

# Progress in the Field of Electricity

**Dispersing Steam.**  
The Pennsylvania Railroad company has given the General Electric company a contract for electricity for one of its lines from Philadelphia to Atlantic City, involving an expenditure of \$2,000,000. This statement, made officially, puts to rest the rumors in circulation for some time past regarding plans proposed by the Pennsylvania railroad for this line.

As a railroad project it is in more ways than one unique, and is the first contract of its kind, so far as is known, that has ever been awarded. It means the discarding of the entire equipment of the line involved, or at least the transferring of the steam engines and the work of the line of the company. It differs from the contracts let heretofore for the equipment of steam lines with electricity in that such contracts are only for short parts of the main line, and in most cases the changes were impelled to facilitate the movement of trains in terminals.

About sixty miles of the line in all are to be converted to electricity. Included in the contract is the necessary power station equipment which calls for Curtis turbines. Cars are to be equipped with the Sprague-General Electric multiple-unit control, and are to be run just as are the trains in the subway and on the elevated. Work on the changes, it is officially stated, will be begun at once, and after they are completed trains will be run every fifteen minutes. A local service of this kind will also be maintained between Philadelphia and Millville, and Philadelphia and Woodbury.

**An Electric Year.**  
The year 1903 is evidently to be distinguished for electrified expansion that may be compared in the amount of capital involved and with the extent of the trackage with the railroad expansion which began in the early '90s and continued until the year Mr. Cleveland was first inaugurated as president. The steam railroads have capitulated to electricity in New York state, says the Philadelphia Press. What was at one time a suspicion is now a certainty, namely, that much of the passenger

traffic across New York state, even that represented by the parlor and sleeping cars, will be hauled by the electric current. There seems to be no reason why electricity should not serve economically and safely and satisfactorily from New York to Buffalo or from New York to Boston, if it is to serve satisfactorily from Croton or White Plains or Stamford, thirty miles from the Grand Central station, for the hauling of passenger trains from those points to this station. Then, too, the announcement that the Erie is to buy and to electrify long stretches of railroad, urban and suburban, perfecting that work during the next year, and that some of the longitudinal feeders of the Vanderbilt lines are to be electrified in central New York, illustrates how greatly the work of railroad electrification as well as the consolidation of various independent systems into single concentrated systems will be progressed during the year 1904.

**Improved Electric Lamps.**  
The new year will probably be distinguished in electrical history by the commercial exploitation of several types of improved lamps, which should give a strong impetus to the extension of electric lighting in competition with gas. In his inaugural address to the Manchester section of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, which took the form of a useful summary of recent progress, Mr. S. L. Pearce commenced with a recital of the various effects being made to cheapen electric light by the contrivance of more economical and efficient lamps. Engineers whose attention is more particularly directed to power and traction work may consider the improvement of lighting apparatus a question of minor importance, but the prosperous future of the vast majority of central stations in the United Kingdom must be dependent on the laboratory stage of which we have only vague reports from the continent—there should be at least one or two survivor able to exercise a beneficial influence on lighting business. For main street illumination such deficiencies as are admitted to exist in arc lamps do not appear to be beyond the power of the inventor to remove. One of the most obvious improvements called for is the introduction of a trustworthy magazine arc lamp. Those in control of three-phase power supply systems working with

**Speed of Telegraph System.**  
M. Luginbaehl gives the following table on the speed of various telegraph systems:

Words Per Hour	Operators at the Per Two Ends Operator	Per Hour
Morse	200	250
Sounder	1,000	300
Quadruplex	2,000	500
Quadruplex	4,000	700
Hughes	1,400	750
Hughes duplex	2,500	750
Beaudot triple	4,320	750
Beaudot double	4,300	4
Wheatstone automatic quadruplex	12,000	15
Murray simplex	1,400	4
Murray duplex	2,700	6
Rowland simplex	13,440	12
Merceder	12,000	24
Merceder posts	24,000	48
Merceder simplex	24,000	48
Polak & Virag	1,500	15
Siemens	1,500	15

Two wires. (More than 1,000.)  
The data for the first six systems are based on observations of the author; the last five are taken from statements in engineering journals.

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# Gossip and Stories About Noted Men

**Norway's New King.**  
NORWAY'S new king was once an apprentice in the Danish navy. In the mess to which he belonged he was called by his first name—that is, Karl in Danish—and he had to eat the same "grub" and stand the same hardships as all the other apprentices. Although everybody knew him to be a prince of the realm, no deference whatever was paid him as such. On the contrary, he was "bazed" and made miserable in good old midshipman style. He took his medicine bravely enough. On board ship he had to mend his own clothes, darn his socks, sew on buttons and keep his weapons and accoutrements in order. He slept in a regulation sailor's hammock, with his clothes rolled up under his head for a pillow, without a nightshirt and wearing only a sailor's woolen striped undershirt and bundled up in a woolen blanket, sometimes with his sea boots dangling by the hammock rope. He used to make the big brass hunka flash like silver mail. He could never quite get used to chewing tobacco, which in the eyes of every true apprentice is one of the cardinal virtues, and whenever he was seasick, which often happened, he used to sit in the gangway on a bucket and chew rye bread.

When I asked him a question in his native tongue, I inquired why it was that he did not use his native language. He shrugged his shoulders and answered that, although his father and mother spoke nothing else than Gaelic, he did not propose to do it. When he said that," continued Dr. Hyde, "I declare to you that I lost my temper and I struck the fellow a blow that sent him staggering. And do you know that the spalpeen did not have the courage to knock me down for striking him?"

**A Call-down.**  
The late Prince Herbert Bismarck had the reputation of having a decidedly brusque manner in society. Once at a royal reception he bumped roughly against an Italian prelate, who looked at him indignantly. "You evidently don't know who I am," said the prince haughtily. "I am Herbert Bismarck." "Oh," answered the prelate, "if that doesn't amount to an apology it is certainly a perfect explanation."

**Harriman at Work.**  
E. W. Harriman, the great railroad operator, is a small man, very slightly built, narrow-chested, delicate in appearance. At his desk he is a regular whirlwind

for energy. He goes through his correspondence and through the hundred reports that reach him at a pace that is not rivaled in any office on Wall street—the region of speed. His stenographers must keep the pace. He has a small army of them and, report says, they work in relays. He can keep them all busy. He is one of the most rapid thinkers in the street and his action is as quick as his thought.

**Gould and the Bookkeeper.**  
A confidential clerk in George Gould's office the other day broke his reserve under an impulse to part with this story: A man with a silk hat and oily smile tried to get a personal interview with the millionaire. "You can't see Mr. Gould," said the clerk. "I would advise you to write a letter and ask for an appointment. That is the best you can do." This letter was duly received: "My Dear Mr. Gould—Please meet me at the corner of Broadway and Forty-second street. I have a very fine de luxe Shakespeare; would sell you on instalments."

**Roosevelt on the Range.**  
A characteristic story of President Roosevelt was thus told not long ago by an old ranchman who was with him in

Wyoming: "He was Teddy to us all and he carried water and helped around generally, though he was boss of the ranch. One day the foreman came in and said: 'I'm going out on the range, Teddy, and will divide all the mavericks I find. I'll brand half for you, half for me.' 'No you won't,' said Roosevelt, 'and you'll take your discharge at the end of the week. A man that would steal for me would steal from me.'"

**A Hard Struggle.**  
"Men who wear glasses are not attractive to women," said the comedian, Joseph Coyne, to the Washington Post. "Pat meo, rarely please womankind. The former fact was forcibly brought home to me on a railway journey recently. The drawing room of the car I was riding in was occupied by a bride and groom—she was very pretty, he ugly and weak eyed, but a millionaire. 'From where I sat it was impossible to overhear a good deal that went on in the drawing room. This is one of the things I overheard: 'Oh, George, why do you make faces at me like that?' 'I can't help it, darling. My glasses are falling off and I don't want to let go of your hands.'"

**Senatorial Topers.**  
William Sulzer, congressman who has just been presented with some thirty quarts of rare old liquor, has never taken more than half a dozen drinks in his life. Mr. Sulzer is wont to recall a celebration while he was speaker of the New York state assembly. Senator Edmunds of Vermont on that occasion was a principal speaker and before he began his remarks he had caused the disappearance of nearly a quart of fine old brandy. Later in the day Mr. Edmunds did away with about the same amount of old rye. The distinguished Vermont is about the last of the old guard led by Thurman of Ohio, to the members of which a quart of liquor was just enough for fluid at one meal.

**Loss of National Traits.**  
Dr. Douglas Hyde, president of the Irish Gaelic league, strongly believes that a loss of national characteristics tends to make a man cowardly. "I was at a fair in Ireland once," he said recently, "and a young man answered me in English

## Silas A. Holcomb Most Successful Populist

(Continued from First Page.)  
the new party nationally. In 1892 came the Omaha convention with its platform, which has provoked more discussion than any political platform adopted by any party since the civil war. More people, I warrant, have obtained a primary education in national politics as a result of the promulgation of this document than from any other great event that has happened in the last quarter of a century.

**Principles of Populist Party.**  
"It was opposed to the financial system then prevailing. It was opposed to national banks as banks of issue. It held to the doctrine that all money should be issued by the government, whether coin or paper, and be made full legal tender, and that the creditor be deprived of the right to discriminate against any form of money issued by the government. The coinage of both gold and silver at a fixed ratio on equal terms was advocated. It believed the public domain should be held and disposed of to actual settlers; that alien ownership should be prohibited and that forfeited railroad land grants should be reclaimed for the benefit of the people seeking homes. It preached the doctrine of laws for the regulation of the great transportation lines in order to insure equality and prevent discrimination and extortion. It believed in ultimate government ownership as the most practicable and best means of permanently overcoming the evils the people were contending against. But if regulation will accomplish the same purpose, well and good, I dare say will be the expression of all advocates of government ownership. Municipal ownership of public utilities has always been attractive to populists and is in harmony with their political creed. The election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people and many other reforms calculated to bring the government nearer the people were advocated, which need not here be enumerated.

"Wherever the party has been given power reforms have been inaugurated from which benefits of a tangible kind have resulted. Speaking of this state only, economy in the management of state and county affairs has been uniformly exercised, public expenditures reduced and extravagance eliminated. A practical business administration honestly conducted has been the rule. In the way of legislation who can question the wisdom and justice of the Australian ballot law, the maximum freight rate law, the courts' treasurer examination law, the depository law, the eight-hour law, anti-trust laws, anti-compact insurance law, the law preventing corporations from contributing to political campaigns, mutual insurance laws? I cannot remember half of them. There are many which are in substance real and genuine as reform legislation calculated to benefit all and to injure none. It is, of course, true that those in whom a trust has been confided by an election to office have not in all instances measured up to the party's ideals or fully met the expectations of its membership. This is always the case. But the party has made substantial progress in the direction of better laws and the better administration of public affairs. Its chosen representatives have made an honest effort to improve on then existing conditions; and

## Dyspeptic Philosophy

Moral support won't feed a family. Vanity never goes hungry. It feeds itself. When a fellow's dead in love it's his own funeral. Just as soon as we discover that ignorance is bliss, it isn't. The fellow who wins in a walk must be the only entry. The fellow with money to burn may live to rake the ashes. As a rule, a divorced woman acts as though she had been born that way. There is no contempt like that existing between two of those fellows who know it all. Lots of people would be glad to get rid of their experience for less than they paid for it. Good intentions should be covered with asbestos. You know what's paved with them. It may be true that all men are fools, but they are not reminded of it so often if they remain single. Eve was the only woman who had positive proof that she was the only woman her husband ever loved. The trouble with the people who stand up for their rights is that they always want to sit on everybody else.—New York Times.

**Called Him Down**  
Two newboys were standing on a sixteenth street corner, Denver, when a boy who used to sell papers came up. "What are the newboys of the newcomer?" asked one of the newboys of the newcomer. "Got a job in a railroad office," replied the other. "I am makin' three times as much as I did sellin' papers." Then he started away. "So long, fellers! I gotta vamoose," he said. "Vamoose" repeated one of the newboys. "What's that?" "Aw, git wise. It means 'go.' I gotta go—see?" came from the ex-newboy. "Well, why don't you say 'go' then?" said one of the two. "Jis because you got a 6-dollar job you needn't to come no millionaire Captiol hill talk on us."—Denver Post.

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