

Increase of Membership

There were 359 applications for membership received during the last three months of 1914 as compared with 242 in the corresponding period of the preceding year. This increase of 48 per cent is a direct result of the activity of the Membership Committee of the Institute and the various local membership committees of the Sections. It also clearly indicates that there are still large numbers of desirable prospective members throughout the country to whom the many advantages of Institute membership should be presented.

An analysis of these 359 applications indicates that the high standard of membership is being maintained, and that all branches of electrical engineering continue to be represented in the additions to our membership. The following is a classified summary of this analysis:

Operating Engineers with Public Utility Companies.....	174
Engineers with Manufacturing Companies.....	114
Professors and Instructors.....	26
Executive Officers.....	24
Consulting and Contracting Engineers....	13
Miscellaneous.....	8

The geographical analysis shows that 324 of these applicants are located in the United States, 17 in Canada, 6 in the Canal Zone, 3 in Japan, 2 each in England and India, and one each in New Zealand, China, Panama Republic, Honduras and Argentine Republic.

The applications from the foreign countries indicate the high value placed upon Institute publications by engineers residing abroad, inasmuch as these publications constitute the principal tangible advantage of membership to foreign members.

Thirty-three States are represented by the applications from the United States. This widespread interest in the work of, and service rendered by, the Institute is due largely to the opportunity for participation in the numerous meetings of the local Sections of the

Institute that have been organized in 31 cities throughout the country. These meetings and the other sessions and conventions are now so widely distributed geographically that a much larger proportion of the membership can conveniently attend meetings than was the case before the local Sections were organized, thus enabling these members to extend their acquaintanceship and to enjoy social intercourse with their fellow engineers as well as to discuss their technical problems with them face to face.

Many other advantages of membership in the Institute are referred to in a pamphlet describing the objects, scope and work of the Institute, which will be sent to anyone interested, upon receipt of request by any member of the Membership Committee or by the undersigned.

F. L. HUTCHINSON,
Secretary.

Plans of National Joint Committee on Line Construction

For the purpose of completing its organization and laying out its working program the National Joint Committee on Overhead and Underground Line Construction held a meeting at the headquarters of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers on December 16, 1914. According to present plans this Committee will prepare specifications or suggested practises or perhaps recommend modifications of existing regulations relating to the following subjects:

1. Underground and undergrade crossings.
2. Crossings of electric wires over electric railway tracks.
3. Crossings of trolley contact wires.
4. Overhead crossings of wires or cables of telegraph, telephone, signal and other circuits of similar character over steam railroad rights of way, track, or lines of wire of the same classes.
5. Overhead crossings of electric light and power lines.

6. Parallel lines.

Specifications covering subject No. 4 already prepared by an earlier joint committee representing various interests are now being considered for adoption by the National Joint Committee. Subject No. 5 has been covered by the present standard specifications, the edition adopted and published by the American Electric Railway Engineering Association being the latest revision. The other subjects are new, and specifications relating thereto will have to be prepared by the committee, which desires to enlist the cooperation of all persons and associations interested in any subject pertaining to line construction, with the object of preventing duplication of work and insuring uniformity in the specifications adopted by the various associations, thereby avoiding all unnecessary conflicts. It is the desire of the committee to be looked upon more or less as the court of last resort in the formulation and interpretations of specifications, and as such it would like to receive the hearty support of all interests concerned.

The National Joint Committee is made up of official delegates and alternates from the following organizations:

American Railway Association.

American Railway Engineering Association.

Railway Signal Association.

Association of Railway Telegraph Superintendents.

National Electric Light Association.

American Electric Railway Engineering Association.

American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

American Electric Railway Association.

American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

United States Bureau of Standards.

Independent Telephone Association of America.

Western Union Telegraph Company.

Postal Telegraph Company.

Mr. Farley Osgood, Newark, N. J., is chairman, and Mr. G. W. Palmer, Jr.,

Boston, is vice-chairman of the committee. The secretary is Mr. R. D. Coombs, 30 Church Street, New York, and Mr. W. H. Feller, 759 Broad Street, Newark, N. J., is assistant secretary.

**Directors' Meeting, New York,
January 8, 1915**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Institute was held at Institute headquarters, New York, on Friday, January 8, 1915, at 3:30 p.m.

There were present: President P. M. Lincoln, Pittsburgh, Pa., Past-Presidents Ralph D. Mershon and C. O. Mailloux, New York; Vice-President H. H. Barnes, Jr., New York; Managers C. A. Adams, Cambridge, Mass., J. Franklin Stevens, Philadelphia, Pa., Bancroft Gherardi and A. S. McAllister, New York; Treasurer George A. Hamilton, Elizabeth, N. J., and Secretary F. L. Hutchinson, New York.

The action of the Finance Committee in approving monthly bills amounting to \$8,912.96 was ratified.

The Secretary announced the following additional committee appointments made by President Lincoln since the last meeting:

Use of Electricity in Mines, H. M. Southgate; Industrial Power, A. S. McAllister; Records and Appraisals of Properties, Henry Floy; Protective Apparatus: E. E. F. Creighton, chairman, H. H. Dewey, Louis Elliott, Victor H. Greisser, Ford W. Harris, S. Q. Hayes, Fred L. Hunt, L. E. Imlay, R. P. Jackson, J. T. Lawson, E. B. Merriam, L. C. Nicholson, E. P. Peck, N. L. Pollard, D. W. Roper, O. O. Rider, Charles P. Steinmetz, H. R. Woodrow.

The Board confirmed the appointment by President Lincoln of Mr. Ralph D. Mershon as a member of the Edison Medal Committee to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. W. D. Weaver.

Mr. Harry Parker Gibbs was appointed by the Board Local Honorary Secretary for India for the term of two