

ENGINEERING



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ASSISTANCE NEEDED

In 1951 the Massey Report advocated federal aid to universities and, as a result, some financial assistance has been forthcoming. However, if Canadian universities are to be run on a sound financial basis, government assistance must be increased. Augmented federal aid can only result by setting aside an amount for that purpose in the budget. Such an action may only be done at the expense of some other government service or else by an increase in taxation.

A large item in a university's budget is the cost of equipment, and this applies particularly to the engineering faculty. The amount of laboratory equipment that may be purchased by a department is very limited and some equipment which is badly needed cannot be obtained because of the high cost. The consequence of this is that a restriction is placed on research work done by the engineering faculty, and in addition, work at the undergraduate level may be hampered.

Why is it that Canada's large engineering companies do not make donations of equipment to universities? These companies have an enormous yearly turnover and the donation of a few items of equipment would be insignificant compared with their total output. Universities would not only benefit but the manufacturers themselves would benefit from the advertising value such donations would have. It is notable that the only engineering companies who have made donations have usually been the smaller concerns. The giants of the engineering business have not, as a rule, shown such generosity. It should, therefore, be brought to the attention of Canada's large engineering companies that such donations will prove beneficial to both themselves and the universities as well as to many of their future employees.

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FROM DR. TURNER

While checking on the history of the Engineering Society the other day, I discovered that the first constitution of the Society was accepted on January 16, 1904. It appears therefore, that our Society is about to complete the first half century of its history.

In its early days the Society offered membership to the practicing Engineers of the Saint John Valley, and had a few members from the State of Maine. The first honorary president of the Society was the Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. J. B. Snowball. Today the practicing Engineers still meet with the UNB Engineering Society, but as our guests, and we in turn are guests of their organization, the Fredericton Branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

In this half century many students have contributed something to the Society, and to its members, and in so doing have done something for themselves as well. We often hear complaints from members of the Institute, and other Engineering bodies, that not enough is being done for the individual member. It might be suggested to these discontented people, that if they chose to take the opposite line of approach, and ask themselves "What can I do for the Society," they would not only be far happier in their membership, but they would be adding to their value as Engineers.

From service to one's own Professional Societies, it is only a step to public service, which is an item that should appear in the program of all educated individuals. The Engineer has an unequalled opportunity for public service, and by his good acts, can raise the prestige of the profession as well as his own. It is never too early for the young men and women in Engineering to contemplate this proposition. Unsuspected happiness and satisfaction may be the result, as it often has been in the past.

As usual, you have your Dean's best wishes for happiness and prosperity in the years ahead.

—E. O. TURNER

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Hardly a week passes without at least one representative of an engineering company visiting the campus in search of prospective employees among engineering students. Compared with last year's high demand, the call for engineers, this year, is even greater and shows no sign of diminishing in the near future. One consequence of the shortage of engineers is that the engineering graduates are able to pick their future employers to suit their own particular desires. No longer does the engineer have to seize the first offer he receives so that he may be certain of employment after his graduation.

The offering and acceptance of employment is governed, as are all forms of barter, by the law of supply and demand. In order to keep pace with other companies in attracting employees, engineering firms are giving better incentives when offering jobs. Many large companies now offer their own training courses, salaries have increased and security plans are being improved. From the student's point of view this is a welcome state of affairs.

Unfortunately, there is a second and not so obvious outcome of this situation. As a result of the increased demand, the quality of the supply does not necessarily have to be as high as when the demand is limited. Low grade graduates have little more difficulty in obtaining positions than do the higher grade students. If the present high demand continues for many years, it is conceivable that engineering students may be lulled into a false security and may have an inflated idea of their own importance. Consequently, the ambition and initiative of engineers may decrease, which would in turn impair the efficiency of the engineering industry.

Therefore, let us beware of such a trend, keeping in mind that the present demand for engineers could well diminish rapidly at any time, depending on world conditions. Engineers must continue striving to improve themselves and broaden their minds so that they may take their place successfully in Canada's engineering industries.

Letters to the EDITOR

To the Editor,  
The Brunswickan,  
University of New Brunswick.

Dear Sir:  
I am informed that the Student Activities Commission is sponsoring a campaign to raise funds for European flood relief. All monies raised in the campaign will be distributed by International Red Cross.

I am glad to have this opportunity to endorse the campaign. The devastation in Holland and England caused by the tremendous floods of recent weeks is gigantic. In both these countries, especially in Holland, the disaster is more than ordinarily serious coming as it did long before the tragic effects of the war could be overcome. I am sure that all Canadians will wish to do whatever they can to help both the Dutch and the English. I sincerely hope that the local campaign will meet with a generous response from both students and faculty.

Yours very truly,  
A. W. TRUEMAN,  
President.

OH WELL HE'S AN ENGINEER

There are times on this university campus when an Engineer is made to feel that he (or she) is culturally starved and stutteringly inarticulate. A bloke who can think only in terms of electrons or stresses. It's time for a change! Cast away that thought, you who are constantly examining the seams of old literary garments and analyzing the fine lines of a "work of art". Toss away your dark glasses of ignorance and examine the engineer by the lights of a bonfire of burning traditions.

When an engineer receives his diploma you may be sure that he is the best educated man in the class. He is equipped with specialized training which enables him to obtain an interesting job which actively contributes to society. But in addition to this he has studied courses in: English, Law and Accounting, Economics, Public Speaking, Literature, Business Finance, Chemistry, Geology plus French and (or) German. This provides the engineer with an excellent foundation on which to build a broad cultural outlook. Although he takes no course in Psychology, he may, if ambitious, acquire a working knowledge of that subject by observing the strange actions of a species called the Artsman.

Don't ever accuse a modern Engineer of being uncultured just because he doesn't fondle a first edition of some obscure or even well known classic with reverent fingers. The judgement is too often given on the narrow basis of art alone. That kind of culture, like good manners, should be cultivated and used—but not flaunted. The dictionary defines the word Culture as "the act of developing by education and training". This, therefore, supports the argument that since engineers now have a varied and also specialized education, then they are the cultural equal, if not superior, of any graduate in any course.

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