

Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

At Annual Meeting, Jan. 12, 1898.

By T. C. KEEFER, C.M.G.

Having been honoured by re-election to the Presidency, after an interval of ten years, I desire first to thank you most heartily for this renewal of your confidence, and at the same time to congratulate the Society upon its record in this the first ten years of its existence, during which total membership and revenue have increased about fifty per cent. Unlike our predecessors in England and America, we, as the offspring of later times, have encountered no early period of suspended animation, but have advanced steadily, if not rapidly, in numerical strength, and maintained satisfactory financial stability. If we have not progressed proportionately in public usefulness or mutual enlightenment, it may be ascribed (in some measure at least) to the fact that some from whom much could be expected are too closely occupied with daily duties to contribute, as they might otherwise do, to our "Transactions." Some may be too modest, and some too old, or possibly too indolent.

If, however, we have held our own as we have done in these recent years (which embrace several of world-wide depression), our prospects for the future seem brighter than when we began our organization in 1887. Then our great railway systems were practically completed; and although this was the case with our enlarged canal systems only as regards the Welland, the work on the St. Lawrence was in an inert condition. Ample leisure was then afforded Canadian engineers for organization, amusement or foreign travel.

Now, however, there is a decided change in our position at home and abroad. Canada is now a colony of national importance, the largest independent member of a world-wide Empire, and none have contributed more to this advanced position than engineers of every class embraced in our Society, which, while it excludes none, is composed almost entirely of the constructive rather than the destructive order.

In 1887 Canada was not a mining country; now, recent discoveries over a wide extent of our vast Dominion have brought the mining