

OFFICE OF
CHARLES F. BRUSH,
481 THE ARCADE,
CLEVELAND, O.

December
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1926

My Dear Mr. Hammond:

I am delighted to hear that you are writing a history of General Electric Company, and have no doubt that you will treat your subject exhaustively and in a most attractive and readable style. It will be a history which cannot fail to be of the greatest interest, not only to electrical engineers, but to all who have witnessed the wonderful growth in the applications of electricity to everyday life during the last fifty years; and it is very gratifying to reflect that I had the honor to hold a place among the earliest pioneers in the great work.

From early boyhood I was an omnivorous reader of scientific literature. Such parts of astronomy, chemistry and physics as I could understand were a never-ending source of delight. I also constructed much crude apparatus—telescopes, microscopes and photographic appliances. In my early high school days I made, among other things, many pieces of electrical apparatus—static machines, Leyden jars, batteries, electro-magnets, induction coils and small motors. But not until 1865 was I able to produce a real arc light, a very small one indeed; but it was the first I had ever seen and filled me with joy unspeakable. I had to make the necessary Grove batteries for the purpose, using lumps of gas-carbon instead of the customary strips of platinum which I could not afford to buy. In the early seventies I constructed a first-rate induction coil of unique design giving very fat four inch sparks. It had only six miles of bare secondary wire so wound that contiguous turns could not contact.

This is the fiftieth anniversary year of my entrance into the field of electrical invention and industry, a very restricted field at that time. In 1876 I happened to sow a fertile seed, soon followed by many others, which fell on good soil and germinated. And with my business associates I fortunately had sufficient vision of success to tend and nurse the feeble plants to vigorous growth. Undoubtedly the rapid and phenomenal success of The Brush Electric Company greatly stimulated the large

number of able inventors and business men who quickly entered the field and have continued its development and built up the great present day structure.

Of course, during those early years I did not, indeed could not, foresee the vast growth of electrical engineering which has taken place. The most optimistic indulgence in prophecy would have been quite inadequate; and no intimation of a limit to the growth is yet in sight.

Very truly yours,

Charles F. Brush

Mr. J. W. Hammond,
General Electric Company,
1 River Road,
Schenectady, N. Y.