

CALVERT TOWNLEY

Memorial Minute
Adopted by the Executive Committee
of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers
December 8, 1933

On November 27, 1933, there was removed from our ranks, Calvert Townley, thirty-second President of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

From the earliest days of his professional career, when on graduating from Sheffield Scientific School he entered the employ of the Brush Electric Light Company, down through his connections with the Boston subways, the N.Y., N.E. & H. electrification and his many years of affiliation with the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, Calvert Townley exhibited an unusual ability to quickly grasp the technical details of the problems which confronted him, particularly as those details affected the managerial phases for which he was so often responsible. So also in his years of service devoted to the Institute and to the welfare of the profession which he had chosen, he exhibited the same quick grasp of detail and thorough understanding of problems as a whole. Entering the Institute in 1901 he became a Fellow in 1912. His executive ability soon brought him election as Manager in 1905, Vice-President in 1908 and President in 1919. He gave much of his time to the questions coming before the Public Policy Committee, serving as chairman for over five years. Recognition of his thorough understanding of the needs of the profession was indicated in his selection as chairman of the Committee on Development of the Institute and, likewise, his election to Trusteeship in the United Engineering Society and the Engineering Foundation Board.

Throughout his professional life, both before and since his Presidency, he was constant in his active interest in the affairs of the Institute, especially in those questions pertaining to the dignity and elevation of the profession of engineering. At the time of his death he was giving freely of his counsel and time in important Institute activities of this type in the Coordination Committee of Engineering Societies. It would be difficult to overstate the value of his services to

both Institute and profession. His loss is all the more serious at this time of agitation and uncertainty.

It is, therefore, with a keen sense of inability to evaluate in words the part which Calvert Townley has played in our ranks and the loss which the profession sustained when he passed on that we order this minute be spread upon the records, and that it be transmitted to his family and associates as an expression of appreciation and admiration from those who were privileged to work with him in the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

National Secretary.

File in
folder of
Calvert Townley
2992

CALVERT TOWNLEY

Calvert Townley, one of the most active members of our Committee, died during the interval between our two last meetings. A former President of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and a representative of that Society on our Committee, Mr. Townley had long been active in furthering engineering cooperation through technical societies and coordinating the work of engineering groups. He thus came to our Committee with a rare degree of preparation and took a very active part in its work. Several meetings of American Institute of Electrical Engineers' delegates were called by him to discuss the Committee's problems, the last one less than a week before his death.

Mr. Townley's thorough understanding of the problems involved and his keen analysis of proposed plans have greatly assisted the Committee in steering its course.

The Committee therefore feels that it has suffered a profound loss in the death of Mr. Townley and wishes to go on record with this statement, copy of which shall be forwarded to the President of the A.I.E.E.

Coordination Committee
of
Engineering Societies.

February 1934