

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The daily press notes another failure of a water turbine, with one man killed and nine others having narrow escapes. We have commented several times before in *The Canadian Engineer* on the fact of so many failures of water-wheel casings. It is a matter purely of hydraulic design, and there is little excuse for these repeated failures.

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An advance copy of the "Proposed Rules and Regulations for Inside Work" has just come to hand. These rules and regulations have been framed by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario with the object of insuring that the design, materials, construction, equipment, workmanship and maintenance of electrical work or installations throughout Ontario, as well as of repairs, alterations or extensions thereto, shall be in accordance with the best current commercial practice, and that the interests of the public, workmen and others, shall be duly guarded, both with regard to safety (to life, limb and property), and convenience. These proposed regulations are being sent out to the different individuals and companies who are directly interested or affected by their enforcement, with a request that they express their criticisms and suggestions for changes and forward to the Commission by the 15th of October. As noted above, this is merely the advance copy, and the final publication will be proceeded with after that date. We would suggest that those interested in the regulations should communicate with the Secretary of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission and secure a copy. This week we are unable to make any comments on the regulations, but next week we hope to draw attention to some of the features where noteworthy change has been made from the old Underwriters' rules.

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To the looker-on of building operations it appears that there must be a clever organization with special knowledge at hand, and with trained mechanics working under careful supervision in order to successfully handle the building of even a fair-sized structure. But oftentimes, if one examines, he will find the methods crude and extravagant, and that much of the knowledge employed is the result of tradition and custom, and not of keen, original study. The sight of hod-carriers carrying brick to the upper story of a good-sized building is very common, and yet it is a shrewd guess that a hoisting engine, with a proper elevator and stages arranged so that brick could be delivered on wheelbarrows would pay.

GENERAL NOTES.

Cold weather prevailed throughout Canada during the greater part of the month, with a resultant mean temperature below the normal in most districts. The average was slightly exceeded in southwestern parts of British Columbia, and also locally in Alberta and Saskatchewan, but elsewhere in Canada the mean value was in defect by about three degrees.

Precipitation was excessive throughout Canada except in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and very locally in Ontario where the average amount was not recorded. Exceptionally heavy rainfalls occurred in Quebec and New Brunswick, and also more locally in Ontario. In the Irrigation Belt of British Columbia the rainfall was almost sufficient to supply the crops with moisture. The pronounced feature of the precipitation of August was the large number of days on which it occurred, being in most localities more than fifteen.

The table shows for fifteen stations, included in the report of the Meteorological Office, Toronto, the total precipitation of these stations for August, 1912:

	Depth in inches.	Departure from the average of twenty years.
Calgary, Alta.	2.7	+ 0.18
Edmonton, Alta.	4.4	+ 2.08
Swift Current, Sask.	2.5	+ 0.61
Winnipeg, Man.	1.6	— 0.74
Port Stanley, Ont.	6.6	+ 4.07
Toronto, Ont.	3.98	+ 1.32
Parry Sound, Ont.	2.2	— 0.80
Ottawa, Ont.	5.1	+ 1.90
Kingston, Ont.	5.7	+ 2.96
Montreal, Que.	3.9	— 0.11
Quebec, Que.	9.6	+ 5.66
Chatham, N.B.	6.4	+ 2.40
Halifax, N.S.	3.7	— 0.80
Victoria, B.C.	2.26	+ 1.67
Kamloops, B.C.	2.1	+ 1.07

IRON AND STEEL TARIFF.

Speaking of further extensions of the iron and steel plant of the Lake Superior Corporation, Mr. T. J. Drummond says that the company has decided to postpone definite action pending possible consideration and action by the Dominion Government in regard to the iron and steel tariff.

"The existing tariff in iron and steel," he says, "is so torn up by special dispensations, exemptions and rebates, that the progress of the industry is retarded, and in many cases made absolutely impossible. Under the existing tariff we are encouraged to manufacture in small lines, giving small tonnage, and then discouraged in progression into the manufacture of heavier sections, which give larger tonnage. In other cases industries are practically bonused to purchase their pig iron, merchant steel, etc., abroad, and so in one way and another the industry is hampered, and the tariff is in many cases by these exemptions made absolutely illogical and inconsistent.

"If the iron and steel industry is to go forward this tariff must be overhauled, and such matters as I have referred to must be dealt with in a commonsense manner, and especially in connection with pig iron, merchant mill products and structural steel. At present practically one million tons of iron and steel are annually being brought into the country, and the bulk of this tonnage could and should be made in Canada. We placed our case before the Government during the last session of parliament, and we are hoping that something may be done this session, but pending the outcome of what consideration the Government is giving to our case, we can only mark time, and hope that such action will be taken as will warrant us in going ahead with the extensions we have in view."

A new \$5,000,000 steel plant for the manufacture of steel barrels and commercial packages has just been organized at Montreal. A group of influential Canadians, including Sir William Van Horne, Sir William Mackenzie and Messrs. George F. Johnston, C. W. McLean and J. Wesley Allison, have secured from the Steel Package Company of New York the letters patent to manufacture steel barrels and commercial packages of all descriptions. The new concern, it is said, is capitalized at \$5,000,000, the financing having been done in New York, and will erect a plant in the vicinity of Montreal. The new concern is to be known as "The Canadian Steel Package Company," and it is probable that Sir William Van Horne will be the first president.