

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.

The current is supplied by the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway company's lines and is furnished gratis to the Ak-Sar-Ben for the parades and den.

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.

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 90-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.

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.

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.

Among the larger American cities which receive a greater portion of their electricity from untransmitted water power are the following:

Table with 3 columns: City, Miles from water power, Horse power. Includes Buffalo, Montreal, San Francisco, Minneapolis, St. Paul, etc.

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.

Even in far off Manila they are following the pace set by Omaha in the electrical parade idea. Gus Renee has recently received a next little brochure from Captain George W. Castle of the Thirtieth United States Infantry, stationed at Manila.

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tric waves to certain given directions. Mr. Marconi has not found that the limitation is very sharply defined. Nevertheless he describes it as very useful.

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