

Death of Honorary Secretary ^{P. 13. F.}

RALPH WAINWRIGHT POPE, pioneer member of the Institute, elected its first Secretary in 1885 and for twenty-seven years consecutively thereafter, ~~reelected to this office~~, died November 1, 1929 at his home in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Although in his eighty-fifth year, he had apparently been in good health and the end came suddenly of heart failure.

Great Barrington, where he spent most of his life, was also his birthplace, his rudimentary schooling being acquired in the little old red schoolhouse there. In the autumn of 1857 he left the local school to attend the academy at Amherst, but ill health overtook him and he left the Amherst Academy to enter the North Amherst district school. He always learned quickly and was a pupil of good application, but because of sickness, dropped behind his classes and finally returned to Great Barrington, completing his school life at the age of thirteen.

The nature of his future undertakings was strongly evidenced in his childhood amusements; mechanisms fascinated him and he created quite a monopoly on the small wheels from the carts of the children with whom he played, building with these spare parts waterwheels, miniature railroads and various other experimental structures of mechanical nature. From one of his mother's plaster bonnet blocks, he made a mold for more cartwheels, pouring into it melted lead and building up quite a local activity among his playmates.

Upon his return to Great Barrington, he found his brother in charge of the local telegraph office. This offered a marvelous place in which to spend all his spare time, picking up a knowledge of telegraphy and unwittingly laying the foundation upon which his future career was built. Theodore M. Chapin, local station agent for the Housatonic Railroad, was without an assistant and took great interest in the boy, teaching him many phases of the railroad's activities and acquiring such faith in his ability to do, that when the company was in need of a man, Ralph Pope was heartily recommended to Mr. Hunt, the assistant superintendent; at the age of fifteen, became telegrapher for the Housatonic Railroad Company. From that time on he was continuously identified with electrical engineering work. The company sent him to the Bridgeport office, but he was returned to the Great Barrington office to meet an emergency situation arising in the service there. The Hughes receiving instrument upon which Mr. Pope learned had now been changed to a Morse, but he easily accomplished the changeover in operation and was soon known as an "expert sound receiver". Consequently at the outbreak of the Civil War when dependable and competent operators were at a premium, he was well qualified to offer his services and he was promptly installed in the New York office of the American Telegraph Company. The volume of work involved in the sending and receiving of war news was almost unlimited; the close confinement was again telling upon his health and much of night work with long hours was being pressed upon him. He was then twenty-two years of age and was on the verge of giving up; but the scarcity of operators impelled him to continue. He was, however, transferred shortly to the New Haven office and then to Providence at a good increase in salary.

In 1865 he joined the Collins overland telegraphic expedition, a famous pioneer band whose ambition it was to establish a through service to Europe by way of Alaska and Siberia. Mr. Pope went with them into the wilds of British Columbia in true pioneer fashion, sailing for San Francisco in April of that year and proceeding at once to Victoria, B.C. Final preparation for the pioneer life was completed at New Westminster. The party travelled up the Frazer River, sleeping in the open much of the time with nothing but their blankets for shelter, ^{travelling} sometimes on foot, sometimes on mules, pulling their boats after them on land that they might have them for the necessary fording of the stream in other sections. There is no truer test of adaptability than imposed by such an ^{and} adventure through the entire experience this ~~keynote~~ of all Mr. Pope's life undertakings was characteristically demonstrated. The further effort of this expedition was finally abandoned with the successful laying of a transatlantic cable, replacing the necessity which they were striving to meet.

For ten years subsequent to ~~the experience~~ ^{Mr. Pope} he was in the service of the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, resigning a position as its deputy superintendent in 1883, and until 1888 becoming actively interested in the editing and publication of technical electrical papers, journals. He was associate editor of The Telegrapher and The Electrical Engineer, and editor of Electric Power which he founded.

Part three

Under the energy and tact of his secretarial administration the Institute made rapid and important strides in its development and in 1887 he was persuaded to devote practically all of his time to its activities and interests. Constantly studying the needs of its progression and ever watchful of opportunity to recommend or endorse the adoption of methods to improve its work of cooperation with any advancement of the profession and general good of humanity, he labored unceasingly and diligently. The office of Secretary was an elective one and perhaps the greatest tribute paid to the worthiness and steadfastness of Mr. Pope's character lies in his repeated reelection by the ~~entire~~ membership. His clear conception of detail, painstaking, orderly methods and, withal, a genial and sympathetic spirit, endeared him to all and earned for him the gratitude and affectionate appreciation not only of the directors and members of the Institute but of the multitude of other friends and fellow workers with whom his

full and active life brought him in contact. He relinquished his active work as Secretary of the Institute in 1911, at which time he was appointed Honorary Secretary for life.

Death of Honorary Secretary Pope

RALPH WAINWRIGHT POPE, pioneer member of the Institute, elected its Secretary in 1885 and for twenty-seven years consecutively thereafter, died November 1, 1929 at his home in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Although in his eighty-fifth year, he had apparently been in good health and the end came suddenly of heart failure.

Great Barrington, where he spent most of his life, was also his birthplace, his rudimentary schooling being acquired in the little old red schoolhouse there. In the autumn of 1857 he left the local school to attend the academy at Amherst, but ill health overtook him and he left the Amherst Academy to enter the North Amherst district school. He always learned quickly and was a pupil of good application, but because of sickness he dropped behind his classes and finally returned to Great Barrington, where he completed his school life at the age of thirteen.

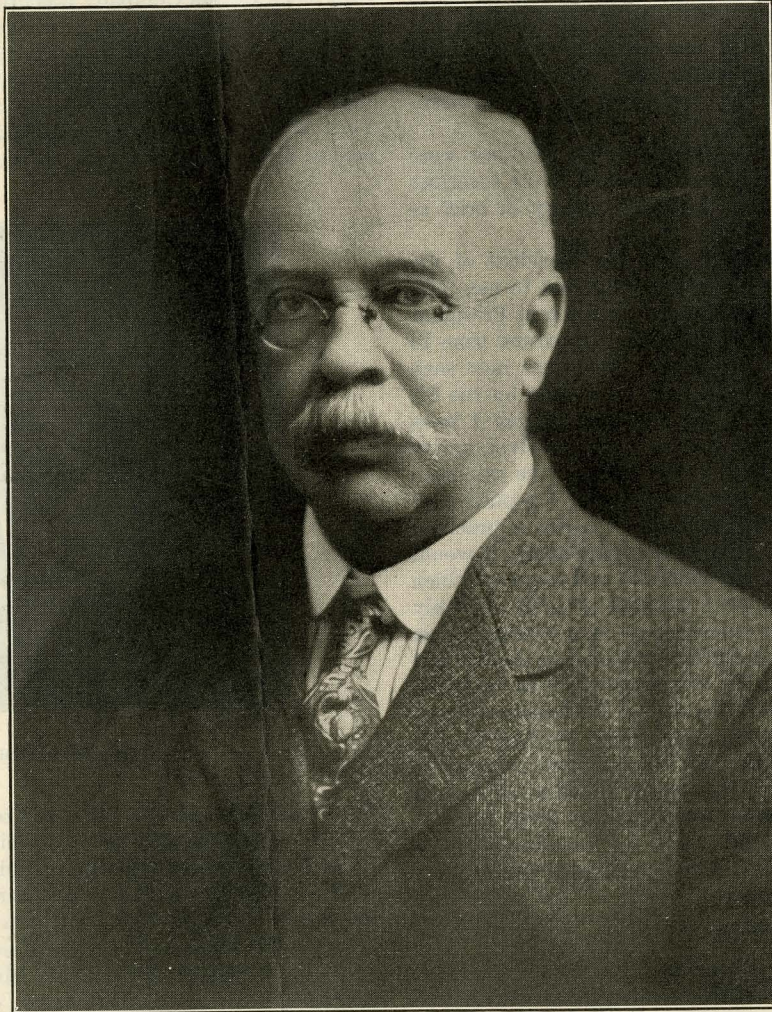
The nature of his future undertakings was strongly evidenced in his childhood amusements; mechanism fascinated him and he created quite a monopoly on the small wheels from the carts of the children with whom he played, building with these spare parts, waterwheels, miniature railroads and various other experimental structures of mechanical nature. From one of his mother's plaster bonnet blocks he made a mold for more cartwheels, pouring into it melted lead and building up quite a local activity among his playmates.

Upon his return to Great Barrington, he found his brother in charge of the local telegraph office. This offered a marvelous place in which to spend all his spare time, picking up a knowledge of telegraphy and unwittingly laying the foundation upon which his future career was built. Theodore M. Chapin, local station agent for the Housatonic Railroad, was without an assistant and took great interest in the boy, teaching him many phases of the railroad's activities and acquiring such faith in his ability to do that when the company was in need of a man, Ralph Pope was heartily recommended to Mr. Hunt, the assistant superintendent; at the age of fifteen he became telegrapher for the Housatonic Railroad Company. From that time he was continuously identified with electrical engineering work. The company sent him to the Bridgeport office, but he was returned to the Great Barrington office to meet an emergency situation arising in the service there.

The Hughes receiving instrument upon which Mr. Pope learned had now been changed to a Morse, but he easily accomplished the changeover in operation and was soon known as an "expert sound receiver." Consequently at the outbreak of the Civil War when dependable and competent operators were at a premium he was well qualified to offer his services and he was promptly installed in the New York office of the American Telegraph Company. The volume of work involved in the sending and receiving of war news was almost unlimited; close confinement was again telling upon Mr. Pope's health and much of night work with long hours was being pressed upon him. He was then

twenty-two years of age and was on the verge of giving up; but the scarcity of operators impelled him to continue. He was, however, transferred shortly to the New Haven office and then to Providence at a good increase in salary.

In 1865 he joined the Collins overland telegraphic expedition, a famous pioneer band whose ambition it was to establish a through service to Europe by way of Alaska and Siberia. Mr. Pope went with them into the wilds of British Columbia in true pioneer fashion, sailing for San Francisco in April of that year and proceeding at once to Victoria, B. C. Final preparation for the pioneer life was completed at New Westminster. The party traveled up the Frazer River, sleeping in the open much of the time with nothing but their blankets for shelter, traveling sometimes on foot, sometimes on mules, pulling their boats after them on



RALPH WAINWRIGHT POPE

land that they might have them for the necessary fording of the stream in other sections. There is no truer test of adaptability than that imposed by such an adventure and through the entire experience this key-note of all Mr. Pope's life was characteristically demonstrated. Further effort of this expedition was finally abandoned with the successful laying of a transatlantic cable replacing the necessity which they were striving to meet.

For ten years subsequent Mr. Pope was in the service of the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, resigning a position as its deputy superintendent in 1883 and until 1888 becoming actively interested in the editing and publication of technical electrical journals. He was associate editor of *The Telegrapher* and *The Electrical Engineer*, and editor of *Electric Power*, which he founded.

Under the energy and tact of his part time secretarial administration the Institute made rapid and important strides in its development and in 1887 he was persuaded to devote practically all of his time to its activities and interests. Constantly studying the needs of its progression and ever watchful of opportunity to recommend or endorse the adoption of methods to improve its work of cooperation in any advancement of the profession and general good of humanity, he labored unceasingly and diligently. The office of Secretary was an elective one and perhaps the greatest tribute paid to the worthiness and steadfastness of Mr. Pope's character lies in his repeated reelection by a membership vote. His clear conception of detail, painstaking, orderly methods and, withal, a genial and sympathetic spirit, endeared him to all and earned for him the gratitude and affectionate appreciation not only of the directors and members of the Institute but that of the multitude of other friends and fellow workers with whom his full and active life brought him in contact. He relinquished his active work as Secretary of the Institute in 1911, and was their appointed Honorary Secretary for life.

It was at his suggestion that the Institute's Sections were developed. Past-President Professor Charles F. Scott describes this epoch-making period of the Institute's history in brief as follows:

"In the spring of 1902 while the vote for President of the Institute was being canvassed, Secretary Pope said to me, 'Mr. Scott, it seems pretty certain that you will be the next President and I want to suggest that this will be an opportune time to develop local meetings of the Institute. There are now such meetings in Chicago, and they were held for a time by the St. Paul-Minneapolis group. This is an enterprise which I have been considering for a long time but have not received active support. It seems to me that you might take up the extension of local meetings during your administration.' I replied that I would vigorously support his proposal, as it was a practical means of expanding institute activities geographically; it would extend to distant members the new interest and impetus which Doctor Steinmetz (then President) was giving to the monthly meetings in New York. The appointment of a committee on local organizations was made at the first meeting in the fall and at my suggestion this committee was authorized to establish Student Branches as well as Sections among the Institute members. While President and committees gave support to the project, it was the enthusiasm and indefatigable interest of Secretary Pope that was one of the strong contributing factors in the development of the Sections and Branches which have so amply justified the vision and efforts of the faithful Secretary who served the Institute during its first quarter of a century."

Obituary

John William Lieb, senior Vice-President of the New York Edison Company and an outstanding worker in the electric public utility field, died at his home in New Rochelle, New York, November 1, 1929, after an illness of several weeks.

Mr. Lieb was the Institute's President 1904-1905. Throughout his life he played an important part in organization and execution in electrical and allied fields. He was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1860 and in 1880, was graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology. Almost immediately he took a position as draftsman with the Brush Electric Company in Cleveland, but after a few months of service, he joined the Edison Electric Light Company of New York, becoming assistant in the Engineering Department. He showed high executive ability, and evidently impressed Mr. Edison at once, for he was soon doing important work in planning the pioneer task that lay ahead of the company in supplying the city with incandescent lighting and other forms of electric power. Following the erection of the Pearl Street Station, he worked with Mr. Edison in the subsequent tests of its use and the inauguration of its service. On September

4, 1882 he was appointed first electrician of the company. So thorough and representative was Mr. Lieb's work that in 1883 Mr. Edison selected him as the man to go to Milan, Italy, to supervise the erection and operation of the station for the Italian Edison Company, as Director of the Societa Generale Italiana di Elettricit a Sistema Edison, and for his work in introducing the use of electricity into Italy, he was made Knight Commander of the Royal Order of the Crown of Italy, in which he was later promoted to a Grand Officer. He was also made an officer of the French Legion of Honor.

At the invitation of the President of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, Mr. Lieb in 1894 returned to New York as Assistant to the Vice-President. He was then made Vice-President and General Manager of the Company, and when the New York Edison Company was organized, he became Associate General Manager with the late Thomas E. Murray, eventually to occupy the office of Vice-President and General Manager. Last year, when the Brooklyn Edison was brought under the control of the Consolidated Gas Company—owner of the New York Edison and associated electric companies in the metropolitan district—with Mr. M. S. Sloan as President of the com-



JOHN WILLIAM LIEB

pared electric properties, Mr. Lieb retired from the more active duties of management to become Senior Vice-President.

The Edison Medal was awarded him in 1923 "for the development and operation of electric central stations for illumination and power." He was a pioneer in the field of technical education, writing and lecturing extensively himself and owning perhaps one of the most comprehensive private libraries in existence. He is accredited with having the largest collection dealing with the work of Leonardo da Vinci ever made and for many years he was engaged in investigating and translating text of da Vinci research in natural science and engineering. (Through his membership in the Raccolta), of which he was a correspondent, many of these translations were transmitted to Italy and republished.

During the war period, Mr. Lieb as Chairman of the National Committee on Gas and Electric Service rendered valuable national service. He was also President and Chairman of the Board of the Electrical Testing Laboratories, Vice-President of the Electric Light and Power Installation Corporation; former President of the Edison Pioneers, the New York Electrical Society, and the National Electric Light Association. Besides his office as such in the New York Edison Company, he held directorship in the Yonkers Electric Light and Power Company, the United Electric Light and Power Company, the New York and Queens Electric Light and Power Company, the International