

which would be satisfactory to all for presentation the following day.

As the hour was late, the reports of branches were received but not read nor discussed. Abstracts from these reports appear on page 204 of this issue of *The Canadian Engineer*.

The report of the Portland cement specifications committee was received, and the specifications they recommended were adopted as the official specifications of the Society, and were ordered to be printed and distributed to members. The report of this committee appeared on page 158 of the January 20th issue of *The Canadian Engineer*.

The meeting then adjourned till 3 p.m. of the following day, Wednesday, January 26th, as Wednesday morning was to be devoted to an inspection trip.

Tuesday evening a smoker was enjoyed at the Society's building, 176 Mansfield Street, where all the business sessions also were held. Several professional entertainers amused the members, and a very pleasant evening was passed. The following morning special cars conveyed the members to the plant of the Canadian Vickers, Limited, where all departments were inspected with great interest.

At the Wednesday afternoon business session E. W. Oliver introduced the joint motion previously mentioned, calling upon council to appoint a committee to decide upon a policy for increasing the prestige of the Society, and for studying the organization and by-laws, and to advise concerning any necessary changes in same; the committee to report to council by September 1st, 1916, and their report to be printed and distributed to all members within thirty days. This was carried with an amendment to the effect that the members of the committee should not be appointed by council, but should be directly elected by the membership, each district electing its own representative. One member is to be elected from each district excepting No. 1, which is to have two members. The branches are to nominate the members, and a ballot is then to be sent out to the members in each district for the election of one of those so nominated.

A letter from J. G. Legrand, of Winnipeg, was read, urging all to do their duty to the Flag at this time.

In a discussion of the above motion, Walter J. Francis thought that insinuations were made that interest in the Society is decreasing. He said that he remembered the time when it had been difficult to get a chairman at the meetings in Montreal. Now there were five or six councillors at every meeting, all willing to preside. He remembered times when only 15 or 20 McGill students and a handful of "old war horses" were the only ones who attended the meetings. Now the assembly room was crowded at meetings, and at times every possible thing that could be sat upon was utilized. Formerly it was often impossible to obtain a quorum at council meetings. During the past year the average attendance at council meetings was much more than a quorum, and some councillors had missed only a few meetings during the whole year. Phelps Johnson had missed scarcely one for years. Did that show decreasing interest in Society affairs?

Mr. Francis had just warmed up to his subject and was "going strong" when members interrupted him and assured him that he had misunderstood certain remarks, and that nobody intimated any lack of interest on the part of the council or the members; so Mr. Francis accepted that statement and did not finish his remarks.

The report of the Committee on Conservation was read by James White. This report was summarized on page 158 of the January 20th issue of *The Canadian Engineer*. Mr. White stated that the figure of \$45,000,000 for fire losses per annum in Canada was a clerical error made in his office, and that it should have been \$35,000,000, consisting of \$10,000,000 forest fires and \$25,000,000 other fires.

Conservation means national efficiency, said Mr. White, and perhaps the Commission of Conservation should have been called the Commission of National Efficiency. Mr. White stated that there were 197 delegates from all parts of Canada at the Civic League meeting at Ottawa on January 20th. He stated that within the next month a report on the water-powers of British Columbia would be printed by the Conservation Commission, and he added the following paragraphs to the committee report as originally presented:—

"Substantial progress has been made by the various organizations of the Dominion and Provincial Governments in investigating the water resources of the Dominion. The only province that is not now provided with some form of water resources investigation is New Brunswick, but negotiations, now under way, will probably lead to some satisfactory arrangement in the near future. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia have permanent systematic hydrographic organizations under the direction of the Minister of the Interior. Ontario is gradually being covered by the hydraulic division of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission. Quebec is being looked after by the Quebec Streams Commission and the chief engineer of Hydraulic Forces. In Nova Scotia there is a co-operative agreement between the Dominion Water Power Branch of the Department of the Interior and the Nova Scotia Water Power Commission.

The field investigations of these organizations are being published in a very satisfactory form, although there has been some delay in publishing the data promptly, following the completion of the calendar or water year, as the case may be. The chief engineers of the above organizations have had several informal conferences with a view to co-ordinating, systematizing and standardizing their work, and also to facilitate the publication of the data in a uniform way and promptly. The net result of these informal discussions will be that, in the near future, Canada will be completely covered by efficient and effective organizations charged with the responsibility for investigating, in the most complete and comprehensive manner consistent with the dictates of economy, the water resources of the Dominion."

At this juncture Prof. Haultain took objection to Mr. White's report and strongly opposed its adoption by the Society. Prof. Haultain contended that it is still very doubtful whether phosphates have been found in commercial quantities in Rocky Mountains Park; he wanted further information regarding the appointment of a chief inspector of mines, and made certain charges in connection with same; he wished to know what part the Society was asked to take in the affairs of the Civic Improvement League, and why their work should be endorsed; he objected to references to individuals as "the greatest experts in the world," etc.

Mr. White replied in very caustic manner, defending all the statements made in his report. Nevertheless, the meeting decided to receive the report but not to "adopt" it, and this was subsequently made the uniform practice in regard to all committee reports.