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THE STATUS OF THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION.

During the past few months the British engineering journals have devoted columns to this question. Every gathering of engineers has taken time to discuss the shortcomings of the profession. Co-operation, legislation, Government examination and a closed corporation have all been urged as a solution for the real difficulties that face members of the engineering profession.

The function of the engineer covers so wide a field, from power supply to waterproofing of cement, from the purification of water supply to erecting a railroad bridge, from erecting wireless telegraph stations to designing seawalls, the interests of engineering are so diverse that reconciling and marshalling under one organization, directed by a common law and common custom will be an immensely difficult task.

In Canada, to-day, anyone may call himself an engineer without incurring any risk if he fails to possess adequate qualifications. If he has enough commercial sense and talent for organization he may easily secure the commission for large engineering work, knowing well that for small pay he can engage men of high scientific and professional attainments to work out the details. When he does this, little is heard of the venture, but the practice has grown, and now men without either engineering knowledge or the business sense to surround themselves with competent men accept work they are not fitted for. Following this is disaster. Money is wasted and the profession held up to ridicule, and everyone feels competent to criticize the engineer.

The authority of the nurse, the dentist, the doctor, or the lawyer is never questioned. They say "do this," and we do it, never doubting. But because of the failures of those calling themselves engineers the non-technical official does not hesitate to override the opinion of competent engineers.

Some day this may be remedied in part by legislation, but until that day does come the engineering societies of Canada should consider their combined duty to protect the genuine members of the profession and expose the promoter who calls himself an engineer. Money spent in exposing fake schemes and unprofessional conduct would bring good returns.

UNITED STATES OCTOBER IRON OUTPUT.

Remarkable as was the September output of iron in the United States, according to the "Iron Age" the October output will far surpass it.

The steel companies produced 1,766,162 tons in October, or 56,973 tons a day against an average of 55,361 tons in September. The merchant furnaces increased their daily rate of 24,146 tons in September.