

Mr. BRODIE, in returning thanks, remarked that it was a great pleasure to him to have the resolution moved by Sir Douglas^a Fox, whom he well remembered in connection with the important Mersey Tunnel work his firm were carrying out in Liverpool many years ago. Mr. Fitz-Gibbon had recalled the fact that they worked together when being trained as engineers, and, with that modesty for which Mr. Fitz-Gibbon was well known, he had cut off quite a few years in estimating the lapse of time. His year of office had been very enjoyable. He entered upon his duties as President with diffidence. He had certainly learned a good deal during his tenure of the office; and he had to thank the Vice-Presidents, the members of the Council, and particularly the Secretary, for the kind help extended to him throughout the year.

The PRESIDENT then delivered the following Address:—

In taking the Chair as your President in this home of my profession, what is uppermost in my mind is the hope that I may be able to make some little return by service to our Institution for what it has been to me in my professional life, and so to justify your election of me for a second time when my illness had prevented my taking the Chair to which you elected me 4 years ago. I recognize that you have treated me with generous consideration, and I thank you for it. I enter on the office with a deep sense of responsibility, and realize that it is only with the support and help of my colleagues on the Council that I can hope to discharge its duties.

Now let me clear the ground; it is with some diffidence that I begin this address. Great changes are coming into force under the Railways Act, and the Railway Companies of Great Britain are about to start a new and deeply interesting chapter of their history; but as my own active connection with a Railway Company came to an end 4 years ago, this is not a subject on which it is suitable for me to enlarge. I may, however, express the hope that there will be, as the result of the new situation, some considerable developments in standardization of railway practice, for which there are ample opportunities in matters both great and small. One important step in this direction has already been made in the Reports to the Minister of Transport of Sir Alexander Kennedy's Advisory Committee on Electrification of Railways.

The whole of my professional life has been that of a railway engineer. Such a life does not run in any narrow groove. With canals and reservoirs, docks and harbours claiming attention in addition to the railway work proper (new works, maintenance and Parliamentary) the railway engineer has a great variety of experience and work. Then, in addition, there is a large staff for the main-

tenance of the works under his control, and in recent years a great deal of his time and attention has had to be given to labour questions, an exacting responsibility.

It is often said that the new works side of the railway engineer's department is more attractive and offers greater opportunities than the maintenance side. While there is no doubt that a man who is to be a railway engineer must have his training on the carrying out of new works, there can also be no doubt that he will be a much more satisfactory designer and constructor of works if he has had experience in the maintenance of such works on lines open for traffic. He will, in his maintenance experience, learn what not to do as well as some things to do as a designer or as a resident engineer carrying out new work. No doubt in a well-organized engineers' department there will be means provided to bring to the notice of the drawing-office any points which arise in maintenance which make a particular design unsuitable or susceptible of improvement, and such improvements gradually become standard practice. Thus, for example, the steel bridge-floor designs of to-day are, as a result of maintenance-experience, a great improvement on those of an earlier date. It is now a rule that any wrought-iron or steel work which is not permanently protected from the action of air and damp shall be readily accessible for painting when required. Similarly the best bridge-floors of to-day are provided with means for disposing of the rainfall on the bridge without annoyance to those who pass under them, an annoyance always accompanied by deterioration of the structure. These, it may be said, are small matters, but efficient maintenance is made up of small matters, and it is the attention to small matters which prevents big accidents. As the result of maintenance experience the permanent way has been continuously improved until—with perhaps the exception of the rail joint—it leaves little to be desired to promote smooth running on a well-maintained road, so far as the design is concerned. Given the best design, however, the smooth running depends on the divisional engineers and their maintenance staff. Further advance in the direction of longer life for the rails is to be looked for rather in the material and manufacture than in increased weight of rail.

I have great sympathy with the divisional maintenance engineer on a railway. Much of the most difficult and responsible work on which the safety of the traffic depends is quietly carried out under his supervision, and makes little show in the public eye unless something goes wrong. He is responsible for the safety and proper maintenance of the permanent way and works on his division; he

carries out the smaller class of new works, watches the progress of the working of minerals under or affecting the railway, makes good the resulting subsidence, and fixes the speed to which trains shall be limited in passing over portions of the line at which speed has to be reduced for safety. Those who have had experience of the surface results from the working of the coal and fire-clay of the coal-measures, the oil-shales, the Furness hæmatite, the East Lancashire flag-rock and of the brine-pumping in salt areas will appreciate correctly the constant watchfulness required. Then again the railway maintenance engineer, if he has charge of a defective brick or masonry tunnel, will gain invaluable experience in keeping it in order, though many of his Sundays may have to be spent in acquiring it. Such experience will be of the greatest use to him when it becomes his duty to construct a tunnel on a new line. He will have learnt how not to do some things and will see that they are done rightly in his new work. Part of his duty is the supervision of the renewal and strengthening of bridges to meet the greater loads which the constantly increasing weight of the locomotives and their individual axle-loads has brought upon them. When it is remembered that George Stephenson's engine, the Rocket, which won the prize at the competition at Rainhill in October, 1829, prior to the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, weighed only $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons, including fuel and water, and that engines are now running at greatly increased speeds with five times this total load upon one pair of wheels, it is plain that much strengthening of structures must have been required in the mean time. It says much for the design and workmanship of the stone and brick bridges and viaducts of the early railways that they have withstood so well the enormous and unforeseen increase in the demands made upon them. On the other hand, it is not surprising that in many of the old stone viaducts the spandril walls carrying the parapets and retaining the filling over the haunches and backing of the arches have been unable to withstand the continual pounding of these increased weights and have had to be rebuilt of greater thickness and strength.

A short history of one of these early structures, which illustrates some of the problems of maintenance, may be of interest. It is one of the graceful laminated timber-arch viaducts which Joseph Locke (President 1857-59) constructed on a number of his railways, for instance, on the Manchester and Sheffield, the Lancaster and Carlisle, the Scottish Central, and the Western of France. In April, 1840, my father was in the third year of his 6 years' pupilage to Locke. One day towards the end of that month Locke came into the room where he was working and handed him a letter and sketch

from his assistant, W. B. Buddicum,¹ giving some particulars and dimensions of the laminated timber-arch viaducts which John and Benjamin Green² had recently erected for the Newcastle, North Shields and Tynemouth Railway, and instructed him to get out drawings for viaducts on the same principle for the Manchester and Sheffield Railway. My father entered on the work with enthusiasm. May I quote from his diary? "May 13, 1840. Drawing timber viaduct 120-foot span and 40-foot rise for the Sheffield Railway. At office till twelve o'clock." "May 14, 1840. Drawing timber viaduct. At office till 10 p.m." These diary entries show that a hard-working pupil in those days had very good work and plenty of it. The lofty Broadbottom and Dinting Viaducts on the Manchester and Sheffield Railway (now Great Central) for which these drawings were made, were shortly afterwards constructed by A. S. Jee, M. Inst. C.E.,³ resident engineer on the railway. Subsequently, in 1845, as resident engineer under Locke on the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway, my father constructed one of these viaducts over the river Lune at Lancaster. This viaduct carried the main line traffic of the London and North-Western Railway to Scotland. When that company acquired the Lancaster and Carlisle it was decided that the timber arches should be replaced by an iron structure. The viaduct would have continued to carry the traffic safely for some years longer in spite of the increased weight of locomotives since its construction, but a large oil-works had been established in its immediate vicinity and the increased risk of the destruction of the bridge by fire, which would have severed the connection of the London and North-Western with Scotland, was the determining factor. So in 1865-6 my father replaced the timber arches after a life, somewhat prematurely terminated, of 21 years by a less inflammable structure consisting of continuous wrought-iron box girders carried by the original stone piers with cross-girders and a timber floor. By the courtesy of Mr. Trench, Chief Engineer of the London and North-Western Railway, I am able to complete the history of the bridge to the present time. The old box-girders and cross-girders still continue in use, but the timber floor was replaced in 1894 by steel beams carrying longitudinal chair timbers and floor plates. This history speaks well for the careful maintenance of the old wrought-iron superstructure which has been in use for 55 years.

¹ M. Inst. C.E. (1845-87). Author of the notes on the various Schools for Engineers in France in the Institution's "Education and Status of Civil Engineers," 1870.

² See Paper by Benjamin Green, M. Inst. C.E. Minutes of Proceedings Inst. C.E., vol. v, p. 219.

³ See Paper by A. S. Jee, M. Inst. C.E. *Ibid.*, vol. v, p. 216.

Mr. Blundell, Chief Engineer of the Great Central Railway, informs me that the two viaducts on the Manchester and Sheffield Railway (now Great Central) have a somewhat similar history, the original timber arches having been replaced by wrought-iron box girders after a life of 16 years (1844-60),¹ and further strengthenings having taken place in 1893 and 1917. I am indebted to Mr. Bengough, Chief Engineer of the North-Eastern Railway, for the history of Green's Ouseburn Viaduct, the prototype of these bridges; it was brought into use in 1839. In 1867, after a life of 28 years, the timber arches were renewed in wrought-iron, the timber decking being retained in use until 1896, when it was renewed with wrought-iron. The history of these bridges raises the question how far it was a sound proposition financially to erect these large span timber arches rather than a more permanent superstructure in the first instance. No doubt, there was a great saving in first cost in Locke's Lune Viaduct, with its timber arches, as compared with the viaduct with elliptical stone arches of similar span, which Vignoles erected over the Ribble at Preston at about the same time for the North Union Railway, which now, like the Lancaster and Carlisle, is part of the London and North-Western main line to Scotland. On the other hand, the cost of maintenance of the Lancaster structure must have been much the greater of the two. There is no likelihood, however, of the maintenance records for these two viaducts from the date of their construction being still in existence. In considering the suitability of these large span timber arches the financial conditions at the time of their construction must be borne in mind. The Lancaster and Carlisle Railway was the last link in the West Coast route through England, and it was important to push it through as quickly as possible; whereas, at the time when the substitution of iron girders for the timber arches was decided upon, the line was earning large dividends.

This is ancient history, and perhaps I have dwelt too long upon it, but it is typical of many of the problems of railway construction and maintenance, and illustrates the continuous competition between the locomotive and the fixed structures.

Our predecessors, the pioneers of early railways, were far-sighted men, but even they could not grasp fully the stupendous changes which the new facilities for transport would bring about; they hardly realized that they were putting the finishing touches to the industrial revolution, which, for better for worse, has transformed our country.

¹ See Paper by Sir William Fairbairn, M. Inst. C.E. Minutes of Proceedings Inst. C.E., vol. xxii, p. 327.

Hence, much of the railway-engineer's work latterly has been to fit the original work to modern conditions—widening and enlarging, doing away with level crossings of road and railway, and railway and railway, strengthening bridges and fitting suburban lines for electric working. There were giants in those early days, and one cannot accuse them of lack of vision without being uncomfortably conscious that perhaps we ourselves are lacking in vision of the great changes ahead of us, and are possibly not very ready to open our eyes to them. Are not prospects opening out before us not less vast than those of 100 years ago? For the moment economic difficulties seem to block the way, but who can say what new applications of the great sources of power in Nature may change our present conditions even more than steam has changed those of the past? It may well be that the children of to-day will live to see, as a result of new industrial developments, an unpolluted atmosphere, an England of clean and shining towns, and once again “England's green and pleasant land.”

I wish now to refer to some matters concerning our Institution and our membership of it, and what it is that we mean by a Civil Engineer, and in doing so I shall have to touch upon some points which are familiar to you from the records in the Proceedings of the Institution and the Reports of the Council.

The earliest recorded use of the name Civil Engineer which I have been able to trace is 150 years ago, on 15th March, 1771, in the minute recording the formation of a society or club, which later gave rise to the Society of Civil Engineers now known as the Smeatonian. At this meeting it was agreed “that the Civil Engineers of this Kingdom do form themselves into a Society.” The minute was signed by Thomas Yeoman (in the Chair), John Smeaton, who had designed and constructed the Eddystone Lighthouse 12 years before the date of the meeting, Robert Mylne of the New River Company, who had completed his Blackfriars Bridge 2 years before, and four others. In the course of the following 21 years the membership reached a total of sixty-five, and included William Jessop, a pupil of Smeaton, James Golborne, Robert Whitworth, a pupil of Brindley, Matthew Bolton (Boulton), John Rennie, James Watt, and Joseph Priestley. In 1793 the society was reconstructed with a stricter constitution. Under this there were three classes of members. The first were ordinary members described as “real engineers employed as such in public or private service.” Among these were William Jessop, Robert Whitworth, John Rennie, Robert Mylne, and James Watt. The second and third classes were honorary members. Smeaton had agreed to join the new society, but died before its first meeting.

It is interesting and material to compare the dates of the organizing of the Civil Engineers just described with the dates of the development of the status of Military Engineers at about the same time or a little earlier. At the beginning of the eighteenth century the functions subsequently transferred to the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers were performed by the Board of Ordnance with its engineers. These were the men who at that time bore the name of engineer, but their work was purely military. In 1716¹ a regular corps of engineers was formed, still however under the Board of Ordnance, while the Artillery was placed on a proper footing as a separate establishment. In 1757¹ the Engineers first received commissions and thus obtained military rank, and in 1787¹ the corps became the Royal Engineers. It will be noticed that a few years after the Military Engineers for the first time received commissions "the Civil Engineers of this kingdom," as the little meeting of 1771 described itself, founded their first society, and that 6 years after the Military Engineers attained their position and title of Royal Engineers the "Society of Civil Engineers" was revived on a more strictly professional basis, and in the same year, 1793, Smeaton, in the preface to his account of the Eddystone Lighthouse, speaks of "my profession of a Civil Engineer."

This growth in strength and status of the Military Engineer was taking place at the same time as the increasing demand for the engineer on the civil side of life was crystallizing the need for association and improvement in status of the men who were practising in such work. It is perhaps too much to say that the one chain of events was consequent upon the other, but no doubt both were influenced by the progress of the industrial revolution, of which the development of engineering was an integral part, and undoubtedly the assumption of the description Civil Engineer was by way of distinction from the Military Engineer who had, up to that time, monopolised the title of Engineer.

Twenty-five years later—2nd January, 1818—The Institution of Civil Engineers was founded. The founders were, as pointed out by Dr. Tufts in his "Record of the Origin and Progress of The Institution," read at the centenary meeting on the 8th January, 1918, for the most part men engaged in the construction of machinery, and their use of the expression "Civil Engineer" in the title of the new Institution was in accord with the

¹ Major-Gen. Whitworth Porter, R.E., "History of the Corps of Royal Engineers," 1889.

distinction drawn then and subsequently between "Civil" and "Military" Engineers.

At this date engineering was opening out in all directions in the United Kingdom. The country was being covered with a network of canals; the high-roads were being thoroughly improved; little mineral railways were being laid out here and there, and Blenkinsop-Hedley and Stephenson had steam-locomotives working upon them; Symington had tried his steam-barge, the "Charlotte Dundas," on the Forth and Clyde Canal successfully, and 10 years later the S.S. "Comet" had commenced running on the Clyde; river navigation and harbours were being improved. What a prospect for the young civil engineer.

"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,
But to be young was very heaven."

Ten years later (3rd June, 1828) our Royal Charter of Incorporation was granted embodying the well-known statement of the objects of the Institution and of the "species of knowledge which constitutes the profession of a Civil Engineer."

The wide range of the profession is well illustrated by the present constitution of the Council of the Institution, which includes members practising in more than half-a-dozen branches of engineering, each of which has an important institution devoted to its special interests. On the other hand a narrower view of what is meant by civil engineering has been made familiar to the public and to students by the action of some universities and colleges in establishing parallel courses of civil engineering and mechanical engineering, and again very recently by some railway companies adopting the titles of Civil Engineer and Mechanical Engineer for two chief officers. It is, perhaps, too late to overtake this modern usage, but that does not affect the meaning of the words "Civil Engineers" in the name of the Institution. There is no doubt that at its birth, at the time of the granting of the Royal Charter, and throughout its 103 years of vigorous life and action, these words in its title have stood for civil engineers in every branch of professional engineering with the exception of the military.

The Institution by-laws now prescribe a number of alternative courses by which a man who has or has not gone through an engineering college course and taken an engineering degree may acquire that practical training which he must have before he can become a civil engineer and an Associate Member of the Institution. About half a century ago, when the question had to be decided whether an English boy should go through a college engineering course before being articulated as a pupil to a civil engineer, Owens College, Manchester,

was the only college in England, outside London, where such a course was to be obtained, though Glasgow (Professor Rankine) and Edinburgh (Professor Fleeming Jenkin), and Trinity College, Dublin, also provided them. Still, it was a question at that time whether it might not be best for a boy to go to one of the great foreign Polytechnic schools, Zürich, Carlsruhe, Stuttgart, &c.¹ No such question need arise to-day; there is no lack of the best scientific preparatory training for engineers in Great Britain and the Dominions, nor is there any need for a British boy to consider going abroad for lack of choice of the best educational facilities at home.

In bringing about this result, the Institution bore a part by the issue in 1870 of the very valuable report on "The Education and Status of Civil Engineers in the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries."

As a result of experience commencing with my own pupilage I am of opinion that the best way for the young engineer to obtain his practical training is by means of pupilage, after graduation at one of the many universities, old or new, which have engineering schools. The relation between a chief and his pupil is a very satisfactory one for both parties, always remembering that both have their obligations. Possibly I have been specially fortunate, but it has not fallen to my lot to have to do with pupils who were not eager to do their best to learn all they could and make themselves as useful as possible to those with whom they had to work. I have had the happiness to make lasting friendships among those who have stood to me in that relation.

In the old days a boy often went straight from school into his pupilage to a civil engineer. To-day, if well advised, he takes his university or college course of at least 3 years before doing so. This affects the financial question, with the result that men otherwise suitable in character and education for the profession of civil engineer not infrequently cannot afford the premium for a pupilage.

An arrangement, however, adopted for recruiting the Engineer's professional staff to suit the conditions of a great railway company, has been found to work well both for the young engineer and for the company, and meets such cases. Young men who had taken a good university degree were, on leaving college, taken on to the staff at a small salary, which was raised at the end of each year of service. They undertook to remain with the railway company for 3 years, but the company could terminate the engagement at any time

¹ See "The Education and Status of Civil Engineers in the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries," Minutes of Proceedings Inst. C.E., 1870.

during the 3 years. Special facilities were given them for becoming acquainted with such varieties of work as the Engineer's office and works afforded. They were employees of the railway company, subject to its conditions, and not personal pupils of the engineer. It had been found by experience elsewhere that the condition to stay with the company for 3 years was necessary, as otherwise, after a year or so, when the advantage was nearly all on one side, the young man might obtain a nomination abroad, on the ground that he had gone through an engineering college course and had had a year's training on the staff of the engineer of an English railway. That the arrangement I have described was satisfactory to the young men was shown by the fact that under these conditions high-grade university men were forthcoming for such vacancies as occurred from time to time.

It not infrequently happens that a man on leaving college, after having taken a degree in engineering, takes a salaried position of a kind or under circumstances which preclude its being accepted as training to qualify for corporate membership of the Institution, with the result that such admission must be long postponed if ever attained. Now that the Institution has decided to permit men while at college to be nominated for Studentship of the Institution by professors under whom they are working, and who are corporate members, without the condition hitherto insisted upon that the student should have in advance made arrangements for his practical training, I venture to hope that they will exercise care to see that those of their students who intend in due course to become corporate members of the Institution understand the importance of arranging for practical training as civil engineers under one or other of the alternatives set forth in the By-Laws.

Out of all the endeavours of many members to help the Council to further the interests of the Institution, emerges a substantial feeling that the effort required—and often the sacrifice—to attain competence in civil engineering, is ill-requited by many employers, and especially by the State and public bodies. Requests are often addressed to the Institution that its influence may be used to secure some improvement of the position of members engaged in particular services—an object difficult enough to fulfil without being told to mind one's own business, as regards commercial relations between employer and employed.

This does not, however, dismiss the question. It is there, and it must be admitted it has not been answered effectively. It will be known through the medium of Council Reports and similar statements to those who read them, that the Council have in such

ways as appeared to be justified and prudent sought to improve the position of members of the Institution who serve under public authorities of various kinds—an improvement which, if secured, would quickly reflect on the status of civil engineers in other avocations.

But here we must pause for a moment to inquire—what is the real view of those who compose the Institution, as to its definite and avowed objects? Is it in these days to continue to pursue its primary intention, for which it was founded and chartered, to advance the knowledge and skill of its members, and incidentally to approve their qualifications in those respects, thereby promoting the status of the civil engineering profession as a whole; or is it to devote itself largely to the individual interests of its members?

There is undoubtedly a school of thought which measures the value of our Institution by some tangible gain or personal benefit. The man who thinks he owes least to the Institution should remember that though he may practise successfully the profession and art of a civil engineer, yet it was the Institution which established it, and that it is very largely the prestige of the Institution which lends to-day an authority to those who claim the title of civil engineer, whether they are members or not.

It may not be according to precedent for a President to recognize that the subject of emolument claims a serious share of the attention of those whose first object is to raise and advance their profession. But it is useless to shut one's eyes to this.

Whether by direct representation that civil engineers' services are worth more than is sometimes offered for them, or by the indirect mode of restricting the employment of persons whose claims to civil engineering competence are thought to be doubtful—the result widely sought for is the same; and we must all be in sympathy with the idea, however unpromising its attainment by those means may appear to be to long experience.

The clear practical way of assuring to members of the Institution a full share of the benefits it has conferred, and can yet confer, upon the civil engineering profession, is to secure that the term which designates that profession, and has obtained its high value through our Institution, may be understood by all and sundry to mean a person found by it to be qualified. Such was the success of the Institution in its earlier days in establishing the profession of civil engineering, and so little was it careful to safeguard its title, that a simple description of profession, then formally assumed and rendered valuable by its efforts, cannot now be claimed exclusively

by its members, who, it appears, must accordingly adopt some modified term if they wish to distinguish their calling clearly.

It is impossible to insist too strongly that training is of the essence of the matter that lies at the root of all this. It must be obtained in the civil engineer's office and in or upon engineering works. If a man is to be a civil engineer, he must have, in the words of the charter, "that species of knowledge which constitutes the profession of a civil engineer," to promote which the Institution was founded. I claim for the Institution that it has from the very first made its object the improvement of the profession of civil engineering, and by profession I mean the possession of particular knowledge. The question naturally arises—what is this particular knowledge, and what is the training essential to its acquisition? The answer must be that The Institution of Civil Engineers is the authority to determine that. It is the original and only body in Great Britain constituted by act of the Crown to promote the profession of civil engineering, and its rules in regard to education and practical training have been laid down with the greatest care by those most competent to judge what is required in these matters. Civil engineering is not born in a man, nor can he have it thrust upon him by means of a suitable appointment, but he must achieve it through education, training and experience. Until he has done this, he cannot claim to be a civil engineer under our Charter and By-Laws.

It is probably due largely to the general likeness of this education and training that Civil Engineers in all parts of the world form the community we know. There has been advocated some enlarged co-ordination of the aims of bodies whose interests are associated with various special branches of engineering, and this important question will no doubt receive the very careful consideration it calls for. Meanwhile, the unity of our own Institution is necessarily our first care, and I shall feel indeed glad if what I have tried to set forth may help to strengthen that community of view and aim on which such unity depends.

Dr. W. C. UNWIN, Past-President, moved: "That the best thanks of The Institution be accorded to the President for his Address, and that he be asked to permit it to be printed in the Minutes of the Proceedings." The pleasant duty he had to undertake was one of those which came with advancing age, in spite of the disabilities which age brought with it; but he had great pleasure in moving the resolution, because of the President's exceedingly valuable and interesting Address. Mr. Worthington had begun by saying that

he recognized The Institution as the home of the profession of Civil Engineering, and in another part of his Address he had shown it was the home of the profession in rather a special sense. It was not only the oldest engineering Institution in the country, but from the first it had embraced within its ranks all branches of the profession ; the Charter defined it so. The Council had always had on it members of the various branches of the profession, and its membership included many engineers who were practising in those branches. He did not think that was quite so well understood outside as it was among the members themselves, but it was a distinction which he hoped would never be lost sight of. Unfortunately the practice, which originated he believed in the United States, of limiting the term "civil engineer" to one particular branch of the profession, had more weight in popular opinion than was right.

Sir MURDOCH MACDONALD, K.C.M.G., C.B., in seconding the resolution, said he was sure that it would be carried by acclamation and that everyone would be glad to read the Address in the Proceedings, and have it for reference in the future.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT having thanked the members for their reception of his Address, presented the Telford, George Stephenson, and Watt Medals ; after which the other awards made by the Council for Papers read during the Session 1920-21 were announced.