

RALPH W. POPE

*In Permanent folder*

Ralph Wainwright Pope, son of Ebenezer and Electa Leonard (Wainwright) Pope, was born at Great Barrington, Mass., August 16, 1844. He received his education in local schools, Amherst Academy, and the North Amherst district school, but ill health caused him to leave school at the age of thirteen.

His principal childhood amusements lay in the general field of mechanics, and as a boy he learned telegraphy and other features of railroad work, later entering the employ of the Housatonic Railroad Company as a telegrapher at the age of fifteen. His later connections in telegraph work were with the American Telegraph Company in 1862, the Collins Overland Telegraph Expedition to British Columbia in 1865, the Bankers and Brokers Telegraph Company in 1867, and the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company in 1872.

After serving as deputy superintendent with the latter company for several years, he was engaged in 1867 as assistant editor of "The Telegrapher". After filling the position of deputy superintendent with the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company since 1880, he was in 1882 appointed manager of the Union Electric Manufacturing Company, New York. He became associate editor of "The Electrician and Electrical Engineer" in 1884. In 1890, he founded the monthly "Electric Power", and in 1891 became editor, for electrical terms, of the Standard Dictionary.

Mr. Pope had been elected Secretary of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in 1885, the year after it was organized, and in 1887 agreed to devote nearly his entire time to the duties of this office. He continued in this position until he decided, in 1911, to retire from active service, and was appointed Honorary Secretary for life.

In a report prepared by a committee on resolutions appointed by the president of the Institute under authority of the Board of Directors, Mr. Pope's faithful and loyal service to the Institute was officially recognized. During his tenure of office, this organization had developed from a small group to a society with several thousand members. His enthusiasm for the development of local meetings was primarily responsible for the inauguration, in 1902, of plans which resulted, during the next thirty years, in the organization of 60 Sections and 109 Student Branches, and which have contributed greatly to the continued progress of the Institute.

Mr. Pope died suddenly on November 1, 1929, at the age of 85, survived by a son Frank J., and a daughter, Mrs. Horace R. Wemple, of Elizabeth, N.J.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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