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CHARLES LOUIS STROBEL.

AN AMERICAN ENGINEER NOTED FOR HIS BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

HARLES LOUIS STROBEL was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 6, 1852, and is a son of Carl and Ida Louise (Merker) Strobel. His father was a native of Wurzburg, Germany, and by profession a chemist connected with the glass-manufacturing industry in Bohemia and in Birmingham, England. He came to America in 1849, but, finding no opening for his talents in his specialty, engaged with his brother in the leather novelty business at Cincinnati. Both father and mother were Germans. Mr. Strobel, at the age of 17 years, went to Germany and, entering the Royal Polytechnic School at



CHARLES LOUIS STROBEL,
Chicago, III.
Photo, by Cox.

Stuttgart in 1869, graduated from the Civil Engineering Department in 1873. He began his professional career upon his return to Cincinnati, where, in the Spring of 1874, he entered the employ of the Cincinnati Southern Railway as Assistant Engineer, and was most of the time in immediate charge of bridge construction.

Among the important structures built under Mr. Strobel's supervision were the Ohio River Bridge at Cincinnati, with its great channel span of 519 feet, and the High Bridge over the Ken-

tucky River, which was the first example of a large cantilever bridge and is one of the highest viaducts ever built. In May, 1878, Mr. Strobel moved to Pittsburg, having accepted the position of Assistant to the President and Engineer of the Keystone Bridge Company. He removed to Chicago in 1886, and opened an engineering office, retaining a connection with the Keystone Bridge Company as Consulting Engineer, besides occupying the position of Consulting Engineer to Carnegie, Phipps & Co., Ltd., and Carnegie Brothers & Co., Ltd., of Pittsburg. Among the important structures built by Mr. Strobel while with the Keystone Bridge Company were the Susquehanna River Bridge for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, at Port Deposit, and the Ohio River Bridge for the Ohio Connecting Railway, below Pittsburg. He prepared and is widely known as the editor of a handbook of useful information to engineers and architects, first published by Carnegie, Phipps & Co., Ltd., in 1881. For this firm Mr. Strobel designed entirely new sections for steel beams to take the place of the irregular and clumsy patterns which the mills had been using in iron, and these sections have since been generally adopted as standard in this country. In the year 1887 Mr. Strobel introduced the rolling of Z bars into this country, and invented the Z bar column now so extensively used for viaducts and in fireproof buildings. He was connected as Engineer with the construction of a number of the earliest examples in Chicago of high, steel-ribbed fireproof buildings. A notable engineering feat performed under the direction of Mr. Strobel was the placing in position by floating of the main spans of the Railroad Bridge over the Ohio River below Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Two spans, one 525 feet long, and one 416 feet long, were moved, while resting on their falseworks, and making a total height of structure above water of 143 feet, from a position alongshore to the masonry piers. Only a day's time was required for the transferring, ordinary coal barges serving for pontoons to carry the

He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and other American engineering associations, and of the Institution of Civil Engineers of Great Britain; also is a member of the Chicago, the University and the Chicago Golf Clubs.

