

Canadian Society of Civil Engineers

ANNUAL MEETING, 1912.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS,

In concluding my term of office I again wish to thank the members for the honour which they conferred upon me a year ago, when they elected me President, and to express the great pleasure it affords me to congratulate the officers and members upon the continued growth and prosperity of the Society. The number of members of all classes, published in the Official List, in the autumn of 1887, immediately after the formation of the Society, was 365. The membership at the present time is 2,900.

The great advance in the prosperity of the country has resulted in an increased demand for engineers, which demand has necessarily been of financial benefit to the members of that profession.

The tremendous growth in the Dominion, more especially in the West, within the past few years, has rendered necessary the construction of two additional trans-continental railways; the increase in the production of wheat and other products in the Western Provinces has also resulted in a strong demand to the Government to increase the size of the Welland and St. Lawrence Canals. At the same time a large section of the country has so strongly impressed upon the Government the necessity of constructing the Georgian Bay Canal, that surveys, plans, and estimates of the cost of the work have been prepared.

It is to be hoped that the Government will also recognize the importance of making a thorough survey of the St. Lawrence route, with a view to an enlarged waterway.

In addition, the increased use of electricity, arising from the demand for cheap power, and the utilizing of the same by our municipalities, has necessarily involved the development of our great natural water resources, and this great development throughout the country has consequently increased the duties and responsibilities of our profession.

As my entire professional career has been devoted to municipal engineering, I propose to confine my remarks to this subject.

Municipal engineering is now recognized as a distinct branch of the profession, and includes a great variety of subjects, in which the engineer, embarking in this field, is supposed to be well versed. It is also necessary for him to possess considerable tact in dealing with the various members of his council, and with the public.

A municipal engineer, from the very nature of his duties, must be somewhat of a sanitarian. At present considerable attention is being paid to the health of the people, with the satisfactory result of a decreasing death rate. People moving into cities naturally ask,