

AN EFFORT TO SECURE UNIFORMITY IN SIZE OF BRICKS.

A conference was recently held in London between representatives of the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Institution of Civil Engineers, and the Institute of Clay-workers to consider the question of standardizing the size of bricks. There was placed before the conference the following standard suggested by a joint committee of the R.I.B.A. and the Institution of Civil Engineers:

1. The length of the brick should be double the width plus the thickness of one vertical joint.
 2. Brickwork should measure four courses of bricks and four joints to a foot.
- Joints should be 1-4 in. thick and an extra 1-16in., making 5-16in. for the bed joints to cover irregularities in the bricks; this gives a standard length of 9 1-4in. centre to centre of joints.

The bricks to be measured in the following manner:—
Eight stretchers laid square end and splay end in contact frog upwards, in a straight line to measure 72 in.
Eight headers laid side by side, frog upwards, in a straight line to measure 35in.

Eight bricks laid, the first brick frog downwards, and then alternately frog to frog and back to back, to measure 21 1-2 in.

This is to apply to all classes of walling bricks, both machine and hand-made, and facing bricks.”
Representatives of a number of brick manufacturing firms gave expression to their views, and referred to the difficulty of producing bricks to a standard size—especially as regards length—owing to shrinkage in the kiln. One manufacturer pointed out that to burn the darkest red

color it was necessary, or usual, to burn these bricks stood on end, and consequently the weight of the bricks above, and the heat of the fire below, made these often-times shrink nearly half an inch in length.

On the other hand the Chairman of the Kent and Essex Brickmakers' Association said the brickmakers were quite capable of making any size or any shaped brick that engineers or architects might require, if architects or engineers would pay the price for it; but the fact was that the engineer required the very best brick he could get, and he wanted to give the very lowest price for it. Another speaker put this fact in a different way by saying that if a rule were made that bricks were to be a certain length, with no allowance for uncertain contraction, they would have to be sorted, and hence become more expensive.

The conference resulted in the appointment of a committee representing all parties concerned, to consider the desirability of making the size of bricks uniform throughout Great Britain.

In this connection the following table of normal brick dimensions in various countries is of interest:—

	Length ins.	Width ins.	Thickness ins.
United States	8	3 3/8	2 1/2
Germany (normal)	9 7/8	4 3/4	2 1/6
“ (north-west)	8 1/2	4 1/8	2 1/4
“ (Bavaria)	11 1/2	5 1/2	2 3/8
Austria	11 1/2	5 1/2	2 3/8
Italy	9	4 1/8	2 to 2 3/4
France	8 3/8	4 1/4	2 3/8
Belgium (Brussels)	8	3 3/4	2 3/8
“ (Liege)	9	4 3/8	2 1/2
“ (Boom)	7 1/8	3 3/8	2
Switzerland	9 7/8	4 3/4	2 3/8
Russia	10 3/8	4 7/8	2 1/6
Holland	8 1/2	4 1/8	2 1/8

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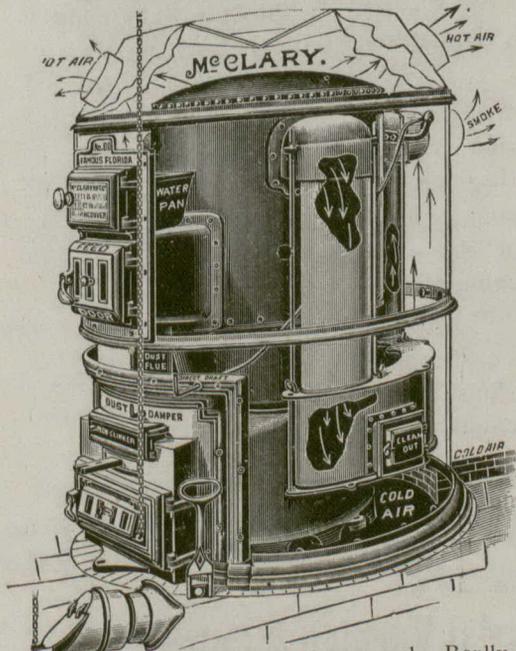
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