

Bancroft Gherardi

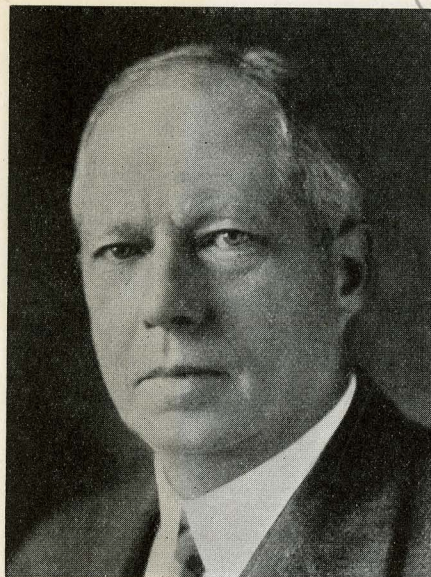
(A'95, M'04, F'12, member for life)

President 1927-28

Edison Medalist 1932

SINCE the early days of the telephone Bancroft Gherardi has been an outstanding figure. His initiative and skill in the development of engineering and operating organizations and in the development of the art generally have contributed enormously to the growth and success of present-day communication.

Mr. Gherardi was born April 6, 1873, in San Francisco, Calif., and received his education at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, N. Y., taking the degree B.S. in 1891. In 1893 he received the M.E. degree from Cornell, and in 1894 the master's degree in mechanical engineering. The following year he entered the employ of the New York Telephone Company (then the Metropolitan Telephone and Telegraph Company) where he worked under John J. Carty for 4 years, quickly winning promotion because of his work in improving the cable practice of the company. He was engaged on various problems, planning the scientific arrangement of control stations; he had charge of the planning and supervising of the underground systems and conductor arrangements installed for the city of New Rochelle, N. Y. He also made a study of the efficiency of telephone transmission on underground



cables of various types and aerial circuits of various sizes of wire.

In December 1899 Mr. Gherardi became engineer of the traffic department of the company and was responsible for recommendations for new switchboards and additions to switchboards required. In 1901 he became chief engineer of the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company, in re-

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sponsible charge of the planning and construction of all central office buildings. He made a study of the conditions of telephone development in the New Jersey territory, which involved laying comprehensive underground and aerial lines, based upon the estimated development of the future. He gave special attention to the commercial application of the Pupin loading coils to the underground cable system.

He was assistant chief engineer of the New York Telephone Company, 1906-07. He became engineer of plant of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, 1907-18, acting chief engineer and chief engineer, 1918-20, and since 1920 he has been vice-president and chief engineer. He is a director of the Michigan Bell Telephone, Cuban American Telephone and Telegraph Companies, the 195 Broadway Corporation, and the Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.

Mr. Gherardi has been an active participant in Institute affairs, having served as manager, 1905-08 and 1914-17, and as vice-president, 1908-10. At various times he has been a member of Institute committees, including executive, finance, and research. He is now serving on the committee on Institute policy. He has represented the Institute on the board of trustees of the United Engineering Trustees, Inc., the national committee of the International Electrochemical Commission, the National Research Council and on other bodies. He is a member of several important technical societies in the United States.

MAY 1934

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