



## Cleveland Section American Society of Mechanical Engineers

### Announcement of March Meeting

Informal Dinner Meeting in honor of our President, Alex Dow. Business suits will be worn.

**TIME:** Monday, March 5, 1928, at 6:30 P. M.

**PLACE:** Hotel Cleveland. Two dollars a plate.

**SPEAKER:** ALEX DOW, President of The American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

**SUBJECT:** Some Principles of Success.

**CHAIRMAN:** Professor Fred H. Vose, Case School of Applied Science.

Alex Dow, President of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, April 12, 1862. On his father's side he came of a Highland family of which the oldest son had been a skilled iron worker from time immemorial. His father, an expert accountant, had served an apprenticeship at the forge. The boy when five years old went to what was the public school of that day and place—the school of a Scots Presbyterian parish. His ambition was to train himself as a marine engineer. Circumstances balked this ambition and he went to work, before his twelfth birthday, as a messenger in a railroad office, and continued in that service six years, as junior clerk and stenographer. Thereafter he found employment with the Cunard Steamship Line in Liverpool where he spent his spare time in the engine rooms of the steamships.

For three years Mr. Dow was a private and a corporal in a regiment of the organization which is now known in Britain as the Territorials.

Although a graduate of no university or technical school, Mr. Dow received the honorary degree of master of engineering from the University of Michigan in 1911, ~~and~~ the honorary degree of doctor of engineering in 1924, and the Honorary degree of Doctor of

In November, 1882, Mr. Dow came to the United States to remain, and was first employed in various departments of the Baltimore & Ohio R. R. He was transferred later to the Baltimore & Ohio Telegraph Company to take charge of local line and instrument maintenance, with some construction and some experimental work on telephones. In 1888 he found employment with the Brush Electric Company of Cleveland, manufacturing the Brush series arclight dynamos and other electrical machines. His first assignment was that of installation electrician of the Chicago office. In 1889 he became district engineer at that office.

In 1893 he went to Detroit, accepting an engagement offered him to design and supervise the construction of the Public Lighting Plant of the City of Detroit.

In July, 1896, as vice-president and general manager, Mr. Dow took charge of The Edison Illuminating Company of Detroit, which since 1886 had been a commercially successful company operating the Edison three-wire direct-current system in a limited area. In January of 1903, the Detroit Edison Company, of which Mr. Dow is now president succeeded the earlier organization.

Together with the engineers whom he associated with himself as his staff, particularly James W. Parker and Professor C. F. Hirshfeld, Mr. Dow designed and built not only the well-known Conners Creek plant in Detroit, but also the Marysville and Trenton Channel plants.

Mr. Dow's membership in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers dates from 1895, that in the American Society of Civil Engineers from 1906, that in the American Institute of Electrical Engineers from 1893, and that in the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Great Britain, from 1911. He served Detroit as the engineer member of the Board of Water Commissioners from 1916 to 1921; again from 1925-1927; and he is now engaged in the construction of a duplicate water service, serving for a third short term as president of the Board of Water Commissioners. He is a charter member and past-president of the Detroit Engineering Society.

Mail or phone your reservation now. You can cancel it later if you change your plans. Call Warner Seely, Randolph 5580.

**GUESTS AND VISITORS WILL BE WELCOME**

