

ENGINEER'S CLUB, TORONTO

A Few Suggestions

THE ENGINEERS' CLUB—WHAT DOES IT STAND FOR?

It was with many misgivings that three weeks ago we sent a circular letter requesting suggestions as to what might be done to increase the usefulness of the Engineers' Club, Toronto. We were fearful lest the officers would resent such interference, and we had some doubt as to whether enough members would respond to make the replies interesting. Happily, our fears were groundless; the officers of the Club approved of the campaign, the members responded promptly, and we are sorry that we cannot publish all replies.

As an association of expert designers and constructors, the Engineers' Club is a unique organization, including among its membership men in every branch of engineering and men of every grade in those separate branches into which engineering naturally divides itself. There is the clerk, the inspector, the draftsman, the designer, the erector and the consulting engineer.

But the membership is not confined to engineers alone, for it includes men engaged in almost every occupation with which engineering is associated—the salesman, the contractor, the architect, and even the promoter. An organization so cosmopolitan in membership is in a position to deal with the duties of an engineer to his client, the client's obligation to the engineer, the mutual relation between chief and assistant, the relation of designer and builder in a spirit that will increase the devotion of the profession to the cause of engineering, and impress upon engineers the necessity of professional spirit and the inspiration that comes from high ethical ideals.

No organization can come to power quickly, and if the Engineers' Club is to become established and remain a strong professional organization, if they would get away from the gild, the glamour, the veneer of a self-admiration society, they must be prepared to consider engineering ethics, the relation of the engineer as man to man, the relation of the engineer to the profession and the position in which the profession should stand to the engineer.

Facts and figures may be necessary, but outlook and inspiration are more necessary, and will only come with a thorough understanding and an appreciation of "the other man's point of view."

What is Worth Reading is Worth Preserving.

Sir,—The Executive should require of every person reading a paper before the club that he leave a copy of his paper with the librarian. If the addresses are not published in the form of proceedings these papers could be bound for future reference.

Yours, Literary.

For You, Mr. President.

Sir,—Some interest would be added to the meeting if the chairman in introducing the speaker would tell something of the speaker's history and in the discussion that follows never allow a member or visitor to take part until his name has been given.

Yours, Inquisitive.

Work for the Profession, not the Individual.

Sir,—As I understand the matter, you request engineers to state in one hundred words what they consider will improve the Engineers' Club. Would say, if engineers in their different lines would disclose their inmost thoughts as to what has contributed to their success in their own particular line, disclose what they know absolutely to be the snags likely to be encountered and how to meet them all and do their best to put a new beginner opposite the same hub of progress as he has succeeded in attaining himself, Canadian engineering would secure a high place in the world's stan-

dard. To do this an engineer must be prepared to disclose any secret discoveries of a short or extended practice that may be of use to his brother engineers, and not to care so much if he is successful in his individual practice, so long as Canadian engineering practice is successful and in the lead in the world's progress.

Yours, John S. Fielding.
Toronto, Sept. 28th, 1908.

Publish Your Proceedings.

Sir,—So far as I can see, the main defect at present is that a paper read is practically lost to all who do not attend the meeting at which it is read, and I believe it would be in the interests of the Club to select the best papers for publication. Whether these should be published previous to their reading at the meeting or in pamphlet form at the end of the year would have to be considered by the Club.

Yours very truly,
Robert W. Angus.

A Permanent Secretary and ??

Sir,—I am sure the popularity of the Engineers' Club would be increased if they appointed a man who would always be on hand to receive messages and deliver them.

The quarters at present are about as cheerful as a morgue, a cold winter is sure to come, and friends of engineers would like something hot to drink. Could arrangements be made whereby a glass of hot water and a pinch of soda could be served to guests?

Yours sincerely,
Temperance.

Make it a Sewing Circle?

Sir,—If the Club would prohibit smoking in the lecture-room during the time of meeting I am sure more members would attend. There are many who do not smoke who find it impossible to sit through a two hours' "smoker."

Yours, Smoker.
Oct. 1st, 1908.

Turn Out.

Sir,—If the members of the Engineers' Club had as much ambition as our esteemed editorial friend, and would give up one night a week to attend the meetings and use their brains (and we have as brainy men as any club of its kind in the world) to discuss the papers that are read before the Club, and advise and help the Executive, the daily papers would then take notice, and then members would not only derive individual benefit, but the Club in general also.

The discussion of municipal and Government affairs in our line are always handicapped by slim attendance. If the members would only realize that the more popular and better known this Club becomes the better chance the members would have to obtain lucrative positions, and those in business for themselves would obtain considerable free advertisement, and thereby increase their business.

Yours very faithfully,
W. Van R. Reynolds, M.E.

Increase the Membership.

Sir,—In answer to your valued favor of September 21st, please find statement herewith as to suggestions for increasing the popularity, usefulness and professional standing of the Engineers' Club of Toronto:—

1. Popularity.—Mail each member application forms for membership, with letter asking them to make an effort to get additional members.

2. Usefulness.—Publish with least expense possible the minutes of each meeting, so that members not able to attend may derive full benefit from their membership.

Respectfully yours,
R. N. Grace.

141 Farnham Ave., Toronto.