

Special Events

In 1904 the Branch played host for a day to a large group of foreign engineers who were attending the International Electrical Congress held in St. Louis on September 12, 1904. For the use of the visitors a special book entitled "Washington Electrical Handbook" was printed.

1904 - The pages of the Washington Star give the following account of the visit of foreign engineers who stopped off in Washington after their attendance to the International Electrical Congress.

The latter city being reached at 11 o'clock tonight. The several groups during the afternoon will be under the care and guidance of local members of the Electrical Institute.

The Washington hosts have prepared a handbook for the visitors, telling of the various points of interest in the Capital City, and containing articles dealing with the following local or national institutions: "Electrical Development in the United States",

Monday, September 19, 1904:

Experts in Electricity
Engineers of World-Renoun to Visit
Washington

Will be entertained tomorrow by local branch of American Institute

Itinerary for the Day

Electrical engineers of renoun from all parts of Europe and of the United States will visit Washington tomorrow and be entertained by the Washington branch of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. The visitors are on a tour of the country, after having attended the International Electrical Congress in Saint Louis, the session of which began September 12.

The party will leave Pittsburgh this evening and will reach the Capitol City tomorrow morning at 7:30 o'clock in a special train of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Mr. Philander Betts, Secretary of the local reception committee, has gone to the smoky city to meet the engineers and act as their escort to Washington.

The entire committee will meet the train tomorrow morning and take the visitors in charge. General George H. Harries, Vice President Washington Railroad and Electric Company, is Chairman of the Reception Committee, and the members in addition to Secretary Betts, are entertaining the visitors.

Breakfast will be served at the New Willard at 8 o'clock. After which the party will take trolleys to the Bureau of Standards, where an hour will be spent. The itinerary then includes a visit to the Capitol and the Congressional Library, where luncheon will be served at 1 o'clock.

After luncheon, at 2 o'clock, the party will be divided into groups and visits paid to a number of points of interest including the various electrical and power stations, the Navy Yard, gun shops and wireless telegraph station, the Government Printing Office, Mt. Vernon, the various Government departments, the Washington Monument and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

At 6:30 the visitors will be entertained at supper at the New Willard and at 8 o'clock their special train leaves for Philadelphia, the latter city being reached at 11 o'clock tonight. The several groups during the afternoon will be under the care and guidance of local members of the Electrical Institute.

The Washington hosts have prepared a handbook for the visitors, telling of the various points of interest in the Capitol City, and containing articles dealing with the following local or national institutions: "Electrical Development in the United States",

"Transportation and Illumination - The development of the conduit system of street railroad", "The Washington Railway and Electric Company", "The Potomac Electric Power Company", "The System of the Capitol Traction Company", "The Telephone Plant of Washington", "Electricity in the Army", "Electricity in the Navy", "The Government Testing Tank for Ship Models at the Washington Navy Yard", "Electricity in the Government Printing Office", "The Electrical Department-District of Columbia".

Tuesday, September 20, 1904 edition of the Washington Star gives the following account of the tour:

Touring the Country
Electrical Engineers Entertained in
Washington

Sightseeing Today
The Visitors Largely from Foreign
Countries

Express pleasure with their experiences and with what they have seen.

Men who develop and train "Artificial Lightning", as electricity has been termed, are visiting Washington in force today. Electrical engineers representing England, Canada, Italy and all parts of the United States reached this city about 7:30 o'clock this morning on a special train from Pittsburgh, after breakfasting at the New Willard were taken in charge by the local committee and the points of special interest in and about the Capitol. The English visitors numbered 70, while there were about 40 engineers from Italy, the latter being headed by Professor Ascoli, President of the Association Electric Italiana. Prominent among those of the English contingent are Lt. Colonel R. E. Crompton, past President of the Institute of Electrical Engineers of England; Prof. John Perry, past President; Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, Secretary G. C. Lloyd and Assistant Secretary or Chief Clerk R. Tree, Mr. Robert Hammond, Honorable Treasurer; A. E. Harrison, W. Duddell and F. E. Gripper. All these are said to be men eminent in the science of electricity.

While here the visitors are the guest of the Washington branch of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. They are making a tour of the principal cities of this country and will leave here this evening for Philadelphia, arriving there about 11 o'clock tonight. At 3:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon the party will leave the Quaker City for New York where the tour will come to an end.

The distinguished electrical engineers were met at Pittsburgh by Mr. Philander Betts, secretary of the local reception committee, who escorted them to Washington. After breakfast the party was taken in charge by the Washington Committee, and a pleasant and instructive hour spent at the Bureau of Standards. Other points of interest were next visited, including the Capitol and Library of Congress, where

luncheon was served at 1 o'clock. This afternoon the visitors in parties are visiting other places, according to their individual fancies.

Pleased with This Country

Chief Clerk Tree of the English Association expressed himself to a Star reporter as well pleased with the visit to this Republic. He said the matter of greatest moment to the English Engineers which was considered by the International Electrical Congress at Saint Louis last week was the discussion between the Institution of Electrical Engineers of Great Britain and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers upon different methods and systems of using alternating current in electric railway motors and upon electro-magnetic units.

In view of the war in the Far East and the achievements of the fighting craft of Japan in their contests with those of Russia, the English visitors manifested unusual interest in Uncle Sam's Gun Factory at the Washington Navy Yard and a number of them visited the plant after luncheon this afternoon and were shown through the big shops through the courtesy of Captain E. C. Pendleton, USN, acting Commandant.

The several electric and power stations in and about the city, the Government Printing Office, with its fine electrical equipment, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Washington Monument, White House, and Mount Vernon were other points visited.

The visitors will be entertained at supper at the New Willard at 6:30 o'clock this evening and will board their special train for Philadelphia at 8 o'clock.

The Local Committees

The visitors were in charge today of the General Washington Committee.

Partial List of Guests.

Among the visitors are the following whose names are prominent in the annals of electric science.

A.F.T. Atchison, Birmingham
R. S. Ball, London
D. Bates & Mrs. Bates, Liverpool
R. Blennerhassett, Schenectady, USA

George Balfour, London
W. A. Barnes, Manchester
G. Conrad Blair, Paisley
John T. Connolly & Mrs,
Manchester

Prof. J. D. Carmack & Mrs., London	J. R. Dick, Brighton
James Edgar, Wrexham	R. S. Erskine & Mrs., London
W. P. J. Fawcus, Manchester	R. Feilden, London
J. A. Faster, London	W. Geipel, London
Prof. W.E. Goldsborough, Purdue, USA	E. C. Handcock, Lynn, USA
W. A. Harris, Trinidad	C. C. Hawkins, Bedford
M. Hayashi, London	C. Hering, Philadelphia, USA
T. Hesketh & Mrs., Folkestone	O. Higman, Ottawa, Canada
F. Hope-Jones, London	S. Insull, Chicago
M. Jennison, Manchester	Dr. A.E. Kennelly, Cambridge, Mass.
W. N. Kernot, Melbourne	F. C. Kidman, Wallsend-on-Tyne
J. D. Knight, London	E. H. Liebert, Rochdale
F. M. Long, Norwich	B. Longbottom, Manchester
R. S. McLeod, Manchester	C. O. Miloux, New York
J. L. Marr, Sunderland	W. B. Marr, Sunderland
J. Marshall, Chettenham	R. B. Mathews, Swansea
F. O. Mills, Manchester	Dr. D. K. Morris, Birmingham
J. T. Morris, London	A. E. Morrison, Prince Edward
L.G.E. Morse, London	F. H. Nolder, London (Island)
F. Nichols, Toronto, Canada	R. B. Owens, Montreal, Canada
R. B. Perring, Buxton	W.G.T. Pope and Mrs., Lisbon
A. P. Pope, Gateshead	Calvin W. Rice, New York
G.H.C. Risch, Johannesburg	E. B. Schattner, Schnectady
E. Kilburn Scott, London	W. H. Scott, Norwich
P. S. Sheardown, Dublin	H. B. Simons, Manchester
W. Summerscales, Leeds	C. D. Taite, Manchester
Prof. Elihu Thompson, Mass. USA	(Chairman Manchester local Section)
J. E. Tilney, London	J. M. Wallwin, Manchester
G. G. Ward, N. Y. (Local Honorable Secretary for USA)	A. C. F. Webb, Sidney N.S.W.
G. Wilkinson, Harrogate	H. G. Witing, Cork
	Capt. R. F. Willis & Mrs., Barbados
L. Wilson, Pittsfield, USA	E. B. Woollan, Turnbridge Wells

In the Wednesday, September 21 edition of the Washington Star appears the following item:

Gone to Quaker City
Electrical Engineers Resume their
Journey

Snap shot taken yesterday at statue of Benjamin Franklin First Electrician

A pretty incident of the visit of the international electrical engineers to Washington yesterday was witnessed in front of the statue of Benjamin Franklin, on Pennsylvania Avenue in the afternoon. A party of English engineers halted in front of the figure and one of them remarked:

"Ah, here is the statue of the first electrician, Benjamin Franklin. By jove I must have a snap shot of him."

And suiting his action to his words he uncovered his Kodak. The other members of the party grouped themselves about the base of the statue and several pictures were taken.

Chief Clerk Tree of the English party stated that the people of Great Britain have great reverence of Franklin who is regarded as having been not only a great man but a good man, and the "Father of Applied Electricity."

After carrying out the program given by the Star yesterday the visiting electrical engineers took supper at the New Willard and at 8 o'clock boarded their special cars for Philadelphia. From the Quaker City the party will leave for New York this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, where the tour will be concluded.

Speaking of his impressions of Washington City, Mr. R. Tree of England said, "It is one of the most beautiful, most orderly, and most interesting places it has ever been my pleasure to visit." The visitors were lavish in their praise of the cordiality of the Washington Committeemen and their painstaking efforts to entertain them and show them as much of Washington as possible during their limited stay here.

Guest at Luncheon

The list of those especially invited to meet the foreign engineers at the luncheon at the Library of Congress yesterday afternoon included Lieutenant General Adna R. Chaffee, USA; General Alexander McKenzi, Chief of Engineers; General Greeley, Chief Signal Officer, USA; District Commissioner West; Colonel Biddle, Engineering Commissioner; Public Printer Palmer and Mr. Oscar J. Ricketts, Foreman of Printing at the Government Printing Office; Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Armstrong; Captain G. W. Baird, USA; Librarian Herbert J. Putnan of the Library of Congress and Mr. Elliott Woods, Superintendent of the Capitol.

Among the prominent electrical engineers of this country who accompanied the English and Italian visitors were: Bion J. Arnold, President American Institute of Electrical Engineers; John W. Liet, Jr., President New York Edison Company and President-elect of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, E. H. Mullin, General Electric Engineer; Frank Sprague, Calvin W. Rice, L. Ward, Leonard and Ralph W. Pope, American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

The Italian visitors who are members of the Associazione Elettrotecnica Italiana were:

Prof. Moise Ascoli, President
Prof. Guido Grossi, Past President
Prof. Luigi Lombardi, Vice President
Camillo Albino Curti, member of Council
Prof. Ferdinando Lori, member of Council

Ing. Amatore Maffezzini
Ing. Giovanni Barosi
Ing. Carlo Caminada
Ing. Nicostrato Castellini
Ascanio Dremontel
Prof. Gino Fano
Ing. Luigi Giannetti
Ing. Emanuele Jona
Ing. Arnaldo Odazio
Ing. Alberto Picchi
Ing. Eugenio Prandoni
Ing. Alberto Rubini
Ing. Gionfranco Tosi
Ing. Edoardo Ambrosano
Ing. Carlo Barzano
Ing. Rlfonzo Carelli
Ing. Filippi Cavalieri
Dr. William Dunn
Ing. Luigi Galimberti

Glan Teodoro Grorgetti
Ing. Geradamo Merlini
Angusto Pancaldi
Ing. Alberto Pirelli
Ing. Emilio Rona
Ing. Ulderigo Serge
Achille Venzaghi
Prof. U. Ancona
Ing. C. Vincenzo Brazzalo
Ing. Filippo Danioni
Ing. Elaardo Egger
Dr. Ettore Gamba
Ing. Francesco Guidice
Ing. Aurelio Monteverde
Ing. Antonio Pesenti
Luigi Pizzi
Ing. Luigi Robbo
Giuseppe Stramezzi

There were a number of ladies in the party and a few German and French delegates.

Of Interest to Electrical Experts

Information which was given in the handbook provided for use of visitors by the enterprise of the members of the Washington Branch of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers was a source of much comment. Among the special objects of interest which were pointed out for the benefit of the electrical experts was the railway conduit system and also the conduits for electric lighting and for telephone. The placing of wire underground, which is so general here, is exceptional in most of the other larger cities of the country, and while at this time the practicability of the system is not questioned, still the method and working of the conduit was, no doubt, a matter of much interest.

In addition the visitors had opportunity to see how the electric current is being used in the great Government work shops located here. In the gun foundry, at what was formerly known as the Navy Yard, there is much machinery with electricity as a motive power, and its ingenious as well as effective employment is one of the remarkable things about these great shops. The fine new building which has been completed for the Government Printing Office is fully equipped with the modern electrical devices of all sorts. The administrative features of this agency, as found necessary in a municipal Government, are well illustrated on the electrical department of the District Government, so that the visitors were able to study the subject in practically all its phases.

The following items were rescued from the pages of the Washington Star while searching for the information given on the preceding pages.