

NEWS OF THE ENGINEERING SOCIETIES

Brief items relating to the activities of associations for men in engineering and closely allied practice. THE CANADIAN ENGINEER publishes, on page 90, a directory of such societies and their chief officials.

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

At the monthly meeting in Montreal of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers on April 9th Mr. L. S. Bruner, of the Canada Cement Company, read a paper, entitled "Concrete Road Construction," and Mr. G. Henry, chief engineer of the Highways Department of Quebec, presented one on "Road Improvement in the Province of Quebec."

Mr. Bruner's was a most interesting address, illustrated by lantern slides showing types of roadway construction and illustrating the use of concrete to good advantage. Among others were views of the King Edward Highway, which, it is planned, will be officially opened during the Canadian and International Good Roads Congress in Montreal, May 18th to 23rd.

Mr. Henry's paper was read by Mr. R. A. Ross. It pointed out that in Quebec there were 45,000 miles of roads, including the mud tracks and trails of the colonists, the latter being little more than navigable and received very little traffic. Next to them were the by-roads, made of graded earth, which for a long time to come would need nothing but grading and draining. These were followed by the class of roads, which required artificial surfacing in order to meet traffic requirements, while the final class was the series of trunk roads or provincial highways connecting with big cities.

Mr. Henry stated that with the widespread system of roads in the province and the enormous amount of work to be done, the cost of improvement would mount so high that the present generation could hardly hope to see much improvement. The best that could be hoped would be for the improvement of the most-needed roads during the next few years. The general idea was that such work as was possible should be done on the ordinary roads, while the highways "de luxe" should either wait their turn or pay for their accommodation.

He warmly recommended the efforts of the Provincial Government to extend the work on highway improvements, especially advocating the straightening out of provincial roads so that a railroad crossing the same distance on either side should be at least 3,000 feet. A rather surprising feature of his address was the fact that the average annual period for such road work in this province was only 100 days, the rest being used up by winter and rainy days. The general conclusion was that the ancient system of statute labor and the "share system" should be dropped in favor of the municipally organized road building system.

Mr. H. H. Vaughn was chairman of the meeting.

"OIL SEEPAGES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA."

This was the subject of an address given recently by Mr. F. J. Crossland to the Vancouver Chamber of Mines. Owing to the desire of the British Government to secure an adequate and well-distributed supply of oil for naval use, the subject is one of great interest in the Province. The well-established oil fields of Mexico and California and the indications that are in evidence northward, have acted as a stimulus to oil investigations in British Columbia. Mr. Crossland stated that it was the intention of the Dominion Government to send a corps of experts to British Columbia this season to conduct exhaustive examinations of the carbonaceous deposits.

TORONTO SECTION A.I.E.E.

The fifth regular meeting of the Toronto Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers will be held in the Engineers' Club on Friday evening, April 17th, 1914, at 8.15 p.m. Mr. C. G. Spencer, Mechanical Engineer of the Toronto Power Company, will present a paper, entitled "Standby Steam Stations for Overhead Transmission Systems."

CANADIAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

The officers for the current year of the Canadian Forestry Association are: President, William Power, M.P.; vice-president, F. C. Whitman; secretary, James Lawler, Journal Building, Ottawa.

COMING MEETINGS.

AMERICAN WATERWORKS ASSOCIATION.—Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting to be held in Philadelphia, Pa., May 11-15, 1914. Secretary, J. M. Diven, 47 State Street, Troy, N.Y.

AMERICAN HIGHWAYS ASSOCIATION.—Fourth American Road Congress to be held in Atlanta, Ga., November 9-13, 1914. J. E. Pennybacker, Secretary, Colorado Building, Washington, D.C.

AMERICAN PEAT SOCIETY.—Eighth Annual Meeting will be held in Duluth, Minn., on August 20, 21 and 22, 1914. Secretary-Treasurer, Julius Bordollo, 17 Battery Place, New York, N.Y.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING MATERIALS.—Seventeenth Annual Meeting to be held in Atlantic City, N.J., June 30 to July 4, 1914. Edgar Marburg, Secretary-Treasurer, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

UNION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES.—Annual Convention to be held in Sherbrooke, Que., August 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1914. Hon. Secretary, W. D. Lighthall, Westmount, Que. Assistant-Secretary, G. S. Wilson, 402 Coristine Building, Montreal.

CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL GOOD ROADS CONGRESS.—To be held in Montreal, May 18th to 23rd, 1914. Mr. G. A. McNamee, 909 New Birks Building, Montreal, General Secretary.

CANADIAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.—Annual Convention to be held in Halifax, N.S., September 1st to 4th, 1914. Secretary, James Lawler, Journal Building, Ottawa.

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA.—Seventh Annual Meeting to be held at Quebec, September 21st and 22nd, 1914. Hon. Secretary, Alcide Chausse, 5 Beaver Hall Square, Montreal.

The American Railway Engineering Association's annual convention was held at Chicago, Ill., March 17-20. The committee reports dealt with included those on rules and organization, signals and interlocking, yards and terminals, roadway, wooden bridges and trestles, iron and steel structures, masonry, track, electricity, wood preservation, grading of lumber, water service, buildings, rail, ties, signs, fences and crossings, conservation of natural resources, economics of railway location, uniform general contract forms, records and accounts, and ballast.