

that position which will bring the proper standing and emolument to the members of our profession. It is comparatively a new field for concerted action, and, in consequence, it does not seem practicable to lay down any definite course that will land us at the goal. It would seem to be rather a case of seizing every opportunity that offers, either to the Society or to the individual, to work for that end.

Publicity of the proper kind is undoubtedly very important, and the action of those members in the Calgary branch, and of the committee of rate-paying engineers of Montreal, who gave much time and labor without compensation in a public service, should do much for our cause, and is an example of unselfish work for the gen-

eral good to be highly recommended to those who may have similar opportunities put in their way. Quite recently our past president, Mr. Tye, has presented a paper requiring a large amount of thought and labor upon a most important public problem. I am sure one of Mr. Tye's rewards will be the knowledge that he has brought the whole profession prominently before the public.

It must not be thought from the foregoing I am insensible to the public recognition already accorded to members of our profession. We were proud at the last annual meeting to congratulate three of our members who had been honored by knighthood for distinguished engineering and public services, and we know that other members are on important public commissions.

Abstracts from Branch Reports, Can. Soc. C. E.

QUEBEC

MEETINGS have been held as usual during the year. Great interest has been taken in the outcome of the society's efforts to have the principle of the employment of Canadian engineers by the Canadian government recognized and adhered to, and also in the results of the progress made by the Committee on Society Affairs appointed at the last meeting.

The newly elected officers are as follows:—

Chairman, A. E. Doucet; secretary, W. Lefebvre; members of branch council, A. R. Decary, J. E. Gibault and Altheod Tremblay.

TORONTO

THE Toronto branch had a fairly successful year in spite of the very unusual conditions caused by the war, approximately one-third of our total membership having enlisted for service overseas. During the year we added about 25 new members. We now have on our lists 50 members, 120 associate members, 30 juniors, 6 associates and 84 students.

We held nine evening meetings and one afternoon excursion to a work of engineering interest (the Toronto Filtration Plant).

One of the evening meetings took the form of a smoker and in others we endeavored to depart from the purely technical, and had subjects for discussion of more popular interest, the average attendance being forty-two.

At the beginning of the year committees were formed to work upon specifications and subjects looking to the advancement of the profession.

We have already forwarded to council the report of our Committee on General Clauses for Specifications, upon which a great deal of careful work was done. At the present time we have no other reports available for presentation.

The financial statement for the year shows a balance on hand of \$187, receipts for the year being \$342 and expenditures \$380.

The following officers were elected on January 11th for the year 1917:—

Chairman, E. W. Oliver; secretary-treasurer, L. M. Arkley; executive, H. G. Acres, A. H. Harkness, E. G. Hewson and T. T. Black. The retiring chairman, G. A. McCarthy, also acts as a member of the executive.

OTTAWA

THIS branch has had one of the most successful years of its history. By the practice of every possible economy consistent with efficiency, by doing without permanent headquarters, by confining our activities within reasonable limits of expenditure, we find ourselves at the close of 1916 out of debt and with a credit balance of about \$200.

Although we are still without permanent quarters we have had no trouble in making suitable arrangements for our evening and luncheon meetings. The Normal School auditorium, the board room of the Conservation Commission and the assembly room of the Public Library have always been at our disposal.

While it is considered exceedingly important from the point of view of the profession that our own members should be induced to relate their engineering experience and share with their fellow-members their practical knowledge of engineering difficulties and in the handling of men, we have felt that during the war it would be more fitting if we confined our papers and discussions to topics of a more popular and general nature which would be of timely and particular interest to the profession.

With many of our members overseas and most of the others, in their various capacities, carrying on extra work to assist the government in the present crisis, we have felt that there would be very little time for evening meetings for serious technical dissertations and discussions. We have, therefore, concentrated our effort on informal gatherings with a view to getting better acquainted with one another, with the affairs of the society, and with problems of general interest to the engineering profession.

We have been exceedingly successful. Ottawa engineers know one another to-day as they never did before. There has been a marked increase of interest in society