

only does the application of frequent valves mean a conservation of water, but it means inconvenience for fewer consumers, and the convenience of the consumer is the essential feature in water distribution.

Not only does the city of St. Louis study and apply all principles which tend to the betterment of the system, but the department maintains an intelligence bureau holding school for one week's duration twice per year. At these school sessions all employees of the distribution system attend, especially the newcomers, who are fully initiated in the art of cutting pipe, yarning and pouring joints, caulking, assembling hydrants and valves, rigging derricks, the use and names of various tools, and all other little details with which all distribution employees should be familiar. These sessions are generally attended by department engineers, and often the exchange of ideas proves as beneficial to the superiors as to the subordinates. The professor in charge is generally a graduate of the ditch, who has advanced step by step in the service, and is capable of showing the principle by actual demonstration. By teaching the employees the use of tools and allowing them to do the actual work in these practice sessions, the department has always on hand an adequate corps of capable men who can assume the different positions without crippling the service when the occasion demands. All large cities should adopt the idea as it familiarizes the employees with the different methods and use of tools, which proves of inestimable value to the department when "trouble-time" arrives.

CONSERVATION OF ENGINEERS

ENGINEERING COUNCIL, which is an organization representative of the five largest engineering societies in the United States, has forwarded an address and resolution to the United States secretaries of War and Navy, and also to the Provost-Marshall-General and to the members of the Senate Committees on Naval and Military Affairs, dealing with the conservation of technical engineers. The text of the address follows:—

Technical engineers of every branch of the profession who are taking part in the war activities of the army and navy are alarmed at the unfortunate waste of technical training caused by the drafting and enlisting of engineers for regular service with little or no regard for their technical attainments. These technically educated and experienced men are essential to the successful conduct of the war and cannot be replaced. There is continuing evidence that America is repeating in some measure England's mistake of sending technical men into the ranks when they should be carefully conserved for special duties in the fighting forces or on the technical staffs of the army, the navy and the essential war industries.

Thousands of Names Given to Government

These facts have been forced upon the attention of engineers who have been co-operating with the government through the Naval Consulting Board, the National Research Council and Engineering Council. Upon these organizations requests have constantly been made for engineers, chemists and other technical men for a great variety of military services. Thousands of names have thus been furnished to the government departments and bureaus. Engineering Council especially has devoted attention to this personnel work through its committee, known as American Engineering Service, which has available classified lists of approximately 25,000 engineers, and besides unclassified lists of many more. It is from

these lists, directly or indirectly, that most of the names have been selected for war service.

Engineering Council was founded by the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Institute of Mining Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers and American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and other engineering societies are co-operating with it in this service, the total membership represented by these organizations being approximately fifty thousand. Already from 10 to 15 per cent. of the members of these several organizations are in the uniformed services of the country, and it is safe to say that a large majority of their remaining members are in the government civilian service, or otherwise directly or indirectly engaged in the war. Engineers do not seek to avoid fighting, but earnestly desire to be given opportunities for fighting and other services in which they can be most effective and which cannot be performed by others.

It is known that through the Committee on Classification of Personnel in the War Service Exchange (of the War Department) and some other ways, efforts are being made to counteract the tendencies toward the loss of our technical men in the ranks of the army and navy. It is believed, however, that these efforts are insufficient and that they should at once be supplemented by other stringent measures dealing with the subject in the draft boards and recruiting stations.

Resolution Offered

In view of the foregoing, Engineering Council, created to provide means for united action and to speak authoritatively for its member societies on all public questions of common interest to engineers, respectfully offers the following:—

Whereas technically trained engineers are indispensable to the army, the navy and the war industries, in engineering corps, ordnance bureaus and signal corps, in aviation, submarine and tank service, in shipbuilding, and in many other assignments; and

Whereas through draft and otherwise, many of these irreplaceable men have been and are being diverted so that their special qualifications are not being utilized; be it

Resolved that in the opinion of Engineering Council, technically trained men of all ages should be enrolled and conserved for technical duties and special efforts should be made immediately by the War and Navy Departments to find and record such men among drafted and enlisted forces and to assign them to places in which their special qualifications are needed; and be it further

Resolved that Engineering Council offers to assist the War and Navy Departments in locating and classifying such men, if its assistance be desired, provided these departments will give the necessary facilities for collecting information about engineers now in the army and navy, or whose names are upon the selected draft lists.

These resolutions are offered solely in a patriotic spirit of helpfulness.

(Signed), Alfred D. Flinn, secretary, Engineering Council.

The eleventh annual meeting of the Canadian Gas Association will be held in Montreal, P.Q., August 22nd and 23rd, 1918. War time problems of the industry will be the main topics for discussion.

In an address to the National Coal Association at Philadelphia, Joseph Dickson, chairman of the anthracite committee, of the United States Fuel Administration, stated that Canada's allotment of anthracite coal for the coming season is 3,602,000 tons, compared with 3,856,021 distributed last season.