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M. Gaston Gourdeau

Father of District Heating in France



M. GASTON GORDEAU

M. Gaston Gourdeau is an engineering graduate of the school of "Arts & Metiers" and of "l'Ecole Superieure d'Electricite" in France.

He began work with "Compagnie du Metropolitan"—the Paris subway system and with Thomson-Houston Manufacturing Company. In 1907 he joined the staff of "Forges & Ateliers de Constructions Electriques de Jeumont, Ltd."—an electrical manufacturing company capitalized at 605,000,000 francs (at present the equivalent of 2 million dollars). He has progressively held there the positions of Engineer, Director, Administrator and Technical Consultant. In these positions, he has collaborated in the principal projects, studies and work undertaken by this firm in France, as well as abroad. Since 1911 he has been a member of the Society of Civil Engineers of France.

For his service at the front during World War I he received the Croix de Guerre from his

government. Later, he was appointed Chief of Service in the Organization of Armament Production with M. Albert Thomas.

In 1918, as successor of M. Leon Guillet, he was appointed Director of Technical War Services in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, reporting to M. Clementel.

During this period he took an active part in the French-English conferences for the organization and supply of war plants as well as for the purchase, transportation and distribution of raw materials for the coordination of industrial production in France.

He also at that time was connected with the French missions to the United States, led by M. Andre Tardieu and he took an active part in the study and preparation of the economic clauses of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.

He was made an officer of the Legion of Honor and a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

After his discharge from the services in 1920, he again returned to professional work and since 1924 has devoted himself especially to problems of district heating, of which he is the outstanding proponent in France.

In 1925 he founded the "Compagnie Generale Francaise de Chauffage Urbain" (French General Company for District Heating) which has planned the principal studies and plants in France. Its first project, the "Compagnie Parisienne de Chauffage Urbain" (Paris District Heating Company, Ltd.) capitalized at 180,000,000 (\$600,000) has now been operating 20 years.

The different projects studied by the "Compagnie Generale Francaise de Chauffage Urbain" which is primarily an office for technical, administrative and economic studies, are located in a considerable number of French cities and there are a few in other countries (Switzerland, Holland and Belgium).

M. Gaston Gourdeau has been asked to present a paper in London at the end of 1948 on the subject of district heating.