

Paul Martyn Lincoln

January 1, 1870 — December 20, 1944

Paul Martyn Lincoln, Professor Emeritus and former Director of the School of Electrical Engineering, died on December 20, 1944. He was born in Norwood, Michigan on January 1, 1870, and was educated at Western Reserve and at Ohio State Universities, from the latter of which he received the degree of M. E. in E. E. in 1892. Immediately after graduation he joined the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company at East Pittsburgh, Pa., and entered upon his chosen life work of Electrical Engineering.

In 1895 Professor Lincoln was selected for the position of Electrical Superintendent in Charge of Water Power Development with the Niagara Falls Power Company at Niagara Falls, N. Y. Hydroelectric development was then in its infancy, and the amount of power generated, transmitted and distributed by this first plant was so far in excess of anything accomplished up to that date as to be unique; there were many problems and the success of the venture was due in no small degree to the initiative and judgment of Professor Lincoln. The first transmission line was constructed under his supervision and was used to transmit power from Niagara Falls to Buffalo. Also while with this company he developed the synchroscope, an instrument universally used since that time by all power companies.

In 1902 Professor Lincoln returned to the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, and for some years was in charge of the Power Division of the Engineering Department. In 1910 he was appointed General Engineer for the company and he held that position until 1919. From 1911 to 1915 he was also a staff member in the Electrical Engineering Department of the University of Pittsburgh. In 1919 he resigned his position with the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company and joined the Lincoln Electric Company of Cleveland as a Consulting Engineer. In 1922 he was called to Cornell University as Director of Electrical Engineering and served in that capacity until 1938 when he was appointed Professor Emeritus.

Professor Lincoln organized the Lincoln Meter Company, Ltd., of Toronto, Canada and the Lincoln Meter Company, Inc., of Springfield, Ill., to develop commercially his demand meter patents. This work was highly successful, particularly in Canada where his type of demand meter became the standard. In 1938 he organized the Therm Electric Meter Company in Ithaca, N. Y., to develop commercially a new form of thermal demand meter.

Professor Lincoln was a member of several scientific and engineering societies and of the Board of Management of the Worlds Congress of Engineers (1923-25). In 1902 he received the John Scott Medal Award from the City of

Philadelphia, upon the recommendation of the Franklin Institute, for his invention of the Synchroscope. In 1933 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Engineering from Ohio State University.

Professor Lincoln was always very active in the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. He served successively as Manager, as Vice President and as President in 1914-15. He was active on many of the Institute committees, particularly those pertaining to power stations, protective devices, transmission and distribution of electricity. He was also a member of the Edison and Lamme Medal Committees and the Board of Award of the John Fritz Medal.

By his high standards of professional and personal ethics, Professor Lincoln won the respect of students and faculty alike, yet he was close to the hearts of all who knew him in warm human understanding, friendship, and loyalty. He will long be remembered for his indomitable courage, his steadfastness in pursuit of truth and his sincerity of purpose throughout all the pursuits of his life.

Paul Lincoln gave unstintingly of his energy whether at work or play. He was ever concerned with the welfare of humanity, and brought himself to the task of discipline only when no alternative might be found. He was most sensitive to the suffering of people in war and in peace, and was all in all a man in the highest and broadest sense of the word. Cornell and the engineering profession will long remember the influence of his full devotion to their welfare and progress.