

A CLEAR NOTE ON SOCIETY SERVICE

On page 1206 of this issue will be found an extract from an address by Fraser S. Keith, secretary of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers. We have not read anywhere so clear an expression of the ideal of Society service as is contained in one paragraph of his address. The development of his ideas, too, shows a very clear vision of a Society program, one that will cleave close to the membership and ensure their constant and enthusiastic support. It will be noted that he places service to the individual members on a high plane, by showing how such service is a necessary precedent to recognition by the public "of the engineer's real place in national affairs," which includes, Mr. Keith adds, "status remuneration and opportunity of service". But Mr. Keith's address is interesting not only because of its intrinsic merit but because it shows that the trend in professional thought in Canada is in the same direction as that here. In other words there is not merely a national unity of thought on either side of the boundary line. There is an international unity—which gives still greater validity to the society currents that are setting in both here and in Canada.—*Editorial Eng. New Record, New York, Thursday, December 27th, 1917.*

RECOGNITION OF THE ENGINEER

The leading article in *The Canadian Engineer* for this week is an address delivered by Fraser S. Keith, secretary of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, at Ottawa, in which an earnest plea is made calling upon all members of the profession, no matter how small a place they may fill, to do what they can to assure that so far as the future is concerned the engineer will bulk more largely than he has in the past, and be awarded a greater share of recognition. Slowly but surely it is beginning to dawn upon many that the present age belongs to the engineer.

During the past few years, and particularly since the outbreak of war, the real value of the engineer and his work has come to be recognized more distinctly and more intelligently than ever. The part he has played in the war has doubtless tended to throw the engineer and his work more prominently into the limelight.

More and more the engineer must assert himself and secure the measure of public appreciation which he rightly deserves. As a public servant, he is by reason of his habit of mind and his training, fully qualified to lead and direct public opinion.

One has only to consider at how many points the engineer touches the life of the community to get a fair conception of how important his position is. Think of the part he plays in the safeguarding of the public health by the design, construction and operation of sewage disposal plants, water purification plants; his relation to the matter of production, transportation, and many other blessings.

His standing, or lack of standing, in the public mind is, in some measure at least, due to his own modesty. Is it not time that this condition was changed and the engineer, as an integral part of the community, assert himself and get the facts concerning his part in human development before the public by the use of the school, the press, the platform and literature?—*Editorial, Canadian Engineer Nov. 22nd, 1917.*

THE FUTURE PLACE OF THE ENGINEER

Speaking before the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers a few days ago, Mr. Fraser S. Keith, the general secretary, dwelt upon the necessity for educating the general public concerning the value of the work the trained engineer has done and is doing. Mr. Keith claims that the first step has been taken in that there has been an awakening within the profession itself as instanced by various events that have transpired within the past year or two; it remains now only to arouse those outside the profession.

There is no member of the engineering profession, whether civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical, mining or what not who will not raise both hands in favor of Mr. Keith's appeal. Every engineer, too, will plead guilty to his own laxity in "boosting" his profession. But, as has been pointed out so often, this very dislike of publicity or reticence in any form is an inherent part of the engineer's make-up. He has chosen this profession largely because he saw in it an opportunity to work quietly and unostentatiously. His outlook on life has been too ideal to be mercenary, and the world has accepted him on his own conditions and said: "All right, you stick to your ideal—good work—and we will stick to ours—good money."

Yes, the world has taken advantage of the engineer's high ideals and, not understanding them and, so, not valuing them, has neglected to rate them in dollars and cents. As a