

Association of Professional Engineers
of the
Province of Manitoba

Merit Award

to

JOHN LESLIE CHARLES

P. Eng.

Born December 15, 1892

Weybridge, Surrey, England

John Leslie Charles has played a leading role in the Development of Northern Canada during his long association with railroad building in Western Canada; has contributed to the furtherance of the engineering profession both in Canada, and on the international level; and has displayed a continuing interest in his profession, and the growth and development of his country.

Major Charles was employed by the Canadian National Railways for fifty-five years, including leave to the Canadian Army in two world wars. As Chief Engineer for the Western Region of the Canadian National Railways he was actively engaged in the construction of branch lines which furthered the development of the North.

Following his retirement from the Canadian National Railways at the age of sixty-five, he was retained as a full-time consultant on such special projects as reconnaissance from Lynn Lake to Bathurst Inlet, Coppermine and Inuvik, N.W.T. and through Northern British Columbia and the Yukon.

At the age of seventy-three he collaborated in the proposal to locate a railway of approximately one thousand miles to connect the Rhodesian system in Zambia to the East African system in Tanzania.

In 1973 Major Charles joined a study group for Gas Arctic Northwestern on an inspection trip from Calgary, through Yellowknife, down the Mackenzie River Valley to Inuvik, over the Mackenzie Delta to Prudho Bay.

He is the outstanding pioneering spirit in the Engineering Profession in Manitoba.

November 26, 1976