

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Fall Meeting of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, Lake Placid, N. Y. September, 1928.

WILLARD B. COOK*

FELLOW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

IT IS my privilege and pleasure to welcome you again to a convention of our society and to extend greetings particularly to those new members and guests who are present for the first time.

My pleasure on this occasion is tinged with a certain amount of regret and sorrow as I realize that this is the last occasion on which I shall have the privilege of officiating as your executive. For the three years during which you have honored me with this position and trust, I have enjoyed such loyal assistance and cooperation from the other officers, from the committee chairmen, and from the individuals of our organization that it is with deep sorrow that I bid you farewell as well as welcome.

At the close of this meeting, the officers who will have been elected will take over the administration of the Society, and I know it will go on in an unbroken period of continued and increased prosperity. For the benefit of new members and guests I should like to touch briefly on some of the outstanding events which have transpired in the last few years.

In the spring of 1926 we met at Washington, and that was the first occasion on which we were tendered a social function by another technical association. We had many times been entertained by some of the prominent firms whose representatives are members of our organization, but on that occasion we were entertained by the motion picture operators' union. We were also received by the President of the United States in the White House grounds, and President Coolidge graciously permitted himself to be photographed in our midst, at the same time expressing to me his own appreciation of motion pictures.

At the Briarcliffe meeting, in the fall of 1926, the outstanding event was a closer affiliation with the Producers Association, the

* Kodascope Libraries, Inc., New York, N. Y.

Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, whose president, Mr. Will Hays, was our guest and speaker on that occasion. That has resulted in a closer bond between the producing end of the business and the technical branches with which we had been previously exclusively identified. Also, at Briarcliffe, we had the first demonstration of sound reproduction in connection with motion pictures: Dr. DeForest gave us a demonstration of the Phono-film.

In the spring of 1927 at Norfolk, we were favored with a demonstration of the Vitaphone. In the autumn of 1927 at the place where we are now met we had a demonstration of the Movietone, and at Hollywood this spring we had a demonstration of the Photophone.

This meeting will be devoted very largely to sound recording and reproducing. Many of the details about sound reproduction processes which were not previously explained and some not previously known will be treated in the papers and discussed by other members.

Three years ago our membership was about 200; it is now 305, exclusive of the few new members who were received into the organization at the meeting of the Board of Governors last night.

The amount of cash collected by our treasurer during the first year of my incumbency was approximately \$2000. During the last year collections from all sources have aggregated \$10,000. The Society is in a very flourishing condition, and its condition is reflected even more favorably in the prestige which it enjoys over practically the whole civilized world. We have many members in European countries, and our Transactions are the accepted authority in every branch of the motion picture industry. We still need more representatives from some of the organizations which are prominent in our industry, but there are very few of them now who do not have at least one of their personnel enrolled in our membership.