

FIRE PREVENTION

AN illustrated lecture on "Fire Prevention" was given before the Engineering Institute of Canada, Montreal Branch, January 9th, by George H. Greenfield, fire prevention and safety engineer, Canadian Car and Foundry Co. The speaker explained the elaborate methods of inspection that his company has developed, and showed views of deluge sets that the company has adopted to deal with possible fires in its lumber yards.

The system of fire protection drawings that has been adopted was outlined. These drawings are framed and posted around the works. They feature the water main system and various control valves, so that in case of need, reference information is instantly available.

Mr. Greenfield asserted that in his opinion a large number of fires in this country have resulted from accumulations of various classes of material and garbage, some of which is susceptible to spontaneous combustion.

JOINT COMMITTEE TO DRAFT LICENSE BILL

MEMBERS of the Ohio Engineering Society have voted unanimously in favor of the principle of licensing engineers. It is expected that a bill will be presented to the state legislature at its present session. President Clyde T. Morris, of the Association of Ohio Technical Societies, announced a plan for study of the subject by all engineering organizations of Ohio, in order that a generally acceptable bill may be drafted. He has called upon all the societies composing the Ohio Association to name committees on licensing, and a conference of these committees will be called at Columbus in the near future for discussion and drafting of the bill.

The Indiana members of the American Association of Engineers will meet jointly with the members of other engineering societies this evening at Indianapolis, to organize support for the Indiana engineers' license law.

Nominations of the American Water Works Association for the year 1919-20 are as follows: President, Carleton E. Davis, Philadelphia; vice-president, M. L. Worrell, Meridan, Miss.; treasurer, J. M. Caird, Troy, N.Y. J. M. Diven, of Troy, is secretary.

Imperial Oil, Ltd., is taking steps to promote friendly relations between the firm and the employees and to advance their mutual welfare by the inauguration of the so-called trade parliaments, such as have been established in Great Britain. Briefly, the plan is this: The employees will elect by free and secret ballot, workmen's committees, representing the many trades that enter into the oil industry, in numerical proportion, one delegate for every 75 employees being the scale adopted. These delegates will sit jointly with an equal number of officials, appointed by the company, and will deal with all grievances, questions of wage increases and plans for the betterment of social conditions.

A big steel merger for export trade has recently been effected in the United States. The North American Steel Products Corporation has been organized, representing the following companies, with a combined annual ingot capacity of 12,000,000 tons: Bethlehem Steel, Brier Hill Steel, Lackawanna Steel, Lukens Steel, Midvale Steel and Ordnance, Republic Iron and Steel, Sharon Steel Hoop, Trumbull Steel, Whitaker-Glessner and Youngstown Sheet and Tube Companies. E. A. S. Clarke, president of the Lackawanna Steel Co., will be president of the new corporation, having resigned from his present position. It is expected that other producing interests will join the North American company later, and that eventually it will represent in export trade practically all steel-producing companies of the United States, with the exception of the United States Steel Corporation, which has its own subsidiary export company. In addition to its proposed principal office in New York City, the new concern will have branches throughout the world wherever the introduction or sale of American iron and steel products seems desirable.

WHAT AQUEDUCT REPORT WILL COVER

WHEN engineers are appointed by the city commissioners of Montreal to report on the proposed completion of the aqueduct enlargement, they will be asked to consider the best method of using the canal to supplement the domestic water supply of the city, at the same time conserving its water-power capacity.

The engineers will also be requested to make a study of the general scheme of water distribution throughout the city, and to report on sufficient reservoir capacity, which is lacking at present.

The commissioners state that no complete study has yet been made of the aqueduct; that the water situation is likely to become acute this summer, as the conduit which supplies the city with water is taxed nearly to its full capacity and the demands may soon exceed the capacity; that the aqueduct has caused a great deal of discussion among engineers; and that it is therefore advisable to obtain disinterested reports from engineers who have not previously been associated with any of the discussions. At the request of the commissioners, the city council has voted \$25,000 to cover the expense of the report.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Builders' Exchange will be held next Monday.

The net expenditure of the American Society of Civil Engineers for publishing its proceedings, transactions and year book during the year 1918 was \$35,350.

During the year 1918, the American Society of Civil Engineers elected 537 new members and lost 109 dead, 44 resigned and 41 dropped from the roll; a net gain of 343 members. The membership of the society now totals 8,933, of whom 1,471 are resident in the New York district.

A. W. Campbell, highways commissioner for the Dominion government, and W. A. McLean, deputy minister of highways for Ontario, will deliver addresses at the first annual meeting of the Eastern Ontario Good Roads Association, to be held on February 4th and 5th in Ottawa. The association has applied for provincial incorporation.

The Engineering Council, representing the four leading engineering societies of the United States has asked the Board of Apportionment of the city of New York to reconsider its action of December 30th, 1918, whereby it reduced salary appropriations to such an extent as to necessitate the discharge by the Public Service Commission of 339 men employed in engineering work on the construction of subways. The Council asks the Board to make an appropriation that will enable the Commission to effect, safely and economically, the rapid completion of the subway work. It also asks the Board to leave to the Commission, on which the law places the responsibility, the detailed apportionment of the appropriation in accordance with a practical schedule to be prepared by the Commission and to be submitted to the Board "for the Board's information."

According to the report of the secretary of the American Society of Civil Engineers for the year 1918, if all of the bills incurred during that year had had to be paid by the end of that year, the books of the society would have shown a deficit of more than \$20,000. The annual cost of the society's present quarters in the United Engineering Societies' building is said to be greater than was the cost of their own building on 57th St., although the latter afforded more room. In addition, co-operation in the Joint Library increased the annual expenditures by at least \$5,000. The cost of the three stories which were added to the United Engineering Societies' building to accommodate the society was over \$40,000 greater than had been estimated. Inability to rent their former building, and remission of fees due to the war, complicated the situation. Altogether, there was an unexpected expenditure during the year, including remissions of dues, amounting to \$98,000. Unfortunately, it was necessary for the society to borrow money temporarily to meet its ordinary expenses and pay roll. Regardless of these seemingly adverse figures, however, the society appears to be in a healthy financial condition, having assets of \$1,265,891, and a surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to \$965,576.