

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY  
F. C. GAMBLE, PRESIDENT,  
BEFORE THE  
CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS  
At the Annual Meeting held in Montreal, the  
26th January, 1916.

The past year has been one of stress and anxiety. The British Empire has been engaged for eighteen months in the greatest struggle in the history of the world with a nation which for over forty years has been unsparing in preparation for imposing upon the world by force its system of civilization and "Kultur." Notwithstanding the serious handicap of unpreparedness under which the Empire entered upon this war, the British Army, under the unsurpassed guardianship of the Grand Fleet, and supported by contingents from the Overseas Dominions, has withstood the violent attacks of the enemy in Flanders and France with courage and valour. It is not too optimistic to say that the ultimate end shall be the triumph of British principles of liberty and justice. To assist loyally in the task thus imposed upon the Empire three hundred and sixty-three (363) members of our Society (ten per cent. of the total membership) have given their services freely, of which number, thirteen (13) have so far made the supreme sacrifice. We honour those who have died that the Empire may live, and extend to their relatives an expression of our admiration and deepest sympathy. While the memory of their deeds will remain in our hearts so long as we live, it is but fit and proper to commemorate by a tangible token their noble patriotism and unselfish surrender of their lives.

In one way the Society has already marked its appreciation of this by remitting the annual dues of members actively engaged at the front. This should meet with the unanimous approval of members.

In the report for the year 1915, the membership of all grades was 3,058. At the commencement of this year, January, 1916, taking into account deaths, resignations and removal from roll for non-payment of dues, the membership remains about the same. We have to mourn the loss by death during the past year of sixteen members, including juniors and students. Of these thirteen were killed in action, to which a previous reference has been made. Of the others special mention should be made of the late Mr. T. C. Keefer, C.M.G., first and tenth