

The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers

ANNUAL MEETING, 1913

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By W. F. TYE

GENTLEMEN :—

In rising to comply with the time honored custom of reading the President's address, I beg to thank you for the high honor you have conferred on me in electing me to the Presidency of our National Society.

Owing to my residence in Toronto, and to my absence in Europe during the first part of the year, I was unable to attend many of the Council meetings. The affairs of the Society were, however, so well looked after by the Council and our efficient Secretary, that I am sure the absence of the President was not felt.

I have great pleasure in congratulating the Society on its continued growth. Our Membership now amounts in all to over 3,000, and includes almost every engineer in the country. The expansion of the Society is a thing of which we must all feel justly proud. We have grown so rapidly that our old home has become too small for us, and we were very fortunate in being able to dispose of it on such advantageous terms at the very moment when a change had become necessary.

Our thanks are due to the Building Committee for the efficient and expeditious manner in which they have prepared a new residence for us; and I must congratulate the Society on the result of their efforts.

During the year the Council suffered a severe loss in the death of their friend and colleague, Mr. James N. Shanly. Mr. Shanly was a capable, conscientious engineer, and a favorite with all with whom he came in contact. He took a keen and intelligent interest in the Society's affairs. He was Chairman of the Finance and Building Committees, and much of the success of our new home is due to his untiring efforts.

When looking around for a subject on which to address you, my thoughts turn naturally to Railway Location, on which a great part of my professional career has been spent.

Transportation is one of Canada's greatest problems: our country is of vast area, the distances are great, the population sparse, and the traffic light; making the mileage and cost of railways high per head of population. On the other hand the growth of the country is and will continue to be rapid. A great problem is thus presented: how to build our railways that they may not be too expensive for our present requirements, and yet be capable of improvement to fit our future needs. Economics of Railway Location is, therefore, of even more than usual importance to Canada.