

ing and filtering plant supplied the clear water. Where we had seen a marsh an electric light plant was now turning night into day. The wires overhead told of telegraph and telephone systems. The roads would put State street to shame. It all seemed to be a magic world where things grow in a night.

I have told you of what I saw accomplished that reflects credit on all connected therewith. Of these things you have heard little, of the unaccomplished things and mistakes you have heard much—the truth multiplied, perhaps by ten. To me it was an enormous undertaking, proposed and completed almost in a breath, reflecting much credit on the glorious old stars and stripes. Long shall they wave!

A few items about the electric light plant, with which I was connected most of the time, may prove of interest. The plant consisted of a sixty horse Westinghouse engine and dynamo and boiler. The dynamo was an arc machine, furnishing a two phase undulating current, and was so wound as to adjust its voltage for changes of load by armature reaction alone. The engine was a Westinghouse Standard of the usual type, and the boiler was captured from a locomotive somewhere. We ran fifty lights, distributed over seven miles of wire. The plant was practically automatic and required a minimum of attention. There were no breakdowns or burn-outs, so A. I. T. came out with colors flying.

Some things occurred that would seem to prove that a Freshman isn't the greenest thing on earth. One day the Chief Signal Officer of the United States came to Montauk. During his stay he came down to see the plant in operation. He looked it all over, but was most interested in the commutator end of the dynamo. At last, pointing to the brushes, which gave a slight spark, he asked: "Why do you have those *friction brakes* there?"

During a talk the Westinghouse man who supervised the erection of the plant happened to mention the fact that an engine similar to this one had been run continuously for thirteen months and eight days without a shutdown. I must have told a Signal Corps captain of it, for a week later, while he was showing a party of ladies through the plant, he halted them by the engine and pointing to it with a magnificent wave of his hand, enlightened them thusly: "This engine will run thirteen months and eight days without running down." I leave you to imagine the "Ohs!" and "Ahs!" and words of wonder that came from his fair audience.

GEO. H. PATTEN,  
*Second Volunteer Engineers.*

