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PROPER PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

IT is not possible to state with mathematical exactness the things that a professional engineer may do and the things that he may not do. Formulated ethical principles are a function of time and place, and cannot comprehend all possible future situations. Whatever is found by experience to be best for the community is characterized as ethical, proper or fitting, and whatever is bad becomes unethical and improper. And so, set rules of conduct, professional or private, must therefore be subject to constant revision upward with the endless march of civilization.

Although a final and all-inclusive code of ethics cannot be laid down, much good has resulted from the adoption of working rules of professional conduct by the great engineering bodies. There are many such codes. Years ago the Engineering Institute of Canada (then the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers), adopted a code. The American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Consulting Engineers, the American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Association of Engineers are among the societies in the United States that have done likewise. At first, the tendency was to draft voluminous and elaborately-detailed rules of conduct, replete with prohibitions. Experience has shown, however, that an engineer who elects to be unprofessional, will be so in spite of any code of ethics that may be devised, and the engineer who wishes to be honorable and upright needs none. The present tendency, therefore, is to adopt brief, positive, suggestive statements of the professional relations of engineers to the public, to their clients or employers, and to one another.

Such was the aim of the committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers that drafted the code of ethics appearing elsewhere in this issue. The former code, adopted in 1912, was, like some other codes of the kind, too lengthy, too little known by the members, and too silent on the engineers' duty to the public. The new code is proposed, not only for the guidance of members of the A.S.M.E., but also as a possible starting point for the deliberations of any joint committee that might be named to consider a common code for all engineers.

There is a feeling amongst engineers in Canada that the standing code of ethics of the Engineering Institute should be subjected to review and possible revision. The Toronto Branch of the Institute has named a committee to examine the code, and if necessary, to frame a suggested alternative for submission to Headquarters. In this work the new code of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers should receive careful consideration, as should the recently-issued "Declaration of Applied Ethics" of the American Association of Engineers, and the existing codes of the other great engineering bodies.

WAR MEMORIALS IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM FOR FALLEN CANADIAN SOLDIERS

FOR some time a committee of the House of Commons has been considering the question of erecting war memorials in France and Belgium on properties which have been purchased or donated. It has been decided to erect eight of these memorials, and preliminary work, such as getting roads made to the sites, is, it is understood, already under way. In addition, the matter of headstones for individual graves, which has been in the hands of the Imperial War Graves Commission, may be taken over by a Canadian section, in so far as Canadian graves are concerned. The stone proposed is of a uniform design, having the regimental badge carved in a seven-inch circle near the top, and below it the name, rank, etc., of the soldier. A cross is carved, with the exception of Jewish soldiers, who are given their own emblem, and there is also room for an appropriate verse or motto, as desired by the relatives.

In order that the Imperial War Graves Commission might have something definite before it when considering the advisability of inviting tenders from Canada for headstones, the commission has asked for tentative tenders from any firms desiring to receive them. The tenders must be in the hands of the chief architect, Department of Public Works, Ottawa, before July 1st next.

PERSONALS

C. R. MURDOCK, town engineer of Dundas, Ont., has been engaged at an increased salary to superintend all the engineering work of the town.

H. A. BRAZIER, city engineer of London, Ont., reports that the construction record of his department for the month of May passed any previous record.

H. J. MCCANN for some time past, assistant to the president of the Dominion Steel Corporation, has been appointed assistant general manager of the Dominion Coal Co.,

NOULAN CAUCHON, Ottawa, recently urged upon the special committee of the House of Commons the advisability of placing returned soldiers on small irrigated farms in Ontario.

W. G. SWAN, chief engineer of the Vancouver harbor board; has submitted a report to the board on the proposed dam at the Second Narrows. This structure is estimated to cost \$2,560,000.

PROF. R. C. WALLACE, commissioner for northern Manitoba, has recommended that a test well be sunk by