

Engineering Brunswickian

DEAN ADDRESSES ENGINEERS

A year ago the Engineering Faculty was learning to appreciate the physical advantages resulting from the completion of the new wing on the building. I say "learning" because this year we know that without this addition it would have been impossible to carry on without serious curtailing of courses. We again acknowledge our debt and express our appreciation to Dr. Turner for his vision in pressing for larger facilities in time to meet the larger classes which we now have, and to the Administration for providing them.

About this time last year we were realizing that economic activity in Canada was flattening off. All of the 1958 graduates have been employed but undergraduates found summer work harder to obtain and in some cases less lucrative than in former years.

We have been living for about a year in the world of Sputniks and other ventures into space. Scientists and engineers are both involved in this new phase of technology. The sudden realization of the possibilities of space travel as well as rapid advances in many fields either directly related or peripheral to it has caused the Western World to critically examine the preparation afforded by its Universities in both science and engineering. As a result there is already a marked trend in engineering curricula towards more emphasis on mathematics and physical sciences.

It might appear that this trend is aimed primarily at the development of research personnel. In a sense this is true. However, even for the engineer who finds himself in routine work or as the only engineer in a small firm, a better knowledge of fundamentals will be of more value to him in the long run than specialized knowledge of hardware and processes which are changing very rapidly.

Amid these influences of economic levelling-off and academic rigour, the engineering student of 1959 may feel a little bewildered and possibly frustrated. It is certainly truer today than in the past few years that there is a premium on excellence. We see this reflected in the demands of all employers. There will be enough jobs to go around, but the first appointments will go to the best applicants. This pattern is not new; it is just that it is much more sharply defined at the present time.

In considering the measure of excellence referred to above, it must not be construed that this refers only to scholastic attainments. While evidence of good scholarship is of primary importance, not only for the first permanent employment but also as a barometer for continued advancement in the technological fields, there are many other factors which have a great deal to do with development in professional life. Personality, as evidenced by attitude towards others, initiative, ability in expression, neatness etc., is of great importance and much can be done in undergraduate years to develop maturity which will be invaluable in later life.

It might be considered that the suggestion of additional personal development by undergraduates is asking too much. Neverthe-

less, it is evident that this development towards maturity does take place in all undergraduates: the graduating class are really not the same personalities who entered the University as freshmen. The point to be made is that the greater this development towards logical maturity, the better prepared the graduate is to undertake the responsibilities of professional life and the greater is his measure of excellence in the eyes of not only his prospective employer but also all those with whom he will later live and work.

In spite of the increasing cost of a year at the University, there remains a tendency for some to regard "going to College" as an extension of school rather than a seriously directed and progressive preparation for a responsible professional life. This lack of seriousness of purpose is the cause of the majority of academic failures, which are a source of serious concern to both the individuals and to the University. There is plenty of evidence in the Universities, in the requirements of the professional Associations and Institutes, and especially in some other countries that steps must be taken to avoid this wastage of time and effort if we are to meet the challenges of the future.

Your Faculty realizes that the development of the engineering curriculum is imposing greater demands than a few years ago. We regard the more effective use of time in terms of useful knowledge as the best criterion for any of the changes which have been made or are contemplated. We are glad to notice that our students are maintaining as good a level of performance as in the

WE'RE LEGAL AGAIN

Constitutionally the Engineering Society is once again entirely legal. Finally after many unsuccessful attempts, we have our first revised, completely up-to-date constitution since 1941. Although this primarily concerns the Engineers, other faculties will notice changes affecting them, particularly in any dealings they may have with the Engineering Stores.

Perhaps immediate benefits from this revision can not be seen. The main result so far, that comes to mind, is the drop in the attendance at the last three society meetings because, "Who wants to go listen to that old dull constitution being discussed?" Luckily enough, some people were interested. The rest of you fellows can now come back to the meetings and much more interesting topics than "that old dull constitution". On the long range, however, the new constitution should provide for a society that is more interesting, more efficient, and which will have much greater continuity.

Credit for the new Constitution must be given to Don Campbell, chairman of the constitution committee. It was he who organized the plebiscite to vote out the old constitution, before the new one could be passed. It was he also who wrote and supervised the passing of the new one. For the time Don has spent on this project, the Engineering Society owes him a great deal of thanks. It should be some time before any amendments are required.

ENGINEERS' BALL TONIGHT

Tonight at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, the Engineers drop their slide rules and take up their dancing shoes and best manners.

The Ball of the Year gets underway at ten o'clock, winding up sometime around two in the wee small hours of the morning. Robin Roberts and his Black Watch Band from Camp Gagetown will set the tempo for smooth and not so smooth numbers.

The ballroom has been decorated by Jean McCutcheon, aided by Don Betts and Fred Bennett, with everything from brush to crepe paper streamers.

Highlight of the evening comes at the stroke of midnight, when our fair Queen of all the Engineers, pretty Esther Hoyt, will be crowned by last year's Queen, Marg MacLelland.

Tickets are two dollars and can be picked up at the door for you procrastinators.

Members of the local branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada have been invited and indications are that they will be there in force adding lots of colour, as usual.

Social Committee Chairman, Earle Carpenter, has done a fine job this year. Engineers—shake off the mould and don your best bib and tucker—this is *your* ball.

Corsages are not necessary.

Social Night Proves Successful

An attraction of this year's Engineering Week was the Social held on Monday night in the Student Centre. Music was supplied for dancing and various competitions were held under the direction of Alton Adams. Cards were distributed on tables for the amusement of those who did not wish to dance.

Some twenty-five couples attended, and enjoyed themselves during the evening. Chaperones for the occasion were Prof and Mrs. I. M. Beattie, and Prof and Mrs. Eric Garland. Novelties and chocolates were given to prize-winning couples. Refreshments were available from the cafeteria, which conveniently stayed open until 11.30 p.m.

As past experience has shown that more couples attend the social evening each year, we look forward to seeing overflow crowds in years to come.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SOUTHERN GAL AND A NORTHERN GAL: The Northern gal says, "You may." The Southern gal says, "You all may."

Message To Engineers

The Engineering Profession, one of the foremost in the world, is always looking for qualified men. New fields are always being opened and trained engineers are required for each of these. However, in these times, competition is keen for good positions, and engineers must constantly keep up on advances in their profession in order to cope with new problems.

To the engineering graduate in Canada today, there are apparently a great many positions open. Few of these, however, appear to be open to Atlantic Province graduates, and many available positions are even unknown to prospective graduates.

To those employers in this area who have complained of natives leaving these provinces, we ask that you make open positions known to the universities. It is not always the case that graduates wish to leave the Atlantic Provinces, but must in order to obtain employment.

By now, most of the Engineering Week is over. A highlight in the activities was the annual Foresters-Engineers hockey game, which saw our team retain the trophy by a 5-4 score. Other events, the Was-sail, and Social Night, have been successes. Plans for the Engineers' Ball, and the Winter Carnival sculpture and float have been finalized. However, it would be gratifying to see a more active part taken by members of the Engineering Society in their engineering activities.

My thanks are extended to committee chairman and others who have helped make the year's activities successful.

Engineering Society President



BILL PATERSON

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