

J. F. Brookes is the director of the school of civil engineering. The goal of his school, what it is doing in helping graduates and the spirit of co-operation found in the state are described by Professor Brookes in the article that follows

## Greetings to former students

BY J. F. BROOKES



**W**ITHIN the college of engineering there is everywhere evident, on the part of the student body, an intense activity that points to only one conclusion, that St. Patrick's occasion is just around the corner. It is the time of year when student effort reaches a climax. It is the occasion when the old "Grad" comes back to see if the student of today is "on the job and doing his stuff," so to speak. Therefore, in harmony with the spirit of the event, the faculty of the school of civil engineering extends to former students and friends of the school a cordial invitation to visit the campus again.

As old graduates lose their intimate contact with the school it seems appropriate that a brief historic reference be made at this time. In 1907 Professor George A. Hool came to the university as the first teacher of civil engineering subjects. Several years later he joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin. His texts upon concrete design and general building construction have been widely adopted. One of the first two engineering graduates of the college of engineering and the first graduate of the school of civil engineering was Charles L. Kaupke, '09. Since his graduation Mr Kaupke has had a successful career in the field of hydraulic engineering and at present is in California in intimate contact with irrigation projects. Professor James I. Tucker, director of the school of civil engineering until 1918, is special lecturer on the teaching staff of the University of California. His book, *Contracts in Engineering*, is popular and has long been used as a text. His work

in the field of property appraisal has attracted attention. The present faculty consists of five members; Associate Professor N. E. Wolfard (1918), the writer (1919), Professor C. R. Sandifer (1923), Assistant Professor J. R. Matlock (1925) and Associate Professor M. E. Mills (1927).

The curriculum, while not separated into departments, embraces the basic subjects of highway, railway, hydraulic, municipal and structural engineering with adequate laboratory facilities in the testing of materials and special field of highway materials. The members of the teaching staff have had practical experience in the various branches of engineering and bring into their classes an intimate knowledge of practice. To promote professional viewpoint there is within the school a student branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers, known as the Stadia club. This is a valuable medium of self expression on the part of the students and also brings about wider contact with practicing members of the profession.

The school is interested in aiding its graduates to obtain work. A splendid co-operative attitude in this respect is shown by employers of the state. At this time acknowledgment is made of this service rendered the university. Former graduates established in practice are also doing their bit. Barring the present time of financial depression graduates have been unusually successful in obtaining desirable work. Public work is a helpful medium of employment now while private industry lags. It is noted also that many students who

have had their education interrupted are enrolled again, preparing themselves for the future. While former levels of salary may not return immediately the well trained man with proper personal qualifications will again be at the top to enjoy the advantages of rank and compensation.

But to mention again St. Pat's program. While the holiday atmosphere may be prevalent the occasion is one of seriousness of purpose and effort that reflects achievement on the part of the students. It is their attempt to produce an instructive exhibit representative of their work and merits support. There is a growing conviction that more should be expected of the student and less of the teacher. To quote Owen D. Young, head of the General Electric Company, "In my judgment the most effective forward movement of life lies between twenty and thirty. To the extent that we paralyze that area in men's lives we paralyze movement forward. The freshness of human brains is the great motive power of the world. It isn't complacency of success that I am worried about. It is the question of complacency of age—whether men of age have the courage to recognize the freshness of youth." The student may well be included in the bracket suggested by Mr Young.

So, in closing, the writer would remind one to attend the ceremonies of March the seventeenth. The occasion is the students' project of self expression. A visit to the Open House will amply repay one.