During the month of June the installation of our plant was finished. In April we had found ourselves several thousand dollars in debt, with our cash exhausted. But our Society was growing rapidly, and at present with our membership approaching 3,000, with a healthy growth in our advertising columns, and with a thoroughly equipped plant, we are independent of conditions in the printing business, except for the difficulty of obtaining supplies, and we are solvent financially.

This number of The Military Engineer is, from cover to cover, the product of our own plant. Many of our members have told us that, typographically, we need not fear comparison with any other professional journal. This result has been made possible by the loyal work of our business and circulation managers and our printer, and by the hearty support and encouragement of the Society of American Military Engineers.

The crest of our difficulties appears to have been surmounted, and the outlook for the future is promising. By the first of the coming year our Society will be strong enough to support even so ambitious a journal as The Military Engineer. And the mission of our Society, the promotion of engineering preparedness for the defense of our country, we can and will accomplish.

Society of American Military Engineers initiates organization of Local Posts

BEGINNING in June there opened an important era in the history of our Society. In our May-June issue we announced our intention of organizing local posts in some of the larger communities. In June and July preliminary meetings looking to the organization of these posts were held in most of the large cities, and a number of smaller one.

The meetings were in most cases well attended, and in all cases very enthusiastic. Many eminent engineers, members of our Society, are backing the movement, local engineering societies and clubs and commercial organizations have lent their support.

In practically every case a number of charter members of the new post were enrolled, in the majority of cases an organization was effected and officers, or temporary officers, were elected, in a few cases preliminary details were discussed and future meetings scheduled.

The influence of the local posts has already been strongly felt in a considerable increase in the membership of the parent society as a direct result of the local posts.

An excellent start has been made, and the outlook for the future is bright.

It is regarded as most important that the growth and activities of the local posts be given publicity, and The Military Engineer will devote whatever space is necessary to this purpose. The activities of each post will furnish valuable suggestions and stimulus to other posts. Our Society is co-operative, and only by working together can we accomplish our mission. It is urged, therefore, that all posts send to the Secretary of the Society, from time to time, reports of an informal nature concerning their activities, portraits of their officers, news items, membership, personal notes, plans for the future, etc.

Every member of the National Society should promptly join the post in his locality, if there be one. Reports from the local posts are not as complete as we would desire, but the following summary will indicate how much progress has been made in a very short time.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

Address: Mr. J. T. Montgomery, Secretary, 31 North State Street.
First Meeting: June 15, called by Col. W. V. Judson. Elected temporary officers: John deN. Macomb, President; G. B. McClary, Secretary-Treasurer. Recommended substitution of name "Section" for "Local Post."
Second Meeting: June 28, elected officers. Col. C. Van deventer, President; Mr. J. T. Montgomery, Secretary-Treasurer.

Cleveland, Ohio.

Address: Capt. James H. Reding, Secretary, 13900 Savannah Avenue.
First Meeting: June 15, called by Col. R. R. Raymond. Elected temporary officers: Col. J. R. McQuigg, Temporary Chairman; Capt. J. H. Reding, Temporary Secretary.

DULUTH, MINNESOTA.

(Lake Superior Post.)
Address: Mr. William S. Morris, Secretary, Commercial Club.
First Meeting: June 12, called by Col. F. A. Pope. Temporary Officers elected. Col. F. A. Pope, President; Mr. Frank McComber, Vice President; Mr. William S. Morris, Secretary; Mr. A. G. Hatch, Treasurer; Mr. J. R. Hube, Assistant Secretary.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

Address: Mr. J. M. Braxton, U. S. Engineer Office, Masonic Temple.
First Meeting: June 15, called by Col. W. J. Barden. Temporary officers elected. Mr. J. M. Braxton, President. Second Meeting: July 10 (no details).

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

Address: Mr. Burt Harmon, Secretary, 745 West Ocean Avenue.
First Meeting: June 15, called by Col. F. B. Downing. Temporary officers elected: Mr. Charles T. Leeds, President; Mr. Carl B. Wirsching, 1st Vice President; Mr. John A. Griffin, 2d Vice President; Mr. Burt Harmon, Secretary; Mr. G. C. Fitzgerald, Treasurer.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

Address: Maj. F. C. Best, Secretary, care of U. S. Engineer Office.
First Meeting: June 25, called by Col. E. H. Schulz. Temporary officers elected. Col. Edward H. Schulz, Presi-

Address: Secretary, Seattle Post, Society of American Military Engineers, U. S. Engineer Office, Seattle.


WILMINGTON, DELAWARE.

Address: Mr. Pearson Winslow, Secretary, Engineering Department, DuPont Building.

First Meeting: June 15, called by Col. E. N. Johnston. Officers elected: Maj. W. F. Beyer, President; Mr. W. M. McIntosh, Vice-President; Mr. Pearson Winslow, Secretary-Treasurer.

Morale—in war and peace

It was Napoleon who said “In war the moral is as to the physical as three to one.” His estimate was very conservative, especially perhaps as applied to his own people, the French.

Unquestionably, the best demonstration of moral power which history records, was given by Joan of Arc. Joan was a poor country maiden, totally ignorant in all things concerning state-craft and the art of war. She exercised no leadership, if by this we mean that the leader must know what he is doing and direct the operations of those under them. Yet she defeated the previously victorious army of a great nation and placed a King on the throne of France.

These results Joan achieved solely by the romantic stimulus she gave to the highly sensitive morale of the French people. Napoleon himself, while knowing the art of war better than any other man, owed his success quite as much to his power to influence the morale of his soldiers. This is well illustrated by the following anecdote:

In their assaults on the Borodino Redoubt (in the Russian campaign) the French had been several times repulsed with heavy losses. Without reinforcements, with their morale low as a result of defeat, it seemed useless to send the French army again to the assault. The last day happened to be the anniversary of the great French victory at Austerlitz. As noon approached, the French battalions were assembled for the final assault. The morning had been cloudy, but at noon the sun broke forth and gloriously illuminated the field of battle. The great commander, quick to take advantage of any favorable circumstances, pointed to the brilliant orb and exclaimed: “Soldiers, it is the sun of Austerlitz that shines upon you.” With shouts of enthusiasm the excitable Frenchmen charged, and in the twinkling of an eye captured the stronghold which had resisted all their previous efforts.

We are prone to think of “morale” as a military term. But it is fully as applicable to the affairs of peace as to those of war. The most successful leaders both in war and peace are those who know best how...