

The Electro-Technical Committee's report was received and the committee continued.

The Committee on Steel Bridge Specifications made no definite report, but asked to be continued. P. B. Motley, the chairman, wished to have the committee made up of Montreal men only, to facilitate getting them together for discussions, but this was over-ruled. In this connection attention was called to the commendable inauguration during the past year of sub-committees of the Toronto branch, to report to the main committees of the Society and to assist them. The idea of such branch committees was approved of as being likely to give valuable ideas to the main committees.

G. A. Mountain called attention to the advisability of retaining representation of all interests on this committee, so that ultimately its specifications would be adopted by all, resulting in one standard set of steel bridge specifications for the entire Dominion.

The president, F. C. Gamble, then read his address, a brief abstract of which is given on page 205 of this issue. He prefaced his paper with the following remarks:—

"The past year has been one of stress and anxiety. The British Empire has been engaged for eighteen months in the greatest struggle in the history of the world with a nation which for over forty years has been unsparing in preparation for imposing upon the world by force its system of civilization and "Kultur." Notwithstanding the serious handicap of unpreparedness under which the Empire entered upon this war, the British Army, under the unsurpassed guardianship of the Grand Fleet, and supported by contingents from the Overseas Dominions, has withstood the violent attacks of the enemy in Flanders and France with courage and valor.

"It is not too optimistic to say that the ultimate end shall be the triumph of British principles of liberty and justice. To assist loyally in the task thus imposed upon the Empire about three hundred and sixty-three members of our Society (twelve per cent. of the total membership) have given their services freely, of which number thirteen have so far made the supreme sacrifice. We honor those who have died that the Empire may live, and extend to their relatives an expression of our admiration and deepest sympathy. While the memory of their deeds will remain in our hearts as long as we live, it is but fit and proper to commemorate by a tangible token their noble patriotism and unselfish surrender of their lives.

"In one way the Society has already marked its appreciation of this by remitting the annual dues of members actively engaged at the front. This should meet with the unanimous approval of members.

"In the report for the year 1915 the membership of all grades was 3,058. At the commencement of this year (January, 1916), taking into account deaths, resignations and removal from roll for non-payment of dues, the membership is about the same.

"We have to mourn the loss by death during the past year of sixteen members, including juniors and students. Of these, thirteen were killed in action, to which a previous reference has been made. Of the others, special mention should be made of the late Mr. T. C. Keefer, C.M.G., first and tenth president of the Society, and afterwards honorary member, and of Sir Sandford Fleming, who became a member in 1896, and was made an honorary member in 1908. These gentlemen conferred a marked distinction upon the Society,

having acquired by probity, eminent ability and usefulness, world-wide reputations. Their careers must be an inspiration to the younger generation.

"There are many Civil Engineers living in the Dominion of marked ability who still hold aloof from us. These can only be induced to join by raising the Society to its proper plane of usefulness and increasing its sphere of influence. Solicitation to join us must be avoided as an undignified and weak expedient. It is quality, not quantity, that is desirable. A most essential factor in bringing about the increase in our membership, attracting to us the most accomplished Civil Engineers, is the firm and courageous carrying out of "The Code of Ethics" adopted by the Society.

"The profession of Civil Engineering, owing to its somewhat uncertain position, having no legal standing, differs from other professions which enjoy the law's protection, and, therefore, there is the more necessity for members to practise the virtue of loyalty to each other and to the profession. If each member realizes his responsibility in this respect public esteem and confidence will increase.

"The Council during the past year has been active in bringing to the attention of governing bodies—Federal, Provincial and Municipal—matters of importance and intense interest to the profession of Civil Engineers practising within the bounds of the Empire. Although no direct beneficial results have been achieved so far, we have no reason to be discouraged. In the coming year, if the past representations are firmly and fearlessly persisted in, some measure of success will without doubt attend our efforts. We are not demanding anything unreasonable or beyond our rights as citizens. We should resent firmly any adverse inference to be drawn from the continued indifferent treatment meted out to the profession by public bodies in Canada. The amelioration of the disabilities under which we labor at present is one of our just demands.

"The Society, through the Council, might well direct its energies towards securing the adoption by governments, for Civil Engineers in the public service, of a standard of qualifications not short of that required by the Society for Associate Members. The Institution of Civil Engineers took this question up with the Imperial Government, meeting with a sympathetic response, and this Society should not hesitate to move in the same direction. It is unfortunately a fact that many positions requiring proper engineering qualifications have been filled by men who have never had either engineering education or experience.

"It would be well also to follow the example of the Institution in another direction. A Civil Engineers Appointment Board, while in no sense to be part of or associated officially with the Society, might be established with the full sympathy of the Council. The Board established in London on these lines has proved useful to engineering employees and younger members of the profession.

"The speaker is of the opinion that this Society, through the Council, should make strong recommendations to the Government of Canada with regard to such of our members who are eminently fitted by age, attainments and experience for commissions in the Corps of Canadian Engineers. There are many whose professional knowledge is more or less wasted in infantry battalions as officers and privates at the present time. In England the Imperial Government has consulted with the Institution of Civil Engineers with regard to members