

B. G. Lamme

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B. G. LAMME, NOTED ELECTRICIAN, DIES

Also Was One of World's Expert Mathematicians.

B. G. Lamme, who helped harness Niagara Falls for the generation of electric power, died to-day at his home in East Liberty, Pa., it was learned here at the offices of the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company, with which he was associated. He was in his 60th year.

Noted as one of the world's expert mathematicians, Mr. Lamme also was one of the "wizard trio" which included Edison and Steinmetz. He was a pioneer in the field of electricity and specialized in the design of generators and motors. His machines are used now throughout the world.

One hundred and fifty inventions are reported in the name of Mr. Lamme. He invented the "umbrella" generators to which Niagara Falls were first harnessed, the high tension system of power transmission and the synchronous converter, employed notably on the subway system of Greater New York for changing alternating to direct current.

His conception of the single phase alternating current railway system, now in universal use on street car and long electric transit systems, revolutionized the industry in the early nineties.

Mr. Lamme designed the lighting system for the World's Fair at Chicago—the first display of mechanical illumination of such magnitude. Recently he designed a 62,500 kilowatt generator, the largest the world has known, and exceeding even the most magnificent possibilities conceded by Steinmetz.

Edison and Steinmetz were his close personal friends and professional rivals. Last year he was cited by Ohio State University as the "greatest living mathematician"—an honor unique among universities and one which theretofore had been bestowed only twice—upon Edison and Steinmetz. He was born near Springfield, Ohio.

Mr. Lamme never married. He lived with two sisters, one of whom was for many years the chief designer of direct current motors for the Westinghouse interests and occupied a desk beside that of her brother in the drafting offices.

Benjamin G. Lamme, Mathematician and Electrician, Is Dead

Member of 'Wizard Trio' Had More Than 150 Inventions to His Credit

PITTSBURGH, Pa., July 8.—Benjamin G. Lamme, chief engineer of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, mathematical genius and member of the "Wizard Trio," which included Edison and the late Charles F. Steinmetz, died at 8 a. m. to-day in East Liberty, after a lingering illness. One of the pioneers of the electrical world, Mr. Lamme had more than 150 inventions in his name, and his conception of the single-phase, alternating current railway system, now in universal use on street car and long electric transit systems, revolutionized the industry in the early nineties.

Mr. Lamme was born on a farm near Springfield, Ohio, sixty years ago. He was graduated from Ohio State University in mechanical engineering in 1888. There he excelled in mathematics, being a master of high-range multiplication tables and differential calculus and discovering many "short cuts" in mental calculation. He became interested in electricity and entered the Westinghouse employ at \$30 a month.

His most spectacular designing achievements were the generating equipment for the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, the 5,000 horse-power generators which first harnessed Niagara Falls, the generating and motor equipment for the first big railway electrification on the New York, New Haven & Hartford; the single-phase alternating current, the design of the most successful synchronous converter ever used and the single reduction-gear street-car motor which, designed in 1890, is the type still used on street railway systems.

Aside from his life work, he was interested in young engineering students, was an amateur photographer and had a unique library, containing a formidable array of technical volumes alongside of shelf on shelf of detective stories and imaginative fiction.

Mr. Lamme, who never married, lived in East Liberty with two sisters, one of whom was for many years chief designer of direct-current motors for the Westinghouse interests and occupied a desk beside that of her brother in the drafting office. He is survived by a brother, William F. Lamme, of San Rafael, Calif., and four sisters.

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