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Creators: Ernich, R.

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The American Association of Engineers

By R. ERNICH, ENGR. 3

There has never been a movement in the engineering profession which has been received with anywhere near the enthusiasm with which the engineers have welcomed and joined the American Association of Engineers. The avowed purpose of the Association is to raise the standard of the ethics of the engineering profession and to promote the social and economic welfare of engineers.

Owing to the character of engineering work much of it is of a temporary nature. Engineers who are supposedly employed on a permanent basis are often released, due to financial conditions. The department is in constant touch with employers all over the country. It has a list of vacancies on hand as well as requests from many members who want new connections. This employment bureau is only one of the many branches of utility maintained by the Association.

Civic endeavor is one of the major activities of many chapters. The Washington office of A. A. E. in charge of a district secretary, watches current national legislative matter and when necessary, the national headquarters takes appropriate action. The A. A. E. has not as its purpose to advertise anyone engineer, but on the contrary, it tends to build up such an understanding of the possibility of further development of engineering for the public good, that the plans and efforts of the engineer will be supported by the public, particularly in lines which lead to better health, better comfort and increased prosperity.

Since its organization the A. A. E. has endeavored to raise the plane of engineering compensation. One

of its conspicuous successes in this line is in the railroad field. Negotiations with the U. S. Railroad Administration resulted in annual increases totaling for railroad engineers \$5,000,000. The Boston Chapter has recently been instrumental in bringing about a 20 per cent increase in the salaries of highway engineers employed by the Massachusetts Board of Public Works.

The strength of the Association lies in its many chapters thruout the United States. These chapters have for more liberal financial arrangements with the national organization than is customary in similar organizations. Until they have a total of 100 members, chapters receive 35 per cent of the entrance fees and dues and after the 100-member mark is reached, the proportion is 40 per cent. The percentage increases proportionately as the number of members increase.

The A. A. E. makes engineers professional men, it gives its members standing in the profession. It is a postgraduate school of engineering and business. The many courses offered its chapters give engineers exceptional opportunities to improve themselves. It has always been the practice for a group of engineers to come together and apply for a chapter in the A. A. E. Every important city in the United States is represented by a chapter. These chapters have as members most of the biggest engineers in the country. Men who have made their mark in the engineering profession. This year the A. A. E. has made a special effort to establish chapters in all the col-

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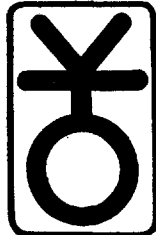
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS

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leges in all sections of the country. It has met with astonishing success in all sections. The student engineers realize the opportunities and advantages of affiliating themselves with an organization which keeps in touch with the big engineers and engineering concerns of the country. The student member has all the privileges of the senior members without the expense attached to the senior membership. He has at his disposal the combined experience of all other A. A. E. members. The older engineers measure his need of the A. A. E. partly by his opportunity to help the young engineer and to improve the standing of the profession.

While the ideal conceived by the original members of the Association has developed into a great institution, it is not fully realized. Then the efforts of the engineers of America, directed thru the A. A. E. the profession will achieve a great distinction year by year. To bring this about, the support of every engineer is essential. There must be no hanging back, no shifting of the burden to other shoulders; all engineers must combine for effective action. The possibilities offered from day to day are immense. They can be grasped only if every engineer assists in the work which is being carried on by the American Association of Engineers.

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