto System up to approximately 50,000 h.p., the present peak demand is within 3,000 or 4,000 kw. of the demand at the corresponding period a year ago.