

Where the going is

POWER

PHILIP W. SWAIN, EDITOR • NOVEMBER • 1948 • ESTABLISHED IN 1882

Go See For Yourself

IF ANY ENGINEERING EDITOR needed to be reminded of the need to travel his publisher would soon supply the necessary urge. The old-timers in this office will never forget the wise sayings of the late James H. McGraw, Sr. "I want editors to make expense accounts"—also, "A good editor wears out his shoes faster than the seat of his pants."

Now naturally Mr McGraw didn't try to keep track of what each editor was doing on field trips. He merely lived by his conviction that no industrial or engineering magazine can do a real job for its readers unless the editors keep inside of what's going on. He knew that can't be done just by letters, useful as they are. Like "Kilroy," you have to be there in person.

To a lesser degree this same thinking applies to power engineers. Every few weeks the ambitious engineer should drop in on some nearby plant. And once or twice a year he ought to roam far afield—say, to some major power show or engineering meeting, and take in a few plant-inspection trips on the side.

Smart top management will see the need for this, allow the time, and maybe help finance the trips as a sound investment.

All this is brought to mind by a letter from A T Appleton of the Hydro Electric System of

the City of Winnipeg, Canada. Years ago Mr Appleton visited a large steam power plant burning pulverized coal. The eight mills were lined up in a long dingy row. Two attendants walked back and forth along the aisle behind the mills. To save steps, one of the men hooked a little flag to the shaft of each star feed. When a flag stopped waving he hopped.

Now Mr Appleton had just installed one of the largest pulverized-fuel plants in the West. He adopted the flag idea with improvements—hooked centrifugal switches to his own star feeds, wiring them up to the no-voltage releases of the main starting oil switches. Later he extended the idea to provide safety interlocks for the entire coal-preparation system.

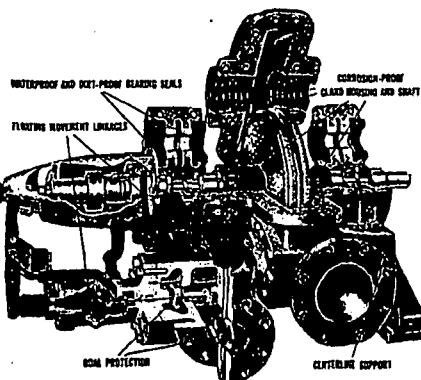
Appleton says that this simple idea, picked up on one trip, has saved the full time of one man—in all, many thousands of dollars over a period of years. The least costly experience is what you borrow from the other fellow.

This line of thought brings us right to the doorsteps of Grand Central Palace, New York, where the National Exhibition of Power and Mechanical Engineering will open on November 29. You must wait 24 months for another equally good chance to see what's new in power-service equipment. Why not pack your bags and head for New York and new ideas?

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