

ASSOCIATION OF SURVEY TECHNICIANS OF ONTARIO

For the first time in the history of surveying in Canada, steps have been taken to provide recognition for those who assist surveyors in carrying out their duties. These Assistants are not surveyors nor apprentices but, in modern language, "Technicians", in fact, "Survey Technicians". They occupy an important place in the Surveying Profession and are, as a matter of necessity, doing a large proportion of the survey work.

These men will be required to know surveying comprehensively. Any survey draughtsman who is expected to make a plan of survey from field notes has to be more than just a tracer. Similarly, a Chief of Party must be more than a super-instrument man. A Survey Technician, in a small office, might well be employed in both the field and office. That is, if he is capable.

From time to time members of your Association have brought up the question of organizing and training their assistants, but little progress was made in this regard. However, some Technicians, with the help of some Ontario Land Surveyors, and finally with the blessing of your Association, organized their own Association in such a way as to be independent and yet be under the guidance of the Ontario Land Surveyors Association.

Close co-operation between these two Associations is not only possible but A MUST, as they are inextricably bound together and it is difficult to visualize a future in which the fortunes of one group will be separate from those of the other.

The purpose of the Association of Survey Technicians of Ontario is threefold; Certification - Education and Recognition. It is evident from within the Technicians' Group that there is a desire for recognition of their talents and ability, not only from the surveyors but from the general public.

Certification, or the Act of Certifying, is the GIVING of a written testimony to the truth of any fact. Certification as a Survey Technician does not necessarily justify an increase in salary or a particular promotion but it does provide a measuring stick against which the qualifications of an individual can be compared. This, of course, is invaluable to both the Technician and the Surveyor.

It has been established that a program such as is proposed by the Technicians' Association provides incentive to those individuals who are hungry for knowledge but who had no precise path to follow in improving their academic qualifications. There is little doubt that you---the Surveyor--- will favour men who honestly try to improve themselves and reclassification to a higher grade, will draw attention to a man's progress.

A Survey Technician in possession of a Certificate from his Association should not present any problem to a surveyor in his determination as to whether or not the Technician possess the qualifications he lays claim to. The production of such a certificate, upon application for position, will eliminate all possibility of guesswork and therefore will save time, effort and most important--money. Further, in this regard, our Membership Committee is being quite strict in reviewing applications. The Ontario Land Surveyor, therefore, can be assured that the grade and certificate issued to any Survey Technician really means that he has the qualifications set forth for the grade.

The proper grading of all your "employee-technicians" can be of assistance to you in many ways. Such grading will assess the experience, education, ability and responsibility of all your Technical Assistants and if you so desire, may be used to set salaries and positions within your own Company. Places such as the Department of Highways and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission are shining examples of how gradation of employees can be of assistance to the employer. These people have spent time, effort and money, setting up a system of grades peculiar to their own requirements and these have worked successfully to the

advantage of both the employer and employee.

The program of the Technicians Association involves certification in a total of 11 different grades. 5 in the Field and 6 in the Office. In the field, we have established grades for rear chainmen, head chainmen, instrumentmen, party chiefs and supervisors. In the office, we have a grade for office supervisors. These were established from existing data and experience and were generally approved by your Council. They are based on academic and practical training. They are not easy nor are they hard - but we believe they are basically sound and practical.

Arising from the grades we have our educational program and the establishment of this is by no means a small task. Members of our Association are now in the process of assembling information available on all subjects and it is the intention of the organization to establish a system of examinations which will generally suit the requirements of all concerned. After our "initial membership" period, all applicants will be required to pass examinations in the grade applied for.

A man properly educated in the practical aspects of surveying is capable of relieving the surveyor for the more creative and supervisory tasks for which his training especially fits him. Our expanding economy has intensified the demand for technical workers who can take over jobs requiring a combination of basic surveying and mathematical knowledge as well as manual skill. To be specific, the work of the Survey Technician is that of a highly skilled craftsman, second only to the Surveyor. Survey Technicians who are well trained can usually move within a wide range of jobs and are capable of performing their work with superior skill in many areas. To maintain a high standard of efficient operation, most Surveyors need the support of well-trained Survey Technicians.

We are grateful for the co-operation given to us by your Association and by individual Ontario Land Surveyors. It is our desire to contact every Survey Technician in the Province of Ontario and most surveyors have supplied us with a list of names and addresses of their employees but, in some cases, specific action has been lacking. To those of you who have not already done so, please send us a list of our mailing address. (The Association of Survey Technicians of Ontario, Box 154, Downsview, Ontario).

Before closing I would like to say a word about Unions. Individual Surveyors have, when speaking to me about our Association, likened it unto that of a Union. Our Association, its constitution and bylaws, is being patterned after those of your own Association. Continued close co-operation between our two Groups will prevent a Labour Union from moving in on us. For we are not as some may be inclined to think, forming a Union. Our Association is for the benefit of all in the Surveying Profession.

S. C. Geneja, President

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#### RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY-TREASURER

Mr. A. C. McEwen resigned his position as Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, effective June 30th, 1964. He has been appointed by the Canadian Government under the External Aid Programme to establish and take charge of a new Survey Training Centre, attached to University College, Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika. He will be responsible for both the administrative and instructional aspects of the Training Centre, which is a residential school with an expected initial enrolment of about 25 students.

Mr. McEwen leaves Canada with his wife and family on July 1st, and after a vacation in England, will commence his new duties at the end of July.