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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NEXT Thursday will be the happiest New Year's Day that Canada has experienced in half a decade. That the war has been conclusively settled is now beyond doubt, and equally certain is it that the troubles of the reconstruction period are being rapidly overcome. The new year will be a very busy one in engineering circles. There will undoubtedly be satisfactory employment for every engineer and plenty of profitable business for all engineering firms. Let's go! Let's produce! Make the wheels hum in 1920! Happy New Year!

MORE FLUSHING, LESS DISEASE

WHEN suddenly enveloped in a whirling cloud of dust from dirty, unflushed pavements, we encounter a positive danger almost as deadly in its possibilities as a gas attack. What we are possibly too accustomed to regard as an unavoidable annoyance has been demonstrated by scientists to be one of the gravest causes of some of the most deadly diseases that affect mankind,—those of the respiratory organs.

Pneumonia alone has an enormous yearly death-rate in this country. The fact that pneumonia germs can live for a considerable time in dust is well known, but apparently little thought has been given to the extreme danger of communicating this disease by means of the dust thus infected. Dr. Rufus Cole, of the Rockefeller Institute, says: "We have been so interested in better water supplies, better sewerage systems, etc., that we have forgotten the importance of dust in spreading infection, especially in spreading the acute respiratory diseases which now cause more deaths than all the other acute communicable diseases combined."

This reminder is a good one for all municipal engineers and street superintendents to ponder, for it is to them that the public must look for adequate protection from the dangers of unlaidd dust. Typhoid has been practically conquered by municipal engineers; they should now give earnest attention to the dust evil, and, by making arrangements for thorough flushing, add one more to their long list of public benefactions.

SALARY SCHEDULE FOR HIGHWAY ENGINEERS

AT the convention of the American Association of State Highway Officials, held this month in Louisville, Ky., a resolution was passed endorsing a list of recommended salaries for engineers in state highway service. This list had been prepared by a committee of the American Association of Engineers.

A. N. Johnson, consulting highway engineer of the Portland Cement Association, who was chairman of the American Association's committee, in addressing the convention stated that the recommended salaries had been established by first selecting three places in the schedule: The highest, the middle position, and the lowest.

The highest position was that of the chief engineer of the state highway department. The middle position was "considered to be one requiring an engineer having at least four or five years' experience since graduation from college,—a man who, it may be expected, will be married. Such a position should, therefore, carry with it a salary to enable a young engineer with a small family to live in comfortable and appropriate surroundings. The lowest position was established as one filled by a recent graduate.

"The salaries established for these three positions are \$8,000 to \$15,000 for the highest; \$3,600 to \$5,000 for the middle position; and \$1,200 to \$1,500 for the lowest.

"If practical results are to follow suggestions regarding salaries of engineers in public service or in any other service," said Mr. Johnson, "the first essential is unity of opinion and purpose amongst engineers themselves. One of the chief drawbacks to higher salaries for engineers in public service has been, in the past, the opposition of these very engineers themselves. This may seem at first paradoxical, but here is an instance: A legislative committee gives a hearing on the subject of salary increases for a certain position and behold, there appears before the committee a number of engineers who state that even lower salaries than those paid at present are paid to engineers, and that engineers may be easily secured for the present salaries. What is a legislator to think?"

CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS IN CANADA

EARLY this year announcement was made of the intention of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to publish a volume of statistics obtained by a census of the central electric power stations in Canada. At the same time it was stated that the Dominion Water Power Branch, working in co-operation with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, would publish a directory of the stations.

Both of these volumes are now ready for distribution. The census statistics, in French and English, fill a volume of about eighty pages, 6½ by 9¼ ins. The directory is a volume of 252 pages of the same size, and includes a large folded map showing the location of the stations.

For copies of the statistics volume, applications should be made to R. H. Coats, Dominion Statistician, Ottawa. For copies of the directory of central stations, applications should be made to J. B. Challies, Director of Water Power, Ottawa.

It was unanimously resolved at a meeting held in Toronto to discuss compulsory vaccination, that the provincial government be petitioned to enact legislation whereby sanitary engineers should be substituted for the present medical officers of health, and to make illegal the appointment to that office of any practitioner of any system of medicine.