

"I desire to endorse the invitation just presented to hold the 1918 meeting of this society at Calgary. Come west and get the optimism which prevails on those great broad prairies!"

In the letter of invitation from the Calgary branch, which was read by Col. Dennis, Sam G. Porter, the secretary-treasurer of the branch, said:—

"The western members of the society feel that it is only fair that the annual meetings of the society be held in the west occasionally in order that they may have the privilege of attending a convention held nearer their own homes. Up to the present time only one annual meeting has been held in the west,—the one at Winnipeg in 1911. We believe that the eastern members will recognize the justice of our claim and support our invitation."

Col. Dennis said that the Manitoba branch had passed a resolution supporting the Calgary branch in the latter's invitation, that Edmonton is in hearty accord with the proposal, and that Regina thinks it would be of great benefit to the engineers in the west to have an opportunity to attend an annual meeting. He referred to three great engineering features that the eastern members would see near Calgary—the Connaught Tunnel, the Bassano Dam and a reinforced concrete aqueduct, two miles long, for conveying water for irrigation purposes, which is the only one of its character on this continent.

W. F. Tye said that last year an endeavor was made to hold a summer convention in Vancouver and Victoria, but not very many eastern members signified their ability to go that far. He suggested referring the matter to council.

Col. Dennis said it is not a summer convention that is wanted. The western members want the business of the society to be carried on in the west for once. They would like a summer convention if they could not get the annual meeting, but would prefer the cow to the calf.

Mr. Tye then recommended the acceptance of the invitation. The branches should be satisfied in every way possible. The meetings could be held in different places. Montreal had gotten the reputation in the west of "hogging it." (Cries from western members, "No, no.")

Several members objected to holding the meeting in the west during the war, pointing out that the majority of members are in the east and the trip would involve great expense for these times, also referring to the expense of moving the society's statistical and business plant to the west for the purposes of the meeting, and to legal opinions, which state that annual meetings should always be held in the city in which the headquarters of any chartered society or corporation are located. A suggestion was made that a formal meeting of a legal quorum be called in Montreal early in January and adjourned to Calgary for a date later in the month.

"We are going to have these children in the west running after strange gods if we don't do something to bind them to us," said Col. Dennis. Mr. Uniacke moved that the matter be left in the hands of the council with a recommendation from the annual meeting that the meeting be held in Calgary if it be found possible and practicable to do so. Seconded by Mr. Tye and carried on division.

*Report of Scrutineers.*—The society's auditors reported that 420 ballot papers had been returned from members in good standing. Seventy-two had been returned by members in arrears, but the results of the election would in no case have been altered by counting these additional votes. J. S. Dennis, Montreal, was elected president (by acclamation); J. M. R. Fairbairn

and Col. C. N. Monsarrat, both of Montreal, vice-presidents; and as councillors for three years, Messrs. A. R. Decary, Quebec; James White, Ottawa; Geo. A. McCarthy, Toronto; R. A. Ross, Montreal; Julian C. Smith, Montreal; J. H. Kennedy, Vancouver; William Pearce, Calgary; and Horace Longley, St. John, N.B.

The retiring president thanked the members of council, officers of sections and members of committees for their co-operation during the past year, and then introduced the new president, Col. Dennis, who took the chair.

*President-Elect Takes Chair.*—Col. Dennis said he naturally appreciates the honor, as no man could have greater satisfaction than to be selected by his fellows as the head of their organization, whatever it might be. This was only the second occasion on which he had ever attended an annual meeting of the society. It was true that he had been vice-president at one time, but he had never taken much part in the society's or its branches' affairs, and there were some doubts in his mind as to why he had been selected. He had not indicated any special interest in the society. One friend had told him that the society recognized the merits of western roughness, and that Dennis was the roughest of the rough-necks that they could find!

Amid laughter Col. Dennis continued that his headquarters are now in Montreal. His friends said that after forty-four years in the west it was time he came home to die, but he proposed to do some very vigorous kicking yet. Naturally, his friends, associations and interests are all in the west, but during his year of office he hopes to really do something for the society. The opportunity is great, as the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers is known throughout Canada as an organization not devoted entirely to professional interests or to individual or society advancement, but as one that is intimately concerned in improving Canada as a whole, and composed of men who will be outstanding in helping to solve the big problems confronting Canada.

Col. Dennis referred to the heart-breaking work in the west that has built up the reputation of the engineering profession in that great territory. In this work the society has a proud record, which he trusts can still be improved during the coming year. But the first work is to win the war. The Department of Natural Resources of the C.P.R., of which he was the head until last November 1st, had sent over four hundred men to the front. He was glad to see that the society had sent so many men, and hoped that an honor roll bearing the names of these men would be prepared and hung in the hall of the society's building.

Walter J. Francis moved that a cable be forwarded, bearing the greetings of the meeting, to Col. Chas. H. Mitchell and the other members of the society who are in the trenches. Carried.

Prof. McLeod read the report of the Gzowski Medal Committee, Phelps Johnson, chairman, recommending the award of the medal to Messrs. Henry Holgate, Julian C. Smith and R. M. Wilson for their series of three papers on the Cedars Rapids hydro-electric development. Approved.

The following nominations for Nominating Committee for officers and councillors for the year 1918 were made by the branches:—

H. M. Mackay, Montreal; J. S. O'Dwyer, Moncton; J. E. Gibault, Quebec; Geo. A. Mountain, Ottawa; J. R. W. Ambrose, Toronto; A. S. Dawson, Calgary; and H. W. E. Canavan, Victoria.