

The above remarks are reported as emanating from one of the chairmen. "Very little." Truly, O Daniel, this terse expression fits the situation, for it would be impossible to further "be-little" your engineers in the eyes of municipal engineers, if the above duties are not already entrusted to them.

We admit having thought the woful exhibition of municipal engineering in Montreal was partly due to the presence of the Society of Civil Engineers and the Engineering Department of the McGill University—to say nothing of the engineering departments of the great railways of Canada—on the principle that "Poverty sits at the doors of palaces." We beg to apologize for the baseless surmise. We see now that the Montreal municipal engineers have been tethered: and that the aldermen, admittedly, must have been the judges of contractors' work.

We have desired enlightenment as to why there has been so much quarrelling over the selection of committees. We desire no further information, for we fear we are told too much.

It is considered sound finance to expend considerable sums in sending committees abroad in order that they may assimilate new ideas (we do not add "and have a good time").

We would go further, and recommend that certain committees be sent abroad—and marooned.

MATRICULATION STANDARDS.

Applied Science, a new monthly journal, published by the Engineering Society of the Faculty of Applied Science, Toronto University, in a recent number discussed editorially the advisability of making senior matriculation the standard for entrance to the Faculty of Applied Science and incidentally refers to the present conditions in that Faculty.

In general, the Canadian Engineer does not purpose devoting its attention to educational matters, but in this particular instance we feel that the engineering profession is much interested in the educational standards of a college turning out annually from eighty to one hundred men who purpose entering the profession.

After having discussed the matter Applied Science concludes that a faulty curriculum is responsible for such a large percentage of failures in the yearly examination, and advocates senior matriculation for entrance as a means of overcoming these failures.

We are not so sure that a faulty curriculum is the cause and if it were that it would be in the interest of education and engineering to amend the curriculum as suggested. That many of the failures in the past have been as much the result of poor pedagogical methods as of low entrance requirements is obvious. Sometimes these poor methods were the work of incompetent lecturers, sometimes the result of an overworked staff and unfortunately at times the result of a combination of both weaknesses.

But for the moment let us leave the staff and turn to the student. A man with junior matriculation standing entering the University with a determination to study and improve will secure good standing at examinations, while the idler with senior matriculation will fail. His entrance standing will not save him. It is the manner in which a student approaches his subject that will test the man, not whether he has had a smattering knowledge of that subject before. Being spoon fed for one year more in a high school will not make a man of a school boy.

It may be that at the present time a large number of men are seeking to enter the profession of engineering by way of the Faculty of Applied Science. That is a result of the attractive positions engineering is said to have offered during recent years. The present pause in industrial progress will correct this. Sympathy for fathers who persist in sending unprepared immature sons to a university—we have none. A father who will start his son on a four-year course without being reasonably well informed of the conditions and requirements of such a course deserves disappointment. A young man, who, of his own volition, takes up such a task will make

good. He may stumble once or twice, but that will make him more careful.

The high schools, the arts courses of the university are at the disposal of the student. He may secure a thorough grounding in English, mathematics, physics, or any one of a dozen branches. If, however, he prefers a shorter road he must take his chances. It is the way of the world.

We are not yet convinced that the curriculum is at fault. Some of the weaknesses have been indicated. We would gladly receive more statistics. What is the percentage of failures by departments? Are the requirements of each department similar?

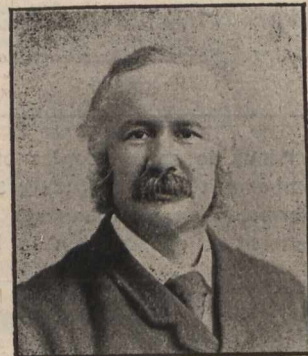
To educate the community to the true place of a university in a young life may be a slow process. Many "innocents" will be "slaughtered" in the process. To secure a satisfactory teaching staff will require more men and more money. Men of practical experience as engineers in charge of work. Men of liberal views and outstanding personality. Men of some literary ability and familiar, in a practical way, with the best pedagogical methods.

RECTOR OF THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE.

In the appointment of Dean Bovey of McGill as Rector of the new Imperial College of Science and Technology, Canadian engineers lose from their midst one of their most successful investigators and McGill University loses a capable professor and wise administrator.

Henry Taylor Bovey was born in Devonshire, England, March 7th, 1852, and was educated at Cambridge University and afterwards was appointed fellow in Queen's College.

In 1877 he was appointed professor in Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics in McGill, and one year later, when



Henry Taylor Bovey, C.E., LL.D.

the Faculty of Applied Science of McGill University was established he was appointed Dean. Dean Bovey is as well-known as an author as a college professor. His three best known works being, Applied Mechanics, published in 1883, and Strength of Materials, and a Treatise on Hydraulics, published in 1895.

At this time when great changes are taking place in Technical Education in Canada we can ill spare him, yet we feel sure we will not entirely lose him, for undoubtedly the most important part of his new duties will be to organize a department for the exchange of scientific ideas and scientific methods between colonial and British specialists.

NEW LAND SURVEYORS.

The following gentlemen have completed the final examination for Ontario Land Surveyors, and after taking the oath will be permitted to practice in Ontario:—

Messrs. H. W. Sutcliffe, J. L. Lang, F. W. Paulin, G. F. Summers, W. J. Moore, A. G. Ardagh, C. E. Bush.

Those who were successful at the preliminary examination are: Messrs. T. A. Jackson, E. Fitzgerald, G. S. Flint, L. D. Barlin, K. L. Jardin.