

Street and Highway Traffic

A New Engineering Problem
This year (1929) will complete the production of more than 44,000,000 automobiles in this country. It will see 25,500,000 of these still in use upon the streets and highways. Production and registration of motor vehicles are increasing by millions each year.

One of the greatest problems before the engineering profession is to provide adequate streets and highways and to regulate the use of these so that they will properly handle the demands made upon them. Gradually, vast improvement projects are being planned and carried out to provide new and improved ways of travel of much increased capacity. In spite of limited funds available for such work, much is being accomplished.

But important as these physical improvements are, they require considerable time for their completion and several years must elapse before streets and highways will be adequately revised and rebuilt to meet even the most pressing needs. In the meantime, the use of the present streets and highways must be improved by regulations and devices that will keep traffic moving much more regularly and, at the same time, allow reasonable access to the curb for stopping.

Formerly the handling of street and highway traffic was relatively simple. The main official responsibility was to protect the public from abuses of recognized privileges in the use of the streets. In this officials without technical training were generally successful. Today traffic can be kept moving safely and efficiently only through comprehensive measures based upon facts properly gathered and interpreted.

Engineers are being called upon to apply scientific methods and principles to the problem. A field of engineering activity known as traffic engineering is rapidly developing. It is yet in the pioneering stage. But it opens to the real engineer, the man with creative genius and scientific approach, an opportunity to make outstanding contributions to progress in all lines—commercial, political, educational, social.

Street and highway traffic has made possible the concentration of many kinds of interests into municipal areas and has permitted their growth into vast and highly developed projects. Taxation and, to a great extent, investments are based upon values (present and potential) of lands and structures. The value of business property depends upon accessibility. Traffic incorrectly handled results in decreasing property values. The community and its investors depend upon honest and intelligent traffic engineering for a large measure of financial protection, and the traffic engineer must fully recognize the economic considerations involved in the solution of his various problems. These problems may be classed under a few general heads.

1. Left to its own selection, traffic naturally concentrates upon streets to and through centers of the greatest business activity until its movement is seriously stagnated. Detroit faced this problem and after a careful study traffic engineers developed a system of by-pass routes or loops—some close to the congested district and others farther out—designed to carry through traffic around the points of greatest congestion, making the trip much pleasanter for the drivers and relieving the business district of much traffic of no commercial value. Such preferential routes can be selected only after a scientific study of data regarding traffic volumes, origins, and destinations gathered in a way that insures that they will be representative and significant. Otherwise worse problems may be created.

2. Traffic complications demand traffic control at street intersections. Automatically operated signal systems are being rapidly substituted for the "corner cop". Traffic engineers in Pittsburgh were recently confronted by the problem of laying out of a control system that would provide for continuous

Inquiring Reporter

What do you think of having a football team at Armour?

F. J. Aste, '30, F.P.E.—It would be beneficial in advertising the school and would create more school spirit.

R. E. Escott, '30, E.E.—It would be a good idea because there is a lot of good material here. Since other engineering schools can have teams, we should be able to find time for one, too.

D. J. Paul, '30, F.P.E.—It's a good idea but there is not enough time. I know I have not the time.

R. F. Young, '32, F.P.E.—Good idea! It would create a lot of school spirit.

C. H. Fox, '31, C.E.—A swell idea if we had the time. We have material and a good coach in John Schommer.

G. E. Davisson, '31, M.E.—It would be a good thing but the fellows have not the time. The afternoon classes prevent it. John Schommer's plan for a summer camp would remove the necessity for prolonged daily practice.

L. Billings, '32, C.E.—I think we should have a football team. We have plenty of material at hand and, with some support, could have a creditable team.

P. M. Ruzevich, '30, Ch.E.—I think that it would be a good thing in that it would spread Armour's name. The average citizen does not know that Armour exists.

C. Larsen, '31, C.E.—Great! I see no reason for not having one. It is one of the finest things they could have here.

R. F. Beck, '32, M.E.—A good idea. It would develop a little school spirit around here and would be a good achievement for the school. Georgia Tech and Carnegie Tech are good schools and they have football teams. We should be able to have one too.

movement of vehicles over a complicated and irregular street layout. After gathering significant data regarding traffic volumes, these engineers designed a system that permitted vehicles and street cars to move without interruption in one of the most difficult flexible progressive signal systems yet designed.

3. Regulation of parking has been a most perplexing problem for municipal officials. With various interests urging solutions that were entirely impracticable, the traffic engineers of Chicago proceeded to gather information regarding the use of valuable parking space in the central business district, to determine the number of vehicles that must be served by providing access to the curb for receiving and discharging passengers and goods, and to propose regulations that would meet these demands most satisfactorily to all concerned. The plan was adopted and Chicago now has one of the most successful systems of parking regulations in the country. It resulted from an engineering approach to a type of problem that is too often unsuccessfully handled by persons with neither the desire nor the experience to attack it scientifically.

4. One-way streets, through streets, elimination of turns, and the like are regulations or restrictions that cannot, in the interest of

REVIEWS

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Eric Maria Remarque

Little, Brown and Co.

Probably few books have had the popularity of "All Quiet on the Western Front", if the publishers reports are to be trusted. The book has gone into many editions in at least ten of the leading nations of the world.

Yet the book seemed disappointing. It has a touch of being overdrawn, not authentic, and unspeakably vulgar. It purports to be the story of a German infantryman; his life, thoughts, and actions are presented. The author was in the war, but still it appears that he hardly could have found things in the manner in which he presents them.

The brutishness of the treatment of the common soldier under the relentless German military machine is clearly, forcefully and accurately depicted. This we understand and expect. But to try to understand the apparent lack of supplies, food, scientific methods of warfare, and in fact all things that we have been led to believe the Germans had amazes and perplexes the reader. We are introduced to liquid fire as coming first from the American lines, whereas it has commonly been assumed that the German chemists devised this hellish tool of war.

The idea of presenting the thoughts of the man does not make for easy reading. Few men can present thoughts, and in the midst of a battle scene it is hard to suddenly have the trend of the story change to such a subject. I doubt if the men in battle could think as this man did, or claims to.

Yet the book is worth reading in that it does give a picture of the World War from the other viewpoint. We have had countless tales from the American side; but this is a new topic, and must afford subject matter for discussion.

I would warn one against reading the book from a literary standpoint. Many books today are frank, but I would class this as vulgar; the incidents that might have lent ironical humor to the bitter situations are such as to cause revulsion. Therefore, I would say to read it merely for its content and not for its style.

A. B. A.

To Decide on Junior Baseball Prize Soon

The championship junior baseball squad is still in the dark as to what award it will receive for its showing in the intramural baseball league. Not until the Athletic Board of Control has met will a suitable award be determined.

safety and efficiency, be inaugurated arbitrarily. But because the engineering approach has been too infrequently employed, it is not uncommon to find such regulations at places where they are not needed and to find them lacking in places where they should be provided. The reasons for establishing or omitting them can and should be determined.

FRATERNITY NOTES

TRIANGLE

A Tea Dance was held at the Chapter House, Sunday afternoon, October 27th. Twenty couples attended and refreshments were prepared by the visiting ladies. Triangle recently pledged Harold Bodinson '33.

Armour Chapter is making plans for the first of a series of alumni smokers to be held this fall for the purpose of establishing closer relations between active and alumni chapters. We hope to persuade Mr. "Red" Harrower, C. E., '27 to preside over the assemblage. His visit to our neighborhood should be in the nature of a home coming, since he has been for two years resident on the Firestone plantations in Africa.

* * *

DELTA TAU DELTA

The 28th annual Weiland Freshman Banquet will be held in the Red Room of the Hotel La Salle on Saturday, November 9. This dinner is attended by the pledges of the entire Fraternity as guests of Dr. Frank Weiland.

The entire Chapter accepted an invitation to attend a House Dance at the University of Chicago chapter last Saturday evening.

* * *

SIGMA KAPPA DELTA

Sigma Kappa Delta announces the initiation of Arthur H. Jens, '31, Daniel Iverson, '31 and Charles Jones, '31 on the evening of Saturday, November 2. There was a banquet held at the Chapter house following the initiation.

They also announce the pledging of Joseph Kennedy, '33.

* * *

THETA XI

An alumni smoker was held at the Chapter house on last Wednesday evening, October 30. Nine men from the Armour Chapter attended the formal house opening of the chapter at Wisconsin University on

Library Announces Addition of Books

(Continued from page 1)

first, under chemistry are found books on electrochemistry and on the mathematics of physical chemistry. The physics collection has a new work on theoretical physics, a valuable book on physics of the air, and a more general treatise on the nature of the physical world.

The civil engineers will have access to a new work on suspension bridges, and a source book in astronomy. Books on rectifiers, radio, and the electronic theory are to be found under electrical engineering. Several books on the Diesel engine, with a new work on the measurement of flow comprise the main features of the mechanical field.

The historical branch of the li-

brary boasts a new text on the Middle Ages, as well as a generalized one entitled "Stream of History." Biographies are numerous and well chosen, such outstanding men as Edison, Goethe, Rasputin, Disraeli, Mussolini, and Grant being listed.

Under the heading of "General Interest" are found diversified books most of which are not straight fiction, but of a highly interesting nature. The list includes a work on mathematic recreations, Einstein's theory, and skyscrapers; yet we also find the outstanding play of the year, "Strange Interlude" included, as well as "War Birds," a tale of aviation in the World War.

Many recent novels have been added, and some of the most popular authors can be mentioned. The latest works of Donn Byrne, Warwick Deeping, Leon Feuchtwanger, and S. S. Van Dyne include a list of men whose writings range from the beautiful semi-poetic prose to the widely popular mystery novel.

With this new addition, the librarians feel sure that they can satisfy most of the needs of the men, and invite any man to ask for advice if he cannot find the material he is seeking. Mimeographed copies listing the entire purchase are available in the library.

There was dancing galore, and a few selections of a dramatic and ghostly nature, furnished by the pledges. A number of the Alumni offered prizes for the most striking and eccentric costumes of the evening. The attire of the couples was "hard times" costumes.

IT PAYS TO LOOK WELL WHITE SANITARY BARBER SHOP

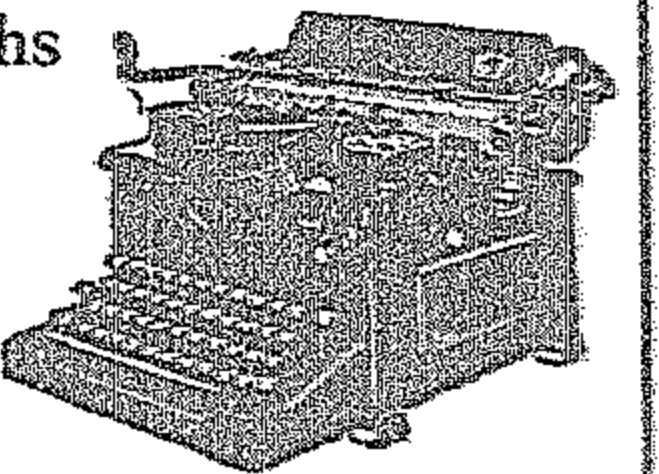
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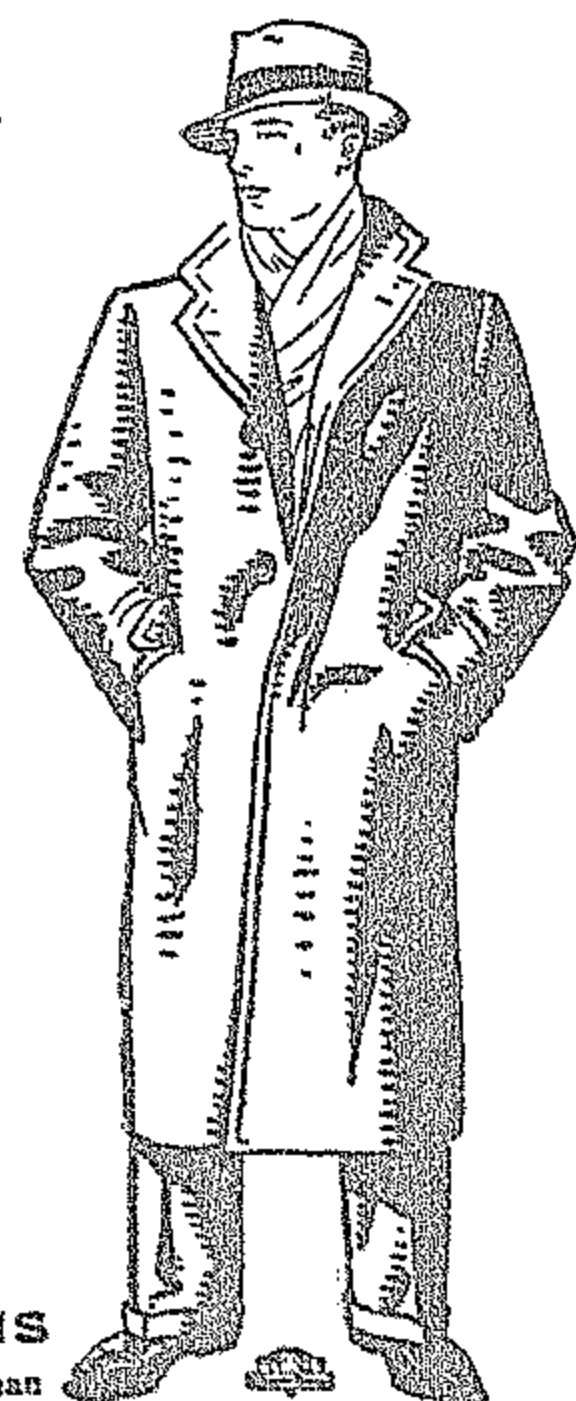
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