

CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL D'ÉLECTRICITÉ DE 1932

ORGANISÉ PAR

LA SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DES ÉLECTRICIENS

LA SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DE PHYSIQUE

LE COMITÉ ÉLECTROTECHNIQUE FRANÇAIS

L'UNION DES SYNDICATS DE L'ÉLECTRICITÉ

SOUS LES AUSPICES DE

LA COMMISSION ÉLECTROTECHNIQUE INTERNATIONALE

134 B^d Haussmann

Paris VIII^e

INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONGRESS PARIS 1932

Sir,

As you are aware, the year 1931 is conspicuous as being the 50th anniversary of the first International Electricity Congress which took place in Paris in 1881. It was at this Congress that the principal decisions were taken regarding electrical units, which decisions had such a great and favourable influence on the subsequent development of the modern electrical industry.

There is in fact no doubt that progress in this industry would have been impeded for several years if electricians had continued to employ entirely empiric units which little by little had then penetrated into the laboratories and workshops, and which the Congress replaced by the perfectly coherent and logical system employed since by electricians in the entire world : this Congress was attended by the most eminent scientists of all countries, amongst which I will mention du Bois-Reymond, Clausius, Förster, Helmholtz, Hittorf, Kirchhof, Werner Siemens, Wiedemann, for Germany ; Mach, for Austria ; Eric Gérard, Gramme, Rousseau, Van Rysselbergh, for Belgium ; G. F. Barker, Rowland, for the United States ; Berthelot, Wurtz, Paul Bert, Becquerel, Bréguet, Cornu, Désains, J. B. Dumas, Fizeau, Jamin, Marey, Abria, d'Arsonval, Bertin, Bouty, Crova, Marcel Deprez, Hipp. Fontaine, Hospitalier, Joubert, Maurice Lévy, Lippmann, Mascart, Mercadier, Pellat, Gaston Planté, Potier, Sébert, Teisserenc de Bort, Violle, Wolf, for France ; Ayrton, Latimer Clark, Crompton, Crookes, Warren de la Rue, Dewar, Everett, Fitz-Gerald, Carey Foster, Gladstone, Gordon, Hopkinson, Hughes, Fleeming-Jenkin, Preece, Lord Rayleigh, C. W. Siemens, W. Spottiswood, Sir William Thomson (Lord Kelvin), Tyndall, C. Varley, for England ; Eötvös, for Hungary ; Galileo-Ferraris, Govi, Rossetti, for Italy ; Broch, for Norway ; Bosscha, for Holland ; Avenarius, Egoroff, Lenz, Stoletow, for Russia ; Nyström, Thalèn, for Sweden ; Hagenbach, F. Weber, for Switzerland. Thanks to this very exceptional assembly, the Congress of 1881 was able to accomplish a lasting piece of work of which we still feel today the beneficial effects.

But, since that period, electrical Science and Industry have made unheard of progress : fresh notions and new results, which could hardly have been suspected in 1881, have made their appearance. It appeared to us that the opportune moment had arrived to sum up the work of half a century, to make a synthesis of it, and submit it to a general survey which, as in 1881, will perhaps enable us to deduce general rules which will be useful for the future : the Comité Electrotechnique français, la Société française des Electriciens, la Société française de Physique, l'Union des Syndicats de l'Electricité have consequently decided to organise in Paris, under the auspices and with the approval of the Commission Electrotechnique Internationale, an International Electrical Congress which, according to our idea, is calculated to resume the