

DISCUSSION OF ENGINEER'S STATUS

At a special meeting of the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers on February 22nd, the subject of "Ways and Means for Improving and Defining the Status of the Engineer" was discussed. F. H. Peters, commissioner of irrigation, Department of the Interior, Calgary, introduced the discussion, outlining the action with respect to legislation which was contemplated by the Calgary Branch and the events which had led to the drafting of the following resolution of that body:—

"Resolved by the Calgary Branch of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, at their annual general meeting, held December 1st, 1917:

"That it is desirable at this time for the membership of the society to discuss the advisability of seeking Dominion legislation which shall define the status of the engineer to the end that the profession and the public may be adequately protected against the practice of the profession by unqualified persons.

"That the secretary of the society be requested to take the necessary steps to procure discussion on this matter within all the branches of the society; to obtain a definite expression of opinion from all the branches; and in due course to report to council and to all the branches, the consensus of opinion expressed.

"That with a view to facilitating discussion within the various branches, a report be attached to this resolution, indicating the evolution of this matter within the Calgary branch and suggesting the lines along which suitable legislation may be framed.

"That copies of this resolution be sent to the council, to all the branches and to *The Canadian Engineer*."

The speaker said that this action had been contemplated not only that the engineer might be accorded the standing and the recognition in the community which by virtue of his profession he deserved, but also that the public might be protected against the practice of the profession by unqualified persons.

R. deB. Corriveau approved of the resolution of the Calgary branch and suggested that members in each province should be encouraged to secure action from the provincial legislatures to define the status of the engineer. He announced the receipt of a message from A. R. Decary, of Quebec, regretting that matters had prevented him from coming to Ottawa, and read a communication from Mr. Decary explaining the amendments to the Quebec Act defining the status of the practice of engineering, made at a recent meeting of the Quebec Legislature. This communication suggested that definite arrangements be made for holding in Montreal a meeting of representatives of the society from all the provinces with a view to considering ways and means for securing suitable action to define the status of the engineer in the near future.

A. A. Dion referred to the past attempts to secure legislation in Ontario and to the opposition from the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. He pointed out that there is serious objection to Dominion legislation, because the British North America Act places authority in the premises in the provincial legislature. With reference to the measure of control which is necessary to remove the objection that too much power would be given to the society itself, there was the question whether it should be left to the universities, a government board, or some other body. He thought that any action found advisable should not be confined to civil engineers, even if by doing so it would be possible to draw in other branches of the profession.

B. H. Fraser pointed out that, while there is objection to separate laws and regulations, this may be overcome through the society, which is Dominion-wide. Duncan MacPherson agreed with the general proposals of the Calgary branch, but thought that as the society is in a state of flux, it would be well to make haste slowly.

John Murphy favored legislation but recommended that the legislation be made by electing members to the House. A. A. Dion, speaking later, referred to a proposal made by prominent politicians to an engineer, that there should be created a general engineering constituency which would elect one member to every parliament.

Col. Anderson suggested that one important move would be effected if the government were asked to change the Civil Service Act to provide that the government must employ only qualified engineers; that is, members of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers or graduates of some recognized engineering school.

A. F. Macallum, J. E. N. Cauchon and R. R. Smart also spoke in favor of legislation. W. J. Dick and R. F. Uniacke advised caution and discussion.

James White did not agree with the Calgary branch proposals because of the difficulty of obtaining effective legislation. He told how hard it had been to obtain laws for the protection of game birds in migration, adding that if the Dominion would not legislate for a flock of ducks, there was no hope for the engineers! However, he expressed very warm appreciation of the work of the Calgary branch in developing their ideas in this very important matter and voiced his determination to do everything in his power to help advance the engineering profession.

R. R. Smart thought that it might be possible to obtain Dominion legislation to prohibit the promiscuous use of the degree letters, C.E., M.E., etc.

A resolution commending the action of the Calgary branch was passed unanimously by the meeting, and a committee was appointed to make a further report on the matters brought out in the discussion. The members of the committee are Messrs. Smart, Corriveau, Dick, Gale and Challies.

ONTARIO GOOD ROADS CONVENTION

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Ontario Good Roads Association was held in the York County Buildings at Toronto, on February 27th and 28th and March 1st. About three hundred delegates, representing thirty-five counties, were present.

The morning of the first day was spent in registration and the formation of committees.

In the afternoon, the delegates were welcomed by Mayor Church and addresses were delivered by President C. R. Wheelock and Geo. S. Henry, secretary of the association.

In the course of his address, Mr. Wheelock declared that it is upon good roads that victory depends in the present war and suggested a co-operative system between the railroads and "highway freight trains" as a means of relief in the congestion of traffic which is retarding the movement of men, munitions and materials on this continent.

On the second day Hon. Findlay Macdarmid, Minister of Public Works and Highways, in reviewing the spread of the movement in the province, stated that all the counties except Peterborough and Northumberland are