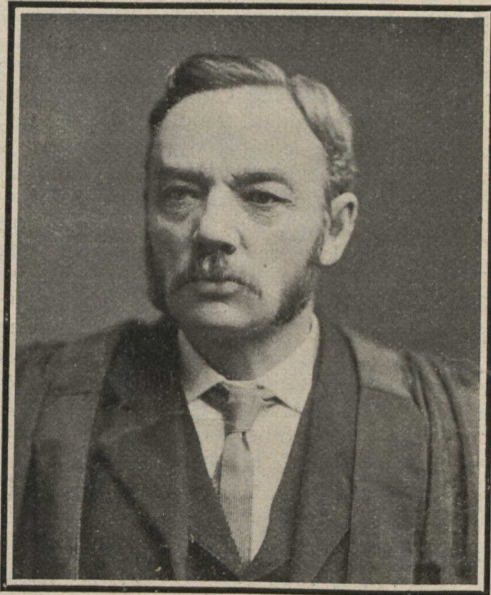


THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY—PAST AND PRESENT.

THE School of Practical Science has but one organization that can lay any claim to recognition in literary or scientific circles, and this is one reason why the Engineering Society has the loyal support of each Year and every department of the School.

The conversazione of the Literary Society of University College in 1885 was indirectly the occasion of its organization. The various student societies were preparing lectures and experiments to be given at this annual gathering, and Mr. H. Bowman, M. Can. Soc. C.E., now of Berlin, suggested that the Department of Engineering organize a society and assist in the entertainment. The suggestion was not favorably received by many, but Mr. T. Kennard Thomson, C.E., now of New York, was determined to see the thing accomplished. Shortly after this he invited the students of the Second and Third Years, together with the Faculty of the School, to take dinner with him, keeping to himself the purpose of it all. When called upon to reply to the toast of "Our Host," he concluded by proposing the formation of an Engineering Society. The suggestion now met with the hearty support of all, and a com-



Professor Galbraith, M.A.

mittee was at once appointed to draft a constitution, and in due time the society was organized, with Principal Galbraith as President, and Mr. T. K. Thomson, Secretary-Treasurer.

The first work of the new organization was the preparing of their display for the conversazione, the chief feature of which was an engineer's camp with tent, camp fire and engineering instruments.

The first object of the Society, as defined by the constitution was: The encouraging of original research in the Science of Engineering. The first paper read before the Society was one by Mr. H. Bowman on Dominion Land Surveys. This paper was not secured by the Society, as shortly afterwards Mr. Bowman was selected to go to the front with old "K" Company Q.O.R., in the Northwest Rebellion. Of the two hundred or more papers read before the Society, among the most interesting to the general reader are to be found in the following: In 1885, Electric Blasting, by Mr. J. N. Smith; 1890, Technical Education, by Professor Galbraith, M.A.; 1891, The Sea and its Waves, by Mr. V. G. Maroni; 1894, Aerial Mechanical Flight, by Mr. C. H. Mitchell, C.E.; 1896, On Snowshoes from the

Barren Lands, by Mr. J. W. Tyrrell, C.E.; 1893, A Canoe Trip on the Saskatchewan, by Mr. L. B. Stewart, D.T.S.

The second object of the Society—the preservation and dissemination of the results of such researches—has been well carried out by the publication of an annual pamphlet first published in 1887. Volume one consisted of some forty pages, costing \$90, and had a circulation of five hundred copies. Volume fifteen, published last year at a cost of \$450, consisted of two hundred pages, and fifteen hundred copies were issued.

For the first three years Principal Galbraith was elected to be the Society's presiding officer, but in 1888, believing the Society firmly established and the undergraduate members now fully in touch with the engineering world, through the Graduate members, he refused re-election. Mr. H. E. T. Haultain, C.E., now of Nelson, B.C., was elected to the presidency, and since then this office has been one of the coveted honors among School men.

Among the names of the Presidents in the earlier days we find those of R. W. Thomson, B.A., Sc., now of Johannesburg, S.A.; A. E. Blackwood, of New York; J. A. Duff, B.A., Toronto; and G. M. Campbell, of Pittsburg.

This society, in common with most organizations, has had its troubles, and perhaps its most trying was in 1895 when, with \$100 in the treasury, an account for printing amounting to \$580 was presented. The Executive, though dismayed, were not disheartened, but "set to work to win," and it is sufficient to say that when the time came to publish the pamphlet in 1896 they were prepared to meet their financial obligations. In the University fire of 1890 the Society lost many valuable papers, models and instruments, and this was the last occasion that School men took an active part in preparing for the Lit's conversazione.

The membership, which consists of Graduates and Undergraduates of the School, has increased from fifty to five hundred and fifty, and it is not unusual to find at the regular meetings, which are held every alternate Wednesday, two hundred or more of the three hundred undergraduate members. At these meetings the discussion of some current engineering problem is introduced by an engineer prominent in his own particular branch of the profession.

In the past the Engineering Society has brought before its members the engineer, his suggestions, notes and specifications; in addition to this I believe the Engineering Society of the future will regularly and systematically conduct excursions to the actual constructions, the mine, the power plant and the laboratory of the practising engineer. Thus the members will have presented to them good practice as well as good theory. [E.A.J.]

BRANTFORD OLD BOYS REUNION.

McConkey's was the scene of a very successful student gathering on Thursday evening last. The occasion was the first annual reunion of the ex-pupils of the Brantford Collegiate Institute. Brantford is particularly well represented in the higher educational institutions of Toronto, there being forty or more students now in attendance, besides several members of the Faculties of the various colleges. Several prominent Brantfordites were present and spoke to the toasts of "Our Country," "The Old Home," "The Old School," "Our Academic Homes," "The Old Boys" and "The Old Girls." The guests of the evening were: Messrs. C. B. Heyd, M.P., T. H. Preston, M.P.P., Mayor Wood, Principal A. W. Burt and Mr. S. F. Passmore, M.A., of Brantford; Mr. James Brebner and Professor M. McKenzie, of Toronto. The students present represented University College, Victoria University, Toronto Medical College, School of Science, Dental College, Pharmacy, Trinity Medical College, McMaster University, Osgoode Hall and the Conservatory of Music. The affair was thoroughly enjoyable and will probably become an annual function among the rapidly-increasing contingent of Brantford students.