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 President and General Manager
JAMES J. SALMOND
 Assistant General Manager
ALBERT E. JENNINGS
HEAD OFFICE: 62 CHURCH STREET, TORONTO, ONT.
Telephone, Main 7404. Cable Address, "Engineer, Toronto."
 Western Canada Office: 1206 McArthur Bldg., Winnipeg. G. W. Goodall, Mgr.

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMERCIAL EMPLOYMENT FOR ENGINEERS

MANY a young engineering graduate has felt that the acceptance of a position involving other than purely technical work amounted to an admission of defeat, an acknowledgment that he had made a grievous error in spending years acquiring a training that would be entirely worthless for administrative or commercial pursuits.

No greater mistake in attitude could possibly be made. Fortunately, as time passes, fewer and fewer technically-trained men hold the view that in forsaking the technical they are casting loose from their moorings to voyage an unknown and perilous sea. Increasing numbers are frankly entering upon employment that has a large commercial, and but small technical, content. The percentage of graduates of engineering colleges occupying administrative and commercial positions is rapidly increasing. It is an indication of the changing attitude of the technical graduate to business, and no less of the changing attitude of business to the technical graduate.

There is every reason that the technically-educated young man should consider executive and managerial work within his scope as much as the design of a turbine runner or the spacing of the rivets in a girder flange. He is trained to precision, to the getting of things done when and as scheduled without friction or fuss. That is the great essential in management, and the training that fits a man to successfully carry out engineering enterprises fits him quite as well to direct undertakings of a non-technical character. Often, besides, there are many technical aspects to a business, as in manufacturing, where machinery and processes play a fundamental part. In such a business, a broadly-trained and adaptable engineer finds himself very soon at home.

The direction of many non-revenue producing organizations is also peculiarly within the sphere of the engineer.

An instance of this is the management of civic affairs into which the construction and operation of engineering works largely enters. Of the one hundred and twenty-five city managers in the United States, the greater number by far are engineers. It is fitting that this should be so. The engineer is by training and outlook especially qualified to undertake such work.

The engineering colleges and faculties of applied science are aware of the broadening prospects for the technical graduate and are fashioning courses accordingly. Nearly every institution of the kind now carries in its curriculum several subjects of instruction primarily intended to fit the young engineer to grapple effectively with administrative and commercial problems. Executive and managerial employment is now considered as quite as legitimate for the engineer as the location of a transcontinental railway or raising the efficiency of the internal-combustion engine.

RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR WATER WORKS ENGINEERS AND OFFICIALS

NOT for thirteen years have the water works engineers and officials of Canada had such an opportunity for conference and discussion as that which offers in Montreal next week when the American Water Works Association gathers for its fortieth convention. From the final program, which appears on another page of this issue, it is evident that no effort has been spared to make the meeting one of instruction and pleasantness for all. Attention will be given not only to the broad aspects of water works planning, but to many technical details and features of operation on which enlightenment is being constantly sought by those who have to grapple with the problems of water supply. The opportunity to hear matters of this kind discussed by many of the leading water works experts of the continent is one that should not be missed. The exhibits and the visits to plants in operation promise to supplement discussion and conference effectively, so that there is no side of water problems overlooked. Next week, June 21st to 25th, should be set aside for a trip to Montreal by all those who have to do with water works, even at the cost of some temporary inconvenience. It will be ultimately profitable to do so.

TWO MEN WHOM ENGINEERS HONOR

DOWN in Terre Haute, Ind., a water-works employee named Shepherd entered a gas-charged vault to make a reading. In five minutes he was lying unconscious with his face against the side of the vault. Frank Johnson, the foreman, fully aware of the danger, leaped into the vault and, with the aid of three men who had come up, succeeded in getting Shepherd through the narrow man-hole to fresh air and life.

But now, Johnson, in turn had been overcome and lay senseless at the bottom of the vault. A few minutes there meant certain death for him. Then, Daniel Boyer, a switchman, sixty years of age, clambered into the vault, fastened a chain about Johnson's chest and climbed out. The chain became unhooked when tension was put upon it. Again Boyer descended into the vault and this time fastened a rope securely under Johnson's arms, all but losing consciousness in the act. Johnson was hurried to a hospital in an unconscious condition and ultimately recovered.

These are men such as engineering relies upon, and not in vain, for the actual physical carrying out of great and hazardous undertakings.

Engineers in Ontario should set aside September 16th, 17th and 18th and let no circumstance encroach upon these dates. The Ontario Professional meeting of the Engineering Institute of Canada is to be held at "The Clifton," Niagara Falls, Ont., on these days.