
HENRY MARISON BYLLESBY.

Henry Marison Byllesby, president of the firm of H. M. Byllesby & Company, is probably one of the best known electrical engineers of the day. Becoming associated with Thomas A. Edison at the beginning of his career Mr. Byllesby has for over a quarter of a century played a prominent part in the development of electric lighting and power systems, both as an inventor and a promoter, and has been identified with many of the large hydro-electric enterprises throughout the country.

His birth occurred in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, February 16, 1859, his parents being the Rev. DeWitt Clinton and Sarah (Matthews) Byllesby. The family is of English lineage. Laughlin Byllesby, the grandfather, came from Lincolnshire at an early day and settled at Eaton, Pennsylvania. The Rev. DeWitt C. Byllesby, a native of the Keystone state, devoted his life to the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal church in Pennsylvania and had two brothers, Marison and Faver, who were also prominent clergymen of that faith. He married Sarah Matthews, a daughter of Simeon Matthews, of Orange, New Jersey, who belonged to one of the earliest families of that place. Three children were born unto the Rev. Byllesby and his wife: Henry M., of this review; Mary L., living in Chicago, Illinois; and Mrs. James S. Cummins, of Chicago. The mother died in 1876 and the father passed away in 1891, having reached the age of sixty-five years.

Henry M. Byllesby acquired his education in private circles, finishing with a course in mechanical engineering in the Lehigh University of South Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Upon leaving school he became an apprentice of the Corliss Engine Works of Robert Wetherill & Company of Chester, Pennsylvania, and in 1881 entered the employ of Thomas A. Edison as draftsman of the Edison Electric Light Company. After about a year in that department he was promoted to the engineering department where he continued until November, 1885, and in that connection was identified with the early work of the concern. He made all of



HENRY M. BYLLESBY

the drawings and many of the designs for the first central station of the Edison Electric Light Company in New York city and during the last two years had entire charge of the company's operations in Canada. In 1885 he and others organized and incorporated the Westinghouse Electric Company of which he was the first vice president and general manager for the first five years of its existence. He was also one of the organizers and managing directors of the Westinghouse Electric Company of London, England, until 1890. Since that time he has been continuously connected with the development of electric lighting, electric street railway, electric water power and gas companies and has been identified with the promotion and upbuilding of a vast number of enterprises in various parts of the country. He is largely responsible for the development of the alternating current system of electric lighting and has taken out over forty patents on various distribution systems and electrical apparatus.

Mr. Bylesby has occupied the office of first vice president of the Electric Vehicle Company of New York city; vice president of the Washington Traction & Electric Company of Washington, D. C.; and vice president of the Portland General Electric Company of Portland, Oregon. The last named company he organized and was largely instrumental in financing and constructing its plant, its water power development being one of the first large enterprises of the kind in the country. He was likewise president of the Northwest General Electric Company. In January, 1901, he organized the firm of H. M. Bylesby & Company, Inc., of Chicago, consulting, designing and construction engineers, later adding to the business a general banking department. He has since devoted his attention principally to the management of the affairs of this concern, which has become one of the largest of its kind in the world. At the present-day he holds the following important offices: president of H. M. Bylesby & Company, Inc., of Chicago; president or vice president of the San Diego Consolidated Gas & Electric Company, of San Diego, California; Northern Idaho & Montana Power Company; Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Appalachian Power Company operating in Virginia and West Virginia; Mobile Electric Company of Mobile, Alabama; Fort Smith Light & Traction Company of Fort Smith, Arkansas; Tacoma Gas Company of Tacoma, Washington; Pueblo and Suburban Light & Traction Company of Pueblo, Colorado; Everett Gas Company of Everett, Washington; Muskogee Gas & Electric Company of Muskogee, Oklahoma; Southwestern General Gas Company of Fort Smith, Arkansas; Standard Gas & Electric Company; Interstate Power Company, operating in northern Illinois and in southern Wisconsin; Northern States Power Company of St. Paul, Minnesota; Western States Gas & Electric Company of California; Ottumwa Railway & Light Company of Ottumwa, Iowa; Enid Electric & Gas Company of Enid, Oklahoma; and the Utilities Investment Company of Delaware. He is a director in all the foregoing corporations; also the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound Railway; the Public Securities Company of Chicago; the Public Utilities Company of Boston, Massachusetts; and the United Utilities Company of London, England. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and is one of the executive committee of the National Electric Light Association.

Mr. Bylesby was married, in 1882, to Miss Margaret Stearns Baldwin, a daughter of the late H. P. Baldwin, of the New Jersey Central Railroad, and they

reside at No. 4358 Drexel boulevard. His social affiliations are with the Union League, Chicago, Mid-Day, South Shore Country and Glen View Clubs of Chicago; the Minnesota Club, of St. Paul; the Arlington Club, of Portland, Oregon; and the Lawyers, Railroad and Metropolitan Clubs of New York city. He is also a member of the Chicago Art Institute and is president of the Chicago Civic Federation. These alone indicate something of the breadth of his interests and activities and yet a man of more limited powers and activities would feel that his time was fully occupied with the extensive and important business affairs which claim the attention of Mr. Byllesby and which have prospered and progressed through the stimulus of his activity and his capable direction resulting from his keen insight into every situation and his power of coordinating forces into a harmonious and unified whole. The initiative spirit is strong within him and it has been one of the delights of his life to advance into new fields and bring to successful solution the problems therein found.