

REPORTS FROM BRANCHES

man, an associate member, and ask why he does not come around and take an interest in the Society, he says, "You have no library, and there is no necessity for my spending fifteen dollars when I get nothing for it." No doubt there were good reasons for the small expenditure this year, but he thought it should be taken up and discussed seriously.

The President stated he thought the library was the best engineering library in the country. (Hear! hear!) Of course, it was not anything like so large as the Society would like to have it, but they had not the money to make it what they thought it should be, and everyone knew the expenses of the Society were mounting up very fast, and in addition to that the Society are moving this year, so the Council thought it inadvisable to buy many more books until they were in the new building.

In response to a question by Mr. McNab, the Secretary stated that as to researches, there have been practically no demands. The Society has facilities for having a research made by the Nelson Bureau of Research, and practically that has not been utilised this year, nor was it last year. There were one or two enquiries last year, so the research feature has not been patronised, although the attention of members has been called to it. There was no record kept of attendance, but he thought the average number of readers would not probably be more than half a dozen a day throughout the year.

Mr. Kennedy stated with regard to the matter of research that he had had occasion to pay quite a considerable sum to the American Society of Civil Engineers because they have a larger library running back a longer time, but if the Society had affiliation with some other concern so they could have such research he thought they would rather have it made through their own library, and it ought to be published and kept before them so they could understand it practically. The American Society have a number of transactions publishing announcements on such matters, and they are put in every time and so kept before the membership.

The Secretary here read from the certificate of membership issued in favor of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers by the Nelson's Encyclopaedia Library for Research:—"Members are entitled to the educational benefits and privileges of Nelson's Bureau of Research for special information. Upon request, members will be furnished with accurate information on any subject desired, agriculture, astronomy, art, chemistry, electricity, engineering, economics, geography, history, civics, literature, and all allied subjects. All questions will be answered without further charge." The working arrangement is that any question sent in to the Secretary is communicated to the Nelson Bureau for Research. Since this has been posted there have been six or eight enquiries. (Good!)

Mr. Mitchell stated that he was sure the members who are non-residents were delighted to hear of that arrangement.

There was another point which occurred to Mr. Mitchell. The various governments, the Provincial governments, as well as the Federal government, publish various reports throughout the year with reference to their works of an engineering character. The Province of Nova Scotia may publish reports with reference to its road and bridge structures. It may be that members who are living in Saskatchewan would like to know what reports have been published during the year. It is true that those members could write to the Provincial Engineers, but they do not know what is published without writing a letter. It would be a very convenient thing if the Library Committee, through the Council, would publish a list once a year of such publications.

Mr. T. C. Irving asked if it were possible to get the branches of this Society placed on the exchange list of other technical Societies so they might exchange transactions.

The Secretary stated that if they were liberally disposed they might. These exchanges with the Society here have usually been made on the basis of exchange. He supposed some Societies might be willing to send to all the branches. He would be very glad indeed to make the representation.

Mr. Mountain agreed with the last speaker. He thought the Society might ask if other Societies do that, and call their attention to the fact that if any branches of theirs are formed, this Society would reciprocate.

The President thought this a very good suggestion and would refer it to the incoming Council and Library Committee.

On the motion of Mr. Lumsden, seconded by Mr. Blumenthal the report of the Library Committee was accepted unanimously.

The President said that the next order of business was the financial statement which begins at page twenty-three and goes to page twenty-six.

Mr. Mountain moved the adoption of that report.

The President stated that the next business before the Society was the reception of reports from branches.

Reports were then read from Victoria, Vancouver, Manitoba and Ottawa. The first three were accepted.

Mr. Uniacke, before adjournment, asked if the Ottawa report was open to discussion.

The President stated that the discussion would come. If you want to discuss it you can do so after lunch, and the motion would then be put.

At one p.m. adjourned accordingly.

AFTERNOON SESSION—JANUARY 28th, 1913

The President said that the meeting had finished reading the report of the Ottawa branch. He understood some members wish to discuss that report.

Mr. Robinson moved in so far as the report deals with matters pertaining to a report of the transactions of the branch of Ottawa, that it be accepted, and that such matters as are contained in that report recommending to this body something to be done, be referred to the heading of "New Business," to come up at that regular time.

The President said that this was satisfactory.

Mr. Mountain asked if it were new business arising out of the adoption of that report. If it was anything to be discussed it seemed to him it should be before the report was finally adopted. The only thing he wanted to refer to was the question of the number of students in the Ottawa branch that have reached their limit of age, and should be transferred. On behalf of the Ottawa branch he would call the attention of the Society to that with a view to its being taken in hand. These men could not be allowed to remain as students and pay one dollar a year, and the branch be out of the receipt of their percentages as corporate members.

The President said that the Secretary had been hammering away at that question as hard as he possibly could. He thought it was also up to the members of the Ottawa branch to move a little in the matter.

Mr. Mountain stated that they could not do that. They had tried to do that and the members of the Society represented that the branch was usurping the powers of the parent Society. It must be done through the parent Society.

The President said that he agreed with that.

The Secretary said that perhaps Mr. Mountain knew that a final circular had been issued to all of the students. There were some six hundred on the list to whom such notices had gone, informing them that unless they make application for transfer to a higher grade, or show that they are still eligible to remain as students, they will be removed from the list on the first of March. He also said that the Council referred the matter to the Society solicitor in order to ascertain whether it was competent for the Council to transfer such students without their application, and he informed the Council that it was not, that they must make application.

Mr. Mountain said that answered his objection.

The President added he thought the Ottawa branch and the other branches would help along in that matter by urging these student members to make application.

Mr. Mountain said with all due respect to the Chair, that was impossible. They had been called down for attempting to do it.

Mr. Braley, as Secretary of the Ottawa branch, said that they had tried to get these members to transfer, but a certain number of them said they did not have to unless they were forced to. In fact, the question had been brought up that the Society could not force them to transfer because the By-Law for the age limit was passed just lately.

The Secretary said that there was nothing in that.

Mr. Jas. White said that there was another way out of the difficulty. If in accordance with the By-laws it is impossible to force these men to transfer, to change the By-laws. He suggested leaving the matter in abeyance for twelve months, but he did not see any reason why the By-laws should not be changed twelve months hence, and then let the parent association take action. Mr. Mountain had put the matter concisely. He did not know that they could do anything more.

The President said there was no doubt the parent Society was doing everything it could in that matter, and would continue to do so.

Mr. Braley asked if the Society could refuse them the transactions.