

# Day of the Engineer

MEN WHO DO THINGS WILL BE NEEDED

BY DR. FRANK CRANE

The man of the future will be the engineer.

He is the man who can do things; and is better than the man who owns things.

The millionaire is a temporary, passing, makeshift product of civilization. He is merely holding things together until the people get sense enough to do their own owning.

Some day little boys will read that the world once had millionaires and huge private wealth units, just as they will one day read and wonder that men once had kings. But the official who will forever be indispensable is the engineer.

The time will come when the President of the United States will be chosen as the man who has the greatest talent and skill in organizing public works. There will be no more politics in his selection than there is now in choosing the master mechanic of a railway or factory.

When a nation goes to war nowadays, that is, when it becomes necessary to exert its supreme collective strength, nobody dreams of electing the most popular politician or the cleverest speechmaker to lead the armies. It is the man who can get the last ounce of efficiency out of men and out of gunmetal that is wanted. Some day the nation will realize that it is continually in a crisis, and that in peace as in war we need the highest order of efficiency and organization.

We need the engineer to arrange the transportation of people, and goods from place to place, without waste, without competition, without graft.

We need the engineer to get meat, bread and milk from farm to citizen without the present inefficient tangle of trusts and middlemen.

We need the engineer to turn the profit of public enterprise toward building good roads and bridges, instead of enriching a few shrewd manipulators.

We need the engineer to manage the city as economically and smoothly as if it were a manufacturing plant.

We need the engineer to organize the farmers so that all can work together for each and their products marketed without being preyed upon at every step of the way from farm to household.

Wealth can be taken away from us. But the power to do things cannot be taken away.

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