

Let me ask you, what position would the Government of Canada be in to-day in carrying out the nation's work without the services of the men in the engineering profession? The majority of the departments of the government would be unable to operate without our help. Do the political members of the Government realize that this true? It is certain that they do not. Why? Because we of the engineering profession have in the past taken no corporate action to insure that they should. Instead we have to some extent acted like dumb driven creatures, accepting the crumbs that have fallen by the wayside, content to sell superior qualities of mind and training for a mess of pottage; for despite your capacity, such in general is your reward in comparison with your true worth. As individuals it may not be possible to force the recognition needed, but as a body we are a mighty power capable of securing any reward within reason upon which we set our minds and hearts. It is not only in the government service that engineers receive inadequate reward, but throughout the entire profession, and particularly those employed at railway work.

There is one active full member of our Society who is a resident engineer on one of the transcontinental railways, and his salary is \$100 a month. He has a wife and family. Whose fault is it that such is true? Yours and mine. How much longer is the engineering profession going to continue to be underpaid? Just as long as we permit it, and no longer. We have it in our hands to bring about a different state of affairs, but action is required, not words. We have talked in the past a great deal about inadequate rewards, and we may continue to talk, but nothing will be accomplished until we make a determined effort to secure a higher standard of reward, and we shall find the accomplishment so easy that the wonder will be why we had not thought of doing so sooner. We are to-day exactly in the position of the man staying out all night on his own doorstep because he thought he could not get in, only to find out in the morning that he had the key in his pocket.

Education Necessary.

The government and railway officials and the general public have only a vague conception of what they owe to the engineering profession for their material welfare, and they will continue in ignorance until we have educated them. In the meantime it is we who are culpable, not they.

The newspapers in this country are the great moulders of public opinion, and it is to them we must look, to some extent at least, for co-operation and assistance. For once we have convinced the editors that in doing this they are assisting in the public weal, the natural patriotism that characterizes the editorial body would prompt them to act and give their hearty support.

The Future of the Profession.

To those of you who have become discouraged over the outlook of the engineering profession, let me carry a note of optimism, for the star of the engineering profession has risen above the horizon, it is now started on its upward path of glory and eminence, and just as surely as the past century was an era of material development unprecedented in history, credit for which is largely due to the engineering profession,