

He will probably be located in some small town or village, a stranger to everyone, and, if he has not already done so, he should formulate for his guidance rules of conduct based on common sense, which will win for him the confidence and respect of the community, which are as necessary for his advancement as technical knowledge.

He should be cheerful and affable. He should move slowly in forming acquaintances that he may not make mistakes which it would embarrass him to correct.

He should not pose as a puritan, but should avoid saloons and gambling as he would the plague. He should be early in the field and late in the office when the necessities of work require. He should make it a point to have his work well laid out in advance, and detailed plans prepared early, that the contractor may have no grounds to complain for delay on his part, for it is of the first importance that the contractor should have facilities for changing his men from place to place, or putting on a large force when conditions are favourable.

It may also affect the contractor's profits if plans of structures are not furnished at an early day, that he may arrange for materials when prices and conditions are in his favour.

In preparing detailed plans, utility and durability should be studied. Standard sizes and shapes should be used as far as conditions will permit, as a departure from standards means not only increased cost, but difficulty and often serious delay in obtaining materials.

He should cultivate the habit of observing closely what is being done upon the work, how and with what appliances it is being done, and who is doing it. He should make himself familiar with the roads and short cuts in the neighbourhood of the work, and their varying conditions as affected by the weather and seasons. In short, he should be perfectly at home in everything connected with the work and its surroundings, that he may be eligible for advancement when opportunity offers.

When measuring work for the monthly estimates, he should, as far as time will permit of his doing so, return the actual quantities of work done and materials delivered, as it would be unfair to the contractor to under-estimate the work, and an unkindness to him to over-estimate it, as to do so would be misleading and disappointing when actual quantities were returned, as they would eventually have to be.

By assisting the contractor in the various ways above mentioned it will be less difficult for the young engineer to say no when his duty requires him to do so, and that unpleasant duty will, no doubt, have to be occasionally performed, particularly about estimate time, when large estimates are often asked for by the contractor "to tide over pressing needs, and to be adjusted in the next month's estimate."