As to former rank in the Army our membership ranges record of their membership. It is hoped that this expla-

cination will clear up any such misunderstandings.

The excellent results that have been obtained will com-

pensate 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 con-
tinues. 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 indi-
cates 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 per-

petuate the frie ndships and profit by the experi-

ences 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 mem-
bbers 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

time 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 Ameri-

can 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 be-

come 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 jour-

nal of our Society, The Military Engineer, closes its

first successful year. Born under conditions most dis-
couraging 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 num-

ber 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 estab-

lished 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 heartfelt 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 ex-

perimental work being carried on in both the French

and American Armies, with a view to effecting improve-

ments in the ponton equipment, 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 pub-

lish with the articles a discussion by others having knowl-

edge 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.