

things continue. Both classes of labor are necessary, and both should be organized so that not only may the interests of the individual members be safeguarded, but that the whole may use its corporate power to the best advantage. The tendency at the present day is for the manual workers to become better and better organized. On the other hand, with few exceptions, such as the medical and legal professions, the organization of brain workers is either totally lacking or wretchedly ineffective. In no profession is this more apparent than in engineering. Strong, and in many ways active, engineering professional institutions are in existence, but they do not take upon themselves responsibility in this matter, and the question arises whether they can be adapted to the desired end or whether new institutions or engineering associations are required. The latter course appears very undesirable, and the existing societies, if properly used, should be sufficient.

"In the past, engineering institutions in Britain have devoted themselves almost entirely to the academic side of the profession. In setting this high value upon their position as the repositories of engineering knowledge and tradition, the members of these societies have shown that they have been animated by high ideals. In suggesting, therefore, that new functions should be added to the existing ones, it is necessary to say that the high ideals hitherto obtaining need be in no degree abated. It is really only a question of making the ideals effective and making the institutions themselves such a power in the country, that in all engineering matters, scientific, industrial and financial, it will be just as much a matter of course for them to be consulted, as it is nowadays for the government to take into counsel the Engineering Employers' Federation, or the Amalgamated Society of Engineers."

The name "engineer" is doubtless productive of confusion in the public mind, because it means so much and yet so little. It connotes, for example, the person who plans and builds a railroad across a continent, or the person who operates the locomotive on that road. The name "engineer" may imply the person who designs and constructs any of the great water supply schemes, and also the person who puts in the plumbing in our houses. It may refer to the chief engineer of an immense hydro-electric undertaking and also the one who installs the wiring in a cottage. Men who design, operate and make pumps, dredges or heating plants, and they who designed and built the Quebec Bridge, as well as the men who turn swing bridges, are called engineers.

We have civil and military engineers and engineers of all the numerous branches of modern engineering, including agricultural, forest, efficiency and others. The divisions are so legionary and often so meaningless to the public that it is small wonder it frequently fails to appreciate what we are, or what we are doing, and in this manner our status is affected.

We each endeavor to specialize in some branch of our profession or work, and desire to be publicly known by a title which distinguishes us from others. And, moreover, we have separate, distinct and an increasing number of organizations to represent the several interests. There have been reasons for this, but the time has come for blending together to constitute one united and irresistible power. Engineers up to the present seem to be obsessed with the idea that individualistic attitude or condition of the sections of the profession is of advantage. The medical, legal and other professions do not have this idea. Each has its sections and yet recognizes and loyally supports one great organization which is virile, powerful and respected.

The architects are able to command public recognition by virtue of their democratic and representative institution. The Chambers of Commerce represent every kind of competitive business, yet through the federated chambers they possess great influence. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association includes a great variety of competitive industries, and by setting aside individualistic idiosyncrasies are able by union to do great things. The Federations of Labor comprise members of all kinds, and by their united stand are able to sway national elections and to insist upon recognition.

But the engineer so far possesses no such compelling power. We observe traditional ideas and customs established decades ago, when conditions were very different from the present. It is to be hoped, nevertheless, that the new name, "Engineering Institute of Canada," with a new spirit and aspirations among its members, will create a forceful and inspiring *esprit de corps* that will weld all classes of engineers who are qualified into a body that shall be representative and in a position to speak in an unmistakable and authoritative manner in our behalf. If and when this occurs, the anomalies, confusions and weaknesses of the past will be forgotten, and by the creation of a homogeneous entity we shall be able to impress on the public that we are worthy of its highest esteem and of a status that shall be mutually beneficial.

"Let us, therefore, organize," writes L. G. Legrand, of Winnipeg, "for in organization is the secret of strength, the basis of influence and the opportunity for power." This is a consummation towards which the branch might devote its thoughts and energies in the immediate future, and thereby promote its own prestige and influence.

We observe by the technical press that the engineers in the United States are seeking to solve this identical problem through the Engineering Council, the American Association of Engineers and the Committee of Cooperation. Each of these is endeavoring to attain the same result in different ways. We would desire the Engineering Institute of Canada to be the one great dominating and influential engineering institution in Canada, representing all engineers, and by making the branches and divisions the real and effective bases of the organization, all matters which affect our interests can be attended to in their incipient stages, and also be prevented from becoming a source of menace to the profession generally.

### Status of Engineers

There is, of course, another side to the question of the present status of engineers, and that is whether legislative powers should be secured to restrict the practice and the title of engineer to those who are qualified. The questionnaire which was issued to the members, asked for expression of opinion on this matter. The result has virtually left no decided impressions as to what is the representative opinion with reference to the registration or licensing of engineers. About two hundred questionnaires were issued and forty-eight replies were received. Of these, twenty-one members stated that they were in favor of licensing, nine were against, eight were undecided or conditionally favorable, and ten expressed no opinion.

We are somewhat disappointed with these results, because the members who responded relatively constitute but a small proportion, and may not be representative of the branch members.

There can be no doubt, however, that legislative restrictions are desired by a large section of the members of the Institute in Canada. Quebec and Manitoba have these