

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The Society of Motion Picture Engineers has developed into an effective organization. It was less than three years ago when a handful of enthusiastic men at the suggestion of our past president, C. Francis Jenkins, met in Washington to discuss the advisability and possibility of forming a technical body in connection with the motion picture industry. This meeting, as you know, resulted in the formation of this Society at the Astor Hotel in New York in October, 1916. We have been recognized as the authority on technical matters in the motion picture industry and our proceedings, which are issued twice a year, are much in demand for reference. We should continue in our efforts and should include all branches of the industry which should be represented and through this means we should materially increase our membership.

Those who attended our last meeting in Cleveland well remember the instructive and interesting papers which were there read and discussed. Our transactions are now assuming goodly proportions and it is hoped that complete copies of the transactions will be kept convenient for reference.

I am not going to take up much of your time during this session, but I do want to bring two points to you which I feel should be kept constantly in mind; namely, standardization and cooperation.

### STANDARDIZATION

One of the drawbacks of the motion picture industry, and this is the experience of all new engineering bodies, is the lack of standardization. We have a very resourceful field before us and while we have made a good beginning, I know we all feel that our activities along this line should increase with each succeeding meeting. Let us, in our recommendations, keep in mind the practical as well as the technical viewpoint, inasmuch as the two go hand in hand. It is very difficult to estimate the dollars and cents that are wasted each year on account of the lack of standardization and likewise it is equally difficult to estimate the savings that we may effect by our efforts to standardize.

### COOPERATION

Commercial competition should have no bearing on any papers which we present or discuss. Let us consider why we have become members of The Society of Motion Picture Engineers. Is it our sole wish to join the Society for what we individually can get out of it, or is it our purpose to take a part in the development of this growing industry; to achieve the highest standards in order to materially benefit thereby? Cooperation and good feeling among our members are the only things that will bring the desired results.

The period since the organization of our Society has been a trying one. The whole world has been at war and the period has been one of industrial development rather than of engineering

development and we have all been too busy producing material of one kind or another to assist in winning the war. The Government at Washington has proclaimed to what extent motion pictures have assisted in making the world safe for democracy. Now that the armistice has been signed and peace conferences are being carried on, we can again divert our efforts to a greater extent to the technical fields and solve the problems of standardization which will eventually result in economies in our various departments of activity. In other words, we as engineers, also will have our problems of readjustment.

A subject which should receive our most serious consideration is the work of our various committees. They should show more activity. Members who are appointed on committees are those who are well posted on the subjects covered by the several committees. Therefore the committees are the natural channels through which should originate the problems of standardization and subjects for discussion. It would seem that much of the work of our papers committee could be eliminated if each committee would arrange for papers on subjects which it feels would be most helpful to the members.

I fully appreciate the honor which you have conferred on me by electing me your president. I want to take this occasion to thank those who so unselfishly gave their time and cooperation in connection with the Society work. The result of this meeting will be due mainly to their efforts. I hope that you will individually feel that this is your meeting and that you will leave Philadelphia with the feeling that you have not only profited by attending these sessions, but also that you have been the means of helping other members to solve their problems.

H. A. CAMPE.