

record of their membership. It is hoped that this explanation will clear up any such misunderstandings.

The excellent results that have been obtained will compensate all of our members for any incidental annoyance to which they may have been subjected. As this goes to press the number of paid subscribers to THE MILITARY ENGINEER exceeds 3,500, which means that our Society is now on a sound financial basis, and its growth still continues. Thirty-five hundred members, all of them men of standing and influence, joining our Society in a space of nine months is a most remarkable result, and plainly indicates that the aims of the Society are heartily endorsed by the American engineering profession.

Society of American Military Engineers has successful year. A message from our President to all members

THE PLAN FOR ORGANIZING A SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MILITARY ENGINEERS to perpetuate the friendships and profit by the experiences of the World War, and to assist in the promotion of "preparedness," was conceived in the fall of 1919. The first positive steps in the organization of the Society were taken in February, 1920, during which month a few members joined.

The active campaign for membership opened in March, 1920. At that time it was decided that 3,000 was the smallest membership that would justify the existence of the Society and enable it to achieve the objects of its organization. At the close of September the number of paid subscribers to THE MILITARY ENGINEER, the great majority of whom are also members of the Society, was 2,872, and the number was increasing at a more rapid rate than ever before.

In seven months of active campaigning, therefore, our "first objective" is already attained. By the close of the year our membership will be well in excess of 3,000—a strong and influential body. Our "second objective" is accordingly placed at 5,000, which it is hoped to attain before next summer.

But it is not the number of our membership so much as its quality which affords us great satisfaction. The list of our charter members, published elsewhere in this issue, is splendidly representative of the American Engineering profession. It includes the names of men of national, even international prominence in engineering affairs. Every branch of engineering is represented. We number in our membership officers and former officers of nearly every branch of the service, including the United States Navy, the Construction Division, the Quartermaster Corps, the Air Service and Tank Corps, the Geological and Geodetic Surveys, and the Forestry and Reclamation Services, etc. As to former rank in the Army our membership ranges from private soldier to major general.

So representative, able and distinguished a body of men cannot be otherwise than a power for good in national and human affairs. The voice of the Society of American Military Engineers will receive respectful attention in all matters pertaining to the national defense and the public welfare. Membership in such an organization is a privilege, a distinction and an honor. More and more as time goes on will our members be identified by connection with the Society, as the best class of patriotic citizens.

Beginning in June, of this year, the organization of local posts, chapters or sections, was inaugurated, and at the present time our Society has flourishing branches in most of the larger cities of the United States.

It is hoped also that THE MILITARY ENGINEER may become the medium through which the members of many former military organizations which have added lustre to the time-honored emblem of the Engineers (the castle), shall keep in touch with one another, thus maintaining the spirit of comradeship born of privations shared and perils met and overcome.

With the issue of November-December, 1920, the journal of our Society, THE MILITARY ENGINEER, closes its first successful year. Born under conditions most discouraging and difficult from a financial and other points of view, it has been a worthy organ of our Society, a strong bond of union between our members. Probably more than any other single influence it has contributed to the healthy growth of the organization. Its columns have included handsomely illustrated articles on a wide variety of civil and military subjects, of great interest to all engineers. The contributors to its pages have included many men who won undying fame in the World War, as well as many who have achieved national distinction in civil engineering. But in particular our journal has fulfilled its mission and earned the praise of all who have seen it, because it has truly interpreted and represented the *spirit of service* of the engineer to his country. Its columns have breathed enthusiasm and devotion to duty. No periodical can have a higher aim than this.

That advertisers have appreciated the influence of THE MILITARY ENGINEER is indicated by the growth in the number of its advertising pages from thirteen in its first issue to thirty-five in the issue of November-December, 1920.

All of our members, whose support alone has rendered possible our progress, should feel a just satisfaction and pride in the excellent results thus far achieved and the bright outlook for the future. Less than one year from the time when our Society first took form in the minds of a few men, finds it a strong and flourishing organization of some 3,500 members, supporting and publishing its own journal, solvent financially, with local sections established in most of the leading cities, and growing at a rapid and steady rate. Truly this is a most satisfactory result for so short a period. I offer my heartiest congratulations to all our members, and I look confidently forward to greater progress during the coming year.

W. M. BLACK,
Major General, U. S. Army (Retired)
President, Society of American Military Engineers.

Improvements in our floating bridge equipage

IN an early number of THE MILITARY ENGINEER will appear two illustrated articles descriptive of the experimental work being carried on in both the French and American Armies, with a view to effecting improvements in the ponton equipage, based on the lessons of the War.

These articles will be written by the officers best qualified to present the information, and being on a subject of great importance to the engineer service can not fail to interest our readers.

Following the policy of this Journal it is desired to publish with the articles a discussion by others having knowledge of the subject. Any of our readers who may desire to comment on our equipage and its development, from any point of view, are requested to advise the editor by letter, when advance copies of the articles will be sent them for that purpose.