Formal organization of Society completed

The temporary Board of Directors of the Society of American Military Engineers consisting of nine Engineer officers, which was appointed on November 1, 1919, to effect the preliminary organization, decided to fill the vacancies on the Temporary Board in accordance with Art. II, Par. 1 of the By-Laws, and accordingly called a meeting for June 2, 1920, which a number of representative members of the Society resident in the east were invited to attend.

At this meeting, the temporary organization was perfected, and, due to the lateness of the season, and to the fact that it requires at least 60 days to call a meeting of the Society, it was decided, upon motion by Colonel F. A. Molitor, to continue to function until after the first annual meeting, which is scheduled for the Friday preceding the third Wednesday in January.

The following officers and directors of the Society were elected and committees appointed; all to serve until the 1st Annual Meeting. The names are a sufficient indication of the calibre of the men who are directing the affairs of our Society.

Maj. Gen. William M. Black, President
Col. William Barclay Parsons, 1st Vice-President
Col. Charles Keller, 2nd Vice-President
Capt. D. L. Weart, Secretary
Maj. William O. Tufts, Treasurer

DIRECTORS
Col. F. V. Abbot
Col. F. A. Molitor
Col. George D. Snyder
Lieut. Col. C. H. Birdseye
Lieut. Col. A. H. Brooks
Lieut. Col. J. H. Finney
Lieut. Col. H. S. Graves
Lieut. Col. W. W. Kirby
Lieut. Col. Geo. B. Pillsbury

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Maj. Gen. William M. Black
Col. William Barclay Parsons
Col. Charles Keller
Col. F. A. Molitor

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT
Maj. P. S. Bond, Chairman
Col. F. A. Molitor
Col. George D. Snyder

COMMITTEE ON DESIGN OF EMBLEM
Lieut. Col. G. A. Youngberg
Lieut. Col. Evarts Tracy

COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP
Lieut. Col. G. A. Youngberg
Maj. William O. Tufts

Let us get together

It is a most natural human trait to distrust, or perhaps we should say to lack confidence in people and things we do not know. We are apt to mistrust the most honest man, if he is a stranger to us, and on the other hand, to have a considerable amount of confidence in one with whom we are well acquainted, even while knowing that he is more or less of a knave.

One cannot learn to play a game by reading the rules, nor to practice a trade by studying text-books. If one wishes to become a blacksmith, for example, he must go in amongst the blacksmiths. He might read all that was ever written on the subject of shoeing, yet he would have an awkward time of it on the first occasion when he attempted to shoe a mule.

All trades and professions have developed efficient working methods which can be learned only by association with the trade. On the other hand, the professional man or artisan who never "rubs against" men of other trades becomes so narrow and one-sided in his development that he does not attain high proficiency even in his own calling.
These facts, which we think none will deny, have their application to the principal function of the Society of American Military Engineers, and this journal, which is the promotion of the practical efficiency of the engineering profession in the service of the nation in time of war.

The engineer in civil life can learn the practical side of military engineering only by contact and association with those engineers, both civil and military, who have learned the game by actual practice in war or peace. And the engineer in the regular service can avoid the narrow development, which so greatly restricts his usefulness, only by contact with engineers in civil life. Mutual confidence and efficient cooperation are possible only if we are all well acquainted. Therefore let us make an effort, a continuous effort, to "get together."

It was this "get together" idea that gave birth to our Society, and the next logical step was the formation of local posts in the larger communities. This was undertaken during the month of June in most of the important cities of the U.S., and everywhere the response was most enthusiastic. These posts will furnish the medium for personal contact and association between our members, without which our Society cannot be a virile, living organization. You will want to meet your fellow patriots—they are the best of good fellows—and so you should join the local post, if there is one in your locality.

The Military Engineer is a professional journal. And the usefulness of a professional journal lies in the fact that it brings the members of the profession in contact with the ideas, aims and experiences of a larger number of their professional brethren than is possible by personal acquaintance alone. Our columns include contributions from both military and civilian engineers.

When the next war is upon us, and it will surely come, the American engineering profession must work together with a friendliness, a mutual confidence and a practical knowledge of the game, which will achieve even greater results than we attained in the late conflict.

To insure such efficient service is the purpose of the Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps, the Society of American Military Engineers, its local posts, and its journal, The Military Engineer. But to these should be added the continuous personal effort of every member of the profession, both in and out of the regular service. The record of the profession in the late war is second to none. But we must not rest on our laurels. That record should be regarded as merely the point of departure for still better service in the future.

1st Division to erect memorial

The following letter, which we are glad to present to our readers, has been received from the commanding general of the First Division:

The First Division will erect a monument in Washington or Arlington in memory of the 209 officers and 4,690 soldiers who were killed or died of wounds on the battlefields of France. We feel that the officers of the army would like to help us in honoring the sacrifices of the brave men who made the success of our arms possible and in preserving to our country, the inspiration of their spirit and their example.

The First Division endeavored to uphold before the world the standards of the Regular Army. You know its story. If it has earned your sympathy and approval, will you not join in this worthy task? Twenty dollars will make it possible to place one name in perpetual memory.

Should you be unable to contribute at once, will you not subscribe to a series of payments? If you have already contributed, please disregard this appeal.

It is requested that all contributions and subscriptions be sent to Major General C. P. Summerall, Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky.

C. P. SUMMERALL,
Major General, U. S. Army.

Emblem of the Society of American Military Engineers

From the earliest times and in all parts of the world it has been the custom for individuals and organizations to display distinguishing symbols. Ancient literature—both secular and sacred—describes the devices worn on the shields of heroes and antique sculptures and ceramics depict these badges of identification. In the Old World the Egyptian and the Greek, the Phoenician and the Roman, the Chinese and the Hindu, all had their emblems; and when the European first saw America he found the Aztec chiefs with shields and banners bearing their personal devices. Even the Alaskan tribes had their totems.

In the days of chivalry, the design of armorial bearings and coats of arms became a veritable science circumscribed by many meticulous conventions. Though "days of old when knights were bold" have faded into the background of medieval history, the value of the badge has in no sense diminished. The late war demonstrated its value and the idea blossomed forth to an extent never before exceeded from the standpoint of mere numbers. The divisional "shoulder patch," in its various forms, took its place in the military sign manual, and succeeded in a measure to the post of honor not long since occupied by the regimental insignia or the special uniform of various organizations. After much serious consideration certain of these insignia have been authorized by the War Department as part of the peace-time uniform.

Throughout the ages the effort has been to embody in these signs some manifestation of the wearer's individuality, some indication of his qualities of heart and mind. In conformity with this world-old practice, the Society of American Military Engineers has adopted an emblem which seeks to visualize the under-