

its discussion may be measured by the information imparted. Discussions may be made to be more valuable than the paper; indeed, one of the functions of reading a paper may be asserted to be to induce the members to openly discuss and criticize and to add to the information given. If members will invest their knowledge and experience for the promotion of the prestige and influence of the branch, they will eventually earn a dividend in the form of mutual esteem, and this is worthy of a considerable effort and sacrifice.

A succession of papers, however excellent in quality, by few members will not bear fruit unless the many are prepared to contribute to the fund of knowledge. Problems are seldom solved by different engineers in an identical manner; each member has some individuality in his solution; varied conditions require different treatment or engineering becomes stereotyped; new and valuable developments are the product of circumstances as necessity is the mother of invention, and the discussion of papers affords the engineer abundant and excellent opportunities to present information of this character. The branch can develop this feature, and when it attains this object to the full, its prestige and influence will be advanced to an extent which will doubtless exceed our sanguine expectations.

The presentation of medals, premiums or other awards to members for papers is appreciated, and the subject should be considered by the branch.

The number of subjects which we could discuss with advantage is great, and we invite members to consider the following as possible ones for papers:—

The essentials of specifications; economics of bridges; rainfall and engineering; city acquisition of Toronto street railway; Toronto harbor works; Toronto's new union depot; high or low railway approaches in Toronto; activated sludge process of sewage treatment; city transportation problems; city planning; aesthetic treatment of structures; problems in local improvement assessments; research in its relation to engineering; engineering and food production; valuations; engineers and conservation of life; indexing and filing of records; statutory registration of engineers; local government board for Ontario.

The prestige and influence of the branch in the minds of its members can, of course, be materially promoted by holding meetings which are both instructive, attractive and fraternal. Our meetings cannot be said to be well attended. One member, in reply to the question, stated that "if each member would consider it his duty as well as his privilege to attend all meetings of the branch, a healthy interest would soon be developed." Another replied suggesting "more meetings. We do not see fellow-members often enough to really know them or become interested in meeting them."

The following are the other remarks as to the work of the branch:—

"That papers, studies, etc., of the Institute deal with the commercial and economic features of engineering work."

"A better and printed programme, with regular meetings."

"Development of social side."

"Greater usefulness to younger members."

"Papers given before the Institute should have particularly technical parts eliminated so that members in other branches of the profession could still follow and appreciate the paper."

"Would like to see the Institute the place of open and instructive discussion of engineering problems."

"It would be well to affiliate with the American Society of Civil Engineers, if possible."

"There is need of vim and action."

"Regular dates for meetings, programmes of meetings planned further ahead, and more attention paid to securing local talent."

"Strongly advise close co-operation between American and Canadian Societies."

"All should join the Engineers' Club."

Sixteen replies offered suggestions as to the work of the branch.

The branch may be considered as the primary and vitalizing institution where members are given equal opportunities to serve and to be served and receive training for larger fields. The provincial division may be made the secondary institution where the experience and inspiration obtained at the branch would be given scope for increased development. The federal council should be the ultimate forum where those who have rendered signal service would find a vaster field for their energy, experience and knowledge. This is the vision which every member should have. This might be the policy of the Institute to foster. This might be made the dynamic influence to draw out the best we all possess. Reward or honor in proportion to service may not be in the minds of those who do their best, but all are human and like to know that what they do is appreciated.

"The duty of technical societies," said one engineer, "is to emphasize the qualities of sympathy, integrity and nobility in an engineer, entirely apart from any recognition of technical abilities."

The fraternal element might be mentioned in connection with visitors from other branches. It is highly desirable "to cultivate friendly relations with all engineers," and it would be an advantage if engineers visiting different cities where branches are located, would carry with them a card of introduction from their own branch, so that we might know them and extend to them our welcome. One of the chilling effects of attending meetings is to be unknown and isolated where we might be given a cordial fraternal reception if the members but know who we are. As Gardner S. Williams stated, the branches should be the very "embodiment of democracy." We are mutually concerned in the success of individual members, as is evidenced by the satisfaction felt by us in the distinction conferred upon men in various parts of the battle fronts.

### To Promote Professional Interests

The Engineering Institute of Canada admits engineers engaged in any branch of engineering, and consequently it is anticipated that some day it will be in a position to speak for the whole profession. The attainment of this anticipation depends in a large measure upon the success of the branches, and sufficient power should be invested in them to make them the active and energizing unit of the Institute.

Professional interests comprise the status of engineers in the community, employment, compensation and brotherhood. We submit that each of these matters should be carefully considered by the branch. W. F. Tye, in an address before the Ottawa Branch in 1917, very ably discussed the subject of the present status of the engineer in Canada. He referred to the fact that we are seldom put in government commissions or consulted on technical matters by the government, even when the questions involve engineering problems.

Charles C. Garrard, in an article contributed January 25th, 1918, to "The Times Engineering Supplement," on the place of the profession, remarked that "on studying the function of the engineer, the first differentiation one can make is that he is a worker with his brain. It is a trite distinction to classify all workers into the two classes of manual and brain workers. Nevertheless, it is a true distinction, and one which must, by the nature of