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1905. Technical Adviser to Select Committee on Telephone Systems, Ottawa  
 1906-7. Expert to Government of Manitoba,  
 1907-8. Expert to Government of Saskatchewan.

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# Engineers—And

## WATERPROOFING CONCRETE

Waterproofing a concrete roof has been successfully accomplished by the use of ½-inch coating of mortar in the proportion of 1 to 2, applied before the concrete had set and troweled smooth. A solution of 1 lb. of concentrated lye and 5 lbs. of alum was made up with 2 gallons of water, and used by diluting one part of it with 30 parts of water. A mixture of 2 lbs. of cement in a pint of this diluted solution was applied in two coats to the fresh mortar. A large reinforced concrete pipe was also waterproofed in much the same manner, and has likewise remained tight for several years.—Builders' Guide.

## SKYSCRAPERS

It seems now to be generally conceded that something must be done to limit the height or area of all buildings. We are learning by experience that streets designed for a city four or five stories high cannot be made to serve properly for one or two or three times that height. We find that these high buildings produce certain inconveniences, among them the following:

1. Too great congestion of the streets.
2. The shutting out of sun and light from streets and buildings.
3. Increase in the fire risk, owing to the danger of the spread of flames from one high building to another.
4. Injustice as between adjoining property owners through the pre-emption of light.
5. The inflation of value within certain favored districts at the expense of the surrounding land.
6. The obligation which these inflated values imposes on owners to build high to escape ruin by taxation.
7. The disfigurement of the city by giving to the streets a wild, western, ragged look, incompatible with dignity, order or sobriety of appearance.

On the other hand, that there are certain advantages attached to these high buildings is evident enough from the fact that we have built so many of them, and those advantages ought not to be lost sight of in the reaction which now seems to be setting in against them. They are as follows:

1. When not too close together they afford most agreeable, healthy and desirable quarters.
2. They increase the available floor area, a very important consideration, especially on Manhattan Island.
3. They increase the value of land by permitting greater use to be made of it.
4. They swell the city's tax roll because they do make land more valuable.
5. Some of them are very good looking, and they have come to be regarded as distinctive of our type of architecture.

We are used to them, and a large part of the community do not want to give them up.

Is it not evident, therefore, that a plan for regulating high buildings which will remove their bad features while retaining their good ones should be the best one to adopt?

Of course, the first plan to suggest itself as a simple limitation of height, such as is found in almost all European cities. This expedient is undoubtedly the best from the aesthetic standpoint for places where high buildings do not already exist.—E. Flag.

## NO PAWNSHOPS

Quebec is a city without pawnbrokers, the last person in that business having died about thirty years ago. Since that time, it is said, no person has applied for a license. The high license fee is held responsible to a considerable extent for this unusual state of affairs.—B. C. S. Sunset.

## PERSONALS

Mr. E. W. Sayer, of the Sayer Electric Company, Montreal, is a candidate for alderman of the St. Lawrence Ward.

Prof. L. A. Herdt, of McGill University, has been appointed by the city of Quebec to advise on electrical conditions in that city.

Saskatoon has a friendliness and a degree of order, decency, thrift, courtesy, kindness and deliberation, which one does not expect to see in what is usually regarded as a "pioneer country".