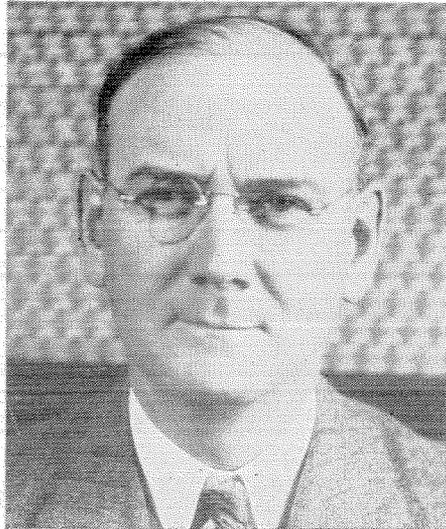


A TRIBUTE TO



PROFESSOR FRANKLIN THOMAS

In the fall of 1913 a young civil engineer journeyed to Pasadena to become Professor of Civil Engineering at Throop College of Technology. Already a leader in his profession, his reason for joining the faculty of a relatively obscure institution of higher learning was undoubtedly the same one which prompted other leaders to follow a similar career: an opportunity to build the now famous California Institute of Technology. The vision, talent and diligence of Franklin Thomas have been a major factor not only in the success of the Institute but in the success of its many graduates as well, particularly those in civil engineering.

As head of the department of Civil Engineering, Franklin Thomas has, for twenty-five years, been a respected leader. As chairman of the administrative committee of the faculty in 1917 and in 1920-21, during the absence of the president and following his resignation, Franklin Thomas was a capable executive. But even beyond these important tasks, he served both his profession and his fellow citizens.

At the age of 18 he was a chainman with the C. B. & Q. Railway. Shortly thereafter he studied at the State University of Iowa (B.E. '08 and C.E. '13). Before securing his degree of Civil Engineer, however, he had worked a year with the Mines Power Co., Cobalt, Ontario, Canada; had served as instructor in the department of engineering, University of Michigan; had become married to Marie Elizabeth Planck; and had served the Alabama Power Company as a designer on Coosa River, Muscle Shoals, and Tennessee

River Projects. At this point we find him on his way to Pasadena at the age of 28 with diplomas, experience and family—to become a professor of civil engineering.

In 1918 he was a first lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. In 1919 he was on leave as assistant engineer, U. S. Reclamation Service. During 1921-27 he was a member and vice chairman of the Board of Directors, City of Pasadena, and in 1927 he was president of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce. He has also served as president of the Pasadena Community Chest.

Since the inception of the project to deliver Colorado River water to Southern California cities, Franklin Thomas has been an engineer-executive who, as much as any other man, has made this unprecedented aqueduct a reality. He has been vice chairman of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California since 1928.

As a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, he has been president of the Los Angeles Section, member of the committee on irrigation hydraulics and member of the national board of directors. Other affiliations are the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, Sigma Tau, Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Alumni seize the opportunity afforded by Professor Thomas' twenty-fifth anniversary with the Institute to express their tribute to an outstanding engineer, civic leader and educator.