

PUBLIC SHOW MADE BRIGHT

Ak-Sar-Ben Great Pageant the Result of Applied Electricity.

DISPLAY UNIQUE AND UNEQUALLED

Gas Renee Creates an Epoch in the Use of Electric Lighting for Street Parade Purposes.

To the festival of Ak-Sar-Ben is entitled the credit for the first practical application of electricity for parade purposes and the ultimate establishment of its spectacular success.

The first electrical float ever devised was the invention of the wizard of Menlo Park, New Jersey, Thomas A. Edison, in New York City in the early '70s. That was before the day of the trolley. The illuminating current was obtained from a number of storage batteries and the machinery of the float was so cumbersome, unwieldy, heavy and costly that no attempt was ever made to duplicate it.

No further attempt was made, as far as any record is obtainable, of the use of electricity for float purposes until an enterprising Omaha department store, Bennett's, then located on Capitol avenue, conceived the idea of an electrical float for an industrial parade, using the trolley current as an illuminant.

The suggestion was thus given to Gus Renee and his electrician assistant, and it was availed of the following year and three electrical floats were equipped and used with signal success.

It was not until 1901 that any successful attempt was made to duplicate or imitate the Omaha electrical parade by other cities. This was first undertaken by the city of Milwaukee.

General Outline of Scheme. In the first attempt at electric lighting of the floats it was thought necessary to use the flanged wheel on the wagons to assure a complete current.

During the initiation season many very beautiful scenes and effects are produced by electricity, one of last year, the camp scene, being of exceeding beauty, showing the rising moon, with its tinting effect on the plain, and the scintillations of myriads of stars in the firmament.

Even in far off Manila they are following the pace set by Omaha in the electrical parade idea. Gus Renee has recently received a most little brochure from Captain George W. Castle of the Thirtieth United States Infantry, stationed at Manila, which illustrates a number of floats recently made there for an electrical parade.

Electricity Through Water Power

High, mountainous regions, which hitherto have had few productive resources, are destined through development of electric power to become sources of wealth, once beyond imagination nor even yet fully conceived.

Probably the greatest of all the sources of this new energy will be the mountains of Switzerland. The region of the Alps is surrounded on all sides by populous and powerful nations. The mountains of Switzerland send strong living streams to the Rhine, to the Rhoda, to the Po, to the Danube, to the Adige.

Application in Practice. The cost of wiring each wagon with its lamp equipment is from \$25 to \$300. The current supplied is of the ordinary 500-voltage used by the street railway company at all times in the operation of its cars.

Lighting at the Den. In the den there are 3,000 incandescent lights or lamps, a large number of which are used during the initiation season for specially striking effects, and all of them are used during the great ball, as are fifteen additional arc lights for illumination inside the den and half a dozen or more outside the den.

Serving the Current to a Parade. Naturally the use of such a quantity of electricity during a parade would exhaust the supply of electricity unless the current was renewed by the feed and reinforcement wires, which are located at frequent intervals along the street.

Maze of Wires at Den. The Den is a veritable network of wires and switches necessary in producing the illumination during the initiations and ball. Yet no serious accident has ever happened there to either a person or to the building from electrical causes.

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rent will be distributed south of Lake Como by a cable 100 miles in length. This is but a single undertaking. The great cities of Milan and Turin are supplied with current by streams which issue from the Alps, and the current will soon be carried to Genoa.

To the development of our northwestern and Rocky Mountain states the use of our mountain streams for electric power will contribute a factor of immense importance. Streams that issue from high mountains may be depended on, and their rapid descent gives easy and repeated use of the power they afford.

Table with 3 columns: City, Miles from water power, Horse power. Lists cities like Buffalo, Montreal, San Francisco, etc.

In addition there could be named half a dozen smaller cities and several hundred villages which secure their electricity from similar sources.

Electricity is not used alone in the illumination of the Den, but a number of electric motors are utilized there for the necessary power purposes and general work about the Den, the purpose being to eliminate every possible need for fire about the building and thus prevent any chance for the naturally inflammable materials going into the makeup of the floats or other Ak-Sar-Ben paraphernalia coming in contact with a spark of fire.

Street Illuminations. The street illuminations are usually suggested by the board of supervisors of the Ak-Sar-Ben, the purpose being to have the general design changed yearly, and to correspond in a measure with the electrical parade.

Problem of Guiding Waves in the Air perplexes the Electricians. The most interesting, though not the most important or most immediate problem connected with wireless telegraphy, is that of directing the messages. It is not a question of secrecy of message.

Mr. Marconi mentioned in his Royal Institute lecture that he had himself tried copper reflecting mirrors, but found that they would have been of little use. Further consideration of the problem, however, has induced him to try whether horizontal aerials arranged in a particular manner would confine the effects of electric waves to certain given directions.

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