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CEMENT WEIGHTS AND TESTS.

A very important topic was introduced by Mr. J. A. Jamieson at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, held in Montreal recently. The Society, he said, had now reached a position of importance in the country, which justified it in taking a stand upon certain matters which more particularly concerned the engineering profession. He would now speak of one of these matters, and later would introduce the other. The first related to the testing of Portland cement. Cement was a most important material, and one with which all engineers were dealing. Notwithstanding this, there were no modern specifications in the rules of the Society respecting the uniformity of test. The American Society had rules touching the subject, and he thought it would be well for the Canadian Society to follow their example. He, therefore, moved that a committee be appointed to investigate the matter, and to formulate uniform rules for testing cement, and to report results to the Council before the 1st of next October.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodwell and carried, and the following were appointed members of the committee, with power to add to their number: Messrs. Rust, for Toronto;

McPherson, for Ottawa; Dodwell, for Halifax; Gutelius, for Montreal; and Denis, for the West, with Mr. Jamieson as convener or chairman.

Mr. Jamieson then stated that the other question referred to by him was that of what should be the weight of a standard barrel of cement. "At the present time," said he, "cement is sold both in barrels and bags, and these packages run in all sorts of weights. Some barrels are 325 pounds, and others 350 pounds, while American cement runs 375 pounds.

In Canada, and also in America, the manufacture of cement in barrels is going out to some extent and shipment is taking place in bags. This variety in package and weight causes much confusion and no doubt quite a little loss, as light barrels will sometimes be delivered in place of heavy. The time has come when we should buy our cement exclusively by weight. If it were put up in 100-pound bags it would suffice. I move that this meeting instruct the incoming Council to memorialize the Government suggesting that cement should be sold in Canada as soon as practicable by weight."

Mr. Francis seconded the motion, adding that the Government had been an offender in this matter itself, and claiming that 100-pound bags would be most convenient. The motion was carried.

CEMENT TESTS

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Provincial Government Analyst

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