

Journal
of the
ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS

VOL. XXXVII

DECEMBER

No. 4

Editorial Notes

Soil Mechanics & Failure of Hydraulic Structures:—In this issue we publish the remaining portion of the paper by K. B. Banerjee that could not be included in the last issue. It contains a few example of failures and some valuable recommendations for prevention of such failures in future.

Engineering Training:—Consideration of the best method of Training Engineers for the quickest and most efficient development of the country is exercising the minds of all interested in its welfare. We have therefore included in this issue a thoughtful article on this subject by our Hon. Secy. Sri A. Deb. This article is, in effect, a continuation of his paper on Engineering Education presented to the Science Congress Association last year and published in our issue No. 4 of Vol. XXXVI which met with appreciation from the members of the Planning Commission.

Planning for Greater Calcutta: Though Calcutta is now no longer the Capital of India and interest in it may be deemed to be merely local, yet the geographical position of Calcutta and its development as a port extend its influence over the whole of India and even beyond its shores.

There is at present great International interest in its development. We are therefore happy to have from Mr. K. B. Banerjee a paper on the subject entitled, "Development of the City of Calcutta," read before the Association of Engineers on the 27th November, 1961.

This is in effect a historical introduction. More papers are expected to follow.

Bengali:—Some of the articles in this Journal are published in the Bengali language though the cover title, Editorial and most of the articles are in the English language. It may be wondered why this is so. We therefore set down below some of the considerations which have caused this. The Journal was originated in the Province of Bengal at a time when its government was under English supervision and the highest education was under English influence, both in arts and in science. But Bengali was the language mostly spoken and best understood by a large population, larger than that of the whole of England, Scotland and Ireland. Moreover, there was a rich literature in Bengali which earned the appreciation and admiration of the world.

Though there was no scientific or technical literature in the language of sufficient value or quantity to attract notice, some Bengali words had begun to be adopted in English parlance in the workshops, and there were indications of the rising of technical literature in the language. Therefore when this Journal was established declaration was made that the publication would be made both in English and Bengali, and wherever contributions of note in Bengali were received these were published. As the greatest amount of technical literature in the world has been published in the English language, and the largest number of translations for documentation purposes have been made from other languages into the English language, English has been given the most prominent position in our Journal.

But for sometime, even prior to withdrawal of British Rule from this country, both primary and secondary education has been conducted in many schools in the Bengali language and there is a large number of people now who find the Bengali script easier to follow than the English, though they understand both the languages. There is also a rising feeling that all official work should be conducted in the Bengali Language, and contributions in Bengali are gradually increasing.

While, for the sake of efficiency, uniformity of work in one language is probably the best, yet variety is the spice of life, and we are of opinion that for the most efficient spread of knowledge and advancement of science without drudgery and to everybody's interest a variety of languages is best. While one "technical" term is always used for one meaning,

several words are used in several sentences to express clearly the same thought. So, while "official" work may be carried out in "official" language, Information may be most widely spread in the variety of languages that are most widely understood.

Our original declaration permits us to publish only in English and Bengali. A fresh declaration will be required for any other language.

Recognition of the Association: We have received from the Ministry of Scientific research and cultural affairs a communication stating that among the various items necessary for consideration in assessing the fitness for recognition an essential item is the particulars of examinations held by the association.

We have a syllabus for examinations which is recognisable and examiners who are recognised, and all our Members have qualifications which exempt them from appearance at these examinations.

To provide particulars of examinations held it is necessary to have candidates who are not otherwise qualified. Such candidates would be easily available if a prior declaration be given that the examination will be recognised if held in a certain manner. Without such a declaration candidates are doubtful as to the value of the fees they are required to pay for the examination. We do not, however, wish this association to become a "mercenary" institution which earns profits from examination fees from candidates aspiring to those lucrative Government posts which require the passing of this examination as one of the qualifications for the posts.

But we do wish that the qualifications of our Members are not looked down upon. We would therefore request our Members to recommend some candidates to sit for our examination so that the manner in which these are conducted may be assessed for grant of "official" recognition.

Obituary: We regret to announce that during this quarter we have lost three valuable members of the association who had helped considerably towards forwarding its aims and objects.

Sri B. K. Rohatgi, Sri K. M. Chowdhury, and Sri N. N. Sen. We include below brief life sketches of them and offer our condolence and sympathy to all members of their bereaved families, and pray that the departed souls may rest in peace.