

ISO Organized; Elects Coonley President

Howard Coonley, chairman of the executive committee of the American Standards Association has been elected president of the new International Organization for Standardization, the formation of which has been completed by delegates from 25 nations meeting in London, England.

Gustave L. Gerard, staff president of the Belgian Standards Association, will be vice-president of the new organization, to be known informally as ISO. Headquarters will be set up soon in Geneva, Switzerland, which was chosen in a close final ballot of 12 to 11 over Montreal, Canada.

Formation of the new ISO consolidates into a single organization the work of the old International Federation of National Standardizing Associations and that of

the United Nations Standards Co-ordinating Committee. The International Electrotechnical Commission is expected to be ISO's electrical division.

The members of ISO will be the national standards bodies. Its work will be carried out through technical committees upon which any country may be represented, if it so desires.

The governing body of ISO will be a council containing representatives from 11 countries. Five of these seats are assigned for a period of five years to China, France, Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union. Others represented initially on the council are Australia, Belgium, Brazil, India, Norway, and Switzerland. The ISO will use three official languages: English, French, and Russian.

The new ISO organization is provisional, and it will be completed formally when its

constitution is ratified by 15 national standards bodies.

Represented in ISO's formation were:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, India, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, Yugoslavia.

OTHER SOCIETIES •

ASME President Urges Stand on Unionization

With increasing efforts to unionize engineers, the engineering profession no longer can sidestep its responsibilities in the controversial area of collective bargaining, D. Robert Yarnall, president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, declared at a recent meeting sponsored by the New York section of the society on the theme "Organization of the Engineering Profession."

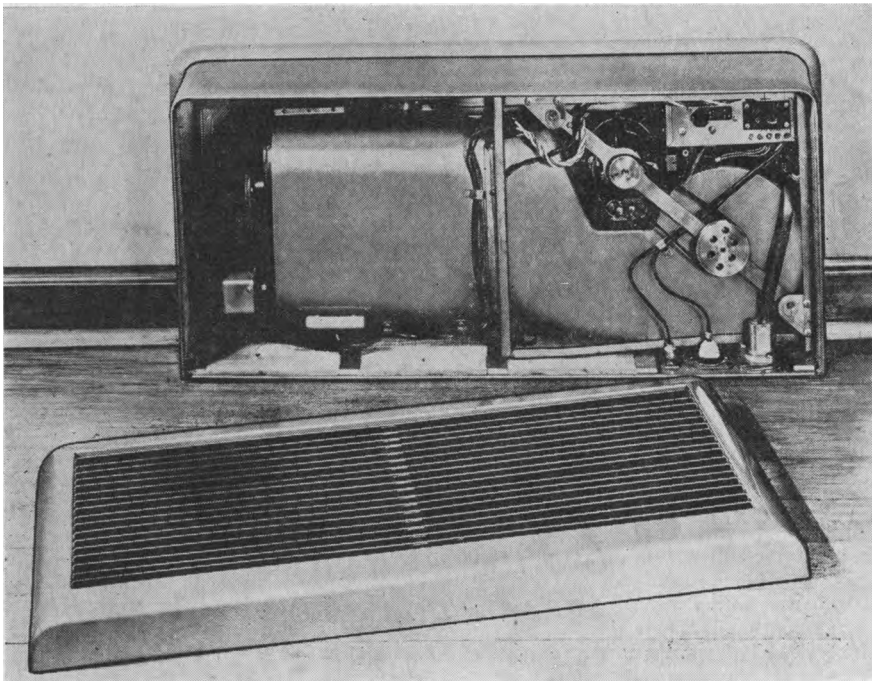
Placing better industrial relations in American industry high on the list of responsibilities that must be shouldered by the engineering societies, Mr. Yarnall said, speaking for the ASME, that "a sense of direction is very desirable and is expected by our younger members. They want some organization to turn to now, and if I understand them correctly, they do not want the union kind."

Mr. Yarnall, president and cofounder of the Yarnall-Waring Company, and a member of the City Planning Commission of Philadelphia, Pa., said in part:

"It is true that 'the best men have high scarcity value,' hence they can bargain best as individuals. Men of average or less than average ability certainly have less power in individual bargaining, but does it necessarily follow that their best course for advancement would come through unionism and collective bargaining? This is where good management should provide an adequate personnel policy which will not lose touch with either the best man, the average man, or the subaverage man in their needs and right for advancement. How can we develop better a professional spirit in engineering than by driving home over and over again our conviction that management must assume more responsibility for encouragement, recognition, and advancement (when earned) of all technical men. The potential professional serving his internship in a subprofessional group as a union member in a larger company may gain very useful experience, but let him beware of the limitations of a system which is designed for the average engineer.

"The desire for collective action seems strong among many young engineers in our country. If we were young engineers employed in a large company today, we would be pressed to join with a representative bargaining group, because the unions

Dispersed Units Challenge Central Heating



From experience gained with airplane heaters during the war, the Stewart-Warner Corporation, Indianapolis, Ind., has developed this gas-burning furnace unit which will heat $2\frac{1}{2}$ rooms. The units can be recessed in a wall between two rooms or can be placed on a closet shelf, beneath the floor, in the ceiling, or in the attic. The unit is 14 inches wide, so that it fits readily between studs or joists, is about 30 inches long, and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. It weighs 70 pounds with a cabinet and 45 without. The unit is noiseless and can be installed in three hours. It is 80 per cent efficient, requiring an input of 31,000 Btu's per hour for an output of 25,000 Btu's. The unit is equipped with a thermostatic control, and, with several units replacing a single furnace, varying zones in the home can be kept at different temperatures. Fuel is burned in a confined, sealed space, which permits small, sealed metal tubes for venting the unit, instead of a chimney. The fire is fed from air outside the house and discharges outside the house. This closed metal path is a protection against fire and asphyxiation. All the safety and performance requirements of the American Gas Association have been met, and, so far as is known, this is the first time that approval has been granted for the use of electric spark ignition in a device of this kind

are doubling their efforts to organize engineers. From what I hear of the experience of young engineers there seems little else that can be done in most circumstances. We understand further that the unions now are willing to accept responsibility for improving the economic status of the engineering personnel."

Mr. Yarnall reminded his audience that the middle-age and older engineer groups are composed largely of executives and managers and chief engineers, who in most cases are responsible for the employment of younger engineers. They look upon the young men as the potential managers and executives of the next generation. Two pertinent questions facing management on this score were posed by Mr. Yarnall:

1. If a young man joins a white-collar union representing engineers and draftsmen, how will the transition period from his classification as a union member and his classification as an executive and/or manager be made?
2. Will not his experience with the union make him more understanding and so more valuable as an executive or as a manager when heavier responsibilities come his way, since apparently collective bargaining is here to stay?

As for the place of the engineering societies, they, he said, "are created for the broad purpose of tabulating, recording, and disseminating engineering knowledge for the good of mankind. They have their social functions, affording opportunities for broadening contacts through professional meetings; they are also creators of codes and standards and ethical practices. Our societies are technical educational institutions of great importance. They are a great deal more than organizations created for the purpose of helping members make more money."

One course of action, Mr. Yarnall said, is suggested by the recent formation of the National Professional Employees Association, composed of engineers, architects, industrial scientists, and similar professional employes. Their purposes are defined "to promote the welfare and professional status of members and the right of professional employes to bargain collectively through agencies of their own choosing. They plan to assist groups to set up independent bargaining units independent of the national unions.

Another plan of procedure mentioned by Mr. Yarnall was that the Founder Societies take immediate action to combat the expansion of labor unions into the engineering field. "This point of view" he said, "would encourage all members to obtain their professional licenses through their state section of the National Society for Professional Engineers. It is claimed that such positive action by all of the Founder Societies would enable the professional engineer to present a united front against the threat of unionization and in defense of the engineer's hard-earned status as a professional man."

Mr. Yarnall referred to the information being collected by the Engineers Joint Council as a step in the direction of the engineering societies assuming their responsibility for defining the position of

Future Meetings of Other Societies

American Chemical Society. 111th national meeting, April 14-18, 1947, Atlantic City, N. J. 50th annual meeting, June 16-20, 1947, Atlantic City, N. J.

American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. Annual meeting, March 17-22, 1947, New York, N. Y.

American Society for Engineering Education. 55th annual meeting, June 18-21, 1947, Minneapolis, Minn.

American Society for Testing Materials. Spring meeting and committee week, February 24-28, 1947, Philadelphia, Pa.

American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers. 53d annual meeting, January 27-30, 1947, Cleveland, Ohio.

Electrical Engineering Exposition. January 27-31, 1947, New York, N. Y.

Institute of Radio Engineers. Annual meeting, March 3-7, 1947, New York, N. Y.

Materials Handling Exposition. January 14-17, 1947, Cleveland, Ohio.

Pacific Chemical Exposition, October 21-28, 1947, San Francisco, Calif.

the engineer in industry. In particular he mentioned the following surveys in which AIEE is co-operating:

1. A survey of the report of earnings of 85,000 engineers, with relation to education, years of practice, and field of specialization, which is to be completed in June 1947.
2. A survey of 2,000 industrial companies to determine company policies pertaining to selection, training, placement, advancement, guidance, and professional activities of graduate engineer employees.
3. A survey of the problem of collective bargaining as it affects or may affect engineers in professional work and in training. The first manual will provide guidance for engineer employees, and is nearly completed.

ASA Officers Elected. Election of a president and vice-president for 1947 was announced at the 28th annual meeting of the American Standards Association in New York, November 22. Frederick R. Lack (M'37) vice-president of the Western

Electric Company since 1942 was elected ASA president, and George H. Taber, Jr., executive vice-president of the Sinclair Refining Company, was elected vice-president. In a congratulatory message to Mr. Lack, Secretary of Commerce W. Averell Harriman said, "In the critical years ahead, I envision the ASA federation of some 100 trade, technical, consumer, and governmental bodies as making an outstanding contribution to strengthening our national economy."

AIME Announces 1947 Officers. Results of its election of officers for the coming year recently were announced by the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. Officers for 1947 will be:

President—Clyde E. Williams, director of the Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio.

Vice-Presidents—Andrew Fletcher, vice-president of the St. Joseph Lead Company, New York, N. Y., and Robert W. Thomas, general manager of the Nevada Consolidated Copper Corporation, Ray, Ariz.

Directors—Oliver Bowles, chief of the Nonmetallic Economics Division of the United States Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C.; Arthur J. Blair, chief geologist of the Tennessee Coal, Iron, and Railroad Company, Birmingham, Ala.; William W. Mein, Sr., president of the Calaveras Cement Company, San Francisco, Calif.; C. V. Millikan, chief production engineer for the Amerada Petroleum Corporation, Tulsa, Okla.; Earle E. Schumacher, chief metallurgist for the Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc., Murray Hill, N. J.; and John R. Suman, vice-president of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, New York, N. Y.

ASA Appoints Service Engineer. The appointment of Eugene Somoff to the newly created post of technical service engineer was announced recently by the American Standards Association. Mr. Somoff, an electrical engineer with experience in the United States and abroad, will collect and supply technical information concerning American standards and those of other countries. During the war he served as a Russian translator for the United States Army.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INSTITUTE members and subscribers are invited to contribute to these columns expressions of opinion dealing with published articles, technical papers, or other subjects of general professional interest. While endeavoring to publish as many letters as possible, Electrical Engineering reserves the right to publish them in whole or in part or to reject them entirely. Statements in letters are expressly under-

stood to be made by the writers. Publication here in no wise constitutes endorsement or recognition by the AIEE. All letters submitted for publication should be typewritten, double-spaced, not carbon copies. Any illustrations should be submitted in duplicate, one copy an inked drawing without lettering, the other lettered. Captions should be supplied for all illustrations.

The Sign of Reactive Power

To the Editor:

The report of the AIEE Standards committee on "The Sign of Reactive Power" published in the November 1946 issue of *Electrical Engineering*, pages 512-16,

invited discussion and comments. Here are mine.

I am in hearty agreement with the recommendation that the previously adopted standard on the sign of reactive power be changed. The practical reasons given in the report, pertaining to the generation,