

headquarters members get out of the total revenue in proportion to the receipts from two different sources.

In connection with that the Council had recommended that the radius of branches be changed from fifty to twenty-five miles. That was with the idea that if the branch increased its subscription to \$15 it might be very unfair to a member who was living thirty or forty miles away from headquarters to pay \$15 instead of \$10 for a non-resident member. There was no objection whatever to having members join out of the fifty miles radius, but they did not think it was fair to make it compulsory. He thought that was one of the things most criticised, but personally to him it was one of the fairest of the lot. If they get the option of \$15 instead of \$10 for a non-resident member the Society should limit the radius so that men who had no opportunity of getting in to the branches to take any interest in them should not be penalised an extra \$5 for which they got no benefit.

Both branch and headquarters members were to-day, under this new schedule, getting more out of the Society in proportion to what they put into it than the non-resident members. (Applause.)

Mr. Uniacke said that Mr. Vaughan's schedule of fees and the reason therefor seemed to him to be very logical, but there was one point the speaker laid special stress upon, and that was that the branches at their own option should increase their fees on the same basis as the residents of Montreal, or the resident members. Under the wording of the By-law which had been sent out to be voted upon by the branches, it was a physical, if not a practical impossibility to do that, because it stated that in order to carry that it should be carried by two-thirds of all the members. In an ordinary ballot there was scarcely two-thirds of the ballots cast. So if it had stated "two-thirds of the members present at a meeting, after giving due and timely notice to everybody to attend that meeting," then there might be some chance of the branches carrying such a By-law.

There was one more point he wished to state. In the wording of the by-law several clauses had been lumped together, and a man might have an objection to one or two clauses, but he had to vote "Aye" or "Nay" to the whole. Several had put it up to him that they would vote for this, but they had to vote for the whole thing together. Consequently if the By-law were defeated, it would be in a great measure due to that fact.

Mr. Vaughan thought Mr. Uniacke's point was very well taken about the two-thirds majority. It was a matter of common knowledge that it was almost impossible to get anybody to vote an increase of subscription by letter. He thought that amendment should be accepted and arranged to make a change in that, "that after due and proper notice two-thirds majority at the meeting should carry the change."

Mr. Coutlee thought that strong measures should be taken by the incoming Council to provide that either a larger percentage be given to the branches, or that a loan be made to them so they can put themselves on a respectable footing.

Mr. Irving asked if this were not a case where each branch could work out its own solution. As a matter of fact nearly all the members in Toronto pay thirty dollars to the Engineers' Club there. He thought in the case of Ottawa, Vancouver and Winnipeg, they could start an Engineers' Club and run the local branches of the Society as adjuncts to that Club.

Mr. Uniacke said in that regard that the Ottawa branch had under consideration combination of the three technical societies that were now in Ottawa for the joint use of rooms and lantern. They had a branch of the Mining Association on the same basis as the branch, and also an Association of Officers. They had a Committee on Rooms and the matter was now under consideration. If it went through it would help to put the branch on its feet, provided the members of the Ottawa branch, or the other branches, were a little more prompt in coming to time with their views.

Mr. Harkom said that the discussion was running on the question of headquarters members and branch members. There had been a great deal said about not getting value for money from membership. He wanted, as a non-resident member, to put himself on record that he thought every member of this Society got full value for every cent he put into it. (Applause.) He thought it was worth \$10 to any man to come here and attend these meetings. (Here! here!) For his part he did not think there should be the least little kick about increasing these dues. He had a certain

amount of sympathy with these branch members from the fact that he really did not think they got quite enough to carry on their work. The work of the branches, really and truly was going to be, and is largely to-day, the true life of the Society. (Applause.) The branches should, he believed, get a little advance and if the Society was going to raise the dues of the branches two dollars, he thought they should have half of it added to their proportion.

The Secretary here stated that they were getting it all.

And if the fees were raised they would get the difference between the branch allowance for members and the headquarters allowance for members, \$3.00. All that would go to the branch.

Mr. Uniacke said that was if the branches could carry that By-law.

Mr. Vaughan stated that he had omitted some information of what this increase would amount to. There would be 135 headquarters members at \$5.00, 400 branch and associate members at \$2.00, and 200 headquarters associate members, or a total of \$2,175.00 would be the estimated increase to headquarters on the general business of the Society, including all the general expenses. So it was not very much. It would add 12% towards the cost of operating the Society.

Mr. Mountain said that the trouble that had arisen between the branches and the parent Society was from the old By-laws under which they did not get any refund if a man was a year in arrears. He thought that was what started the whole trouble. In his opinion the Society was in a healthy condition, and it was representative of the engineers of Canada practising their profession to-day. He thought the members should keep it there.

Mr. Braley thought everybody would agree that the branches to-day were helping to largely increase the membership. He had been Secretary in Ottawa for three years, and he thought they had pretty nearly corralled everybody there qualified to join the Society. Strong branches throughout the country were one of the greatest assets the Society could have. So long as the branches got a fair proportion of the increase he thought the branch members would be only too willing to increase the dues to the limit if they got a good return for the money.

The President here said this discussion was to a certain extent out of order, but he thought it was very important and he did not want to cut it short.

This question of fees was certainly very important. Canada was growing at a tremendous rate, and the Society wished to keep pace with the growth. The cost of living in every way was going up. It might be the cost of high living, not the high cost of living, but whatever it was it had the same effect on the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers as it had on everybody else and the Society must certainly have more revenue. It would be a calamity if this By-law were not passed. He was glad to have had the views of every man there. Speaking for the main Society, they certainly wanted to do everything they could for the branches, and he thought they could safely say there was no other Society of engineers that was doing anything like, for its branches, what the Canadian Society was doing.

Mr. Vaughan said that the Society might not have as good a branch organization as they ought to have, but they had a better branch organization than any other society he knew of.

Mr. Jamieson said that as the President had stated, the Society would be placed in rather a difficult position if the By-law should not be passed. If it should prove to be the case, he thought it would be well to put it before the members so they would know definitely the condition of affairs and what they were voting on. If that were done he did not think there would be any reasonable fear of its not passing. He did not think the members objected to paying towards the support of the Society in a proper manner, but they ought to be given some information to base their judgment on.

The Chairman asked if the members were willing to adopt the financial report as corrected.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The next business before the meeting was the reading of the President's address.

Mr. Mountain moved that the Vice-President, Mr. Vaughan, take the chair.

Motion duly seconded and carried.

Mr. Vaughan called upon Mr. Tye to read his address.

Mr. Tye then read his address