

LOUIS FERGUSON, 73; A RETIRED EXECUTIVE

Aided Development of Public Utility Field in Chicago

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, Aug. 26—Louis A. Ferguson, who played a large part in the development of the Commonwealth Edison Company, a Chicago Public Utility, and made many contributions to the technique of the industry, died of intestinal influenza last night in a Rhinelander (Wis.) hospital. He was 73 years old.

Mr. Ferguson retired in 1935 as vice president in charge of engineering and construction for Commonwealth Edison. Born at Dorchester, Mass., Mr. Ferguson graduated in 1888 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and joined the old Chicago Edison Company, predecessor of Commonwealth Edison. In 1897 he became general superintendent, and in 1902 he was elected a vice president of the company.

Mr. Ferguson had held three of the outstanding honorary positions in the electrical field, having been president of the National Electric Light Association, [predecessor of the Edison Institute], of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies, and of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Henry Butler and three sons: Louis A. Jr., Aruthur J. and Alan M. Ferguson.

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OBITUARY NOTICES

Obituary • • •

Alvin Leslie Powell (A'13, F'26) supervising engineer lamp department General Electric Company, New York, N. Y., died August 21, 1940. He was born April 6, 1889, at Brooklyn, N. Y., and received the degree of electrical engineer at Columbia University in 1910. The same year he entered the test course at the Edison Lamp Works of General Electric Company at Harrison, N. J. From 1911 to 1924 he was assistant to the illuminating engineer. In 1924 he was sent to Europe as a special representative of International General Electric Company working on illumination problems. He served as delegate of the United States Committee to the International commission on Illumination at Geneva in 1924 and member of the United States commission to the Paris Exposition, 1925. Returning to the United States in 1925 he became manager of the engineering department of the Edison Lamp Works. When the Edison and the National Lamp Works were consolidated in 1932 as the lamp department of General Electric, and the Harrison group transferred to Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio, an eastern office of the engineering department was formed and Mr. Powell placed in charge. He also conducted courses in illumination at the Columbia University School of Architecture, and the New York University College of Engineering and was the author of many papers and articles on lighting. He was a member of the AIEE board of examiners (chairman 1939-40) and of the committee on production and application of light (chairman 1936-37) a past president of the Illuminating Engineering Society and a member of Sigma Xi.

Louis Aloysius Ferguson (A'01, M'01, F'12) retired vice-president, Commonwealth Edison Company, Chicago, Ill., died August 25, 1940. He was born at Dorchester, Mass., August 19, 1867, and graduated in electrical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1888, with the degree of bachelor of science. He entered the employ of the Chicago Edison Company in 1888 and the following year was appointed chief electrical engineer. In 1893 he was also put in charge of the contract department, and in 1897 was made general superintendent of the Chicago Edison Company and the Commonwealth Electric Company. He was elected second vice-president of the two companies in 1902, and when they consolidated as Commonwealth Edison Company in 1907, he continued in that position, becoming vice-president in 1914. He retired December 31, 1935. He was a manager of the Institute 1904-07, vice-president 1907-08, and president 1908-09, and was also a past president of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies and the former National Electric Light Association, and a member of the Illuminating Engineering Society and the Western Society of Engineers.

Eivind Styff (A'23, M'31) chief electrical engineer, power-plant department, Aktieselskapet Norsk Elektrisk and Brown Boveri, Oslo, Norway, died recently, according to information just received. He was born June 22, 1894, at Alten, Norway, and graduated from the Technical University of Norway in 1915. Following graduation he entered the employ of Norsk Elektrisk and Brown Boveri as a designer in the department of power-plant engineering. He was made engineer in charge of the department in 1918. From 1923 to 1925 he was employed as design draftsman and checker by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Francisco Calif. He returned to Norsk Elektrisk and Brown Boveri in 1925 as electrical engineer in charge of power-plant engineering, and was later given the title of chief electrical engineer of the department. He was also a member of Norsk Ingeniørforening and Norsk Elektroteknisk Forening.

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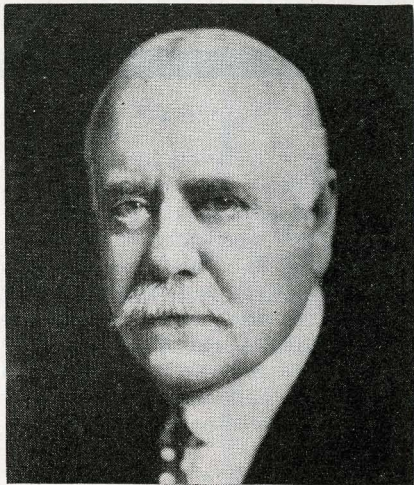
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OBITUARY

9/31/40

Louis A. Ferguson

Louis A. Ferguson, electrical engineer and vice-president of the Commonwealth Edison Company for 33 years, died at Rhinelander, Wis., August 25, at the age of 73, from intestinal influenza. Mr. Ferguson, who served the utility industry in Chicago for 47 years, was an outstanding au-



thority on utility system design, construction and operation. He was the first engineer to recommend three-phase alternating-current generation and transmission in conjunction with rotary converters to supply a direct-current distribution system and was an early advocate of promotional rates for electric service.

A native of Dorchester, Mass., and a graduate of M.I.T., Mr. Ferguson entered the employ of the Chicago Edison Co. in 1888. He served as assistant electrical engineer, construction department; electrical engineer of the company, general superintendent of both the Chicago Edison and Commonwealth Electric Co., and subsequently as second vice-president. He was elected second vice-president of Commonwealth Edison in 1907 and in 1914 vice-president in charge of contract, operating, construction and electrical departments. He retired in 1936.

At various times during his career Mr. Ferguson was president of the National Electric Light Association (predecessor of the present Edison Electric Institute), the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies.