

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
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CABLE, CYANDRIC



GEORGE A. HAMILTON

George Anson Hamilton, a charter member of the Institute was born in Cleveland, Ohio, December 30, 1843. He early showed great interest in electricity.

In 1861, he became a messenger at Salem, Ohio, but two months later was made manager of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad office at Ravenna. Illness forced him to relinquish this position in 1863, but upon his recovery he went to Pittsburgh as operator and manager of the Inland Company. In 1865, he became manager of the United States Telegraph Company's office at Franklin, Pa., but returned to Pittsburgh in 1866 as chief operator and circuit manager, and remained until 1873 when the Western Union Telegraph Company absorbed his company.

As assistant to Professor Moses G. Farmer of Boston, who was engaged in the manufacture of general electrical apparatus and machinery, he received valuable experience and participated in many important experiments and investigations in telegraphy and other electrical developments during the period 1873-75. In 1875, he became assistant electrician of the Western Union Telegraph Company in New York City. He participated in the establishment and maintenance of the first quadruplex telegraph circuits, and carried out experiments preliminary to establishing the Wheatstone high-speed automatic system in this country.

In 1889, he accepted a position with the Western Electric Company, being given supervision and care of the department for the production of fine electrical instruments, which position he retained until his retirement in 1909.

Mr. Hamilton was the first vice-president of the Institute (1884-86), and has been its National Treasurer since 1895, and a Fellow since 1913. He has for many years been a member of the Edison Medal and Executive Committees. His other memberships include Institution of Electrical Engineers (Great Britain), Societe Francaise des Electriciens, Societe Francaise de Physique, and Societe Belge d'Astronomic.

engineering society. Other engineering societies are making similar efforts to obtain information regarding engineers who died in service abroad.

FORM OF SUBSCRIPTION

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Some Leaders of the A. I. E. E.

GEORGE ANSON HAMILTON, a Charter Member of the Institute, its first Vice-President (1884-86) and its National Treasurer since 1895, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, December 30, 1843. While still a mere boy, he evidenced great interest in electricity and its application, building a telegraph line (on a very modest scale) at Limaville, O., he, himself, setting the poles, affixing the insulators and even devising a lathe with which to make his own apparatus. This same episode had much to do with determining his career. In 1861 he became a messenger at Salem, O., but two months later was made manager of the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad office at Ravenna, to which point the line had just been completed. Illness in 1863 forced him to withdraw, but upon his recovery he went to Pittsburgh as operator and manager of the Inland Company. In 1865 he removed to Franklin, Pa., to become manager of the United States Telegraph Company's office; but he returned to Pittsburgh in 1866, and as chief operator and circuit manager, he remained there until 1873 when his company was absorbed by the rapidly growing Western Union. Opportunity was now offered for experimental work and he accepted a position as assistant to Professor Moses G. Farmer, of Boston, engaged in the manufacture of general electrical apparatus and machinery. This work gave him valuable practical knowledge of mechanics, and he also participated in many important experiments and investigations not only in the field of telegraphy but other electrical developments of the time. His diligence and success attracted attention and in 1875 he was called to New York to assume new duties as assistant electrician to the Western Union Company. Much of the two years following was spent in company with Mr. Gerritt Smith, in establishing and maintain-

ing the first quadruplex telegraph circuits to be put into operation. He was also with Mr. Smith the first to introduce the system in England, and upon his return to America, carried out experiments preliminary to establishing the Wheatstone high-speed automatic system in this country. On the repair expedition of Key West-Havana cables in 1876, Mr. Hamilton was appointed chief electrician. To him also may be attributed many of the arrangements made for apparatus improvements introduced by the Western Union Company. In fact it was to afford his inventive genius a field of broader scope and application that he later joined the Western Electric Company in response to an urgent invitation from that Company's officers. Here he was given the supervision and care of the company's department for the production of fine electrical instruments, and here he remained until his retirement in 1909. Mr. Hamilton is a member of the British Institution of Electrical Engineers, la Société Française des Electriciens, and la Société Française de Physique, la Société Belge d'Astronomie.

Foreign Research Laboratory For Short-Circuit Tests

The lack of facilities for the practical testing of large oil switches has been discussed frequently in this country as well as abroad but there has been no suitable testing laboratory available of the necessary size. The Berlin Municipal Electricity Works, have made a strenuous effort to establish suitable testing facilities. A committee of leading men in the electrical industry under the chairmanship of General Director Coninx of Nürnberg, and with the special cooperation of Director Peucker of Berlin, has drawn up regulations for a cooperative plan. Almost all of the more important firms in this field have promised their cooperation.

A company "Versuchsanstalt für Kurzschlusswirkungen" was formed last summer, for which Prof. Matthias was selected as temporary manager. The association is to work in close cooperation with the Studiengesellschaft für Hochspannungsanlagen, which is similarly organized. It will surpass any other installations in peak load, and by the erection of several test stands and rapid exchangeability of the test objects as well as by suitable switching, will permit an intensive and multiple utilization of the arrangements for research with smaller loads. With such multiple use, the measuring arrangements will be suitable for the most varied problems, for example, for the measurement of sudden pressure impacts, accelerations, heating, amounts of gas and the like. These arrangements are available for all investigations. Depending on the amount of capital subscribed, the Institute will give individual members of the association a certain time for development work or acceptance tests of individual interest. The rest of the time will be spent on investigations of general interest.

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