

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

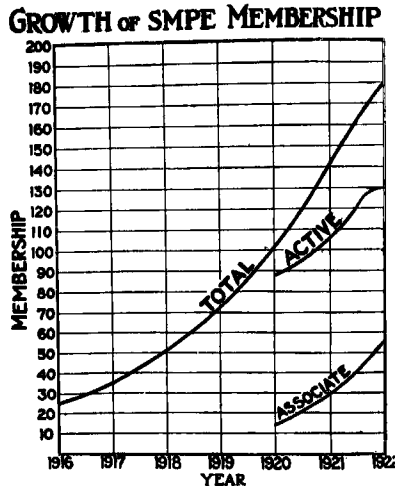
Fall Meeting

Society of Motion Picture Engineers

Rochester, N. Y., 1922

Ladies, Fellow Members of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, and Guests:

IT GIVES me great pleasure to welcome you to our annual fall convention. This is the 15th meeting of our Society, and we are fortunate to have it here in Rochester, where there is so much of interest and of absolute necessity to the success of the motion picture industry.



During the past six months a few members have dropped out of the Society, but a larger number of new ones have come in. This increase in membership, particularly during the summer months, indicates a continued healthy growth for our organization. In order that this may continue, I would urge each of our members to secure at least one new member between now and the Spring meeting. The larger our membership, the greater will be our service to the industry.

I recently made an analysis of the positions held by our membership. It was inspiring and surprising to me to find what a large

percentage of the Society membership is composed of men high up in their professions. I doubt very much if any other National engineering society can show as high ranking membership as ours. The analysis shows the positions held in the companies represented by our active membership to be as follows:

Presidents.....	17.9 per cent
Vice-Presidents.....	4.3 per cent
Secretaries & Treasurers.....	8.6 per cent
General Managers.....	3.4 per cent
Sales Managers.....	3.4 per cent
Directors.....	6.8 per cent
Superintendents.....	4.3 per cent
Owners.....	2.6 per cent
Technical Experts.....	6.8 per cent
Engineers.....	28.1 per cent
Projectionists.....	1.7 per cent
Miscellaneous.....	12.1 per cent
Total.....	100.0

Analysis of our Associate membership shows that the majority of those men also stand well up in their professions.

These data are not entirely complete, as no replies have been received from a few of our members whom it has not been my pleasure to know personally. Undoubtedly, those men would add to, rather than subtract from the percentage of high positions.

Membership in the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, either Active or Associate, is something of which one may well be proud. Each applicant's qualifications are studied very closely by the Board of Governors before the application is acted on. While we are anxious to have a large membership, it must be composed of men of merit.

A year ago you elected me to the Presidency of this remarkable and influential organization, thus extending to me an honor, and expressing a confidence which I keenly appreciate. It has been an inspiration to me during the past year, while trying to fulfill the duties of that high office to the best of my ability, and I hope in some measure, at least, to your satisfaction.

At the annual fall meeting it becomes necessary to elect new officers for the ensuing year. Whoever they may be, I wish them success, and assure them of the support and backing of the society as a whole, even as I have had it during the past year.

Your nominating committee has again honored me by proposing my name for reelection to another year's service in the Presidency. It seems to me there must be others better fitted for that office than I. I should be glad if you elect a new President, and I should hope to find some way to be of service to him, even as your Past-President, Herb. Camp, has helped me during the past year.

If, however, you see fit to reelect me, I shall do my utmost to carry on to the best advantage and advancement of the Society as a whole.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the present officers, the Board of Governors and the committee chairmen for

the hearty support and cooperation they have given me during the past year. We have not always agreed on all points. I have felt that the disagreements have been honest, and with the welfare of the Society as a whole at the base of the differences in point of view. This is as it should be.

I am looking forward to the time when we shall have grown sufficiently to support a paid Secretary in permanent offices; a man who can give his entire time to the Society's work. Perhaps then we can conduct research work along some of the much needed lines not now investigated by any of our individual members. Perhaps we can institute an educational course under the Society's auspices, and have a periodic journal. Surely we shall have sections in various parts of the country, holding their own meetings, but all getting together for one big general convention each year.

The present convention, like ones in the past, offers splendid opportunity to meet personally the various leaders in the different branches of our industry, and to gain valuable knowledge and inspiration from association with these experts,—the very best in the country.

Our committees are channels through which solutions of your knotty problems may be obtained.

Our Transactions present the latest and most authoritative data on the various branches of the motion picture industry.

I hope that each one of you will contribute something toward the success of the meetings, for only as we contribute can we assimilate and go away from Rochester wealthier in knowledge and in friendship.

I hope to become personally acquainted with every one in attendance, and I should appreciate it if those I do not now know, will make themselves known, not only to me but to everyone else here. It is my belief that at least half of the value of such a convention as this lies in personal contact with others working in the same industry; the remaining value lies largely in the papers, committee reports, and especially in the discussions.

We have a splendid program ahead of us, both of technical papers and recreation. Let us have full discussions, but in order to get as many viewpoints as possible, each speaker must be brief and to the point.

I thank you.

L. C. PORTER

October 5, 1922.