

JOURNAL

OF THE

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS

Vol. XXIII

JUNE, 1947

No. 2.

EDITORIAL

Indian Science Congress

The Indian Science Congress had a very fruitful session this year that was made historic by the presence of a large number of eminent scientists from foreign countries. This international fellowship has gone a long way to remove some of the bitterness that has been growing between Eastern & Western nations. Such cultural contacts are therefore very desirable for the peace of the world. It is regretted that by some clerical oversight our Association was not officially represented at this historic session. But by good fortune one of our members happened to be present there in his individual capacity, and as Chief Engineer of the Public Health Department of the Government of Bengal. He is our President, Mr. P. C. Bose, and we have been favoured with the privilege of publishing in this issue the paper that he read there. The paper describes the development of a drainage & sanitary sewerage system for the Cossipore area in North Calcutta where the population is rapidly growing.

The publication of this paper has been much delayed by political disturbances and labour troubles which we regret, has been beyond our capacity to overcome. India, being now in the transition stage between dependency and independence, troublous times are likely to continue for a while. But our attention must, nevertheless, be still directed towards the planning of better progress for engineers.

Technical Personnel

With the termination of British rule and the disinclination of British officers to serve under Indians it will be necessary to obtain Indian personnel to fill many technical posts. The encouragement that will be given to expansion of Indian shipping will call for a large number of Indian marine engineers. In order to bring up Indian shipping to a reasonable standard in keeping with the large population and long coast line it is estimated that about 2,500 engineer officers would be required within the next 5 years. The number of training works & establishments now in existence in India would hardly provide 500 of them in that time on the present method of recruitment. Moreover the largest shipping companies on the Indian coast are reluctant to take on local men as apprentices and some form of encouragement must be arranged for these companies to provide sea training for local apprentices. The permission they have at present to trade on the Indian coasts should be a sufficient encouragement. But if in spite of this permission they refuse to give training to Indians while trading coasts, it may be advisable to introduce legislation whereby no vessel would be allowed after a certain date to trade on Indian coasts unless they were manned by Indian officers with the proper certificates of competency.

The position will not be in any way better in other departments in the matter of technical personnel. With the possibilities of all round developments throughout the country under the National Government we shall require several hundreds of civil, electrical and mechanical engineers, agriculturists, scientists, medical men and other technical personnel. The first and foremost need of the country will be self sufficiency in the matter of food supply. We have vast area of uncultivated waste land which can be usefully utilised if we have sufficient number of technical personnel. We have mighty rivers throughout the country which we can master and employ for irrigation and electrical energy if we get enough technical personnel for the purpose. We have unlimited man power whom we can free from diseases and make fit for work if we get sufficient number of medical men to spread over the country. Money is not an all important factor for development of the country, as a popular government can never be in want of fund so long it has the support of the people. It is the dearth of technical personnel that hampers progress. As long as a country will depend on other countries for technical advice and technical personnel it is bound to be exploited by the latter. So our immediate need after transfer of power will be technical personnel, and for that we shall have to strive hard, shall have to establish a number of technical schools and colleges throughout the country, and shall have to run the existing ones in double and treble shifts. Those who are lucky to possess some knowledge in technical science shall have to make their services available to the country, even at sacrifice of their personal comforts and leisure. The country will demand their services as our resources in this matter is very scanty. The Association of Engineers will also have to play its part