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Editorial

War Industries—

Another quarter has passed under the shadow of war. During the coming hot weather increased activity is apprehended and an enemy's gradual approach to our shores is discernible.

Progress of war industries is in full swing. Training of war technicians has been taken on hand. Munitions production and Naval construction are being carried on to the full limit of capacity of the existing plants in factories and shipbuilding yards. The manufacture of aircraft is also under consideration.

Shipbuilding—

Merchant shipbuilding and shipping is suffering to a great extent. The shortage of shipping space is being keenly felt. Due to the diversion of merchant tonnage to war purposes, large shipments of profitable merchandise are being held up and unless there is increased activity in shipbuilding with increased outlay of capital a period of overwhelming difficulty is likely to arise before conclusion of the present war.

The Association of Engineers has taken a timely interest in this matter by arranging for the discussion of a paper on "Shipbuilding in India," published elsewhere in this issue. It will be noticed that the paper strictly avoids such reference to India's past history, ancient grandeur and political handicaps of modern times as are liable to stir the emotions and raise

questions of racial discrimination that are better discussed from the political platform than in an Engineering society. It draws attention mainly to the future possibilities of the Industry that might be considered with advantage.

Steel Industry—

The Steel and Iron industry is now so fully engaged that it can hardly cope with the demand on its resources. Further expansion of the industry is extremely necessary. It should be looked upon as a "key industry" of India. It is fortunate that Indian youth is taking a keen interest in its development. We have in hand an interesting contribution (published elsewhere in this issue) on the problems of steel Rolling and Roll design which we hope will lead to greater study.

Reinforced-Concrete—

The use of concrete reinforced with steel has now become so common that theoretical dissertations on its principles have become a thing of the past. The price and quality of woods available in India, has however, attracted some attention and it might be possible by proper design to produce structures of equal strength at less cost if properly seasoned Indian Teakwood were used instead steel for Reinforcement. An article discussing experiments in this connection is published elsewhere in this issue.

22nd Anniversary—

Engineers, as a rule, are not fond of social gatherings, and it is not easy to get many members together unless there is something of great interest. The increase in attendance at the anniversary functions this year was therefore very encouraging to the members of the Council.

