



FRANK JULIAN SPRAGUE

SCIENTIST, INVENTOR, ENGINEER, "FATHER OF
ELECTRIC TRACTION"



CHRONOLOGY:

Born, Milford, Conn. July 25, 1857.

U. S. Naval Academy—1874-78.

Resigned U. S. Navy—1883.

Assistant to Thomas A. Edison—one year.

Sprague Electric Railway and Motor Company—organized 1884.

Contract for Richmond Railways in 1887, followed by 110 other rail-
ways before merger with Edison General Electric in 1890.

Electric elevator development and promotion; in conjunction with
the invention of the "Multiple Unit" system in 1895, and its
application on the South Side Elevated in Chicago in 1897-98.

○ Sprague Electric Elevator Co.—1892; Sprague Electric Co.—1897.

1906—Automatic train control.

1927—Dual elevator system.

AWARDS:

Gold Medal—Paris Electrical Exhibition—1889.

Grand Prize—St. Louis Exhibition—1905.

Edison Medal—A.I.E.E.—1910.

Elliot Cresson Medal—Franklin Institute.

Franklin Medal—Franklin Institute—1921.

D. Eng.—Stevens, D. Sc.—Columbia, L.L.D.—Pennsylvania.

Honorary Member—A.I.E.E.—1932.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Early activity in U. S. Navy resulting in numerous inventions in the
electrical field. Official reporter at Crystal Palace Exhibition 1882. Mathe-
matical determination of electrical distribution in 1883. Constant speed
motor which developed into wide industrial use 1884-9. Initial tests Durant
Sugar Refinery and New York Elevated to demonstrate practicability of
motors for railway use—1886. The operation at Richmond, beginning in
1887, established present standards which ensured successful railway opera-
tion. Advised active prosecution of alternating current development—1886.

Notable accomplishment in remote control and equipment for elevator
operation now universally used. First operative model of dual elevator 1926.

The invention and practical application to service of the "Multiple Unit
System" by which two to four times the traffic capacity of track and termi-
nals is realized, now used throughout the world.

As a pioneer who personifies vision, persistence, courage, energy and
zeal—an unsurpassed example.