

claim it must, the resulting damages against the city for loss of life would have been very heavy. There can be no doubt that the city is liable for damages to person and property for any accident arising in any way through a cause peculiar to the steel type of building.

If a steel girder in a Toronto building fail, no matter from what cause, the city is responsible because its presence in the building is not in accord with the city by-laws. Such buildings as house the large departmental stores in Toronto are most flagrant violations of the building laws of Toronto.

There are of course, rules for the building of kitchen chimneys, etc., and they are such as the fire underwriters enforce in the farm houses in Muskoka. It is a mistake for the good aldermen of Toronto to build a market; their business ability would find scope rather in growing cabbages which they might vend upon the city hall steps.

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers opened at the society's rooms, Montreal, on the 31st January.

The president, W. T. Jennings, of Toronto, occupied the chair, and there were present the following members: From Montreal, C. H. McLeod, secretary; Wm. McNab, librarian; H. Irwin, treasurer; J. G. G. Kerry, Geo. Hall, L. J. Marion, C. de B. Leprohon, Percival W. St. George, Frank T. St. George, T. W. Lesage, E. Marceau, E. Fusey, L. S. Pariseau, R. S. Lea, E. C. Amos, Geo. Holland, Alfred Dedman, E. Berryman, E. S. M. Lovelace, Lewis Skaife, R. Forsyth, G. H. Duggan, R. H. Balfour, A. E. Smaill, R. E. Hunter, G. L. Law, F. P. Shearwood, H. A. Burson, E. E. Gagnon, E. A. Wallberg, W. J. Sproule, Prof. H. T. Bovey, F. E. Came, Herbert Wallis, J. W. Heckman, E. P. Hannaford, P. A. Peterson, Stuart Howard, W. McLea, Walbank, Wm. Kennedy, L. J. Papineau, N. Hanson Greene, Arthur Crumpton, Geo. Janin, John Kennedy, Duncan MacPherson, John R. Bartow, J. S. Vindin, L. A. Desy, Chas. H. Osler, F. L. Wanklyn, Thos. Kirk, J. T. Lemire, R. M. Hannaford, H. B. Stuart, J. S. Costigan, James Ewing, C. S. Leech, Fred Thomson, J. A. U. Beaudry. From Ottawa: Col. W. P. Anderson, Geo. A. Mountain, Wm. Crawford, E. J. Walsh, C. Thomson, A. Campbell, R. F. H. Bruce, C. A. Bigger, Wm. McCarthy. From Toronto, W. T. Jennings, Willis Chipman, C. H. Rust, H. F. Duck, C. J. Crowley, H. W. D. Armstrong. From Quebec, L. A. Vallee, Charles Bailarge, E. A. Hoare, Armitage Rhodes, Thos. Breen, F. X. Berlinguet, Henry O'Sullivan. From Lorette, Owen O'Sullivan. From Brantford, T. Harry Jones, C. A. Waterous. From Berlin, Herbert J. Bowman. From Halifax, C. E. W. Dodwell. From Iroquois, F. R. Wilford, G. J. Desharats. From Kingston, Prof. W. R. Butler. From Owen Sound, Jas. C. Kennedy. From Coteau Landing, Thos. Monro, Alex. Grant. From Boston, Freeman C. Coffin. From Sault Ste. Marie, Wm. Crawford. From Black Lake, Que., J. S. Costigan. From Valleyfield, J. H. Sullivan.

On calling the meeting to order the president congratulated the society on the large attendance and on the prospects for a good convention. The secretary then read the programme of the meeting, after which the minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

The president then nominated Messrs. Howard, Costigan, Stuart, Lovelace, Heckman and Lesage as scrutineers of the ballot for the election of officers. Messrs. Walbank, Berryman and Ewing were appointed scrutineers of the ballot for the Nominating Committee.

A large part of both forenoon and afternoon sessions was taken up by a discussion on the balloting methods of the society, and the greater security of the system from errors in the future. On motion of F. L. Wanklyn, seconded by P. W. St. George, it was decided that in future when more than one

ballot is cast, the color, size and all other details of the papers and enclosing envelopes shall be alike; and on motion of J. G. G. Kerry, seconded by C. H. Rust, it was resolved that no list of the ballots cast shall be made before the closing of the ballot, and that no member other than a scrutineer shall be permitted to know who has cast a vote.

REPORT OF COUNCIL.

The following is the substance of the report of council on the work of the society during the past year: The elections in the ordinary course comprised one honorary member, eleven members, twenty-six associate members, four associates, and one hundred and eight students, in all one hundred and fifty. Four associate members have been transferred to the class of member, and thirteen students to the class of associate member. Two members, removed from the roll for non-payment of dues, have been reinstated upon payment of their arrears. The elections under the Quebec Act, Vic. 62, Chap. 32, comprised three members, and fifty associate members. One associate was admitted to the class of member, and thirteen students were admitted to the class of associate member, under the Quebec Act. Resignations have been received from two associates and five students. Three members, four associate members and fifteen students have been removed from the roll for non-payment of dues. The deaths have been: Honorary member—Sir John William Dawson, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S. Member—Walter Shanly. Associate—Hugh Ryan. Associate Member—Emery Lafontaine. Students—F. X. Mill and M. A. Bucke. At present the membership stands as follows:

	Non-Res.	Res.	Total.
Honorary members	6	1	7
Members	247	61	308
Associate members	198	91	289
Associates	26	14	40
Students	99	104	203
Total.....			847

This is an increase over last year of 14 members, 57 associate members, 61 student members, and a decrease in associates of 1, making a total net increase in membership of 131 over last year. There are pending 11 applications for admission. Fourteen ordinary meetings of the society were held during the year, and one special general meeting at which the following resolution was unanimously carried: Moved by C. H. Rust, seconded by J. R. Barlow, "That the council be and is hereby instructed to purchase the property, No. 877 Dorchester street, making use of the Building Fund, amounting to \$4,500, for this purpose, and also to raise \$6,500 by mortgage on the property, in order to complete the purchase price of \$8,000, with an additional sum of \$3,000 for repairs and improvements." It was also resolved that the entrance fees, less the examination expenses, be credited to the Building Fund.

Additional subscriptions to the Building Fund were called for by circular, and the following amounts received to date: Subscriptions prior to 1899, \$4,656.73; subscriptions received during 1899 and 1900: Collected, \$2,934.44; uncollected, \$618; total, \$3,602.44.

The obligations assumed in connection with the new home are as follows: Purchase price and expenses, \$8,011.30; total amount of contracts, \$7,475.50; estimated cost of fittings, etc., \$755; Architect's fee, \$616.25; total, \$16,858.05.

In connection with the work of the committees on legislation it was reported that an Act was brought before the Ontario Legislature in the early part of last year, but, owing to opposition, arising chiefly from a misunderstanding of the Act, it was withdrawn after the second reading to be introduced again during the current session. The by-laws under the Quebec Act were sanctioned by Order-in-Council on February 24th, 1899. The Board of Examiners, composed of E. Marceau, S. Duval, T. Breen, C. H. McLeod, R. J. Durley and R. S. Lea, held its first meeting, November 7th, in accordance with the Quebec Act, and reported two candidates as having passed the examination for admission to practice.

The Library Committee reported a number of gifts of books and pamphlets from members and friends. Books were given by Angus M. Stewart, A. D. Watson, G. Barnett Smith, F. C. Coffin, A. Crumpton, Gabriel Henry, Wm. McNab and George Brush. Two volumes have been acquired by purchase, viz.,