

NEWS OF THE ENGINEERING SOCIETIES

Brief items relating to the activities of associations for men in engineering and closely allied practice. THE CANADIAN ENGINEER publishes, on page 94, a directory of such societies and their chief officials.

CANADIAN MEMBERS, INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONGRESS.

In connection with the International Electrical Congress to be held September 15th-18th, 1915, at San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A., during the Panama-Pacific Exposition, the following Canadian engineers have been appointed honorary members of the International committee on Congress organization: Dr. L. A. Herdt, (Vice-President I.E.C. and Local Honorary Secretary), McGill University, Montreal; Mr. Ormond Higman, Ottawa, Ont.; Mr. A. B. Lambe, Ottawa, Ont.; Prof. L. W. Gill, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

The proceedings of the International Electrical Congress will be divided into twelve sections, relating to the principal branches of electrical engineering, and it is expected that about 250 papers will be presented covering a wide range of topics. The San Francisco congress of 1915 will be held under the auspices of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and is authorized by the International Electrotechnical Commission and the Turin Electrical Congress of 1911. The International Electrotechnical Commission will meet at San Francisco during the week preceding the electrical congress.

TORONTO BRANCH, CAN. SOC. C.E.

The first of a series of monthly luncheons, inaugurated by the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, was held on February 11th, 1914. Over 75 of the local members were in attendance.

In the absence of Mr. A. F. Stewart, chairman of the branch, Major C. H. Mitchell presided. Among the speakers were Deam Galbraith, Mr. J. M. Clark, K.C., and Prof. C. R. Young.

Mr. Young, on behalf of the library committee of the branch, outlined the plans of that committee for the improvement and extension of the usefulness of the library. It was the ideal of the committee, as it is of the Engineers' Club of Toronto, to bring about a unification of the four separate libraries, now in the Club's rooms, into a large and valuable central technical library, accessible to any one who is a member of at least one of the technical societies contributing to it. Unfortunately, the energies of the Engineers' Club directorate were so much taken up with the problem of securing new quarters at the present time that little could be expected of it in the matter of library improvement for a year or two. However, the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers could do a great deal independently that would in no way interfere with what the Club might do, but would be complementary to it.

The policy of the library committee with respect to immediate extension was, first of all, to put on the shelves bound volumes of indispensable periodicals, especially the proceedings and transactions of the great engineering societies; and, secondly, a selection of the books most useful to the practising engineer. Duplication would, in general, be avoided, but might in a few cases be found desirable. In order to make the best possible choice of books, the opinions of many members of the Branch were being sought.

Several schemes for extending the usefulness of the library were outlined by the speaker. A monthly bulletin was suggested as a means of rousing the interest of the members; the privilege of keeping books out for a limited period appealed to the committee; engineering students in the University of Toronto would find the library of value,

and the pointing out of this would be a service to them as well as an advantage to the Society through the incoming of many Student members; and, finally, the obtaining of exchange privileges with libraries in other cities would be a desirable arrangement for the members.

VANCOUVER BRANCH, CAN. SOC. C.E.

As announced in last week's issue, a paper, dealing with the construction of the section of the Canadian Northern transcontinental line between Yellowhead Pass and Vancouver, was read by Mr. J. V. Nimmo, before the Vancouver branch of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, on February 3rd. The paper was accompanied by 100 lantern views.

Mr. Nimmo, who has had an extended experience on railway work in India as well as on railway location and construction work in many provinces of the Dominion, dwelt upon his subject with detail, and in explaining the various passes across the several mountain chains and intervening valleys, he showed clearly the advantages attained by the Canadian Northern Railway in its route through the Yellowhead and down to the North Thompson via the Albreda Summit. In his remarks he paid tribute to the sagacity and foresight displayed by Sir Sanford Fleming, whose work in the '70's disclosed the desirability of the Yellowhead Pass. He went into details of grades and other technical features of interest to the engineering profession, indicating what the construction department had to contend with and what the completed railways would have to offer in advantages to the operating department.

Regarding construction, he said that the heaviest work was in the Fraser Canyon, where the heaviest mile cost \$326,000, up to the point where it was ready for steel. Other portions of the canyon averaged \$252,000 a mile in cost. Four years from the beginning of surveys would see the work completed.

In dealing with the locating and other engineering work, he referred to many of the difficulties encountered, and in the views shown indicated some of the perilous places where the engineers had to work, crawling along the faces of escarpments and overhanging cliffs. Notwithstanding this, only one engineer had lost his life in the work.

AMERICAN ROAD BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION—ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the American Road Builders' Association for the election of officers was held at New York, Feb. 6th. At this meeting the following officers were elected:—

President—W. A. McLean, Toronto, Ont.
First Vice-President—Geo. W. Tillson, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Second Vice-President—A. W. Dean, Boston, Mass.
Third Vice-President—A. B. Fletcher, Sacramento, Cal.
Secretary—E. L. Powers, New York, N.Y.
Treasurer—W. W. Crosby, Baltimore, Md.

The following directors were appointed for three years:—

Samuel Hill, Seattle, Wash.; Paul D. Sargent, Augusta, Me.; A. H. Blanchard, New York; R. H. Gillespie, New York; Harold Parker, Worcester, Mass.; Fred. E. Ellis, Peabody, Mass.

The reports of the executive committee and the secretary showed a large gain in the active membership of the Association.