

PAPERS COMMITTEE REPORT

MR. KETTERING expressed the chief aim of your Papers Committee, when he said last night that engineering will advance most rapidly by the exchange of information. There are, in general, two ways in which data is exchanged—one, through personal contact and good fellowship; the other, through the presentation and discussion of papers.

It is the privilege of your Papers Committee to have most to do with the latter. In carrying on our work, we have tried not only to secure papers that would interest you and record progress in the various branches of the motion picture industry, but also to accomplish a little broader work by devising ways and means for the committee to become more permanently useful to the Society.

Your committee had thirty-six (36) prospective papers lined up in preparation for this convention. Out of these we finally secured the papers which you have heard. We would call to your attention the fact that the arrangement of an interesting and valuable program is seriously handicapped by those who promise papers and then fail to finish them in time for the convention, or fail to deliver them after they have been finished.

We realize that occasionally conditions arise which necessitate the withdrawal of a paper, or a change of its scheduled time for presentation, but we urge upon authors that every effort be made to prevent such occurrences.

We have made earnest efforts to find out from the membership of the Society the subjects in which they are most interested. We have even written a letter to every member of the Society asking for suggestions on convention papers. This has met with very little response. In lieu of such information, we have analyzed the papers that have been presented and tried to secure subjects on which information is more or less lacking and which are of importance in the industry.

However, the convention is primarily yours, and if you will tell us what you want in the way of papers, we shall make every effort to try and secure them for you.

We would suggest, that before this convention is over, while things are fresh in your mind and you are enthusiastic, you get in touch with some member of the Papers Committee and make suggestions for the Spring convention, as your committee starts work on the Spring convention the day that the present convention closes.

After a convention is over, your Papers Committee has experienced considerable difficulty in securing for use in the Transactions complete texts, photographs and drawings for the papers which have been given. Unless the Transactions are issued promptly after a convention, they lose materially in value.

There is a great deal of work entailed in the preparation of the Transactions; not only do the texts, drawings, etc., have to be

secured edited and turned over to the printer, but the proof has to be read, sent to the author for correction, and perhaps reprinted and returned for further correction. All of this takes time and the burden of the work falls largely on the Committee on Publications.

It is absolutely impossible to publish the Transactions promptly unless the authors cooperate and send in their material shortly after the convention.

Next year, by action of the Society, you have authorized the carrying out of the recommendations which your Papers Committee has made; namely, that papers be printed and distributed in advance of the convention and that at the convention, extracts or synopses only, of the papers be read; the majority of the time being devoted to discussion.

You have also authorized having a public stenographer present to take down the discussions, and that the discussions appear together with the full text of the paper in the Transactions. Your Committee believes that as the paper itself is only one man's opinion on the subject, it will be made much more valuable when thoroughly discussed by numerous people. In order to accomplish this, however, it is *absolutely necessary* that the *texts* of papers for the convention be in the hands of the Papers Committee four weeks in advance of the convention. We would call this to the special attention of prospective authors for the Spring convention, asking their cooperation in this matter.

You have also, by recent action, agreed to your Papers Committee recommendation that extracts of the discussions given at the present convention accompany the papers when they appear in the Transactions. You will realize that it is impossible for our secretary to record long-hand the various discussions and we, therefore, point out to those who discussed papers the necessity of promptly sending either to the secretary or to the Papers Committee their discussions.

We would also recommend that extracts of actions taken by the Board of Governors, and by the convention as a whole, appear in the Transactions.

By way of more permanent work, your committee recommended some time ago that a new committee be formed, to be known as a "Committee on Progress"; this committee to report at each convention things of interest which have been accomplished in the various branches of the industry since the last convention. We are proud of the two reports which we have had from this committee and think they have demonstrated the value and permanence of this work.

We believe that it would be of great assistance to extract any articles appearing in the Transactions of other technical societies, or in the press, which pertain to the work of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, and we believe that a permanent committee should be formed to give such a report at each convention, this being a part of the committee's work, the chief aim being cooperation with other organizations. We would, therefore, recommend the formation of a Committee on Reciprocal Relations.

We believe that the Utilities Committee, which was appointed at the request of the Papers Committee, proved its usefulness and service at this convention, and we trust the committee will be retained as a permanent part of our Society.

Your committee has enjoyed its work during the past year and wishes to thank the Society as a whole for their support, and in particular the members with whom we have worked more directly. During the course of this work we have perhaps learned some things and secured some data which might be of assistance to the Papers Committee for the coming year, and we should be very glad to place such information in the hands of this committee whoever they may be, and cooperate with them to the best of our ability.

L. C. PORTER, *Chairman.*