

Minutes of the First General Meeting of the Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of British Columbia. Held on the 16th day of October, 1920, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, in the Auditorium of the Board of Trade Building, Pender Street, Vancouver, B. C.

The President, Mr. E. G. Matheson, in the Chair, the Vice-President, Mr. D. O. Lewis, and following members of Council being present:

A. E. Foreman
S. S. Fowler

J. Peck
W. H. Powell

H. L. Robertson
J. M. Turnbull

and according to the roll, signed by them, the following members were present:

W. Anderson
Geo. A. Walkem
H. M. Lloyd
William H. Hill
H. L. Taylor
R. G. Mellin
J. H. Devey
Geo. Pepin
H. W. Cockrill
J. H. Scott
P. Philip
S. Darnbrough
J. Muirhead
A. S. Wooton
C. E. Kendall
Jas. H. Kennedy
Philip P. Brown
E. H. Parker
J. W. B. Blackman
J. N. Anderson

B. Dunell
H. A. Icke
A. Stewart
C. W. Smith
W. A. Richardson
A. Vilstrup
C. R. Drysdale
H. A. Daubner
G. M. Irwin
A. S. Gentles
Chas. Nye
J. Beaton
W. J. MacKenzie
C. J. Fox
Fred Biggam
A. E. Pennicuick
F. L. Corbett
W. Jamieson
A. Lightall
Frank M. Sharp

Geo. A. Madigan
John H. Kilmer
Chas. E. Hope
J. C. Moon
W. G. Swan
P. H. Buchan
J. S. Connell
T. H. Crosby
F. H. Swift
G. T. Fox
C. Brakenridge
R. W. Brock
T. Halliday
J. Duncan
John S. Bruce
Chas. Bates
R. L. Hall
John F. C. B. Vance
R. C. Campbell-Johnston
J. F. Frew

J. B. Holdcroft
H. M. Bigwood
W. W. Fraser
T. E. Price
G. P. Stirrett
W. S. Fraser
F. W. MacNeill
J. Linkison King
A. G. Dalzell
R. S. Chamberlain
Hugh W. Frith
R. Snodgrass
E. Smith
R. Rome
Jos. B. Winter
H. P. Archibald
C. W. Colvin
Richard Hall
Edw. B. Grant
C. F. Bristol

A number of other members were present, but they left before the roll was signed. There was a total of one hundred and twenty-five members present, according to a vote taken at the beginning of the proceedings.

The proceedings opened by the Registrar reading the notice calling the meeting.

The President, E. G. Matheson, read the following report of the Provisional Council and presented a Statement of Receipts and Expenditures:

REPORT OF PROVISIONAL COUNCIL

To the Members of the Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of British Columbia.

Gentlemen:

The Provisional Council beg to report as follows:

As a result of the enactment by the Legislature of British Columbia of the "Engineering Professional Act," the Lieutenant Governor in Council, on the 20th day of May, 1920, appointed, in conformity with Section 31 of the Act, the following gentlemen as a Provisional Council to bring the Association into being:

E. G. Matheson, Vancouver, B. C., representing the University of British Columbia.

D. O. Lewis, Victoria, B. C.
A. E. Foreman, Victoria, B. C.
W. H. Powell, Vancouver, B. C. } Representing Civil Engineers.

J. M. Turnbull, Vancouver, B. C.
S. S. Fowler, Riondel, B. C.
A. W. Davis, Vancouver, B. C. } Representing Mining Engineers.

J. Peck, New Westminster, B. C., representing Mechanical Engineers.

W. R. Bonnycastle, Vancouver, B. C., representing Electrical Engineers.

J. A. M. Dawson, Vancouver, B. C., representing Chemical Engineers.

H. L. Robertson, Vancouver, B. C., representing Structural Engineers.

At the first meeting of the Provisional Council, held on Wednesday, 2nd June, the following were elected as the Provisional Officers of the Association:

President	E. G. Matheson
Vice-President	D. O. Lewis
Registrar and Secretary-Treasurer	H. L. Robertson

The Provisional Council further decided that the office of the Association shall be at 502-3 Yorkshire Building, Vancouver, B. C.

The Registrar and Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to have copies of the Act, together with all necessary Application for Membership forms, circulars, etc., which had been drafted by the Provisional Council, printed and sent out to all Engineers of whom we had any record, and to all such Engineers as applied for them. Some eleven hundred sets of application forms were primarily mailed out, which have been followed up at later dates by over two hundred more.

The Council has held six General Meetings, besides numerous Committee Meetings for the transaction of the business of the Association and for consideration of the applications for membership.

All applications for membership were in the first instance referred to Committees, each consisting of three members and representative of the various branches of Engineering for preliminary consideration, and if the members of these Committees desired further information with regard to any applicant, this was obtained by the Secretary before the application was placed before the full Council.

Four hundred and ninety-four applications have been received to date—a few too late for consideration prior to this Meeting.

Four hundred of these applications have been approved by the Council and accepted for membership. The balance of the applications have been referred to the regular Council, to be elected by the members of the Association, as the powers of the Provisional Council are limited under Section 32 of the Act.

A draft of By-laws has been prepared and is now submitted for your approval.

A Statement of Receipts and Disbursements is now submitted for your consideration; auditors will be appointed to check the accounts when the By-laws have been approved by the Meeting.

A Certificate of Registration for members of the Association has been drafted and is now in the hands of the printers and instructions have been given to the Registrar to issue a Certificate to all those entitled to receive it, which will be done at the earliest moment.

A Seal for the Association was devised, ordered made, and is now in the custody of the Registrar.

A Seal was adopted by the Council as the official standard to be used by members.

Signed on behalf of the Provisional Council by

"E. G. MATHESON,"

President.

The President then delivered his address, a brief resume of which is as follows:

That it was customary for the retiring President to deliver an annual address. In his case, however, this was impossible, as the work entailed by the examination of, and the passing upon, the applications, the selection of the Seals and drawing up of the By-laws was sufficient to cause the Council to neglect their private affairs. He, however, felt it was necessary to touch upon some matters appertaining to the Professional Engineers.

The President remarked that no matter what opinion existed in the minds of many who were qualified to become professional engineers, there was, judging by the numbers who had sent in applications, only one opinion as to the Act's usefulness. All were welcome, who were qualified, regardless of their previous attitude towards the bill.

The President made a strong plea for harmony and co-operation, as well as for the members to be more jealous of the good name of the organization than for their own. He pointed out that the members had a double obligation—that to the public and that to themselves. They had asked for and had received from the legislature certain powers; it was, therefore, a duty to use these powers wisely and conservatively.

He also pointed out that the work of carrying on the organization must not be left to a few—all must take an interest if complete success were to be obtained. What had been done was a mere circumstance to what remained to be done. There were those who thought that a work of some magnitude had been accomplished. Be that as it may, a much greater work remained to be done.

Another phase of the work was then touched upon. Many of those applying desired to be registered in many branches of engineering. Engineering was a wide field. Few men became specialists in even one branch, therefore, the Council were reluctant to guarantee to the public that a member was a specialist in several branches merely because in his practice of one branch he overlapped somewhat into other branches, or rather into that twilight region which existed between the various branches of engineering. The Council preferred to register an applicant in what he seemed to be most proficient. The Act did not prohibit him from practising in other branches, but that was a matter between himself and the public, to some extent.

The President referred also to the number of applications which called for registration in branches of engineering which were not found in the Act. No one, he said, regretted this as much as he did, or as the Council did. It was a very embarrassing matter to classify some applications. This was, however, a matter which the Legislative Committee tried vainly to prevent when the bill was being passed in the House. They had some difficulty in retaining those left in the bill; they had some difficulty in saving such a well known branch as Mechanical Engineering. It could, therefore, be easily seen why the classes appearing in the Act were so limited. It was very regrettable, but the remedy was to seek an amendment, backed by a strong delegation, demanding the change.

In conclusion, he urged perseverance, patience, energetic work, adherence to the highest ethics of the profession. "For he that hath, to him shall be given; and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath."

Vice-President D. O. Lewis then presented a draft of the proposed By-laws for consideration by the Meeting, and on suggestion of the President, read the By-laws as submitted, and on completion of the first reading it was Moved by A. D. Creer, Seconded by D. O. Mills:

"That the draft of the By-laws be distributed among the members and consideration deferred to a future meeting."

This motion caused considerable discussion, as Mr. Creer, in speaking to his motion, took the stand that the Provisional Council had no authority to draft By-laws, and, anyway, he considered it advisable that consideration be deferred to a future meeting, until the members had an opportunity to study the draft as submitted.

Mr. D. O. Lewis and others took the stand that the Provisional Council had, under Section 32 of the Act, full powers to transact all necessary business of the Association, which included the drafting of By-laws, and that it was imperative that By-laws be passed by the Meeting for the guidance of the affairs of the Association.

It was moved in amendment to Mr. Creer's motion by R. L. Hall, Seconded by H. N. Bigwood:

"That this Meeting go into Committee of the whole and proceed with the reading of the draft By-laws as submitted by the Provisional Council, taking them up clause by clause, and when the reading was completed, that a vote be taken to ratify the complete By-laws."

A standing vote was taken. Seventy-seven voted "Aye" and forty-five "Nay": the President, Vice-President and Registrar not voting, and the amendment was declared carried and the Meeting went into consideration clause by clause of the draft By-laws. Various amendments were offered and accepted by the Meeting and the By-laws reported complete, and on motion of John H. Kilmer, Seconded by H. N. Bigwood:

"That the By-laws as amended be approved and adopted as the By-laws of the Association."
On the motion being put by the Chair, it was declared to have been carried unanimously.

Note: The By-laws are hereto appended as a separate document.

The question of the nomination and election of the President, Vice-President and members of Council for the year 1920-1921 was then taken up and it was advocated by several speakers that as the membership of the Association numbered four hundred and as not one-third of the membership were present, it would be advisable to take a mail ballot; but on it being pointed out by the Chair that in order to make the election valid it would be necessary to amend the By-laws by the addition of a section covering the proposed election, it was Moved by A. E. Foreman, Seconded by S. S. Fowler:

"That the By-laws be amended by the insertion of the following as Section 32:

ELECTION OF COUNCIL FOR 1920-1921

"32. The Nominating Committee, elected at the General Annual Meeting held on the 16th day of October, 1920, under Section 10 of these By-laws, in addition to making the nomination as provided for under that section, shall forthwith proceed to nominate not less than two members of the Association for each office and such nominations shall include at least the names of members representing the various branches of Engineering as defined under Section 2, Sub-section (b) of the Act for the offices of President, Vice-President, and five members of Council for the year 1920-1921. That the methods of nomination and election of such officers and councillors shall be in accordance with Sections 10 and 11 of these By-laws, save and excepting that the time period of making such nominations and elections shall be so that the present Provisional Council, who are hereby appointed Scrutineers for this election, shall be able to notify all members of the Association by a date not later than the 16th day of December, 1920, of the names of the successful candidates for the offices of the President, Vice-President and Councillors for the year 1920-1921.

"This section of the By-laws shall be null and void after the nomination and election of the Council for the year 1920-1921." Carried unanimously.

The nominating and election of a Nominating Committee of eleven members, as provided for under Section 10 of the By-laws, was then proceeded with, and as the result the following gentlemen were elected as a Nominating Committee for 1920-1921:

R. W. Brock (Mining)
J. N. Anderson (Civil)
A. S. Wooton (Civil)
C. Brackenridge (Civil)
O. W. Smith (Civil)
G. S. Eldridge (Chemical)

T. H. Crosby (Electrical)
W. W. Fraser (Electrical)
J. F. Frew (Mechanical)
P. P. Brown (Structural)
P. Philip (Civil)

It was moved by D. O. Lewis, Seconded by R. L. Hall:

"That the Professional Engineers adopt and wear as a distinguishing badge, a small gold Beaver on the lapel of their coats."

In the discussion that followed, it was decided as a rider to the motion:

"That the Council get sketches and prices from manufacturing jewellers, decide on a standard and advise members where such badges may be obtained and the cost of same." Carried unanimously.

It was moved by A. E. Foreman, Seconded by W. H. Powell:

"That the Council of the Association recommend to the members of the Association in General Meeting assembled, that Frederick W. Anderson, Civil Engineer and M.L.A. (Kamloops), be elected to life membership in the Association as a token of esteem of the Engineering Profession in British Columbia, for the able manner in which he fathered the "Engineering Profession Act" through the Provincial Legislature, and that the fees of such life membership be paid from year to year out of the general funds of the association." Carried.

It was moved by S. S. Fowler, Seconded by J. H. Devey:

"That the Council may pay all expenses incurred in obtaining the Act to incorporate the Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of British Columbia from the funds of the Association at such time and in such manner as they may consider fit and proper, but such payments shall be made only when the affairs of the Association warrant same.

"The certificate of the lists of subscribers to, and of the cost of Incorporation under the hands and seals of the Chairman and Treasurer of the Engineers' Joint Legislation Committee shall be good and sufficient evidence of such subscriptions and cost, and shall be taken as a list of creditors of the Association to whom re-payment shall be made as hereinbefore provided." Carried.

It was moved by W. H. Powell, Seconded by P. Philip:

"That the accounts be audited and certified statement of receipts and disbursements be sent to all members of the Association." Carried.

It was moved by P. Philip, Seconded by A. Lighthall:

"That this Meeting recommends to the incoming Council for their favourable consideration the desirability of co-operating with the other existing Technical organizations towards the appointment of a Joint Secretary with a view towards economy." Carried.

It was moved by J. Porter, Seconded by J. Duncan:

"That copies of the Minutes of the Meeting and of the By-laws passed thereat be sent to all members of the Association, and that the Council cause a report of their work to be drawn up quarterly and be sent to all members of the Association." Carried.

After the previous motion was carried it was moved by P. Philip, Seconded by P. P. Brown:

"That the previous motion be re-considered." Carried.

After some discussion, in which it was pointed out that a quarterly report would entail a considerable amount of work and cost, although it was pointed out by Mr. J. Porter the desirability of keeping all members conversant with the affairs and activities of the Association, especially the out-of-town members.

It was moved in amendment by A. E. Foreman, Seconded by J. M. Turnbull:

"That a copy of the Minutes of this Meeting be sent to all members of the Association, and that a copy of the By-laws be sent to the Lieutenant Governor in Council as required under Section 6, Sub-section (a) of the Act, and if not disallowed as under Section 6, sub-section (b) of the Act, then a copy of the By-laws be sent to all members of the Association." Carried.

It was moved by J. Porter, Seconded by H. Lee:

"That a vote of thanks be tendered to the President, Vice-President, and members of the Provisional Council for the able and efficient manner in which they had done their work." Carried.

The Meeting then adjourned.

E. G. MATHESON,
President.

H. L. ROBERTSON,
Registrar.