

of success. There is always room at the top ; to get there, however, requires special qualifications as well as opportunities. The man who takes an interest in his work for its own sake and not simply for the money which he may make from it, will not be discouraged by hard times, and will in all probability work his way through life more cheerfully than the man who values his occupation simply by the dollars and cents he may make out of it. A young man ought not to select his profession simply because at present business in it is good, nor ought he to reject a profession for the opposite reason. He ought to remember that his choice is not only for the immediate future, but for life, and that during his life ups and downs may be many and not far between."

Mr. G. J. H., manager of an Electric Light and Power Co., writes : "Complying with your request of the 28th November, will say that your enquiry covers quite a lengthy opinion.

"The comparison between a young man graduating as an electrical engineer with a man entering a commercial life, can be made as follows: The man entering a college course to qualify for an electrical engineer has before him, I think, a four years course. He enters at the age of 18, and say he gets plucked two years out of his course, which would bring him to the age of 24 when he qualified, he then really has to make a start in life, or in other words hang out his shingle that he is ready for business, unless he happens to be fortunate enough to secure a position with some reliable firm. If not, he may plod along for a couple of years, very often receiving smaller wages than the ordinary mechanic who has served his time at the bench. In this connection there comes to mind the cases of two personal friends of mine; the first graduated as an electrical engineer from McGill about a year and a half ago; he went to one of the largest cities in the States, and at the present time is drawing the heavy salary of \$1.50 a day. The other, now out of college some time, secured the appointment of Construction Superintendent on an electric road, and after giving the company the benefit of his college education as an electrical engineer in overcoming technical difficulties and systematizing the whole road, was politely dismissed, to be replaced by a man that could never know as much as this engineer had forgotten, but it was a question of a few dollars a year in salary. As a rule you will find that college graduates expect to start their professional career at very large salaries. This is one of the greatest mistakes these graduates could make. When it comes to closing an engagement they prefer to hold off for several months, than close at a fair salary. As a consequence you will find college graduates filling commercial positions, for which purpose their college education is of very little use, to say nothing of the four to six years of their life that has been to all commercial purposes lost. I do not refer particularly to electrical graduates, as I could record several similar instances as applied to civil engineers. As you are well aware college education can never do a young man any harm, provided he can afford to take a course and spend the required time.

"As a rule a young man starting a commercial life would be about 15 years old, and would have from 15 to 24 to make a mark for himself, the ability to do which must naturally depend largely on himself. Provided he starts with a reliable firm, displays any ability,

or is at all industrious, he is almost certain to secure advancement, and in time, no doubt, will be given a position of trust, and by the time his friend had graduated at 24, the commercial man would have better prospects than the graduate.

"This is the age of development in electricity, and I think if I had a boy of 15 or 17 I would prepare him to take a course to qualify as an electrical engineer, but as we all know there are so many different opinions on the bringing up of boys, that it is a matter that would take hours of discussion."

Mr. E. Carl Breithaupt, Consulting Electrical Engineer, Berlin, Ont., writes : "Replying to your enquiry of the 28th ult., as to the relative chances of a young man who graduates as an electrical engineer as compared with one who enters any other profession or commercial life, it seems to me that such a comparison is not altogether a proper one to make; a man must have a very particular fitness to make a success in any profession, and especially do I think this is the case in the three Engineering professions, the Civil, Mechanical and Electrical. If a boy shows aptitude and fondness for engineering work, is willing to work very diligently, and willing to don a suit of overalls and perform heavy manual labor at any time he may be called upon, either day or night, I think his chances as an electrical engineer are as good as those of any other calling in life. There is one thing, however, that must be remembered, viz., that very few engineers in any one of the three branches named have become very wealthy in the practice of their profession. Engineering work must be considered more as a labor of love than one for financial gain."

Messrs. Ahearn & Soper, Ottawa, write : "Replying to you in favor of the 28th ultimo, asking what are the chances of the young man who graduates as an electrical engineer in comparison with the young man who enters any of the other professions or commercial life, we think his chances are now about equal. A few years ago his opportunity for obtaining employment might have been better, but electrical engineering to-day, like other professions, seems to have been overdone."

Mr. George White Fraser, Consulting Electrical Engineer, writes : "In answer to your enquiry of date 30th, now as to the prospects of young men entering the electrical engineering profession in Canada, I would say: At the present moment there is practically no electrical engineering in Canada. When persons are contemplating an enterprise involving the use of electricity for lighting, power or railway purposes, the last man they think of consulting is an electrical specialist. This is due apparently to the fact that, first, the general public seem to think that they know enough about it to do without advice; second, the manufacturing companies naturally do all they can to discourage the idea of consulting competent engineers in independent practice, and offer to do all engineering themselves free of charge. The general public accept this seemingly generous offer, shutting their eyes to the rather obvious consideration that this engineering has got to be paid for somehow, whether done by an independent person, or one employed by a manufacturing company, and that the engineering of the latter is necessarily biased in favor of the "system" exploited by his company; third, there have been no competent electrical engineers doing business until quite recently—the only persons in that