

The Canadian Engineer

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The Canadian Engineer

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PUBLIC COMPETITION.

A Canadian municipality is calling for competitive designs for a large public work.

It is to be hoped that professional men will set themselves against such methods of securing plans and specifications. For a thousand dollars the municipality will secure three thousand dollars' worth of information, and a large number of men will work up good plans, spend much time and energy, and will not receive one dollar.

A certain amount of competition may be necessary to keep alive and bright any body of men, but when it comes to working for months for nothing—sometimes even to have your plan or design stolen, great injury is sure to follow.

Municipalities should select their consulting engineer or architect and allow him to work out the best possible solution of the problem. Anyone of a dozen of the leading engineering firms could give this municipality a more workable and suitable plan than they will get in a competition.

If this municipality asked six firms to build six sections of sidewalk, promising to pay the firm that did the best work for one-half of all work done, how many firms would do work for them?

The scheme of competitive plans is just as unreasonable as this.

Engineers would do well to set their faces against a continuation of such practices.

THE GRAND RIVER IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

It is to be hoped the organization of the Grand River Improvement Association will stimulate other sections of Canada to take an intelligent interest in such matters as the prevention of stream pollution, excessive runoff, and the beautifying of our river valleys.

The idea of such organizations is a good one, and Mr. W. H. Breithaupt, C.E., is to be congratulated upon having been successful in persuading the people along the Grand River to unite in an endeavor to investigate the causes of pollution and flooding, and assist in remedying undesirable conditions.

There are many streams in our older settled districts that years ago were fairly regular in flow and pure in water supply that are now sources of danger to the community, and the stream valley very unpleasing to the eye.

Such associations as this is will very much improve conditions, and we hope more will be organized. Mr. Breithaupt has done a great public service in educating the people in the neighborhood of the Grand River as to the possibilities of that stream, and his work there will be felt all over Canada.