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JAMES J. SALMOND
President and General Manager

ALBERT B. JENNINGS
Assistant General Manager

HEAD OFFICE: 62 CHURCH STREET, TORONTO, ONT.
Telephone, Main 7404. Cable Address, "Engineer, Toronto."
Western Canada Office: 1208 McArthur Bldg., Winnipeg. G. W. GOODALL, Mgr.

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PHELPS JOHNSON RETIRES

PHELPS JOHNSON has retired from the presidency of the Dominion Bridge Co., Ltd. Mr. Johnson says farewell to business worries at the height and climax of his career,—just when final settlement of the Quebec Bridge contract is being made. Although not born in Canada, he is a naturalized Canadian, has spent the major portion of his life in this country, and stands pre-eminent among those Canadian engineers who have brought the Dominion to the front in the efficiency of its structural engineering. Mr. Johnson has earned many years of enjoyable recreation. His sterling business integrity, his daring ingenuity, his great engineering ability and his organizing capacity have been stamped indelibly upon our national life. To the land of his adoption, to the ethics of his profession, to his business and to his friends, Mr. Johnson has always been as true as the metal with which he has worked.

THE "O. P. C. EXTENSION"

ON account of the problems met in design, the magnitude of the work and the difficulties incidental to construction, more than passing interest attaches to the article in this issue on the extension to the plant of the Ontario Power Company at Niagara Falls. This article has been ably prepared for *The Canadian Engineer* by T. H. Hogg, a former editor of *The Canadian Engineer*, who is now the assistant hydraulic engineer of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario. As a result of the extension, the Ontario Power Company has the greatest installed capacity of any plant in operation to-day, as it can now carry a load of over 210,000 h.p. In the past, very little has appeared in the technical press regarding the plant of the Ontario Power Company, and on this account we are all the more pleased to be able to present

this very thorough description of the extension to that plant, including, as it does, considerable valuable information regarding the plant as previously constructed.

MUNICIPAL FINANCES RECOVERING

NOW that the insatiable monetary demands made by active warfare have materially lessened, even though they have not yet entirely stopped, municipalities in Canada are finding it easier to obtain money. With certain minor exceptions, there should be but little difficulty regarding Canadian municipal finances in the future.

Since the war, practically no Canadian municipal bonds have been sold in England, and since March, 1917, almost none in the United States, the sales in the United States for 1918 having been only \$1,710,000 as compared with \$35,483,114 for 1915, and \$32,335,764 for 1916.

Both the English and American markets for municipal bonds should now revive. Moreover, the buying power and bond-buying habits of the Canadian public have greatly increased. This is evidenced by the fact that Canadian municipal bonds sold in Canada in 1915 totalled \$42,149,312 as compared with \$19,640,778 for 1916, and \$17,955,714 for 1917. The municipal bond sales in Canada last month broke the record for the month of December. They totalled \$2,536,434 as compared with \$1,676,693 for December, 1915 (the highest previous record for December since 1910), and as compared with a December average of \$860,182 for the past seven years.

In 1918 the Canadian municipal bond sales totalled \$43,859,312 as compared with \$110,600,936 for the year before the war (1913). Of this \$110,600,936 there was sold in England no less than \$69,632,250 and in the United States \$20,418,447 and in Canada \$20,550,239. With the Canadian demand more than doubled, and with the rapid recovery of the American market now materializing, Canadian municipalities should not experience any difficulty in financing even if the English market should prove to be slow in its revival.

CANADA'S FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

BEFORE the war the annual running expenditure of the government was about one hundred and twenty-five million dollars. Capital expenditure was nearly sixty million dollars. Apart from the principal of war expenditure, which will continue in diminishing scale for the next year or more, as compared with pre-war figures there will be added to the ordinary running expenses of the government (which are met principally by the revenues from taxation), a sum which will probably exceed one hundred million dollars, this representing yearly interest payable upon Canada's war debt, and pensions to soldiers and their dependants.

How is this one hundred million dollars per annum to be secured? Unless a large indemnity can be collected from the enemy, is it not evident that the Dominion government must go into business upon a big scale and develop the natural resources of the country in such a manner as to bring in revenue from all possible sources? The Cabinet should be slightly reconstituted to include the ablest business men who can be secured, some experienced contractors and a number of able engineers. There are too many lawyers in high places in Ottawa. A business and engineering administration would be the salvation of the country just now. Premier Borden has an opportunity of showing broad-minded statesmanship of the highest character. He is running the biggest business in the country. If he measures up to the demands of the crisis, he will get rid of any and all dead wood with which the country's "Board of Directors" may now be encumbered.

It is likely that \$50,000 will be included in this year's estimates for the city of Toronto for an experimental activated sludge plant, as Toronto will probably install at some future date a sewage treatment plant which Works Commissioner Harris estimates will cost \$4,000,000.