

me to occupy the position of your president during the past year, and assure the incoming president and members of council that I stand ready during the coming year or at any time to give them and the society every possible assistance in my power to continue the good work which has been begun to put our society in the position it is justified in occupying in Canada."

Reports of Standing Committees

R. A. Ross presented the report of the finance committee. He thought that the statement was creditable in view of the fact that \$20,000 fees had been remitted during the past three years on account of members at the front. He estimated the value of arrears at \$5,000, and said that each year, for several years past, \$6,000 had been collected on this item. Probably another \$6,000 could be collected this year, but then the remainder would have to be charged off the books, and this item would no longer be a source of revenue. Many names will have to be struck off the membership this year for non-payment of dues. Probably 250 men, getting the transactions and papers, are merely an expense to the society and should be cut off the list.

In discussing the report of the library and house committee, Walter J. Francis moved that the index of books in the library be prepared and distributed without delay, as recommended by the committee. The meeting felt that it would be better to leave the matter to the council, as the cost must be considered.

Branch Reports

The branch reports, which appear upon another page of this issue, were all read by the secretary with the exception of the Toronto report, which was read by George Hogarth, and the Ottawa report, read by J. B. Challies. R. A. Ross expressed the sentiment of the meeting in saying that great credit is due the Manitoba members for the good work they are doing as evidenced in their splendid report.

J. B. Challies suggested that each branch make a report to the annual meeting, showing what it has done with its finances. Some branches spend money in ways in which other branches do not, and the society in general should receive an annual balance sheet from each branch. The Manitoba branch, for instance, is publishing its own proceedings. The Ottawa branch has a substantial surplus, but never felt the necessity of publishing separate proceedings.

Sir John Kennedy and H. R. Safford supported this suggestion, but A. D. Swan enquired whether the parent society is responsible for the debts of the branches. If so, full statements should be submitted by the branches. If not, it is the branches' own business what they did with their finances. A suggestion was made that all branches be asked not to publish any separate transactions at the present time. It was moved and carried that each branch should hereafter submit a financial statement with its annual report.

Continuing this discussion at another session of the annual meeting, H. R. Safford introduced a resolution, asking the branches to discontinue publication of separate transactions pending the formulation of a definite policy by the society regarding inclusion of branch papers in the society's main transactions.

R. F. Uniacke asked whether this resolution would prevent the publication of branch papers in *The Canadian Engineer*. He said that very many branch papers had received early publicity through that channel, and he

thought it was of value, and desirable that nothing be done to interfere with such publication. Mr. Safford replied that his resolution was not aimed at all at journalistic publication of branch papers, but was intended only to restrain the branches from spending the branch funds in publishing the papers in pamphlet form.

Walter J. Francis said that if the new by-laws were carried, Montreal would only be a branch and all branches would be on the same plane of equality, and that the transactions would then include the best papers from coast to coast, wherever read, and he thought that the problem would thus soon solve itself, and that all branches would see that separate branch transactions were unnecessary. Mr. Safford said that in that case no doubt the branch transactions would soon be automatically dropped by the branches themselves, anyway, and he, therefore, withdrew his resolution.

All Committees Dismissed

M. J. Butler, C.M.G., introduced the following resolution:—

"That it is the opinion of the meeting that the subject of special committees be reconsidered by the council, and that hereafter the appointment of such committees be limited to such subjects as define the quality of the materials rather than having the wide scope hitherto permitted to such committees."

The scope of committee activities should be limited, said Mr. Butler. Committees should not deal with the methods of using materials or with design or construction, but only with the materials themselves.

Sir John Kennedy spoke in favor of the motion. The society, he thought, was getting on dangerous ground in introducing specifications that were educational in character. It was not necessary to issue specifications to be used as text books by county councils, etc. The work of the engineering profession should be guarded in this connection. "The American and British societies of civil engineers are not doing it, but the Canadian society is going ahead, writing specifications on its own hook, without regard to any international standards," said Sir John.

Walter J. Francis saw no necessity for the society to write such a complete specification as to give the world at large the result of the best engineering investigation, and so clearly that almost anyone could follow the specifications and dispense with engineering services.

A. D. Swan also supported the resolution upon the basis of lack of standardization with British specifications.

H. H. Vaughan took issue with the previous speakers. He referred to the valuable work being done by the American Society for Testing Materials, and said that engineers disagree regarding both materials and their uses, and he saw no reason for making a secret of how materials should best be handled any more than of what standards of quality should be obtained in materials. The more publicity that is given to good methods of doing work, the better, he said. Take, for instance, the boiler code. How could a good boiler code be prepared without stating how the boilers were to be put together, how the seams were to be made, etc.? Those are the points on which publicity is needed. "Probably more boiler explosions are caused by faulty seams than from any other one reason," said Mr. Vaughan. "There may be a 'nigger in the fence' in this resolution. Perhaps it is aimed at the steel highway bridge specifications, which possibly should receive consideration before being