

MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS, CONTRACTORS AND MATERIALS**SUSTAINING POWER OF SOILS.**

Before incurring expensive preliminary investigations or needlessly costly foundations, and to avoid insufficient foundations, the sustaining unit power of the soil at the level of the foundation base should be tested. This is usually done by loading a unit area of one or more square feet of iron or wood, sufficient weight to make it sink appreciably, and noting the lapse of time between the gaugings of the sinking. A convenient manner of loading the unit area is by setting a vertical pole on the centre of the plate and keeping it vertical by three or four guy ropes in balancing directions made fast to stakes driven in the ground. A cross-frame surrounds the pole, on which the weights are distributed round the pole, so that the guys will be equally tight. The guys should not be so tight as to add by the induced stress to the force produced by the loading weights, including the weight of the pole and guy ropes, cross-frame, etc.

AN INDISPENSABLE COMPANION.

We have received many expressions of appreciation of the **CONTRACT RECORD** daily calendar desk pad for 1896, of which the following is a sample:—

Clerk's Office,
Dunnville, Ont., Nov. 28, 1895.

Publisher **CANADIAN CONTRACT RECORD**.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to thank you for the daily calendar desk pad for 1896, which you were good enough to send me. I consider this an indispensable desk companion, being so easy to refer to present as well as to future dates, with plenty of room for memoranda on each page during the whole year; and it cannot help being a useful reminder of **THE CONTRACT RECORD**, which for the municipal news it contains makes it very acceptable to municipal clerks.

Wishing you abundant success,
I am respectfully yours,
J. W. HOLMES.

ORIGIN OF THE WORD "BOSS."

Even the dread name of "boss" is an inheritance from the Dutch period. It is derived from baas, meaning foreman or master. A hundred years after English became the official language, men of wealth and character, like "Boss" Walton of the famous Walton house, in Franklin Square, received the appellation from persons who wished to be deferential. And to-day a workingman may use the title in its original sense when addressing his employer or accosting a stranger.

The Water Commissioners of St. Catharines, Ont., in their report for 1894 have briefly described some of the improvements they have made in the grounds surrounding their reservoirs by planting ornamental trees, hedges, etc., thus adding materially to the attractiveness and beauty of the landscape. They say that they have considered it their duty not merely to manage the works with care and economy, and to furnish the inhabitants at all times with an abundance of good water, as well as an efficient pressure for the extinction of fires, but have also thought it incumbent to beautify and adorn the grounds; and they rely upon

the refined taste and higher sentiments of the citizens for support and approval of their efforts to give the reservoirs the best setting which natural scenery and tastefully laid-out and well-kept grounds can afford.

James Ryan has been registered proprietor of the plumbing business of Walter Ryan & Co., Montreal.

A dissolution of the firm of Howard & O'Connell, plumbers, Montreal, is announced.

DEBENTURES PURCHASED

Municipalities issuing debentures, no matter for what purpose, will find a ready purchaser by applying to **G. A. STIMSON, 9 Toronto Street, Toronto.** Any assistance required in computing calculations in connection with sinking fund, etc., will be gladly given. N.B.—Money to loan at lowest rates on first mortgage.

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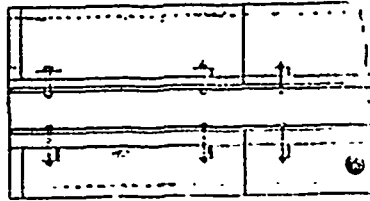
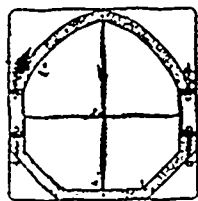
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