

MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS, CONTRACTORS AND MATERIALS

THE CONTRACTOR.

To be a contractor in these days requires skill in many branches. To have a thorough knowledge of brick, stone, iron, glass and many other materials that now go into house construction, says the Builders' Gazette. The contractor must be a fair engineer, have a knowledge of mechanics, sanitary science, and with all considerable inventive ability to be able to cope with the problems that modern architecture requires. He is called on to take the brick warship at Chicago from its foundation and put it afloat to its new quarters, he has to add a hundred feet in length to the tall factory chimney without stopping the works, or building a new chimney. He may be called upon to raise high in the air some of our largest and heaviest buildings. He has to contrive new adaptations of old contrivances, and also to be abreast of his time in using the very newest. He must know markets, for a failure in knowing how to buy may mean ruin. He must also be able to know whether his materials are good, to oversee plasterer, bricklayer, carpenter, painter, plumber, and other workmen, and know whether what is done, is done right. He is the right hand man of the architect and engineer, for he makes realities of their conceptions, and we may rightly give him the honor for all the physical comforts of good streets, roads, sewers, comfortable residences, and in a large measure for our railroads, canals, lighting and heating plants. He is a distinct product of the end of the nineteenth century, and we cannot get along without him.

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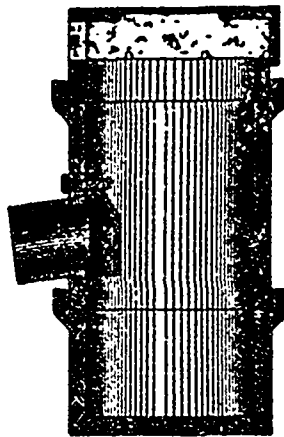
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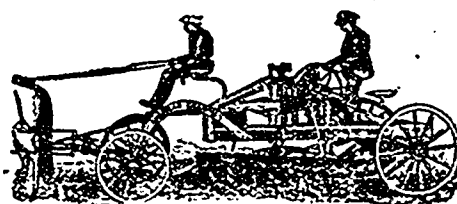
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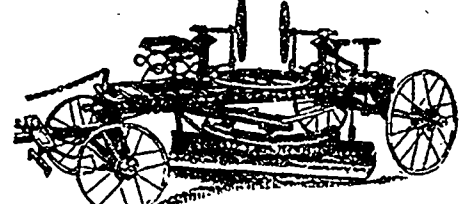
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