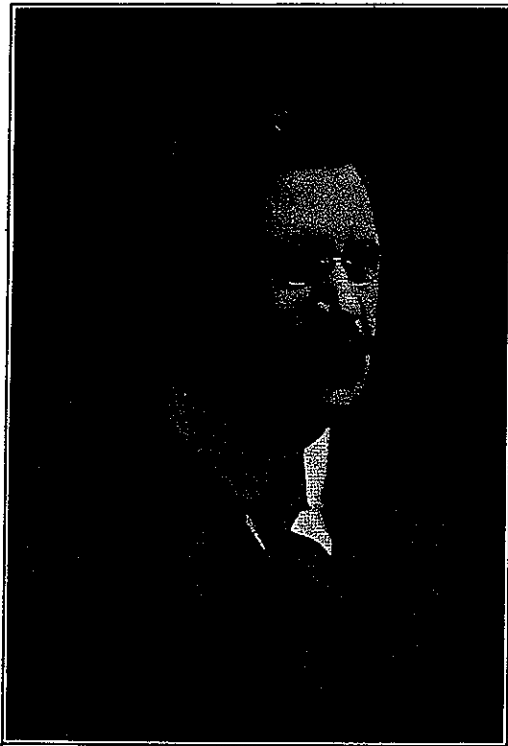


JOHN EDWARD SCHWITZER.

John Edward Schwitzer was born in Ottawa on April 19th, 1870, his father being William Schwitzer, and his mother Elizabeth McArdar. He was educated at the public school and collegiate institute, where he won high honor, then matriculated at McGill in 1888 and graduated in Civil Engineering in May, 1891. Upon graduating, he secured a position as assistant engineer on the Ottawa and Gatineau Railway; from 1892 to 1896 he was employed as assistant on the Parry Sound Colonization Railway; and as assistant on the Central Counties Railway, between South Indian and Rockland (afterwards Canada Atlantic Railway).

He served under articles to Charles A. Biggar, O.L.S., and qualified as an Ontario Land Surveyor on November 16th, 1896. Shortly afterwards he opened an office at Kenora, Ontario, practising as Land Surveyor and Engineer. He was Town Engineer in 1898 and 1899, in which latter year he was appointed to the staff of the Canadian Pacific Railway. His first work was in connection with terminal improvements at Kenora. His promotion was rapid: Assistant Engineer, Maintenance of Way, 1900-1901; Resident Engineer District No. 2, Winnipeg, 1902-1903; 1903-1905, Divisional Engineer, Central Division, Winnipeg; 1905-1907, Principal Assistant Engineer Western Lines, C.P.R.; March, 1907, Assistant Chief Engineer lines west of Port Arthur. In 1907 he also served on the Board of Consulting Engineers in connection with the proposed new water supply for the City of Winnipeg.

The double tracking of the line between Winnipeg and Port Arthur and replacing of wooden trestles and bridges by concrete and steel structures were proceeded with and completed under Mr. Schwitzer's supervision.

In 1909 two important engineering works were completed by the O.P.R.—the Lethbridge viaduct, over one mile in length and 314 feet high, and the two spiral tunnels at Mount Stephen in the

Rockies. These tunnels reduced the maximum grade from 4.5% to 2.2%, but lengthened the line by 4.25 miles. The length of the two tunnels is one and one-fourth miles, and of approaches seven miles.

In December, 1910, he was appointed to the position of Chief Engineer of the C.P.R. at a salary of \$25,000. For some years prior to this date there had been an Assistant Chief Engineer for the Eastern Lines, and an Assistant Engineer for Western Lines, but no Chief Engineer.

On January 6th, 1911, he was tendered a banquet at the "Royal Alexandria" by the C.P.R. officials in Winnipeg, and left to assume his new duties in Montreal on January 8th. Upon arrival in Montreal he was taken with a severe cold, and spent only twenty minutes at his office. He was taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital, where pneumonia developed, and although the best medical skill was secured, he passed away on January 23rd. The C.P.R. Company provided a special train of five cars to carry the body from Montreal to Ottawa for burial.

At the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, which opened its session at Winnipeg on January 24th, 1911, Col. H. N. Ruttan, President, referred to the death of Mr. Schwitzer in his opening remarks as follows: "The Engineers of Winnipeg feel this matter with peculiar sadness, as Mr. Schwitzer has been here so long and so many of us have been intimately associated with him. Our business relations have always been most pleasant, however intricate or involved they were. The fact that Mr. Schwitzer had just received what we who know him well consider the just reward of his merits as an Engineer and a faithful servant of the Company with which he was employed, enhances this feeling."

A resolution expressing the regret of the Society was proposed by Mr. John Kennedy and seconded by Professor John Galbraith, who spoke briefly and feelingly.

Mr. Schwitzer was a Member of the Council of the Society in 1908 and 1909, and was at the time of his death Vice-President-elect. He took an active part in the formation of the Manitoba Branch and was the Chairman in 1910. He was also a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Mr. Schwitzer was survived by his wife, Eva C. McNaughton, whom he married in August, 1894; also by three young children, his father and two brothers, Thomas and William. His son served with the Allies in France and died of wounds in October, 1918.