

Ralph W. Pope

(A. O. 4, member for life)

Secretary 1885-1911

OVER a period of nearly 27 years, Ralph Wainwright Pope served the Institute as its secretary. He was first elected in 1885, and served each year consecutively from that time until 1911, when he was appointed honorary secretary for life. Mr. Pope was a younger brother of Franklin L. Pope, second president of the Institute.

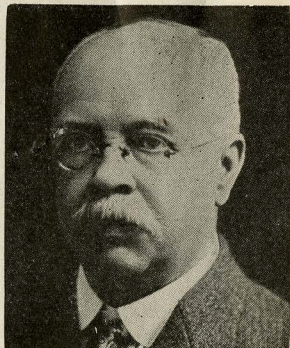
Ralph W. Pope was born at Great Barrington, Mass., August 16, 1844. He was educated at Amherst Academy. Early in life he developed a marked taste for me-

onal Secretaries

chanics. After early experience in the local telegraph office, he entered the service of the Housatonic Railroad in 1859, becoming a telegrapher. After being in various telegraph offices of this road, he entered the service of the American Telegraph Company in 1864, being in the New York office. In 1865 he joined the Collins Overland Telegraph Expedition in an attempt to establish a through service to Europe by way of Alaska and Siberia. It was this expedition of which Franklin L. Pope was chief of the geographical department; the success of the Atlantic cable prevented the establishing of this connection. Ralph W. Pope was for 10 years thereafter in the service of the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, resigning his position as deputy superintendent in 1883. From that date until 1888 he was actively engaged in the editing and publishing of technical electrical papers in New York City. He was associate editor of *The Telegrapher* and *The Electrical Engineer*, and editor of *Electric Power*, which he founded.

During his tactful administration, the growth of the Institute was rapid. In 1887, he consented to devote practically all of his time to its interests alone. He made a constant study of its needs, and did not hesitate to recommend the adoption of all that appealed to him as desirable in the methods and activities of other technical organizations. His clear conception of detail, his genius for taking pains, and the orderly methods of his office, all were extremely valuable in his position as secretary.

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RALPH W. POPE

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