

F. L. Hutchinson

Succumbs to Heart Failure

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EARLY EXPERIENCE

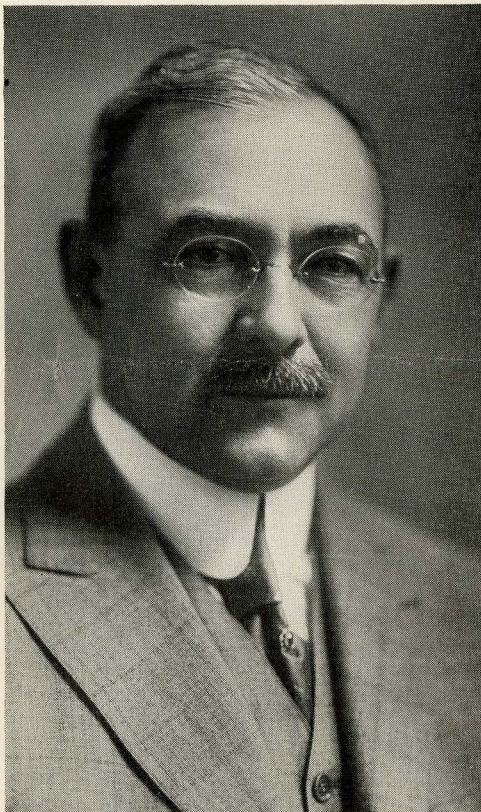
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can Institute of Electrical Engineers. Gradually the scope of his work was increased until, in February 1908, upon recommendation of Secretary Ralph W. Pope, he was appointed assistant secretary. Upon Secretary Pope's resignation after 27 years of service with the Institute, Mr. Hutchinson was, in August 1911, appointed acting secretary by the board of directors. On January 12, 1912, the board of directors of the Institute unanimously appointed him national secretary, upon the unanimous recommendation of



FREDERICK LANE HUTCHINSON
1866 - 1932

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of the delegates of the Institute to the World Power Conference, London, 1924, and to the World Engineering Congress, Tokyo, 1929. He served as a member of various Institute committees, both before and after he became secretary. Immediately prior to his death he was a member of committees having supervision of several important activities, including publications, coordination of Institute activities, award of Edison Medal, and maintenance of Institute headquarters. Mr. Hutchinson also was a representative of the Institute on the Assembly of American Engineering Council, the division of engineering and industrial research of the National Research Council, and on the Engineering Societies Library Board. He was an enthusiastic worker for the development of the engineer and for the enhancement of the engineering profession, and was identified with various joint endeavors of the national engineering societies and allied organizations the efforts of which were directed toward that end.

INSTITUTE GREW RAPIDLY

His long experience as assistant secretary particularly qualified him for the duties of secretary. At the time of his appointment the Institute had little more than one-third of its present membership, and its rapid growth and increasing activities made growing demands upon the secretary's office, in meeting which Mr. Hutchinson displayed marked executive ability. He combined a very pleasing personality with a highly judicial temperament. With characteristic energy he mastered every phase of the Institute's activities, and the directors and governing committees of the Institute came to defer more and more to his judgment in all matters of Institute management. To every suggestion for the improvement of the Institute or changes in its policy he accorded a careful and impartial consideration, and the fairness of his decisions gained the respect and confidence of all with whom he dealt.

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started prior to the recent winter convention. For two weeks he was down with a severe case of grippe from which he had not recovered when he returned to his office to take part in the rush of convention activities. Indomitable, he remained at his post until February 8, then to return to his sick-bed never to leave it alive.

F. L. Hutchinson as Seen by Some of Those with Whom He Has Worked

CHARLES F. SCOTT (A'92, F'25, HM'29, president 1902-3)—Since Mr. Hutchinson entered Secretary Pope's office as an assistant nearly 30 years ago the Institute membership has increased from 1,800 to 18,000 and its activities have increased in like ratio. In this development he has been a quiet, constructive force. As secretary for a score of years he has shown rare tact and skill in carrying out the policies and instructions of presidents and boards, while exercising his own good judgment and impressing his own ideas. While other officers have come and gone he has been a continuing, directive, creative factor in the development of the Institute. He was a wide reader and student of affairs, interested in economic trends and social evolution, with high ideals of the responsibilities of the engineer as citizen. I realize the loss to our electrical group, and to the engineering profession. But to me there comes a keen sense of personal loss in the passing of my long-time associate and sympathetic friend. His enlarging vision and progressive ideals engendered increasing appreciation and regard. How deep these were I did not fully realize until the shock of the telegram announcing his death.

M. I. PUPIN, (A'90, F'15, HM'28, president 1925-6)—I have just received the sad news of the death of our national secretary. It is shocking news; it will cast a deep shadow of sadness over our beloved Institute, just as it has cast it over me. His death is an irreparable loss to the Institute and to all its friends and his friends. I am one of them. While president of the Institute I met Mr. Hutchinson often and got to know him quite intimately. I always admired him and loved him, and when I got to know him more intimately I admired him and loved him even more. He was a loyal servant of the Institute and one of its most devoted members. His memory will live long in the hearts of our Institute membership and it will be the memory of the most distinguished servant of the Institute.

GANO DUNN (A'91, F'12, president 1911-12)—F. L. Hutchinson was a great Secretary. As assistant to his beloved predecessor, Ralph W. Pope, a fine loyalty long concealed his abilities. Upon Mr. Pope's elevation to the Honorary Secretaryship, during my presidency in 1911-12, the country was scoured for a "big man" appropriate to the Institute's growth and increasing importance, but a trial period of a few months quickly discovered that we already possessed him. We were in the position of the mariners dying of thirst off the mouth of the Amazon, who were signaled to cast their buckets overboard. Hutchinson was an organization statesman whom the title of National Secretary did not adequately describe. His capacity for self-

effacing leadership under successive presidencies of one-year terms contributed in unmeasured degree to developing the usefulness of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to her members and the public, and to establishing her high rank in the respect of her sister societies and the engineering profession throughout the world. Solving his problems by methods that were creative and constructive, rather than controversial or regulatory, he knew the value of goodwill and cooperation untainted by self-interest. His word was his bond and his personality radiated humor and trustworthiness. Our Institute has lost her focus and thousands of her members a dear friend.

FRANK B. JEWETT (A'03, F'12, president 1922-3)—In the death of F. L. Hutchinson, the electrical engineering profession in America has lost much more than the services of a highly efficient and effective secretary. To many members of the Institute the news of his death will bring pangs of poignant grief in the knowledge that they have lost a sincere, kindly, and always helpful friend. For nearly two decades the development and growth of the Institute to its present position as one of the great engineering societies of the world has been very largely influenced by Mr. Hutchinson. During his occupancy of the secretarial office, presidents, no two of them alike in their methods or purposes have come and gone in a continuing procession. To one and all Mr. Hutchinson proved to be a sound and discriminating counselor whose advice has insured the avoidance of many a pitfall. Probably none of us appreciate fully the extent to which this quiet, unobtrusive, but forceful man has been the guiding force which has directed the course of the Institute in new and uncharted waters or through the turbulent seas of potential discord which are always present when many men of many minds meet for discussion and action. Never seeking to take the center of the stage even when his greater familiarity with and understanding of some situation would have made this easily possible, he nevertheless always, in his quiet way, offered exactly the right suggestion at exactly the right time. Many a brilliant piece of work for which someone else was acclaimed the author was in the last analysis the embodiment of his mature conclusions.

W. S. LEE (A'04, F'13, president 1930-1)—It is with a sense of deep personal loss that I learn of the death of F. L. Hutchinson. My close association with him during my term as president of the Institute afforded me an opportunity of knowing him intimately and of observing and appreciating his zeal and enthusiasm for the work of our organization and his indefatigable industry

in its behalf. Not only was Mr. Hutchinson zealous in the cause of his own organization, but he was always ready and effective in his cooperation with other engineering and business organizations, and with the public in general. His ability to bring about effective coordination between our own and other organizations was unusual, reflecting not only the real capacity of the man but an earnestness of purpose and a sincerity that commanded the respect and admiration of all who knew him. In his passing not only the Institute but the engineering profession generally and the public have sustained a severe loss.

C. E. SKINNER (A'99, F'12, president 1931-2)—I was shocked beyond measure to learn of the death of National Secretary F. L. Hutchinson. The Institute has suffered an irreparable loss in his passing. For many years, as administrations came and went, Mr. Hutchinson has been the real guiding spirit of the Institute. To him far more than any other individual the Institute owes its present position among the national associations of the United States. He handled all of its relations with outstanding wisdom and unflinching tact. He was universally respected and admired by all who knew him whether it be through official contact or through mere personal acquaintanceship. Presidents and boards of the Institute have depended upon him and have placed implicit confidence in his execution of the exacting duties of his office. His death comes as a great personal loss to me as it must to every member of the Institute who has ever made his acquaintance.

C. W. RICE (A'97, F'12, secretary A.S.M.E.)—Mr. Hutchinson's contribution to every situation was constructive, broad-gaged and progressive. With an intimate, almost daily, association since 1904 when he first took up the work of the Institute, I cannot remember a single instance where he took a position with respect to any subject that was not favorable to the accomplishment of the highest purpose of the project in hand. He was particularly able in clearing up a situation and had the invaluable habit of putting the matter under discussion in such shape that the group could act. In this process he gave his opinion with such courtesy that one could differ and the discussion be absolutely impersonal. Then, with absolute mental honesty and unselfishness, he would phrase the consensus of opinion even though not with his own approval. Every member of the Institute and every engineer with whom he ever came in contact will join in the tribute that Mr. Hutchinson directly contributed to the enhancement of the prestige of the profession and by so doing advanced the influence of the Institute.

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Early Experience

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Other Affiliations

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Besides his widow, Grace Duryee Hutchinson, Mr. Hutchinson is survived by a sister, Miss Annie G. Hutchinson of Elizabeth, N.J., a brother, William, of Newark, N.J., and two stepsons, G. W. Duryee of Glendale, Calif., and Lawrence M. Duryee of Norwalk, Conn. Funeral services were held at his late residence, 18 Douglas Road, Glen Ridge, N.J., at 2:30 p.m. Monday, February 29, 1932. Interment was private.
