GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

GENERAL OFFICE
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

100 Woodlawn Ave.
PITTSFIELD, MASS.

JULY 9, 1934.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I was very much interested in reading your story of Owen D. Young. Being an engineer in the employ of the General Electric Company, I am naturally proud that the Chairman of the Board of our Company should be such a great man. Attached herewith is a copy of our Works Paper, in which I wrote a review of your book.

I believe that you have done a good service to the country in letting the people know through this book, the type of man Mr. Young is.

Very sincerely,

F. H. Kierstead

FHK:CT

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

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THE GENERAL ELECTRIC NEWS

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KIERSTEAD REVIEWS BIOGRAPHY OF YOUNG

Engineer Finds Wealth Of Interesting Facts—His Re-action To Volume

F. H. Kierstead of the Power Transformer Engineering department, this week contributes an appreciation of Ida M. Tarbell's life of Owen D. Young. Although Miss Tarbell's work was published a year ago it is reasonable to assume that many persons have not yet read it. Mr. Kierstead's review is as follows:

"While browsing around in the Athenaeum I ran across Ida Tarbell's story of Owen D. Young. I picked it up from an impulse of curiosity. What manner of man is the Chairman of our Board of Directors? I had not read any of Miss Tarbell's books since reading, during my college days, her very interesting life of Lincoln.

"Miss Tarbell in a charming style tells of the progress of the country youth in school and college, his early legal career and contacts with Charles A. Coffin. A chapter is devoted to his enlightened, liberal labor policy. Then you are taken abroad with him during his work on the Dawes Plan and the Making of the Young Plan and you learn of his great ability as a conciliator of the differences between men and nations.

"In another chapter you hear this great industrial leader saying, 'The old notion that the heads of business are the paid attorneys of stockholders, to exploit labor and the public in the stockholders' interest, is gone—I hope forever.'

"Next we find him in the role of a profound educator addressing the graduating class of St. Lawrence University asking them to examine themselves with the following questions,

Continued on Page Two

READERS URGED TO SEND NEWS ITEMS FOR DEPT. PAGE

Success of the departmental news depends largely upon the items contributed by employees in the various sections. The correspondents are located so that it should be easy for any one to contribute news. Your active aid is solicited. Help keep your department on the map by your news.

FOREMEN'S GAME ON 10th BEATS CIRCUS

McConnell Urges All Fathers To Do Duty By the Children And Then Play Ball

The Foremen's club annual baseball game originally scheduled to be held last week and which was postponed until July 11 has been moved up to be held on July 10 because of other pressing engagements, notably a circus in town on July 11. As "Doug" McConnell, chairman of the committee on arrangement said, "We cannot allow the fathers of our children to have a baseball game on circus day. It wouldn't be fair to the youngsters. All fathers are expected to take their children to the circus."

The original program with some embellishments will be carried out according to Mr. McConnell. The food will be prepared and served by "Bert" Hall once of the old porcelain department and now of Plastics.

FUSE LINKS WERE WOODPECKER FOOD

Engineers Solve Difficulty By Using Copper Where Link Is Above Opening

We've heard of woodpeckers picking at railroad rails in winter, just so the sparks would keep their toes warm; but now there is one better. It seems that a power company in a South Carolina city found that many fuses were opening on their circuits without good reason. One of the engineers when inspecting installations on the distribution system happened to see a bird pecking at the soft fuse wire which was at that time being used in the cutout opening. Investigation revealed that other fuses in cutouts had been opening for the same reason.

A solution to the unusual problem thus brought about was the use of new fuse links having copper in that portion of the link which is above the opening in the cutout. This was so much harder for the birds to peck through that the opening of fuses from that source has been eliminated.

NATIONAL GUARDS OFF TO FT. DEVENS

Two Weeks Encampment Starts Tomorrow—Works Employees In The Ranks

Fourteen employees of the Works will entrain tomorrow morning with Pittsfield's national guard companies bound for Fort Devens for the annual two weeks training period. For the next fortnight life for them will consist of a round of drills and marching coupled with hearty meals and plenty of open air exercise. On July 23 they will be back in the Works again ready for anything.

The guardsmen are John Higgins, Amos Butterfield, Anthony Angelo and George La Fleur all of Plastics; Sidney McCann of DT-4; R. W. Williams, S-19; Peter McCaffrey, T-7; Nelson Gilbert, Herbert and Richard Harrison of Drafting; Clarence Wheeler TG; Anthony La Chovey, LA; Thomas Hanford, CR and S. A. McNeil, TK.

SPIES OF LIGHTNING TELL AMPERAGE TALE

Metal Cartridges Thus Far Find 60,000 Amperes As They Record Flashes

How many amperes are there in a bolt of lightning? Well, there are too many for comfort, and most of us are willing to let the matter rest there. But G. E. engineers were very anxious to know, in the interest of protection of electric transmission lines and equipment against damage by lightning, So, last summer, they sent out more than 2000 little "spies"—metal cartridges about an inch long. These were placed on the legs of transmission-line towers in Pennsylvania and Virginia, a territory that is one of lightning's favorite hangouts. When the surge from a lightning bolt passes through a tower, the little "spy" is magnetized in proportion to the highest current in the bolt. Linemen bring the magnetized spies back to headquarters and place them in a "surgecrest ammeter." Scores of the little "spies" have reported already, and their stories are really shocking. The highest reading, so far, has been 60,000 amperes.

SAMPLE CASES FOR TRANSFORMER PARTS

Specialists In Field Can Now Show Customers How Transformers Are Put Together

Transformer specialists handling products of the Pittsfield Works out among the customers, will soon be carrying the new sample case showing features of construction of distribution transformers in sizes of 500 kv-a and less. Hitherto, specialists have been confined to literature and a few scattered samples of materials in their duty of telling customers that GE transformers are the best in the world. With the new case they will be able to show every detail of construction and demonstrate the materials used to the best advantage.

The case is attractively made and resembles a piece of high grade luggage. It is lined with green felt with special recesses for the parts and samples carried. There is also a felt pad for laying out samples on a customers' desk without marring it. Samples and parts carried number 17. They include silicon steel laminations, typical conductors, several forms of sheet insulation, Herkolite, coil sections, porcelain corner terminal board, sample of flash weld, tank section, welded elbow and tube, tank finishes low voltage clamp type lead and bushing assembly, high voltage pocket bushing and lead, leads and terminals cork gaskets, oil sampling device and ratio adjusters.

In addition the case carries a series of illustration and descriptions of other parts and devices.

ALL FOREMEN ARE NOW SUPPLIED WITH SUGGESTION BLANKS

To make it easier for folks to use the Suggestion System, all foremen in the Works have been provided with a supply of Suggestion blanks according to Malcolm Chesney, chairman of the committee. In addition a supply has been placed with Officer F. E. Fenwick in the Reception Room in Building 42.