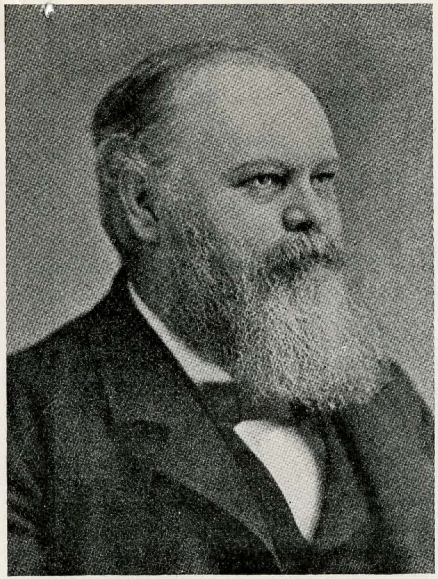

Franklin L. Pope

(Associate 1884, Member 1884)

President 1886–87

SUCCEEDING Dr. Norvin Green, the second president of the Institute was Franklin Leonard Pope, one of the earliest practicing electrical engineers in the country. Mr. Pope, like many of the charter members of the Institute, was act ve principally in the telegraph and telephone field.

He was born at Great Barrington, Mass., December 2, 1840. After attending the academy in Amherst, Mass., he became a telegraph operator in 1857. In 1859 he entered the drafting department of the *Scientific American* in New York City, but in 1861 reëntered the telegraph service in Providence, R. I. In 1862 he was made assistant engineer of the American Telegraph Company in New York. During the draft riots the following year, he repaired with his own hands the demolished telegraph lines of this company between New York and Boston. When the national telegraphic union was formed in 1863, Mr. Pope was chosen the New York District Secretary; under the pseudonym of "Elektron," he was the first contributor to its publication, *The Telegrapher*.

In 1864, Mr. Pope was appointed assistant engineer and chief of the geographical department of the Western Union Russian Extension Company, and surveyed the route for the proposed Collins Overland Telegraph between British Columbia and Alaska, which was abandoned after the successful laying of the Atlantic cable. Returning to New York in 1866, Mr. Pope resumed the contribution of articles to *The Telegrapher*, and its editor 1867–68.

In 1868, he undertook the development and management of a system of printing the prices of gold and of stock in brokers' offices. In 1869, he entered into partnership with Thomas A. Edison under the name of Pope, Edison & Company, electrical engineers, and in 1870 they invented a one-wire printing telegraph. This firm had but a brief existence, being dissolved in 1870, probably because of the strong personalities of its members. Continuing in active practice, Mr. Pope secured several patents, the majority of them being for a railroad semaphore lock signal system. He was one of the earliest patent solicitors for electrical inventions, and was for many years patent attorney for the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Mr. Pope was the author of "Modern Practice of the Electrical Telegraph" (1871, rewritten 1891), and "Life and Work of Joseph Henry" (1879). In 1884 he became editor of the *Electrical Engineer*, which was later called *The Electrician and Electrical Engineer*, and still later *The Electrical Engineer*. He also edited the electrical department of *The Engineering Magazine*.

In 1894, Mr. Pope returned to Great Barrington, having reconstructed an old brick house built there in 1766. As a pastime, he remodeled the Great Barrington Electric Light Company's system, describing these changes in an Institute paper. Mr. Pope had the primary wires brought into his cellar, and because of an accidental contact with these wires he was killed on October 13, 1895. Mr. Pope had been a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (British) since its inception in 1872 and had been one of its first vice-presidents. In 1878 he was vice-president of the American Electrical Society of Chicago. He was an older brother of Ralph W. Pope who, for 27 years, starting in the year 1885, served the Institute as secretary.