

Mr. Murray's article, Sir Maurice Fitz-Maurice's opinion, and the views of the American engineering journal, to all of which you refer, may be absolutely correct. We never expressed any opinion differing from them. We took exception merely to your reflections upon the integrity of the engineering profession, and held no brief for the percentage system.—EDITOR.]

### WELLAND CANAL WORK SHUT DOWN.

Work on the Welland Ship Canal was completely closed down May 2nd, 1917, when the services of all the engineering staff were dispensed with, including those of J. L. Weller, engineer in charge, to whose initiative the building of this great work is due. The contracts for four sections, comprising about eleven miles of canal and all of the seven lift locks and amounting to about \$25,000,000, are about half completed.

The contractors were instructed last January to close down all their works for a period of one year and at the end of that time a further period of closing down would probably be specified. They are not allowed to sell their plant or remove it from the work without special permission from the department.

Chief Engineer Weller has been building and operating canals for 34 years, and having made a special study of this subject, has been able to effect great improvements in the Canadian canal system. He is responsible for very many of the better features of design now in use on canals.

### MANITOBA BRANCH, CAN. SOC. C.E.

A meeting of the Electrical Section of the Manitoba Branch of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers was held in the University Building, Winnipeg, on Wednesday evening, May 9th, when two papers were read. H. McConkey described the Morkrum Duplex Telegraph Printer, a wonderfully intricate device that increases tremendously the speed at which telegraph messages can be received. The machine responds to the incoming message by perforating a continuous paper tape and this tape, later run through a special mechanism somewhat resembling a typewriter, automatically types out the message. Mr. McConkey had the complete device on exhibition and an operator gave demonstrations of its speed and accuracy. F. S. Griffin then read a highly technical paper on an efficiency test on a large water-wheel connected with an electric generator. There was a good attendance. The president, W. G. Chase, was in the chair.

### KITCHENER'S NEW ENGINEER.

The city council of Kitchener, Ontario, last week voted by 8 to 7 in favor of the appointment of Mr. B. E. Michel as city engineer at a salary of \$1,800 to fill the position which was still being occupied by City Engineer Johnston, who has been receiving a salary of \$2,250. No charges of incompetency have been preferred against Mr. Johnston.

A report received by the finance committee from Mr. Willis Chipman, consulting engineer, Toronto, who drew the plans for the new sewer beds, stated that some of the work had suffered from the frost, but apparently put the blame on the contractor. He declared \$1,000 will remedy the walls which are damaged.

### MONTREAL AQUEDUCT REPORT.

Covering forty-three typewritten pages, the report of H. E. Vautelet, A. St. Laurent and J. B. McRae, on the Montreal Aqueduct was presented last week to the Montreal city controllers. The report was referred back to Mr. Vautelet for translation into French before being given out for publication. It is understood, however, that the recommendations are as follows:—

"1st. That the south wall of the aqueduct be at once extended to the rock section and that the west earth section be completed with paving where needed, as this should be done for all enterprises.

"2nd. That no work be done on the rock section or on the east earth section, until the final scheme is decided upon. This also applies to the tailrace.

"3rd. That you immediately ask the several companies furnishing electric power in the city, for firm bids on power. Carefully worked out specifications should be furnished to the power companies setting forth the exact conditions of the service required.

"Prices should be, at the same time, obtained from the contractor for all changes and additions to the present contract.

"As soon as this is done (and it should be done in a couple of weeks) you shall be able to come to a decision with full knowledge of the costs of operation of all schemes.

"As all our figures will be in the hands of your chief engineer, he will be able to place before you the exact cost of each scheme.

"In the meantime, studies should be started and designs made for the proposed electric motor-driven pumping station. This station should be designed to pump the output of the proposed new filter plant, which is to be 100,000,000 Imperial gallons per day. Provision should also be made for future extensions. The equipment of this station will be the same whether you generate your own electric power, or buy it. The plans for the steam standby station should also be put in hand. We have suggested that the new pumping plant be located on the south side of the aqueduct near the filters.

"This should provide a most convenient location for all piping connections. It also facilitates the connection of the steam standby to the heating system that is proposed for the filters.

"No addition or alterations to the present steam pumping plant should be made.

"The plans for the hydro-electric station may be delayed until you have come to a decision regarding the course of power.

"4th. That the lands required be secured at once, so as to prevent further delays to the work.

"5th. That the addition to the filtration works at a cost of \$900,000 be proceeded with."

### DOMINION HEALTH DEPARTMENT SUGGESTED.

Dr. Michael Steele, South Perth, has submitted a resolution to the Dominion Parliament calling for the organization of a separate department of government to have "supervision over all matters relating to the physical welfare of the people of the Dominion." No conflict with the provincial jurisdiction in health matters is contemplated. Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, said the time would come when it would be necessary to co-ordinate all activities in regard to human health, medical research work, national health, and health as it affects international problems, as well as sanitation.