

# The Canadian Engineer

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## The Canadian Engineer

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### HAVE WE THE MEN?

Sometimes we are told that to be practical is not professional. Professional attainments are not limited to any party, race or nationality—fortunately so. It would not be wise to place about a profession artificial walls that tend to cramp, restrict and dwarf the ideas and ideals of the professional man. Liberty is just as necessary for professional growth as for national growth—but liberty is such a relative term.

The three most important engineering works in Canada to-day, unique in their position, national in their character, and the outcome of Canadian thought and faith are the G.T.P. Railway, the building of the Quebec Bridge, and the Ontario Hydro-Electric power scheme.

Canadian credit was required to finance, Canadian money must pay the tax, but apparently Canadian brains do not possess the necessary acumen to design nor Canadian workmen the skill to build these great works.

One of the works required a man of great executive ability, combined, if possible, with engineering talent. The other two required men of outstanding professional attainments in particular lines. With the appointments we have no fault to find. Search was made for good men, and good men were found.

It is the working-out of the details that are irritating. One section of the G.T.P. employees an engineering staff of fifty-six. Of these, forty are foreigners. One hundred and forty Canadians could be found as well trained and as capable and ready for this work. Surely this is nation-building! Constructing Canadian transportation routes with outsiders while Canadian men are idle.

The appointment of a Board of Engineers to deal with the Quebec Bridge problem was a delicate task. That the selection was wise is generally conceded, but does it not seem unfortunate that the only tangible work done so far, the testing of the solidity of the river bed at the site, should be done by men from Chicago, working with imported machinery, when both the machinery and capable and experienced men could be found in Canada?

The situation in connection with the power line is little better. Months have passed since the work was supposed to be let, yet what has been done? The experienced men brought from a distance and given charge of the work, to design and plan, because of their peculiar fitness, find it necessary to trip abroad and do just what inexperienced Canadians would do—investigate the work of others and draw conclusions and prepare plans suitable for our own conditions.

We are not crying Canada for the Canadians, but we do assert this land has the men—at least the equal of men of any other country—they go abroad and make good, but do not get the opportunity to make good at home.

Development cannot be accomplished by isolation, but by close application, association and experience, and more of this would be the better for the men and—the country.

### NIAGARA FALLS PARK COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

The report for 1908 of the Commissioners for the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park has just been issued.