

The populated sections of the country should be carefully studied with a view to its logical division into sections, each of which could be economically supplied with heat and power by one central heating or power plant. If this were carefully followed out, very marked economy would result in both the use of the fuel and its cost to consumer. The difficulties entailed in the distribution of the required fuel for such communities would, at the same time, be very largely overcome.

Many of our industrial plants have been located without any regard to the source of power or fuel on which they depend. Such industries, wherever it is possible to do so, should be moved to a locality which can be economically served with hydro-electric energy or electric energy generated in a large central plant, and industrial sites in general should be set aside for the location of all future industries.

It is evident that our fuels cannot be used indiscriminately and without the exercise of some degree of intelligence. We must not only meet all our own fuel requirements and place the people of this country in such position that they will not need to worry about a possible coal

famine, but we must, at the same time, utilize our fuels in the most advantageous and economic manner. Great as our fuel resources are, we must practise conservation. Only by doing this do nations become strong and powerful.

The fuel situation of Canada, as I view it, is not a gloomy or discouraging one, for we are endowed with fuel deposits on a magnificent scale. All that is necessary now is that their proper exploitation and economic use be assured.

It will, therefore, be the duty of the engineering societies represented by your society and others to produce the necessary and unremitting pressure upon the proper authorities to give effect to your recommendations for the betterment of our fuel situation, so that Canada may be, for years to come, relieved from the ever-recurring anxiety of where the next year's fuel supply is to come from.

You can readily understand that the task before you, as engineers, is a difficult one, but one of the greatest possible importance, for the habitability of certain now populated sections of Canada depend upon the success of your efforts.

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

OTTAWA

ALTHOUGH war conditions have vitally affected the activities of the Ottawa branch, the past year has been a very successful one. The strictest economy has been practised. We are still without permanent quarters, and as a result, the branch has a surplus of approximately \$1,200.

There have been many changes in our membership during 1917, due largely to the movement of engineers employed in the various government departments. The membership now totals 272, of whom about 63 are now on active service.

There has been a large and representative attendance at all of our regular meetings. The following is a list of the meetings during the year:—

Evening Meetings: February 15th, "Light vs. Illumination," J. W. Loomis; March 9th, "Front Line Communications," Major T. E. Powers; March 15th, "Storage Dams on Ottawa and St. Lawrence," C. R. Coutlee; April 12th, "Municipal Engineering," A. F. Macallum; May 10th, "141st Meridian," J. D. Craig; September 7th, "Optic and Acoustic Principles of Lighthouse and Fog Alarm Apparatus," Lieut.-Col. W. P. Anderson and F. P. Jennings; October 20th, "Mechanical Filtration," H. L. Seymour; November 29th, "Geology as Applied to Civil Engineering," W. J. Dick; December 13th, "Coal Gas," F. Elcock; December 20th, "Quebec Bridge," Lieut.-Col. C. N. Monsarrat.

Luncheon Meetings: February 1st, "Some of the Ways in Which the Engineer May Assist in the Development of Canada," Col. J. S. Dennis; March 1st, "Agriculture and the Engineer," Hon. Martin Burrell; March 29th, "The Present Status of the Engineer in Canada," W. F. Tye; April 26th, "Manufacture of Munitions as a Permanent Asset to Canadian Industry," Col. D. Carnegie; October 20th, "Mechanical Filtration," H. L. Seymour; November 15th, "The Awakening Recognition of the Engineer," F. S. Keith.

During the year the managing committee appointed an official librarian to be responsible for the books and records of the branch. The librarian is collecting and maintaining a complete set of government publications appurtenant to engineering. A special effort has been made to secure appropriate contributions from members of the society. Special reference in this connection should be made to a valuable donation from Sir John Kennedy, for which the Ottawa Branch is very grateful.

The annual meeting of the branch was held January 11th, when the following officers and members of the managing committee were elected:—

Chairman, G. Gordon Gale; secretary-treasurer, J. B. Challies; managing committee, S. J. Fortin, J. H. McLaren, W. F. M. Bryce, W. J. Dick and E. B. Post.

QUEBEC

AT the annual meeting of branch, held January 14th, the following officers were elected: Chairman, A. E. Doucet; secretary-treasurer, W. Lefebvre; members of committee, Alexander Fraser, J. E. Gibault and A. B. Normandin.

The branch had six meetings during the year, which were fairly well attended. The uppermost subject at most of the meetings was that of the betterment of the engineering profession, it being held of vital importance to the society that any person seeking admission should have the proper qualifications, and that, insofar as the province of Quebec is concerned, no admission should be made except in strict accordance with the terms of the provincial charter. In the opinion of the members of the Quebec Branch it is most desirable that a list of schools of engineering recognized by the council of the society should be prepared and sent out to the branches.

During the course of the year the following lectures were given:—

"Making and Filling of Shrapnel Shells," by Martin M. Wolff; "Report of the Proposed Amendments to the By-laws to be Submitted to the Provincial Government,"