

# **William Lindsay Malcolm**

*February 2, 1884 — January 18, 1948*

The University Community was deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden death of William Lindsay Malcolm, Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of the School of Civil Engineering on January 18, 1948. Thus was brought to a close a career of over forty years of professional practice, teaching, and administrative work. He was born at Mitchell, Ontario, Canada, on February 2, 1884, the son of George and Margaret Malcolm. His father was for a time Vice-principal of the Stratford Collegiate Institute, from which the son graduated and where he won a scholarship for Queens University, Kingston, Ontario. He was graduated from that University in 1905 with the degree of M.A. and after two years of technical training received the degree of B.S. in 1907. He was city engineer of Stratford in 1907 and associate city engineer of Guelph in 1909, 1910, and 1911. His teaching began at his Alma Mater, Queens University, where he was Assistant Professor of Surveying from 1907 to 1909, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering from 1909 to 1914, and Professor of Municipal Engineering from 1914 to 1938. During the years that he was at Queens he also engaged in engineering practice and contracting and building. He designed and built the University Stadium, hockey rink, and sanitary engineering building at Queens. He also engaged in contracting elsewhere, including the building of a highway from Stratford to Shakespeare.

During the first World War he served overseas from 1914 to 1919 with the Canadian Engineers, holding in succession the ranks of Captain, Major, and Lieutenant Colonel. After the war he was for some twenty years a Lieutenant Colonel in the Canadian Engineers Reserve. While serving overseas he was twice mentioned in dispatches for "gallant and distinguished services in the Field."

For several years he managed by using vacations and taking leave from his teaching, to do graduate work at Cornell University with his major field of study in Sanitary Engineering. He received the degree of M.C.E. in 1934 from the University and the degree of Ph.D. in 1937.

Thus when in 1938 he came to Cornell as Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of the School of Civil Engineering he was no stranger. His occupancy of the directorship for nearly ten years covered a period presenting many problems. The war years with the interruption of student careers and calling of faculty members into service, the various student training programs, and the influx of ex-service men as students after the war all presented many a difficulty involving changing of teaching programs and curriculums. Dr. Malcolm met the various problems as

they arose and worked diligently and effectually in solving them. He impressed the students and faculty by his tireless energy and devotion to duty. He found time not only for administrative work but also for teaching.

Dr. Malcolm's administration of the School of Civil Engineering saw a number of improvements in the laboratory and classroom facilities. The five-year course was inaugurated during his administration and he had much to do with the planning and arranging the five-year curriculum in Civil Engineering.

Throughout his life Professor Malcolm was interested in sports. While a student at Queens he was a member of the football team. Later he coached teams for intercollegiate football. He was also much interested in badminton, being well known in Kingston and in Ontario for his active participation and interest in the sport. He was also interested in tennis and was for some years an officer of the Kingston Tennis Club. After coming to Ithaca Dr. Malcolm played golf. In the early summer of 1945 after an afternoon on the golf links and while attending a banquet of the Chi Epsilon Honorary Society, he suffered a heart attack which necessitated his remaining in bed for several weeks. After recovering from this, although his health was still not the best, he was soon taking on a full burden of work, which he resolutely carried until a second attack of heart trouble resulted in a final illness of but a few days.

He was a friendly man, who impressed those with whom he came in contact with his sincerity. Both students and faculty found in him one to listen sympathetically when they came to him for counsel and advice. No one who knew Lindsay Malcolm either professionally or personally failed to be impressed by his cordiality, his admirable character, the modest and pervasive quality of his friendship; and there is no one who knew him but deeply feels the loss he has sustained in the passing of so good a man.

*H. M. Giff, B. J. Monroe, P. H. Underwood*