

to deplore the frequent failure of our meetings as formerly from the want of a quorum, still the Council regret to state that, the measure has not been followed by the good effects which were anticipated in the increased number of papers read before the Society—they have but to note two papers as having been read at the meetings, both of them by gentlemen who have recently joined the Society. One of them “on Steam Navigation between Quebec and Galway,” by Captain McDougall—this is a subject of great local interest, and which the nautical experience of Captain McDougall has enabled him to discuss in an elaborate and scientific manner. The other paper is “On Naval Architecture” by Mr. E. W. Sewell, the subject is one of paramount importance to a country situated like Canada, and it is with great satisfaction that the council witness the younger members of the Society turning their attention to subjects of practical importance to the well being of the country, and at the same time willing to lay the results of their studies before the society, they trust that the author of the paper in question may be induced to continue his labor in so important a field.

In 1846 the hour of meeting was changed from 7 o'clock P.M., to half-past 3 o'clock P.M., but this alteration does not appear to have been productive of any good effect, and the council throw out the suggestion, whether it would not be advisable to return to the former hour of meeting. A motion to that effect is now before the Society. At the same time it must be borne in mind that the alteration will entail some additional expense in the lighting and warming of the apartment in which the meetings are held.

No further steps have been taken during the past year to complete the last part of the 4th volume of the Society's transactions. The unfortunate death of the lamented author of two of the papers intended for that part has caused the printing of it to be stopt, and from the nature of the manuscripts left by that gentleman as well as the want of the notes with which it was intended to elucidate these papers previous to their being got ready for the press renders it doubtful if either of them can be put in a fit state for insertion in the transactions of the Society. The Council deeply regret this