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# **THE MICHIGAN TECHNIC**

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## PROFESSOR LEWIS MERRITT GRAM

**T**HE RESIGNATION of Professor A. E. Greene, last July, left vacant one of the most important chairs in the Department of Engineering. The course in Structural Engineering had its beginning and practical development under Professor Charles E. Greene, one of the most eminent structural engineers in the country, and is today recognised as one of the best schools in America. Its alumni in prominent positions constitute a large number.



PROFESSOR LEWIS MERRITT GRAM.

Lewis Merritt Gram was chosen for the chair because he was a graduate of the department under Professor Charles E. Greene, and because he had had many years of experience in both steel and reinforced concrete construction. The growing importance of reinforced concrete in all lines of engineering, makes it essential to materially broaden the work of

the department in it, while the structural steel work of the department must be maintained at its old, high standard.

Mr. Gram was born at Menominee, Mich., July 25, 1876, and graduated from high school in 1892. Working, then, until 1897, he entered the University, and graduated in 1901.

After graduation he entered the service of the American Bridge Company, as draftsman, remaining until 1903, when he became Assistant Engineer of the Massillon Bridge Company. The succeeding year he gave up his position with the bridge company to become Structural Engineer for A. Bentley & Sons, contractors in steel, reinforced concrete and general building construction, in which position he remained until 1908. During this period he was identified with much important work, such as the Bour Building, and Secor Hotel, at Toledo, the Pugh Building at Cincinnati, and the water filtration plant, at Toledo.

After leaving this position in 1908, he engaged in the design of the power house and other structural work in connection with the Toledo filtration plant, associated with Mr. William G. Clark, Michigan, '64. From 1909 to 1912, the date of assuming duties at Ann Arbor, he was engaged in private practice with office in Toledo, Ohio. During these latter years he was retained as Structural Engineer for the Toledo Board of Education, on construction of the Jessup Scott and Morrison Waite High Schools, costing over \$700,000 each, and on several ward schools.

During the year 1911-12 he was connected with Schenk and Williams, Architects, in the construction of a concrete building for the Toledo Factories Company, which cost about \$250,000.

Mr. Gram's experience thus covers bridge work, structural steel design, concrete design; contracting business in both steel and concrete, and private consulting practice. Added to these qualifications is the important one, from a University standpoint, that he is a Michigan man born and raised, and was a student under the late Charles E. Greene. Loyalty to the University counts for much.

Professor Gram is a member of the

American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Toledo Society of Engineers, of which he was secretary 1904-11, and president in 1912.

Enthusiasm in his chosen profession, splendid training and experience, and charming personality will unite to maintain the interest of students, and will doubtless cause the group of structural students to be one of the largest in the civil engineering department.