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THE ADDRESS OF MR. SCHURIG.

Omaha Contractor Talked to Engineers on Contracting Problems.  
The Nebraska branch of the American Institute of electrical engineers met last evening. Professor MORSE introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Edward F. Shurig of Omaha, connected with the Standard Electric Co., as president and secretary.

Mr. Shurig spoke from manuscript and announced his subject as being "Contracting in General." He said he would bring out in his lecture the everyday work along the line of electrical contracting. He defined electrical engineering and he stated it as being the most prominent engineering branch before the public today in his estimation. He said in part:

"The electrical engineering business is divided into two parts, the consulting and the contracting business. The contracting end is divided into two parts the business and the engineering end. The biggest part of being a successful contractor is to have great strength in the business end. By all means avoid methods of sharp practice such as substitutions in specifications, bribing of officials and such. Honesty is the best policy to follow.

"A great number of the contracts are let on the percentage plan. Germany follows this plan in all of her contracts and a few are let in the United States on this plan, and it is coming into more general use every day.

"Most failures of contractors are due to a lack of business education. Estimating is nothing more than a problem of analysis. All residences and minor building plans are gotten out by architects who have paid no attention to the efficiency of the system but power plants are laid out by electrical engineers thus being efficient.

"In the process of bidding on jobs I follow the plan of laying over the blue print a tracing paper and tracing all conduits, outlets, etc., and then placing the quantity onto a quantity sheet and pricing this. The tracing I have then serves as a reference after landing the job. Each floor has a separate sheet and each type of work has also a separate sheet. To the actual cost is added the items of procuring business, that of retaining business and last of all the profit which lies with the contractor.

"The degree of success depends upon the organization and the equipment which are dependant on each other. Each day's work is kept on a system of daily labor reports and material used is also reported. At the completion of each job these are summed up and there you have a future reference of great value.

"In 1905 I figured on and landed the contract of installing the present lighting system of the city of Lincoln. The contract price was \$32,200 and extras brought it up to \$38,200. The plans were drawn by Professor Morse and Dean Richards of this school. Due to careful organization before commencing the work, upon turning the current through the lines for the first time it was found that no changes were necessary. The work was commenced March 1st and completed August 30th of the same year.

"The contractor of today has to do without the apprentice system which has been wiped out by labor organizations and such, making it much harder to be a success in this line now, on account of having to depend upon unskilled labor."

At the close Mr. Shurig showed tracings of all the wiring going to be done in the new fifteen-story City National Bank building of Omaha, for which his company has the contract. One very interesting feature of these was that the building's electric supply was independent of the office supply, because each tenant will have to pay for his own electric current.

Ernest Carroll Moore, late superintendent of schools in Los Angeles, Cal., has been elected as professor of education at Yale University. Professor Moore is a graduate of the University of Chicago, having taken his Ph.D. degree there in 1898. A coincidence exists in the fact that he succeeds Professor C. H. Judd, who resigned last year to become professor and head of the department of education and director of the school of education at the University of Chicago.

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