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# Some Leaders of the A.S.E.

Calvert Townley, the thirty-second president of the Institute, <sup>1919-1920</sup>~~1919-20~~, was born in Cincinnati, <sup>Ohio</sup> Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1864. He prepared for college at Chickering Institute, ~~in~~ that city, and was graduated from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale in 1886. Returning <sup>there</sup> for a graduate course he received the degree of M.E. in 1888. A summer as a laborer helping to rebuild the burned ~~down~~ station of the Brush Electric Light Co. of Cincinnati was followed by a seventeen year engagement with the Westinghouse Electric interests at Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Boston and New York. Starting as ~~Road Engineer~~, or ~~Trouble Man~~, and later <sup>becoming</sup> ~~being~~ designer of distribution systems he was shortly transferred to the sales department. Here, although officially free from engineering duties, his inclination led him to study the technical problems, first of electric light, ~~and then~~ <sup>next</sup> of power and finally of traction. He was active in the Niagara Falls development, the equipment of the Boston subways, the New York (& Brooklyn elevated systems and the New York subway. In 1904, he went with the N.Y.N.H.&H.R.R. as ~~Acting Fourth Vice-President~~, to electrify their ~~main~~ line out of New York. ~~This~~ <sup>That</sup> railroad (about this time) began acquiring utility companies, (largely trolley lines) and Mr. Townley was appointed ~~First Vice-President~~ of the holding company to manage their utilities as a side issue. The "side issue" soon reached such magnitude that after completing electrification plans and drawing specifications, Mr. Townley asked to be relieved of construction duties and became ~~Consulting Engineer~~ for the New Haven, <sup>Railroad</sup> thereafter devoting most of his time to executive

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management of the utilities. In 1911 he renewed his former connection with the Westinghouse Co. as Assistant to the President which position he now holds. During the latter period, he has served as President of the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley R.R., Vice-President of the Niagara, Lockport & Ontario Power Co., Vice-President of the South Philadelphia Co., Vice-president of the International Radio Telegraph Co. and ~~was~~ officer or director of many other companies. He has toured Europe and South America <sup>in professional capacity</sup> for his company. During the war he superintended the erection of a turbine factory near Philadelphia, the output being very largely used for the Federal Government merchant and naval vessels. Mr. Townley joined the A.I.E.E. as an associate in 1901 and became a Fellow in 1912. He was elected ~~the~~ Manager in 1905, ~~the~~ Vice-president in 1908 and President in 1919. In 1923 he was Chairman of the New York Section; He was Chairman of the Public Policy Committee for over five years <sup>Chairman</sup> and of the Finance Committee for two and, at various times, served on ~~many~~ Committees, including Executive, Meetings and Papers, Standards, Edison Medal and Constitution Revision. He served as Vice-President and Trustee of <sup>the</sup> United Engineering Society and on <sup>the</sup> Engineering Foundation Board. In 1919, Mr. Townley was Chairman of the Special Committee on Development which studied the needs of the Institute and of the profession. Out of this study came the joint Committee of the four Founder Societies on which he served, and then <sup>on the</sup> Engineering Council. <sup>Mr</sup> Townley was Chairman of the Organizing Conference of American Engineering Council at Washington, was elected a Vice-President, later declining the Presidency. He was a delegate and member of



the Executive Committee of the American delegation to the World Power Conference in London in 1924 and a member of the American Industrial Mission to Mexico that same year. He has contributed many papers, mostly dealing with power and traction problems.

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