

with business progress with us any more than it does with law or medicine.

I once heard of a secretary of an engineering society who was so conservative that he did not believe in any co-operation with the societies and in fact scarcely believed in a meeting of his own society.

The Illinois Society of Engineers and Surveyors has been one of the few engineering associations to enter the field of promoting material professional welfare. This society originated a movement to demand justice for a member engaged on a government bureau at Washington. Our action and his vindication were highly commended by the technical press, but the conservative constitutions of many engineering societies preclude this sort of work. During the past year a proposition was submitted at Springfield to place the State Geological Survey under the Board of the State University. This matter was brought to our attention and after consideration by the trustees and officers of this society it was decided that the proposed change would be detrimental to the efficiency of the Geological Survey, and communications were sent to a number of legislators at Springfield to that effect. The change was not made and the Survey maintains its separate existence.

After the passage of the law creating a State Public Utilities Commission, this society presented a petition to the Governor urging the appointment of an engineer upon said commission. Our membership is now honored with a member of the State Public Utilities Commission. In a number of instances the society has had special committees working in the interests of legislation affecting surveys and matters pertaining to land drainage and special assessment work.

The technical press of the country during the past year contains more communications than in any previous period on: "The Status of the Engineer"; "Compensation of Engineers"; "Engineers' License Laws"; "Code of Professional Ethics"; and "The Consolidation of the Engineer's Work in Large Engineering Corporations," etc. An association of consulting engineers in New York has been actually formed to handle these matters. The formation in Chicago of a Technical League, a union of engineers, associated with the American Federation of Labor, is a recent and most radical development. All of this is an indication that the engineering society is not entirely meeting the problems of material professional welfare.

Among the plans, projects and suggestions presented for advancing the status of engineers are: The licensing of engineers and surveyors; civil service laws; legal compensation for city engineers, etc.; trade unions; code of professional ethics; standardization of fees; and employment bureaus operated by the societies.

I cannot attempt here to consider the various arguments for and against these plans. What I am advocating here is that it is the proper duty and function of the engineering society to consider such plans, and to have an organization which possesses the necessary executive machinery to act upon those measures which are of benefit, and to circumvent those which are detrimental to the engineer and his allied works.

I recommend that the trustees and officers of this society be authorized to act as an executive committee in the name of the society in all matters of legislation and public relationship, and to receive, consider and act upon, or report upon, any complaint or suggestion presented by any member of the society. I also advocate the appointment of a committee on legislation whose duties it is to follow and to report to the executive committee any

proposed state or municipal legislation which might be of interest.

The local or state engineering society is the logical organization to initiate such measures as are conducive to the material betterment of engineers. The efforts initiated by the local society should in turn be supported by the action of the interstate or national engineering societies.

The ability to accomplish practical results will to a large extent depend upon the numerical strength of the society. The voice of the society should be the representative voice of all engineers in the state. I believe that if the state society would acquire the reputation for action in measures affecting the status of the engineering profession and especially of its individual members there would be an immediate and large addition to its membership list.

POWER DEVELOPMENT AT GREAT FALLS, MAN.

Mr. Gano Dunn, president of the J. G. White Engineering Corporation of New York, was in Ottawa recently conferring with the Dominion Water Power Branch regarding the development of water power at Great Falls, on the Winnipeg River, in the province of Manitoba. This company has been retained by the Winnipeg River Power Company to design and construct a 100,000 horse-power plant at Great Falls. It is desired to have construction work commenced as soon as possible after the spring break-up, and an initial installation of 40,000 horse-power completed for use within three years.

The engineers of the Dominion Water Power Branch have recently completed an elaborate investigation of the Winnipeg River powers, and general conclusions have been arrived at with respect to the best method of concentrating the several natural falls of the river in order that there may be no portion of it left unused. As the Great Falls development must form a component part of the comprehensive scheme of concentrations arrived at by the Water Power Branch engineers, the J. G. White Company have made a thorough study of the Government investigations, and have decided to recommend to their clients, the Winnipeg River Power Company, that the Great Falls development should conform to, and be a component part of the Government proposals. Engineers of both the Water Power Branch and the company are in conference at Winnipeg and Ottawa in connection with the whole project with a view to having the necessary plans, specifications, etc., required by the Dominion regulations, submitted to the Department of the Interior for approval at the earliest possible date, in order that construction work may be commenced early.

The hearty approval by the J. G. White Corporation of the conclusions arrived at by the engineers of the Dominion Water Power Branch is a well-deserved tribute to the good work done by them in connection with important power possibilities of the Winnipeg River. This work has attracted a great deal of favorable attention, and the complete report of the investigations which will be published in the coming summer is awaited with great interest by all those interested in power development in Canada.

It is stated that the Western Railway of Buenos Ayres will eliminate all existing grade crossings and will electrify its suburban zone for a distance of about 25 miles from the terminal.