Preface to the Second Edition

When Modern Underpinning was published in 1917, the authors drew upon their own experiences, largely in the construction of a single subway section. However, the problems solved and the techniques developed were unusual enough to claim the interest of engineers all over the world, and to cause a demand for the little volume far beyond the authors' expectations.

By 1931, when the first edition of Underpinning was published, the authors had tested the principles set forth in the earlier work on hundreds of operations and had perfected many new processes to carry the heavy loadings and provide the speed of installation required in the skyscraper era. Again the authors underestimated the demand from engineers and architects for a work which, by setting forth the accomplishments and the mistakes of the past, pointed the way towards still greater achievements and fewer mistakes in the future.

In the years that have passed since the publication of Underpinning, a second World War followed by an accelerated program of public works, has focused scientific attention upon engineering construction. The interesting theories of soil mechanics presented two decades ago have had thousands of practical applications and are taught in every engineering school in the country. Spencer, White & Prentis, Inc., the authors' company, proud to have had the opportunity of using their wide experience in the war effort, is now busy on peacetime construction, including the underpinning of the historic White House.
Preface to the Second Edition

The authors, in presenting this second edition of Underpinning, hope to satisfy the demand of those unable to obtain a copy of the first edition, and at the same time recapture the interest of their old readers with the chapter on moving heavy structures and the other new material which has been added.

E.A.P.
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