

IEC Names Kennelly Honorary President

IN recognition of his outstanding career in electrical engineering and particularly of his work in promoting national as well as international standards, the International Electrotechnical Commission elected A. E. Kennelly, Professor Emeritus of Engineering, Harvard University, honorary president at the meeting of the IEC Council, Torquay, June 29.

Professor Kennelly is also honorary president of the United States National Committee.

Beginning his engineering career at the early

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age of 14 when he acted as assistant secretary of the Society of Telegraph Engineers, he became operator for the Eastern Telegraph Company when he was 15, and from there went to the positions of assistant electrician, chief electrician for a cable repairing steamer and senior ship electrician on submarine cables. In 1887, when he was 26, he came to America and became the principal assistant to Thomas A. Edison. Later, in addition, he was consulting electrician for the Edison General Elec-

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INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION

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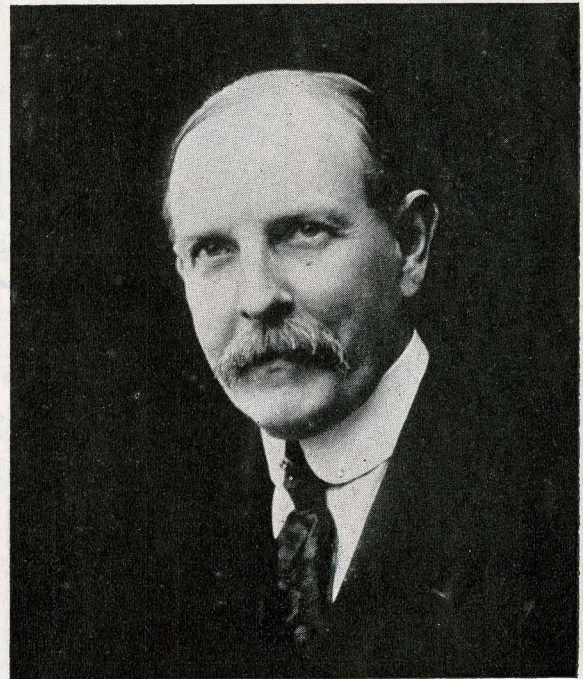
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tric and the General Electric Companies, and from 1894 to 1901 was a member of the consulting firm of Houston and Kennelly. In 1902 he had charge of the laying of the Vera Cruz-Frontera-Compeche cable for the Mexican Government. That same year Doctor Kennelly was appointed professor of electrical engineering at Harvard University, and in 1930 became professor emeritus of that institution and of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

One of Dr. Kennelly's chief contributions to applied science is a paper on "Impedance" presented in 1893 before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, containing the first use of complex numbers as applied to Ohm's Law in alternating-current engineering. In 1902, he expounded a theory on the influence of a conducting layer in the Atmosphere on Long-Distance Radio Transmission which has since been verified experimentally and has resulted in the naming of the so-called ionized layer of reflection the Kennelly-Heaviside layer.

Dr. Kennelly was a United States delegate to the international electrical congresses in Paris in 1900 and 1904, and was general secretary of the latter congress at which the recommendation was made that a permanent international commission be organized to consider standardization in the electrical field.

He has received many medals and awards, among them the Institution Premium in 1887 and the Fahie Premium in 1889 from the Institution of Electrical Engineers, London; the Longstreth silver medal in 1916 and the Howard Potts gold medal in 1917 from the Franklin Institute; the Volta medal in 1927, and the Cross of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France; and the Edison Medal of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, 1933.



Courtesy American Institute of Electrical Engineers

A. E. Kennelly

Dr. Kennelly is a past-president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Institute of Radio Engineers, and other scientific organizations, and has been active in the standardization work of the AIEE as well as in the American Standards Association and the International Electrotechnical Commission. He is now chairman of the IEC Advisory Committee on Electric and Magnetic Magnitudes and Units, of the Sectional Committee on the same subject under the procedure of the American Standards Association, and also of the sectional committee on Definitions of Electrical Terms.