

File



RALPH WAINWRIGHT POPE

1190

The American Institute of Electrical Engineers was organized in 1884. In 1885, Ralph Wainwright Pope was elected its secretary. Born August 16, 1844, educated at Great Barrington and Amherst academies, he developed early in his career a marked taste for mechanics, and has been continuously identified with what might be called applied electricity. He entered the service of the Housatonic Railroad in 1859. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he entered the service of the American Telegraph Company and became an expert telegrapher. Later he joined the famous Collins Overland Telegraph Expedition, which the success of the Atlantic cable prevented from establishing connection with Europe across the wilds of British Columbia, Alaska, and Siberia. Mr. Pope was for ten years subsequent in the service of the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, resigning the position of deputy superintendent in 1883. From that date until 1888, he was actively engaged in the editing and publishing of technical electrical papers in this city.

But it is of his service as secretary that I speak with especial emphasis. During his tactful administration, the growth of the Institute has been rapid. In 1887, he consented to devote practically all of his time to its interests alone. He has made a constant study of its needs and has not hesitated to recommend the adoption of all that appealed to him as desirable in the methods and activities of other technical organizations. Perhaps the best evidence of the apprecia-

tion of Mr. Pope's service is that furnished by the members of the Institute itself. The office of secretary is purely elective, and the term is only one year. Mr. Pope has been re-elected twenty-two times without opposition.

His clear conception of details; his genius for taking pains; and the orderly methods of his office, have earned for him the affection and the gratitude of the directors and members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, whose wishes he has so ably carried out.

---