

BROKEN HILL BRANCH.

During May, 1918, a letter was forwarded to the President of the Association, which read as follows:—

Broken Hill Technical College,
6th May, 1918.

The President,
The Engineering Association of New South Wales,
Sydney.

Dear Sir,—

For some time past, I have been considering the possibility of forming a local section of the Engineering Association of New South Wales in Broken Hill. The proposed section would stand in the same relation to the Sydney Association as the local sections of the Institution of Electrical Engineers do to the parent body of that Institution. There is an excellent field here, as there are no other active engineering associations on the Barrier. The proposed section would operate under the same rules as the original Association, and could conveniently be called the Engineering Association of New South Wales, Western Local Section, or other qualifying name the Council might deem more suitable. From conversations with leading engineers here, I feel assured a strong membership and hearty support would be secured, and thus extend the good work the Association has done in this State.

I would, therefore, be pleased if you would bring this proposal before your Council, and I trust they will give the matter that sympathetic consideration its importance deserves.

Any further information or assistance I can give will be a pleasure.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) A. S. PLOWMAN.

The matter was exhaustively dealt with at the following Council meeting, and it was unanimously resolved to write as follows:—

Society Rooms,
5 Elizabeth Street,
SYDNEY,
13th May, 1918.

Dear Mr. Plowman,—

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, with regard to the possible formation of a local section of the Engineering Association of New South Wales in Broken Hill.

Perhaps you are aware that at the present time definite steps are being taken to bring about amalgamation of all Engineering Associations throughout Australia, and this would therefore be an opportune time for such a body as you mention to be brought into existence.

Your letter will be brought before the next Council Meeting of our Association, and I will then communicate with you further in the matter.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Secretary.

A further letter dated 15/7/18 from Mr. A. S. Plowman, who was showing great interest in this movement, was received, in which he stated that at a meeting held at the Broken Hill Technical College on the preceding Thursday evening 18 engineers were present and 8 apologies for non-attendance were also received from others interested representing Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers.

Several very important questions relative to the inception of the branch were put to Mr. Plowman; particularly were those present interested in the matter of grading and election of prospective members.

A. S. Plowman, Esq.,
Technical College,
Broken Hill, N.S.W.

10th June, 1918.

Dear Sir,—

As promised, your letter of the 6th ultimo was placed before Council at a meeting held on the 6th instant. Your interest in the affairs of the Association and your suggestion with regard to the formation of a branch

at Broken Hill were very much appreciated by the members of Council, and the idea received unanimous support.

With regard to the manner in which the branch can best be formed, this question will now receive consideration by a Sub-Committee consisting of the President, Vice-Presidents and Hon. Treasurer, and particulars will be communicated to you later. It is, however clear, as you suggested in your letter, that the members forming the new branch would have to be enrolled in accordance with, and agree to conform to, the rules and by-laws of the Association.

It would be of considerable assistance to us to know what you consider the approximate number of members who will form the branch is likely to be, and at the same time, if you have given the matter detailed consideration, we would be glad to have any suggestions you have to offer as to how you consider the interests of the proposed branch could be best served by the parent Association.

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Plowman asked for some very definite information in this regard. It was arranged that six copies of the Constitution, Rules and By-laws of the Association be forwarded to Mr. Plowman; also a notification that in the event of Mr. Plowman proposing a member and his qualifications having been approved by Council, a seconder for each nominee would be found from among the members of the existing Council of the Engineering Association of N.S.W.

A Committee to assist and advise the Council re the formation of this new branch was appointed, consisting of the President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Hon. Treasurer, as intimated in our letter of 10th June.

A draft set of rules was prepared and forwarded to Broken Hill on the 8th August for consideration of the Temporary Committee at that centre:—

**Proposed Constitution of the Engineering
Association of New South Wales—
Broken Hill Branch.**

Name of Branch.—The name of the Branch shall be “Engineering Association of New South Wales, Broken Hill Branch.

Headquarters.—The Headquarters of this Branch shall be situated at Broken Hill.

Territory.—The limits of the Branch shall not for the present be prescribed, but the Council reserves the right to define the limits of the Branch at any future date.

Local Committee.—The Branch shall elect a Committee which shall consist of Chairman, Committeemen and such Officers as the Branch may determine:

Election of Local Committee.—The election of Local Committee shall be annually by ballot at the Annual Meeting of the Branch.

Rules and By-Laws.—The Rules and By-Laws of the Branch shall be those of the Engineering Association of New South Wales, or any amendments thereof, in so far as they apply, and such other Rules and By-Laws which, not being inconsistent with those of the E.A. of N.S.W., have been approved by the Council.

Contributions to the Funds.—All subscriptions shall be paid to the Council and shall be in accordance with Section V. of the Rules and By-Laws of the Engineering Association of New South Wales.

Local Expenses.—The Council will remit to this Branch for its running expenses, when, and so far as practicable, an amount equal to 33 1-3 per cent. of the dues received from the members of the Branch, except in special cases when an

additional amount may be authorised by the Council. Requests for such appropriation from the Branch Committee shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer. The Association shall not be responsible for the debts of the Branch.

Report and Balance Sheet.—The Branch shall forward annually a Report and audited Balance Sheet to the Council for receipt not later than 30th September for inclusion in the Annual Report of the Association.

Proposals for Membership.—Every proposal for membership shall be forwarded to the Council with a recommendation from the Branch Committee. The statement of qualifications on the Proposal Form, supplied by the Council, must be initialled by members supporting the proposal, opposite the items of which they have personal knowledge.

The grade of membership shall not be filled in on the Proposal Form, but shall be indicated in the recommendation from the Branch Committee accompanying the Proposal.

Papers.—Copies of all Papers to be read before the Association shall be forwarded to the Branch for discussion, and a report of such discussions shall be sent to the Council at the earliest opportunity.

Papers presented to the Branch, and discussions thereon, shall be the property of the Association, and shall be published in the Proceedings of the Association if approved by the Council. Such papers shall not be published elsewhere in extenso without permission of the Council. The reading of a paper before the Branch shall not carry with it the right of publication in the Proceedings of the Association, but a precis of all papers others than those

published in extenso shall be inserted in the Proceedings. No copy of a Paper shall be sent by the Branch to other than the members of the Association without the permission of the Council.

Copies of all Papers shall be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary, who shall present them to the Council for approval, before being rendered at the Branch Meeting.

Powers of the Council.—The Council reserves the right to cancel the Branch.

A reply to this letter, dated 12th September, 1918, foreshadowed a very successful section at this centre, nearly the whole of the items outlined in the proposed Constitution for Broken Hill were adopted. A Committee of six of those present were elected to draw up and modify the Rules.

The reply to this important meeting was embodied in a letter from the Council dated 15th October, 1918, and after dealing with the points raised by the Broken Hill Committee the following extracts are of interest seeing that at this time the amalgamation of the Engineering Institution of Australia was very much in evidence, and the Council were of the opinion that any thing done in the way of forming a new division, etc., should be such that the possible absorption in the near future by the federated body should be made as easy as possible. The extracts referred to here appear:—

15th October, 1918.

A. S. Plowman, Esq.,
Technical College,
Broken Hill, N.S.W.

Dear Sir,—

With regard to the use of the word "Branch." This was adopted in our suggestions principally because we had in view future developments, when under the proposed amalgamation scheme the Engineering Association of N.S.W. will in all probability become a Branch.

The word "Section" has been used in the proposed Constitution more to define the different divisions of the profession; for instance, the Electrical Engineer would form the Electrical Section of the Institution. We would for this reason suggest that if you see any strong objection to the word Branch, you might adopt the word "Division" for the time being.

With regard to local expenses: In our suggested rules it is evident that we have not made clear that the 33 1/3 per cent. would not only cover annual subscriptions, but also entrance fees. This would considerably increase the amount available to you.

Could you furnish an approximate estimate of the probable expenses of the Branch or Division for the first year? I am instructed to advise you that the Committee considers that if the amount retained did not meet your expenses, the matter would receive favourable consideration by the Council, and the Committee would recommend that a special grant be made.

The perusal of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet, twelve copies of which are being posted to you under separate cover, will enable you to judge what the standing expenses of the Association are.

With regard to papers: The point you draw attention to concerning the possible delay if papers have to be submitted to the Council before being read, is clear, and the Committee agree that the local Committee should be empowered to consent to the reading of papers, but that no paper should be printed or published in any form without the consent of the Council.

The final clause with regard to the termination of the Section does not mean that membership would be automatically terminated thereby. There is no doubt the intention is that if the Branch should for any reason cease to carry on corporate work, individual members would still, if they so desired, retain their membership of the Association.

It is indeed satisfactory to know that such keen interest is being displayed in the movement by nearly the whole of the Engineering profession at Broken Hill, and that everything so far points the successful formation of the proposed Branch.

We notice that the matter is now in the hands of a local Committee of six, and we will be interested to hear the names of the members of the Committee.

I would again express on behalf of the Council, the warmest appreciation of your efforts in this matter.

Yours very truly,

Hon. Secretary.

Following upon the correspondence, six members were proposed by Mr. A. S. Plowman and elected at the general meeting held in April, and from that date forward the membership showed a decided increase until the amalgamation of the Institution was consummated in 1919. Great credit is due to Mr. Plowman for his untiring efforts in the formation of this very important Branch, seeing that the members enrolled there comprised many eminent engineers in the world renowned centre of the silver-lead mining district of Broken Hill. There is no doubt but that the work carried out by these gentlemen is of a very high order, and as such should be set down and made available to the members of the Engineering Profession throughout the world.