

house, in Fleet street, on the 2nd January, 1818, by William Maudslay, Joshua Field, Henry Robinson Palmer, James Jones, Charles Colledge, and James Ashwell, of which Telford was the first President, and which is the mother of us all, had proved a magnificent success without protection; as well as to the reflection that the founders of the profession in Great Britain and the United States were born Engineers, and sought only a free field and asked no favors.

In May, 1880, Mr. E. W. Plunkett, now a member of this Society, obtained a list of Canadian Engineers, and issued a circular signed X. Y., setting forth the necessity and advantages of organization. He described the advantages as concerted action, the record, comparison, and discussion of professional work, the adoption and operation of a professional code. "At present," the circular said, "the engineering profession in Canada has no entity or representative body, and consequently it does not enjoy the essentials of healthy professional life—a standard of qualification, an active progress in working membership, a professional code, an opportunity for encouraging and cultivating engineering talent, and generally the preservation and promotion of the interests of the profession." Mr. Plunkett did not propose a close corporation, but thought the Charter should resemble, as nearly as practicable, that of the English Institution which has been so eminently successful, but with any modifications which the special circumstances of Canada obviously require. The circular was anonymous in order that the ideas thrown out in it might be considered on their merits apart from personal considerations.

As Mr. Plunkett's circular was sent to all the known engineers, it is most likely that a Bill which was introduced into the Ontario Legislature, in February, 1881, was suggested by it. This Bill was entitled, "An Act respecting Civil Engineers," although it did not shew much respect to the opinions of many of them. The Bill was not founded upon a petition signed by any body, but the preamble states that it is expedient, with a view to the proper and efficient qualification in Civil Engineers in the Province of Ontario, that the same should be regulated by Statute. It divided Engineering into departments or branches, and Engineers into grades or classes, and constituted fourteen engineers by name as Civil Engineers in grade A, within the meaning of the Act. All the rest were left out in the cold, until a Council of ten, appointed by the Crown, had examined and admitted them. The Commissioner of Public Works for Ontario was to be ex-officio chairman of this Board of ten examiners, and, as the quorum for the examination of candidates was only three, this gentleman, not necessarily an engineer or even land surveyor, but most probably a lawyer, doctor, merchant, or farmer, could have decided the fate of the candidate. For any other business of the Board the quorum was to be six.