

The Canadian Engineer

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CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING AT MONTREAL LAST WEEK GENERALLY DEEMED TO BE THE MOST INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE THAT THE SOCIETY HAS HELD FOR SEVERAL YEARS—IMPORTANT MATTERS DEBATED.

RECOMMENDATIONS for a change in the name of the Society, an appointment of a committee to revise the by-laws, the defeat of the Western amendments to by-laws, and means of meeting financial difficulties, were the chief items of discussion at the thirtieth annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, held last week at Montreal.

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m., January 25th, with President F. C. Gamble, of Victoria, B.C., in the chair. Prof. C. H. McLeod, secretary of the Society, read the minutes of the last annual meeting.

The first business brought before the members was a resolution expressing great appreciation of the knight- ing of Sir John Kennedy, Sir Collingwood Schreiber and Sir Alexander Bertram. It was felt that His Majesty had honored not only those three members of the Society, but also, through them, the entire engineering profession in Canada. Sir John Kennedy was present and rousing cheers were given for him, to which he very modestly replied that the honor accorded to him was not at all personal, but was meant for every engineer in Canada.

A telegram of thanks for the contributions to the Engineers' Hospital Fund, signed by General Charles J. Armstrong, chief engineer of the Canadian Army Corps, was read by the secretary. The meeting framed a reply, wishing a speedy and victorious return of all Canadian engineers now at the front. This reply was cabled to General Armstrong.

The president appointed the auditors of the Society, Messrs. Riddell, Stead, Graham and Hutchison, as scrutineers to examine the ballots for officers and for amendments to by-laws. In previous years members of the Society had been appointed scrutineers, and G. A. Mountain questioned the legality of the departure from precedent. An examination of the by-laws showed that the appointment was quite in order.

William McNab wanted to know why the Dominion Government has not accepted the Society's steel bridge specification as standard. The discussion that followed showed that the chief engineer of the Department of Railways and Canals now has the matter under consideration.

The report of the council of the Society was received and adopted, as was also the report of the library and house committee.

The treasurer's report brought on a discussion of the finances of the Society which occupied the remainder

of the session. The finance committee made a special report, showing that the income of the Society for 1916 would be considerably less than for 1915 unless many new members should join the Society, and that rigid economy in all matters would have to be the rule. This report, showing exhaustive study of the subject by the finance committee, was appreciated by the members, and they decided to co-operate with the council in every possible way in reducing expenditures consistent with proper service to the membership. For one thing, it was decided to forego printing the list of members this year, and to issue instead a booklet giving the changes in address, additions to membership, etc.

Walter J. Francis, chairman of the papers committee, gave out the following statement, showing that the Society is spending less per member on printing than is any of the other leading engineering societies on this continent, and also that the cost of its printing per page of Transactions is far below that obtained by the other societies:—

TABLE I.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF PRINTING EXPENDITURES.

NAME OF SOCIETY	No. of Mem- bers	Cost of Printing	PRINTING			POSTAGE	
			Expense per Member	No. of Pages of Trans- actions	Cost per page of Trans- actions	Total Cost	Ex- pense per Mem- ber
American Society of Civil Engineers	7,900	\$54,676	\$6.90	(3,120a) (1,956b)	\$21.50	\$ 7,338	\$0.92
American Society of Mining Engineers	5,000	38,203	7.64	1,569	31.40	—	—
American Insti- tute of Electric- al Engineers..	7,700	48,103	6.25	2,191	21.95	6,427	0.85
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	7,000	56,938	8.47	1,135	50.15	10,200	1.44
Canadian Society of Civil En- gineers	3,060	5,970	1.95	659	9.05	1,887	.62

(a) 1914.

(b) 1915

Mr. Francis stated that the above table shows conclusively that the members of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers are faring very well in proportion to the funds available for printing. He said that it also showed the desirability of making the new printing contract about eighteen months ago whereby the printing was taken out of the hands of Montreal job printers and