The Canadian Engineer

WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1893

VOL. 17. TORONTO, CANADA, OCTOBER 15th, 1909. No. 15

The Canadian Engineer

ESTABLISHED 1893.

Issued Weekly in the interests of the

CIVIL, MECHANICAL, STRUCTURAL, ELECTRICAL, MARINE AND MINING ENGINEER, THE SURVEYOR, THE MANUFACTURER, AND THE CONTRACTOR.

Editor—E. A. JAMES, B.A. Sc.

Business Manager—JAMES J. SALMOND

Present Terms of Subscription, payable in advance:

Canada and Great Britain:		United States and other Countries:	
One Year - -	**$3.00**	**One Year** - -	**$3.50**
Six Months - -	**1.75**	**Six Months** - -	**2.00**
Three Months -	**1.00**	**Three Months** -	**1.25**

Copies Antedating This Issue by Two Months or More, 25 Cents.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES ON APPLICATION.

HEAD OFFICE: 62 Church Street, and Court Street, Toronto
TELEPHONE, Main **7404.**

Montreal Office: B33, Board of Trade Building. T. C. Allum, Editoria Representative, Phone M 1001.

Winnipeg Office: Room 315, Nanton Building. Phone 8142. G. W. Goodall Business and Editorial Representative.

London Office: 225 Outer Temple Strand T. R. Clougher, Business and Editorial Representative, Telephone 527 Central.

Address all communications to the Company and not to individuals.

Everything affecting the editorial department should be directed to the Editor.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Changes of advertisement copy should reach the Head Office by 10 a. m. Monday preceding the date of publication, except the first issue of the month for which changes of copy should be received at least two weeks prior to publication date.

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE MONETARY TIMES PRINTING CO., LIMITED, TORONTO, CANADA.

TORONTO, CANADA, OCTOBER 15, 1909.

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE.

MUST THE YOUNG ENGINEER SERVE UNDER ARTICLES?

The old phrase, "History repeats itself," is so hackneyed that we are almost afraid to use it, but it draws attention so pointedly to a condition now developing in Canada that we may be pardoned for giving the quotation.

The profession of engineering in Great Britain, and for that matter in all European countries that have developed an engineering profession, is made up of men who served under articles in the offices of private individuals and city surveyors, or in the yards and shops of large corporations. Their terms of apprenticeship ran from three to seven years, and, in addition to becoming familiar with the routine and detail of the works, they received a certain amount, and frequently a very substantial amount, of systematic instruction of a technical nature in the scientific principles of the work on which they were engaged.

In some cases these men were college-trained men; in others, they were articled upon leaving the secondary schools. In any case they served long enough to become masters in their own right, and as a result European engineers are recognized as men, methodical, careful, able, and highly skilled in their own particular branch.

The first engineering work in Canada was undertaken by the British military engineer, and then followed a few British and foreign civil engineers anxious for adventure, and willing to neglect for the time being the finer requirements of the older lands. These men were the pioneers who prepared a body of younger men, who perforce had to accept an empirical and accidental training and carry on the work of a young country troubled with growing pains.

It is true that, coupled with all our great engineering works, we find the names of men who would have been a credit to the profession in other countries. Strong men, true artists. But the rank and file were pressed or paid men.

Then came the technical college, the University Department of Applied Science, and the young graduate went forth, large in theory, small in experience. But the country was growing, the supply of engineers was limited, the work was large, and men were in great demand. The college graduate very quickly became a full-fledged engineer. If he was resourceful, his promotion was sure and rapid.

But that has changed. Ten or a dozen Canadian colleges are conducting engineering courses. The supply is a little greater than the demand, and the young man no matter how good his technical training—finds difficulty in securing a position. When he does he expects a high salary, and as a result his employment is only temporary, so that at the end of two or three years he has been under a dozen different men and on a variety of work, and yet he is not master of any one branch.