declared its intention to carry on further investigations, and called on the sponsors for accelerated tests for suitable samples of such cements as passed the standard test, did not satisfy the accelerated tests and were unsound in actual use. Althoug' the time for the receipt of such samples was put back until October 1, 1900, neither the commission nor the Testing Laboratory received any communications or corresponding cement samples.

"The commission therefore regards its task completed with regard to soundness.'

After a short discussion it was voted to adopt as the opinion of the Society the statement that it is a mistake to consider the accelerated tests for soundness furnish a more accurate indication of the applicability of a cement for practical use than the standard test.

Hardwood spikes or spike plugs are being tried on several railways in France to increase the holding power of ordinary and screw spikes when driven into ties of Baltic pine and other soft woods. Holes about 1.37 in h in diameter are bored in the tie and tapped to receive screws of hardwood 1.37 inch diameter at the bottom and 2 inches at the top, each with an iron band to prevent splitting. The wooden screws are hollow, and the iron spikes or screw spikes are driven into them. The increase in holding power is said to be from 30 to 40 per cent. for new pine ties, and in old ties it is from 33 per cent. for beech to 62 per cent. for oak and 80 per cent. for oine.

### DATE OF PUBLICATION.

Architecte, engineers, municipal authorities and others are reminded that the CONTRACT RECORD is printed every Tuesday afternoon, and that advertisements should reach the office of publication not later than 2 o'clock p.m. on that day to insure insertion in the issue of the current week. Advertisements are frequently received too late for insertion, to avoid which special attention is directed to this announcement.

W. O. Kobertson, brick manufacturer, Woolwich township, is announced to have 133 6 ed | 1 17 6 . ppe

## JOHN GALT,C.E.&M.E.

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ndence invited. . GEO. S. KILBOURN, Secretary-Treasurer. w Lake, Ont. - HEAD OFFICE: Owen Sound, Ont-

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