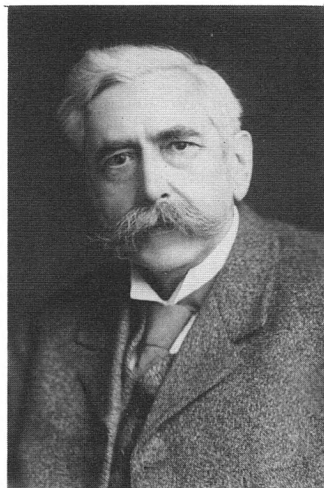


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Gisbert Kapp ca 1920 (courtesy of Professor D G Tucker).

KAPP, Gisbert

(1852-1922)

Consulting electrical engineer

Gisbert Kapp (no evidence has been found that he had the middle names of John Edward, despite numerous attributions of these names after his death) was born at Mauer near Vienna on 2 September 1852; his father was a senior civil servant and his mother a professional singer who later attained international repute. He was educated at schools in Vienna and Prague and gained an engineering diploma at the Federal Polytechnic in Zurich in 1871. He acquired varied experience as a mechanical engineer for the next ten years and travelled widely. He took up electrical engineering in 1881 and achieved outstanding success in this field, being president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, 1909-10.

In 1881 electrical power engineering was in its infancy; ideas of public supply from central generating stations were just beginning to emerge, and electrical generators were still being designed on an empirical basis. R E B Crompton (qv) had set up his important electrical manufacturing firm at Chelmsford and in 1882 appointed Kapp as manager. Kapp immediately began to apply quantitative design processes to all aspects of electricity supply systems and Crompton's business flourished. However, Kapp left Crompton in 1884 to set up as a consulting electrical engineer and retained his practice for the rest of his career. He supervised the electrical department of W H Allen & Co during 1884-1890, undertaking the design of dynamos himself; one of his design notebooks — that for 1885 — survives. He did much other consulting work, including acting as the head of the dynamo department of Johnson & Phillips, and was also London editor of the technical weekly *Industries* from 1886 to 1889. It was during this period, in 1886, that his most notable and influential technical paper was published: this set out his concept of the magnetic circuit (a concept developed independently at the same time by John Hopkinson (qv)), which put dynamo design on a thoroughly sound theoretical basis for the first time.

In the 1890s Kapp undertook much major design work, including a very large electrical lighting system at Arundel Castle and the whole of the new

Before nationalisation of the steel industry (which took 14 major steel firms into public ownership) in June 1967, Ted Judge had been succeeded as president of the BISF by A J Peech, but he was asked to continue to lead for the Federation in discussions with the Government on nationalisation and associated matters.

The identity of the first chairman of the British Steel Corporation was a particularly well-kept secret and prior to the announcement of the appointment of Lord Melchett (qv) there was speculation in the Press that Ted Judge, amongst others, might be in the running. In the event, Judge did not accept any appointment. In 1968 he became deputy chairman, and in 1969 chairman, of two leading heavy electrical engineering companies on Tyneside, A Reyrolle and C A Parsons. As chairman and chief executive of these two companies in 1969-74, he was responsible for their merger, together with Bruce Peebles, into Reyrolle Parsons. He also established close ties with Clarke Chapman and thus prepared the way for the formation of Northern Engineering Industries Ltd in 1977. He was president of British Electrical Allied Manufacturers Association Ltd in 1970-71.

Judge married Alice Gertrude, daughter of Edmund Matthews, in 1934; they have two sons. Ted Judge is currently (1984) a director of ETJ Consultancy Services, Zenith Electric Co Ltd, Weldall Engineering Ltd and the Cleveland Scientific Institution. Through ETJ Consultancy Services, Ted Judge was retained by companies for advice on technical and organisational matters and in particular as a non-executive director he supported the growth at home and overseas of both Pilkington Bros and BPB Industries during the period 1967-1979.

M M ARMSTRONG

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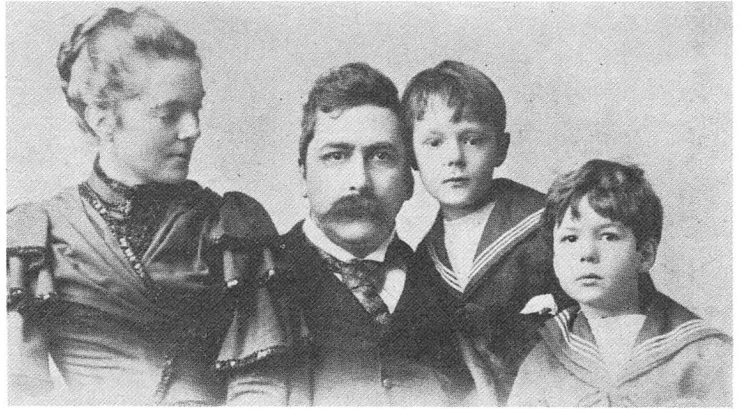
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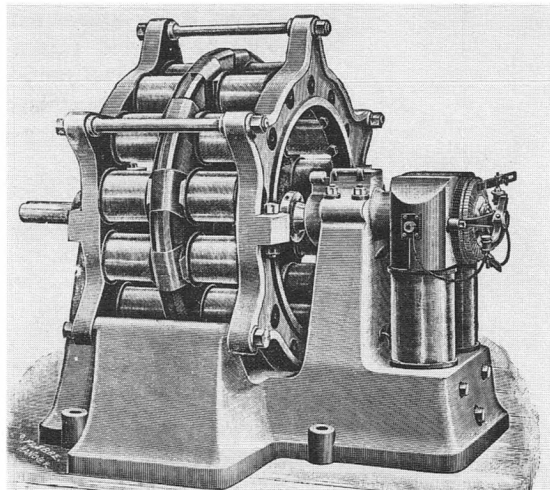
Gisbert and Teresa 'Treasy' Kapp and their two sons, 1894 (courtesy of Professor D G Tucker).



electricity supply system of the Bristol Corporation (opened in 1893). Towards the end of the decade he was consultant to the Brush organisation.

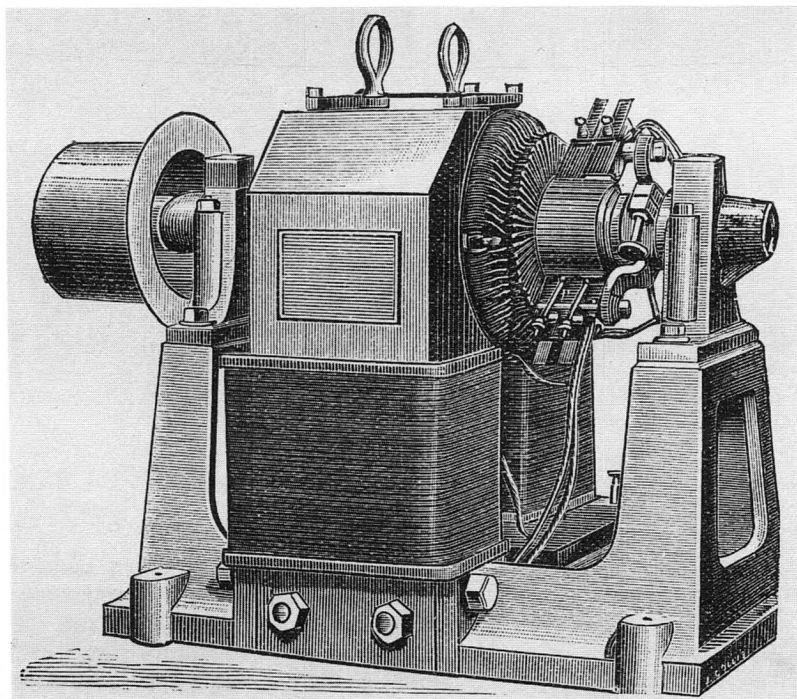
From 1894 to 1905 Kapp was based in Germany as general secretary of the Verband Deutscher Elektrotechniker (VDE) and editor of its journal *Elektrotechnische Zeitschrift*. In this capacity he was very influential; for example, it was through his agency that the Emperor's scientific adviser, Privy Counsellor Slaby, was introduced to Marconi's work on radio in 1897. While in Germany he was also involved in teaching at the Technische Hochschule at Charlottenburg in Berlin.

In 1905 Kapp was appointed professor of electrical engineering at the University of Birmingham, retiring in 1919. At this stage he was something of an elder statesman, and got drawn into business and trading politics. Nevertheless, throughout his career he maintained a lively interest in research and new design techniques, and his flow of original publications was almost continuous.



An alternator designed by Gisbert Kapp, giving an output of 60 kw. From The Electrician 23, (1889).

KAPP Gisbert



A small dynamo designed by Gisbert Kapp, giving an output of 9.6 kw, from The Electrician 18, (1887).

Kapp's contribution to business and industry was mainly as an engineer. He made a contribution to both the manufacturing and the electrical supply sides. He was in continuous contact with the industry and his advice was much sought after. He helped to establish sound design principles for electrical machinery, and in this respect can be regarded as a pioneer. He was a modest entrepreneur, however, and probably did not make much of a fortune.

Gisbert Kapp became a naturalised British citizen on 5 December 1881. In 1884 he married Teresa Mary née Krall aged twenty and of English birth. They had two sons, one of whom became a professor of electrical engineering. Their marriage endured but was none too happy. Kapp died on 10 August 1922, leaving an estate valued at £11,210 gross.

D GORDON TUCKER

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KEARLEY, Hudson Ewbanke

1st Viscount Devonport

(1856-1934)

Retailer and first chairman of the Port of London Authority

Hudson Ewbanke Kearley was born at Uxbridge, Middlesex, on 1 September 1856, the youngest son of George Ewbanke Kearley, then a 'plumber' {MCE}, later a builder and contractor, and his wife Mary Ann

KEARLEY Hudson Ewbanke



Hudson Ewbanke Kearley (courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery).

Hudson, the widow of Josiah John Barrow. He left the Surrey County School at Cranleigh aged fifteen and, after failing the Civil Service examination, was found an unpaid post with a London coffee merchant. From there he moved to Tetley & Sons Ltd, tea merchants, as a counting clerk and by the age of twenty had been promoted to company salesman.

In this post he embarked on a profitable sideline, buying in bulk from Tetley's and selling to numerous shopkeepers too small to place direct orders. This led in 1876 to the establishment of his own firm, although soon afterwards, he went into partnership with Heseltine, an acquaintance from Tetley's, who provided an initial capital of £500. They were subsequently joined by G A Tonge, also of Tetley's. Heseltine retired from the firm in 1887; Tonge remained a director until his death in 1927.

From this small operation the enterprise grew rapidly and within two years sufficient capital was available to finance the opening of a shop in Brentford. With a secure base Kearley could take advantage of the flood of cheap imported foodstuffs and expand both the range of produce sold and the number of retail outlets. By 1880 he had opened ten shops under the name of International Tea Company's Stores and was one of the leading exponents of multiple retailing in the grocery trade. His shops were unique in selling a large range of provisions cheaply; most of the other multiples with national coverage were specialists distributing a limited range of products in bulk. Accordingly the wholesale side of his business had to adapt rapidly to meet this multifarious demand. The policy of direct distribution was followed where possible, large scale purchases from importers and producers being supplemented by manufacturing and processing within the enterprise.

Throughout the 1880s the firm catered increasingly for the national market: in 1885 it had 100 branches, adding a further 100 by 1890. Lipton Ltd and the Home & Colonial Tea Co Ltd, the other leading multiple grocers, did not pass the 100 branch mark until after this latter date. In 1888, with prosperity assured, he married Selina, daughter of Edward Chester, a carpenter of Blisworth, Northamptonshire. The couple had two sons and one daughter. Thereafter he travelled extensively abroad, often with his wife, to establish new business connections. In 1895 the company went public with a nominal capital of £900,000 to finance future expansion, a flotation which was apparently assisted by the company promoter, Osborne O'Hagan (qv).

Kearley was a pioneer at the heart of the retailing revolution. With the altered conditions of supply and demand, new methods of food distribution were needed. Kearley was one of the first to take advantage of these conditions by establishing multiple grocery stores, catering for the mass market. He explored the possibilities of vertical integration, moving forwards, from his wholesale base, into retailing and backwards into production and processing, exhibiting a readiness to take risks, and a determination to bring his innovations to fruition.

Like many successful businessmen of his time he turned to politics. At first a Conservative, in 1890 he became a Liberal, attracted by Gladstone's Home Rule for Ireland policy, and was elected Liberal member for Devonport at the age of thirty-six, representing it between 1892 and 1910 when he retired from the Commons. He soon became known for his persistent attacks on the administration of the Royal Patriotic Fund, a