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STEINMETZ, 26, ANSWERS 'POSER' BAFFLING 'PROF'

Young Wizard-to-Be Early Displays Signs of Talent; Associate of 1889 Re- veals Story of 1st Victory

Early reminiscences of the late Dr. Charles P. Steinmetz, who startled the electrical and mathematical world when still a young man of 26 years with his first appearance before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in New York, have just been received by the General Electric Company from the man who invited him to that memorable meeting. He is David E. Lain, now a patent attorney in Seattle, Wash., who at that time was an employe of the Eickemeyer plant in Yonkers, where Steinmetz first worked after coming to America in 1889.

In describing his meeting with Dr. Steinmetz and how he happened to invite him to the engineers' meeting, Mr. Lain writes:

"This writer first met the late Dr. Charles P. Steinmetz in the drafting room at the shop of Oosterheld and Eickemeyer in Yonkers, New York, early in June, 1889, soon after he had commenced to work there. I then had charge of the construction of an electric street car motor for use at the summer resort at North Beach on Long Island, N. Y., for Eickemeyer and Field. This resort was owned by Steinway and Sons, and Mr. Eickemeyer, who was acquainted with William Steinway, had obtained his consent to use the railway along that beach and serve the public with transportation during the summer of 1890 in order to try out the street railway motor invented by Eickemeyer and Field and then under construction in the shop.

Attends Lecture

"A table in the drafting room was reserved for my use and I spent considerable time there. On this particular day I found a strange young man at work on a shop drawing at one of the tables and Edmund Mueller, head draftsman, introduced us. He said that Mr. Steinmetz had recently arrived from Europe, was a skilled draftsman and would help with the drafting for the Steinway motor. Steinmetz was a short, spare man with a disproportionately large head. We had some conversation. He spoke English correctly and fluently, said that he was obliged to leave his university in Germany during his senior year for political reasons and had come here intending to remain and become a citizen.

"Mr. Steinmetz and I soon became well acquainted and I learned that he had a knowledge of alternating current mathematics beyond anyone that I knew. I had graduated from Cornell University in electrical engineering in 1885 when nothing concerning that new

development in the application of electrical energy was taught.

Professor "Stumped"

"I was a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, meeting monthly in New York, and invited Mr. Steinmetz to attend a meeting of this society with me. He gladly accepted my invitation and we attended one of these meetings—possibly in August, 1889. As understood, this was to provide Mr. Steinmetz his first opportunity to meet scientific men in this country.

"The room where our meetings were held was rather large, had a platform at the end opposite the entrance, and there were blackboards on the walls near the platform. Two rows of long forms provided the seats.

"We reached the place after the meeting had begun and took seats near the door on one end of a form, with Steinmetz sitting next to the aisle. There were probably 100 people in attendance.

"Professor Thorburn Reid, a member of the faculty of Columbia University, was speaking on alternating current reactions. He stood near a board on a side wall at the head of the same aisle on which Steinmetz was sitting. Steinmetz followed him closely. At the conclusion of his lecture he offered to answer such questions as he could. Several questions were asked and answered to the satisfaction of those present. At times the board was used to aid in the demonstrations. Then a question was asked the answer to which was not satisfactory to several in the audience. Very full explanations were made by the lecturer till all but one man failed to protest. More explanations followed for his benefit and he finally consented to accept the answer as sufficient, although neither he nor the other questioners appeared to be quite happy over the matter. The subject was closed.

Steinmetz Gives Solution

"Then Mr. Steinmetz, who had taken no part in the discussion, spoke. Said he: 'Professor do you think you have given the right answer?' Professor Reid was much embarrassed until he saw the small and not impressive looking young man who had challenged the correctness of his solution. Then he smiled with reassurance and replied: 'Yes, don't you?' 'No, that is not the right answer,' said Steinmetz. 'Will you give us the right answer?' asked the professor. Then our unknown, young emigre, without apparent embarrassment, went to the board and within a few minutes had written thereon, in figures readable from all parts of the room, a solution of what possibly was a hitherto unsolved problem in frontier electrical mathematics. His explanation followed in a few words of good English. The satisfaction with which the correct answer was received, by those who could understand such advanced mathematical demonstrations, was apparent. But, out of respect for Professor Reid, no applause was given.

"After adjournment the

Dr. C. P. Steinmetz To Receive Eulogy In Ford Program

Dr. Charles P. Steinmetz, had he lived, would have been 71 years old today. He died 13 years ago, October 26, 1923. Today, in tribute to his memory, Henry Ford is devoting a 15-minute broadcast on a Columbia coast-to-coast network to tell about this great mathematician and electrical wizard, which may be heard in this city through WOKO at 9 o'clock this morning. This broadcast will originate at the Dearborn Institute near Detroit, where Dr. Steinmetz's old Mohawk river camp now reposes with other historical buildings collected by Mr. Ford.

Tonight at 6:10 o'clock John T. Broderick, retired General Electric employe, as secretary to the late E. W. Rice jr., is believed to be the second person to greet Dr. Steinmetz when he joined General Electric in 1893, will give a talk over WGY on "The Human Side of Steinmetz". Mr. Broderick was a close personal friend and associate of the late electrical wizard up until the time of his death and perhaps knows the personal side of this great man better than anyone in Schenectady today.

Cheerio will also eulogize Steinmetz in his program at 8:30 o'clock this morning on the NBC chain. His talk will include mention of the plan to make the scientist's Wendell avenue residence into a state shrine and museum.

a lecture to be given at the meeting two months later. I attended the meeting when Steinmetz gave his lecture, and the few who could understand it expressed their satisfaction and indebtedness to Mr. Steinmetz."