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CANADIAN ENGINEERS ON THE G.T.P.

It was well that the Dominion Government appointed a well-qualified judge to determine the charges made from one end of the line to the other that the management of the Grand Trunk Pacific have loaded up the engineering corps of that road with men from the United States while the applications of well-qualified Canadians for positions on the staff have either been ignored or "placed on file." It was well that the Government appointed an impartial jurist to investigate these charges, but it would have been better had it taken a simple precaution that would have made these charges impossible. Before the agreement with the company was ratified by Parliament the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers conveyed to Government a resolution respectfully expressing the hope that Canadian engineers would be employed on this work. It was naturally to be expected that upon a work which was to receive such a valuable franchise and such signal favors from the Canadian Parliament and people every care would be taken to employ Canadian brains and labor; but in case this should not be sufficiently obvious to both parties concerned the society gave the reminder. Considerations of self respect probably restrained it from going further, and we find it taking no further action than to have the investigation watched by a

legal gentleman. The relations of the society with the American Society of Civil Engineers have always been of the most cordial character, and it does not appear that the unfriendly alien labor law passed by Congress as a bad example for this country to follow ever had any general sympathy in that society. At all events, until alien labor legislation was put into force in the United States there was no jealousy towards Canadian engineers who sought employment there. In fact, many members of the Canadian society have profited by United States experience, and still more have attained to high positions on United States roads, and have remained permanently in that country. These facts, however, are in themselves a sufficient answer to the fears expressed by officers of the Grand Trunk Pacific as to whether Canadians of ability and experience could be found to do the work of surveying and locating. Mr. Hays, the general manager, may not share the view of many who contend that an enterprise of such a national character and so heavily subsidized should be a special training field for native Canadians; but few of his critics will credit him with such short-sighted partizanship in favor of his former fellow-citizens as appears to have been displayed by the chief of locating engineers he appointed. Mr. Hays is usually a correct judge of men, and the appointments he has made in the Grand Trunk—notably that of promoting Joseph Hobson, a Canadian, to the chief engineership—have shown a discernment that rarely errs. He knows also that a Canadian engineer built the Hoosac tunnel as well as the St. Clair tunnel, and knows that if Canadians could locate such difficult lines as the Intercolonial and Canadian Pacific they can locate this. Mr. Hays appears to have made one serious mistake in appointing a citizen of another country to the position of chief engineer of the G.T.P. It is true that he first offered the position to Mr. Lumsden, a Canadian, but that gentleman having declined it was given to Mr. Stephens, an American, at \$7,500 a year. There were other Canadians besides Mr. Lumsden who were quite qualified for the place, and had it been given to any Canadian the subordinate appointments, whether given to Canadian, British or American engineers, would never have raised any serious question. But it appears from the evidence before Judge Winchester that Mr. Stephens and his appointees, such as Mr. Kyle in the West and Mr. Knowlton in the North Bay division, made it more or less a practice to allow applications from Canadians to remain unacknowledged, or to inform them that their offer would be put on file for "future consideration" (the future never seems to have had a period); and where appointments were made Canadians received \$150 per month, while men from the United States were paid \$175 for precisely the same work. Mr. Stephens appears also to have paid scant respect to the judge. He was expected to give evidence at Edmonton, but promised to appear at Winnipeg. He failed to appear