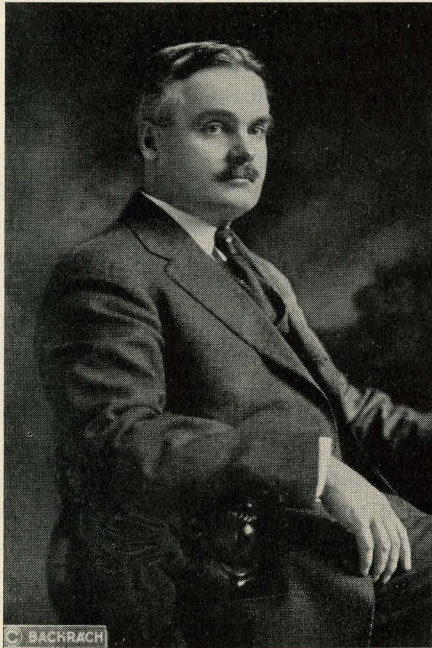


The Highest A. I. E. E. Office



Prof. Harold B. Smith, head of the department of Electrical Engineering at W. P. I., has been nominated for the presidency of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Since this nomination is equivalent to election, it is assured that he will be inaugurated at the annual meeting of the Institute next June, 1929, to take office August 1, 1929.

The Institute of Electrical Engineers, although the youngest, is the largest of the great American engineering societies. It was founded in 1884 for "the advancement of the theory and practice of electrical engineering and of the allied arts and sciences and the maintenance of a high professional standing among its members and the develop-

ment of the individual engineer." The society started with a small membership which by 1900 had grown to about one thousand. Since 1900 there has been a large and steady increase in membership up to a present enrollment of about 19,000.

The annual convention of the Institute is held in June of each year; in 1929 it will be held at Swampscott, Mass. The headquarters of the society are at the Engineering Societies building in New York, which also houses the reference library, an important feature of which is the Latimer-Clark collection containing every publication in the English language on the subject of electricity published prior to 1886. The activities of the Institute, outside of general meetings, are carried on in ten geographical districts, which embrace fifty-four sections. There are, in addition to these sections, about one hundred student branches which hold monthly meetings during the college year with an average attendance of over fifty. The last available report of Institute finances (1926) showed assets of about \$800,000.

Among the best known of the past presidents of the Institute are: Elihu Thompson (1889-90), Alexander Graham Bell (1891-92), Charles P. Steinmetz (1901-02), Gano Dunn (1911-12), John J. Carty (1915-16) and Michael I. Pupin (1925-26).

The nomination of Professor Smith comes as a well merited recognition of thirty-seven years of service to the society. He was a manager from 1920

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to 1924, senior vice-president, at the head of the North Eastern district from 1924 to 1926, chairman of sections committee 1924 to 1927, chairman of the subcommittee on meetings and papers 1925-26, chairman of the subcommittee on regional meetings 1924-26, chairman of the program committee of sections committee conferences at the 1924 convention and is at present chairman of the important committee on code of principles of professional conduct. He has also been an active member of other committees.

Professor Smith was born at Barre, Mass., May 23, 1869, the son of Samuel Francis and Julia A. (Babbitt) Smith. He was graduated from Cornell University with the degree of Mechanical Engineer in 1891. For two years thereafter he took post graduate work at Cornell and during part of this period was adjunct professor of Electrical Engineering at Arkansas State University. After a year as chief designer and electrical engineer of the Elektron Mfg. Co. at Springfield, Mass., he was appointed professor and director of the school of Electrical Engineering at Purdue University, which position he held until 1896, when he was called to a similar post at W. P. I. A course in Electrical Engineering was first offered at the Institute to the Class of 1893, although the department was not established until 1896. Hence practically all developments in this department have been under Professor Smith's direction. The first class to graduate numbered ten, and the largest class (1926) numbered fifty-one. Professor Smith has introduced many features to make the course a broad and inter-

esting one, one of these being the offering of three optional curricula in the second semester of the senior year.

Professor Smith's achievements in engineering have been no less brilliant than those in education. He has been consulting engineer with several companies since 1893 and has been connected with the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company as electrical engineer, designer and consulting engineer since 1905. During the period since 1893, he has carried on extensive research in the field of high voltage, including pioneer work in high potential transformers and insulators. Most of these studies have been carried on at the W. P. I. laboratories, where much valuable equipment has been developed by graduate students under his direction. The most elaborate of this equipment is a million-volt oil-immersed transformer, designed about three years ago and now undergoing final tests.

The newly nominated president of the A. I. E. E. is also a member of other societies including Beta Theta Pi, Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Institution of Electrical Engineers of Great Britain. He served as chairman on the jury of awards in Electrical Engineering at the St. Louis exposition in 1904, and during the World War was an associate member of the naval Consulting Board and resident consulting engineer for the United States Navy on anti-submarine devices.