R. V. Norris

ROBERT VAN ARSDALE NORRIS, who died at his home at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on April 20, 1928, was born at Newark, N. J., on May 2, 1864, of parents who were direct descendants of such sterling New Eng-landers as Governor William Bradford, John Alden and Timothy Dwight. He went to the Collegiate School in New York and then to the Colum-bia School of Mines where he graduated with the class of 1885, having among classmates A. S. Dwight, E. N. Engelhardt, H. L. Hollis, G. B. Lee, Richard Moldenke, Wilbur Sanders, Joseph Struthers, E. A. Wiltsee, and I. H. Woolson. His marked ability even among so many men of unusual ability caused him to be chosen as assistant to Pro-fessor Munroe in the summer school of mining and survey-ing immediately after graduation, and he shortly after was also inspector of dredging operations on the Maurice River improvement work, Millville, N. J. The follow-ing year he worked in the chemical laboratory of Herman Behr in Brooklyn, and toward the end of 1886 he joined the staff of the Pennsylvania R. R. Coal Co. and the Susquehanna Coal Co. as assistant engineer. Six years later he was made principal assistant engineer and in 1900 he was made chief engineer of these companies. In 1904, he withdrew from them and estab-lished an office as a consulting engineer at Wilkes-Barre, later taking his son, Robert V., Jr., into partnership with him. They acted as consulting engineers for the coal department of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western R. R. Co., the Lehigh Valley Coal Co., Coke Bros. & Co., Inc., the coal department of the Pennsyl- vania R. R. Co., the Wilkes-Barre & Hazleton R. R. Co., the Sterling Salt Co., and others, specializing in ex-amination and appraisal of coal properties, and also matters of Federal taxation.

At the International Engineering Congress at San Francisco in 1915, he was editor of the Coal Section, as well as delegate of the Institution of Mining Engineers to the Congress. At various times he was non-resident lecturer on coal mining both at Columbia and Harvard. Perhaps his most notable piece of public service was as engineer to the United States Fuel Administration, and as a member of the price-fixing committee of the War Industries Board during the War. As a result of this work he, together with Cyrus Garnsey, Jr. and J. H. Allport, contributed a notable paper “Method of Fixing Prices of Bituminous Coal Adopted by the U. S. Fuel Committee, the Mining Methods Committee, and the Coal and Coal Products Committee at the time of his death. He was also a member of the Civil and Mechanical Engineers, and of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, was active in alumni affairs at Columbia, in the Chamber of Commerce at Wilkes-Barre, and in some ten clubs in various places. An engineer of the highest rank, a man of the most up-right character and of marked personality, he was held in high esteem by all who knew him, and his death at an age when he apparently had many more years of active public service before him will be deeply mourned.

E. Nelson Fell

E. NELSON FELL, who died at his home, near Warren-ton, Va., on March 25, 1928, was born in New Zealand on Aug. 27, 1857. He was educated at Rugby, and the Royal School of Mines, London, graduating in 1879. In his life of varied activities he was at one time manager of the St. John del Rey mine at Cuiba, engaged in phosphate mining in Florida, operating a foundry at Huntsville, Ga., manager for the Athabasca Gold Mines, Ltd., Nelson, B. C., president and general manager of the Fellsmere Farms Co., a drainage enterprise in Estill County, Kentucky, and at the time of his death had just returned from a mine examination in Guatemala. His “Russian and Nomad,” published by Duffield in 1916, was a chronicle of his observations and experiences while oper-at ing the Athbasar property for seven years on the Khirgiz Steppes. He became a member of the Institute in 1900.