

*The Engineering Institute of Canada*

Incorporated 1887

*The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers*

## THE MANUFACTURE OF MUNITIONS IN CANADA

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

ANNUAL MEETING, OTTAWA, FEB. 10TH, 1919

**W**HEN the war commenced in August, 1914, Canadian Industries were suffering from a period of severe depression. Certain undertakings that were already under way were being completed but practically no new enterprises were being projected, the volume of business was small and values of all securities had fallen. This condition was, no doubt, principally due to the world-wide disturbance caused by Germany's decision to bring on a state of war in that year, but it was intensified in our case by the extraordinary amount of railroad construction in several preceding years, the great expansion which had taken place in our manufacturing capacity and on account of the general reaction following a period of great development.

During the opening months of the war, the sentiment regarding business conditions was decidedly pessimistic. The immediate prospect was one involving a complete suspension of all development work, a great demand for money in Europe and consequent stringency here and a practical stagnation in all our industries during hostilities. Few foresaw the length to which such a war could possibly extend with the corresponding demand for our natural products and I believe we can safely say that none foresaw our manufacturing capacity would not only be fully utilized but enormously increased to provide for the requirements of the Allies.

The first aid offered by Canada to the British Government was naturally military and munition workers can claim no recognition in comparison with the magnificent contribution she has made in furnishing the troops that have served with such immortal credit to their country and have so nobly succeeded in establishing the freedom of the world. That is to-day a matter of record and history. Our Institute must, however, be eternally proud of those achievements of its membership in this terrible war, 960 have enlisted, of whom 943 were officers before the war ended. 75 have been killed or have died of wounds and 116 decorations have been gained. This constitutes a testimony to the loyalty and ability of the engineering profession to which it can point with honorable pride.