

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

The Department of Civil Engineering and Drawing was created by the Board of Directors in 1887 and Professor John H. Kineally was elected as its head. Two years later Drawing was made a separate department and physics was separated from its connection with the Department of Chemistry and attached to civil engineering. For one year Professor Charles Puryear, now Dear of the College, was in charge but in 1890 he was made Prof. of Mathematics and Mr. J. C. Nagle took his place as Professor of Civil Engineering and Physics. In 1902 Professor D. W. Spence joined the department, giving half his time to it and the other half to the Department of Drawing. This combination continued until 1899 when Physics was made a separate department and was placed in charge of Professor Spence. For the next four years the entire instruction work of the Civil Engineering Department was handled by one man, but upon the creation of the Electrical Engineering Department, Physics was attached to that and Professor Spence returned to the Civil Engineering Department. Gradually, as the work and importance of the department increased, additional members were added to the teaching staff until the number increased to seven three years ago, at which number it now stands.

A comparison of the content of the courses required for graduation from the civil engineering course as offered in 1890 and as offered today bears a very similar ratio to that of the number of teachers in the department then and now. For instance,

year and covered no more ground than is now covered by the Sophomore class in the same subject during the second term. In 1890 the second (junior) class had short courses in road making, descriptive geometry and surveying, while the first (senior) class had equally brief courses in railroad surveying, mechanics of materials and stresses in roofs and bridges only. Notwithstanding the meagre content of the early courses the men who went out from them made good, not only in their professional work but as worthy, upstanding citizens who have left their impress upon the State in all affairs making for its upbuilding. Likewise they have been true and loyal sons of the College and have, by their lives and works, demonstrated the value of the training given here. This is true for the former students of all courses.

The annual catalogue shows the number and variety of subjects now offered in the civil engineering course, and the next catalogue will show the addition of several broadening and humanizing courses, which however, are not simply added to the already full curriculum but for which place has been made by readjusting and curtailing some of the courses heretofore given. It is becoming more and more evident that if the engineer is to take his rightful place in our social and economic institutions he must be a broader, more cultured and more resourceful man than he has, as a class, been in the past.

In order to better correlate the work of the civil engineering department three divisions, having specific lines of instruction in charge, have been created within the department.

followed a few years later by the Division of Railway Engineering. At the beginning of the present session the Division of Structural Engineering was added. The more general subjects taught in the department have not been segregated but are handled as a whole by the several members of the teaching staff. Before the creation of the State Highway Department the Highway Division of the C. E. Department did much to promote interest in good roads in Texas, and was the only organized educational agency in this line. The Division still carries on the good work.

Except for a few years of depression in construction lines the demand for graduates of the civil engineering course has steadily grown until now the demand normally exceeds the supply. Our graduates are directing the construction and maintenance of railroads, highways, water supply and irrigation works, drainage, reclamation from overflows, bridges and buildings, and a score of other lines of constructive activities. They are scattered all over the world, almost. Mexico, South America, Panama, Canada, Korea, and a number of other foreign countries have drawn upon them for professional services. In the Engineer Corps of the Army, as well as in the line, they have made a brilliant record, most of them as officers, and after the full realization of peace they will go steadily on helping to build up and stabilize the institutions of civilization. The class of 1919 will swell the total number of civil engineering graduates to about 430, but year by year as the need for competent engineers increases the yearly output of the

few or many it is a safe prediction that they will always be found standing steadfast upon the side of right and justice.

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