

The Golden Age of the Engineer.

"With the coming of the autumn of 1900 an army of students, nearly two hundred thousand strong, will enter the doors of our colleges and of our technical schools. Of this ever-growing host a larger proportion than ever before will turn its face toward applied science, toward the profession of the engineer.

"Could one whisper a single friendly sentence into the ear of each one of these young men, I imagine he would say: 'Look well to your preparation, for your opportunity in engineering will be such as the world has never seen.'

"As to preparation, this is the day of the trained man. In competition with him the untrained man, or the poorly trained man, cannot maintain himself. Do not be afraid of too much theory. Never yet was good practice which was not preceded by and based upon good theory. Let your theoretical training be broad and deep. It is your only sure foundation for the best work.

"As to opportunity. The next quarter-century promises a physical development such as no generation has ever known. Upon our mainland a vast area of desert land is to blossom under the engineer's touch, canals are to be built, cities are to be lighted, problems of sanitation are to be wrought out.

"In all this progress the engineer, the trained engineer, is to play a role such as he has never yet had the opportunity to assume since commerce began. Our own West was conquered in the strength of an untrained virile energy. The far East, old in her wisdom, is to be conquered, and can only be won by the aid of the most versatile, the most efficient, the most perfect training. He who is to subdue it will go forth, not as did the Argonaut of '49, with pick and shovel, but with text-book and steam-engine and dynamo. This man is the