

„The key to unlocking the forces still dormant in matter lies in the human heart.

If man wills the good, then the storms of national and international quarrels will calm down, and the order of the starry heavens will once again find its reflection on earth.”

Daniel Nicol Dunlop
Basel, 30 August 1926

World Power Conference

The Journey

by Chrispian Villeneuve

D. N. Dunlop was born in 1868 at Kilmarnock in Scotland, as son of the Quaker architect Alexander Dunlop and his wife Catherine. She came from the Isle of Arran, where the boy attended a village school. But from 1882 onwards he was educated on the mainland at South Beach Grammar School in Ardrossan. Leaving school in 1886, he found employment with the Howe Machine Company in Glasgow, and there fell in with followers of Thomas Lake Harris and his associated viticultural firm of Lay, Clarke and Co., in which connection he made an early journey to New York. Returning across the Atlantic as an agent of that firm he headed for Ireland, and in Dublin probably in 1890 came across Theosophy. He found further work as a clerk in an insurance office, and at the latest by 1896 had progressed to General Secretary of the Cooney Manufacturing Company. After making other journeys to New York partly for theosophical conventions, he moved over there in 1897 to be employed with the Pierce and Miller Engineering Company. And two years later in New York he went on to gain a post in the then newly forming British Westinghouse Electric Company. This proved to be a turning point in his professional career.

Towards the end of 1899 Dunlop moved back across the Atlantic and settled in London, now as Assistant Publicity Manager of British Westinghouse. Already in 1904 he was promoted to Publicity Manager, also handling publicity for the firm's European branches. In 1907 he further took on the post of Sales Manager of the Supply Department, and with the firm's support came to make over the following years a close study of its sales problems. This led him finally to the conviction that the best solution to many serious difficulties affecting the industry of that time was co-operation between all British electrical firms through a strong central association able to represent their interests in all directions.

Accordingly in 1911 he went on to found as a three-year experiment the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association (BEAMA), to manage which he resigned from the Westinghouse firm.

By 1914 it was clear to all concerned that this experiment had indeed proved successful, and the BEAMA continued thereafter on a permanent basis, with Dunlop as Secretary, later Director. In 1915 BEAMA Overseas Committees were created in British Empire Dominions. A quarterly was also launched entitled *The BEAMA Journal*, to which Dunlop regularly contributed articles. Many early ones were included in revised form into his book *British Destiny* (1916), a remarkable work of original content which stands in notable contrast to his skillfully plagiarised theosophical ones.

He came increasingly to interest himself in the teachings of Rudolf Steiner, and a strong impression was made upon him in 1920 by the publication in English of *The Threefold State*, with its concluding chapter headed "International Aspects of the Threefold Commonwealth". Towards the end of that year he finally joined the Anthroposophical Society.

By that time there was being planned a British Empire Exhibition, and in 1921 the BEAMA agreed to take part in its engineering section. In conjunction therewith Dunlop further seized the opportunity in 1922, shortly after his first meeting in London with Rudolf Steiner, to propose to the Council of the BEAMA the holding of a World Power Conference.

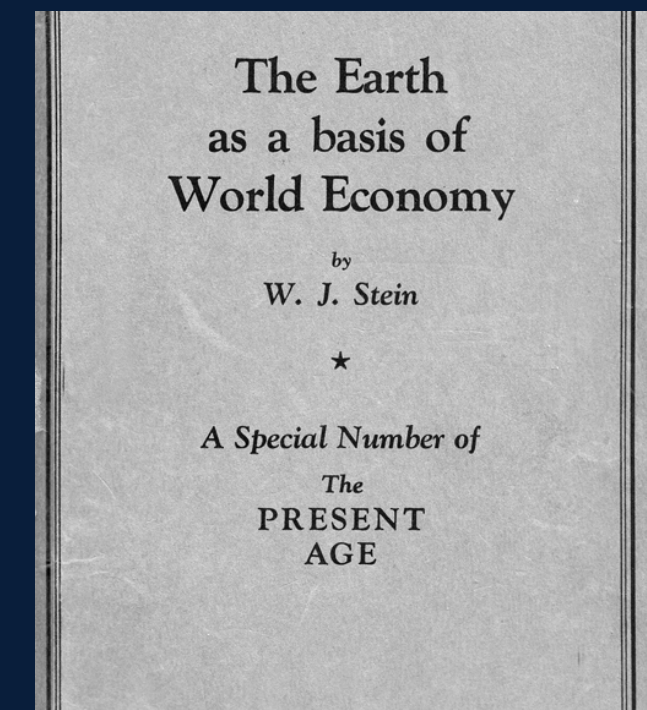
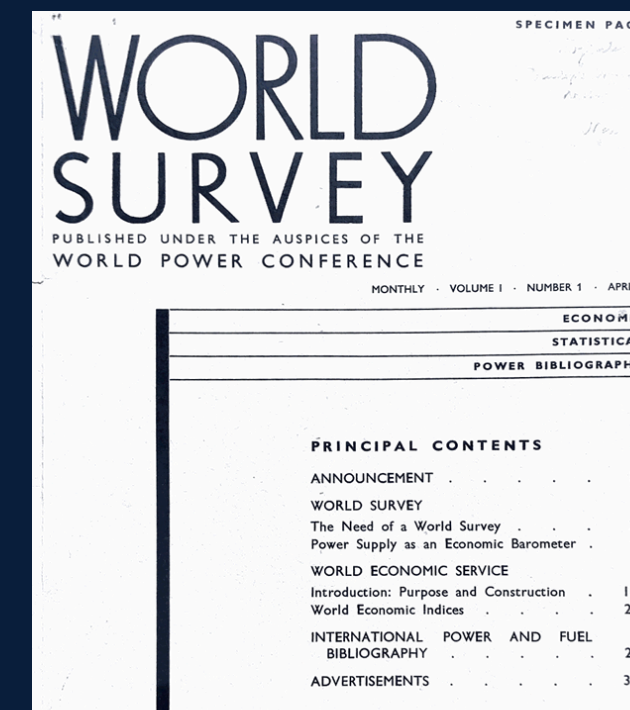
This proposal was accepted, and preparation went ahead. Dunlop enlisted the support of leading British scientists, engineers and industrialists as well as State Departments and Dominion representatives, and in the name of the British Empire invited many other nations to take part. By 1923 national committees were being formed within these invited nations, and in January 1924 *The BEAMA Journal* was renamed *World Power* in order to associate the electrical and allied industry with the forthcoming World Power Conference.

World Power Conference

More than 1,700 delegates from 40 countries gathered in the conference halls of the Palace of Engineering in London from 30 June to 12 July 1924 to assist at the WPC.

The conference aimed to bring together experts from around the world to discuss, rethink and share knowledge about the future of energy resources. The conference was a success, reported in various newspapers of the time, and featured an opening speech by the Prince of Wales.

D. N. Dunlop's work was deeply rooted in the principles of the Threefold Social Order, which aimed at cooperation and fraternity. He worked with W. J. Stein on the materialisation of a World Economic Conference until his death on May 30th 1935.



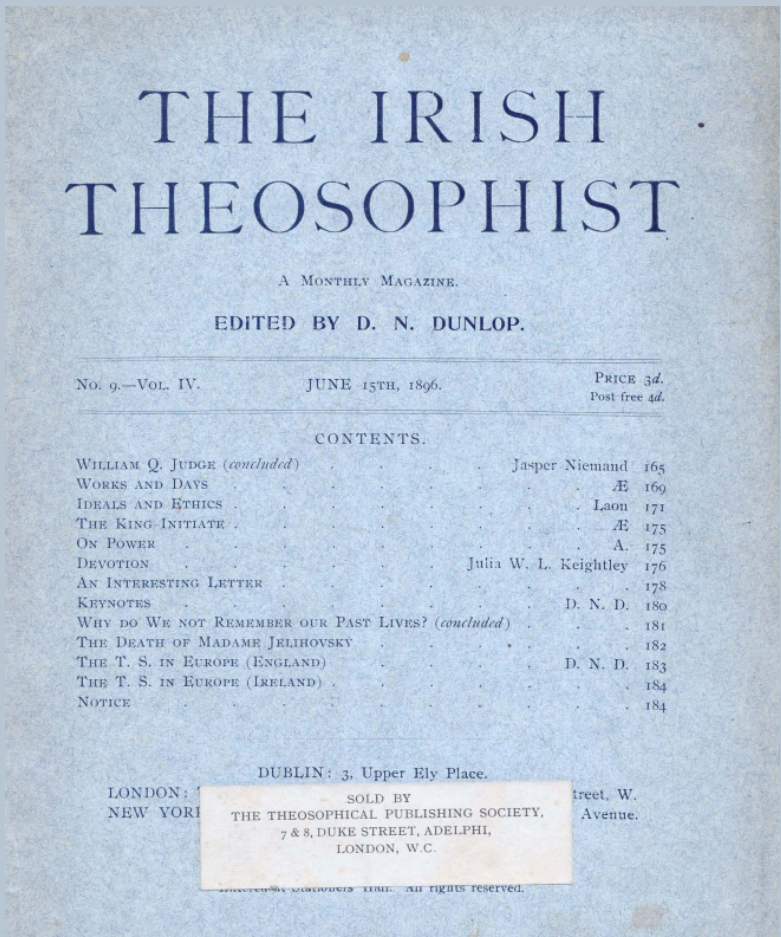
“I could see clearly that it was impossible to bring together politicians, and as all the important economic decisions are in the hands of politicians, it was hopeless to found an international economic body as a first step. But it was possible to bring together human beings in the field of technical questions, and so I started there. But I always had in mind the idea of enlarging this body of engineers to a body of experts of all branches of industry and agriculture. I wanted not only to include the producers and distributors but also the consumers and consider their point of view.” (D. N. Dunlop)

From a conversation between Dunlop and W. J. Stein, *The Present Age*, Vol. 1, Dec. 1935

1885-
1888

Dunlop works at a
bicycle shop in
Glaskow; reads
historical,
philosophical, and
occult work

1892



The first issue of The Irish
Theosophist is published

1897

Dunlop moves with his
family to New York, works
at Pierce and Miller
Engineering Company, and
also contributes to the
Theosophical Society

1906



Dunlop attends the annual congress of the
european Theosophical confederations in Paris,
where he met Rudolf Steiner for the first time,
although there is no personal contact

1911

Dunlop founds the
British Electrical and
Allied Manufacturers'
Association (BEAMA)

1918

Dunlop leads the
Anthroposophical
Human Freedom
Group



Dunlop moves
to Dublin
in 1890

Dunlop marries
Eleanor Fitzpatrick

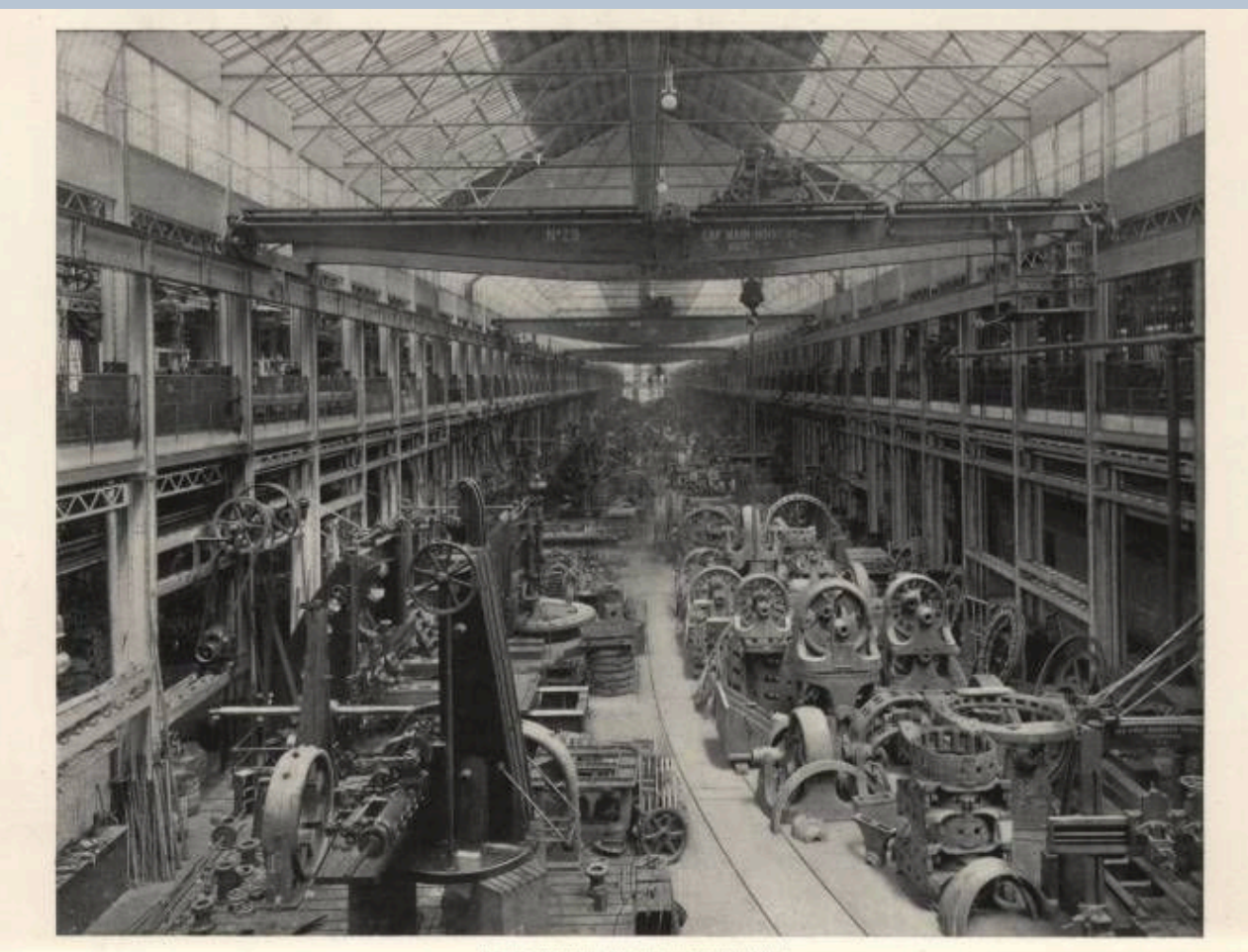
First trip
to America

December 28th
Daniel Nicol Dunlop
is born in
Kilmarnock,
Scotland

1888-
1890

1893

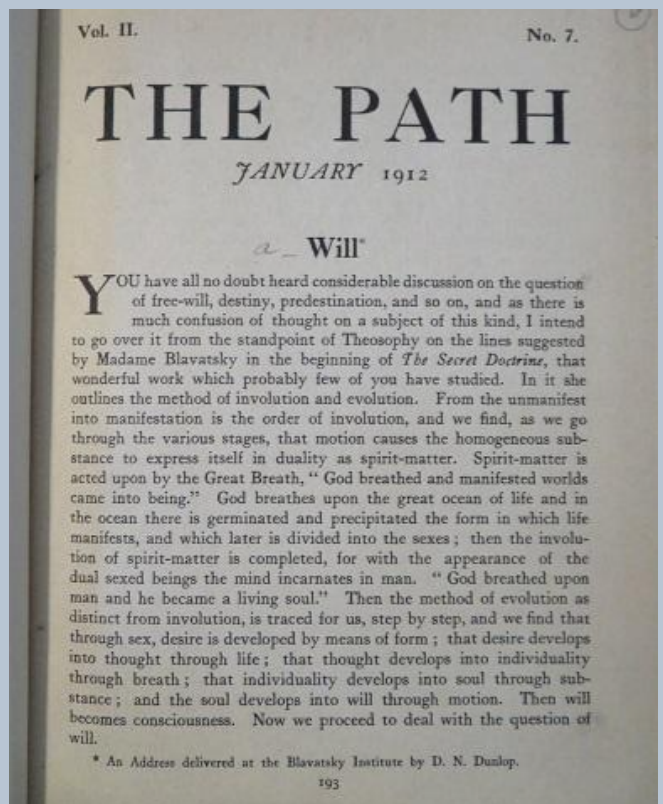
The American Westinghouse Company employs
Dunlop, due to a series of articles he wrote
on various uses of electricity.
He moves to London



1899

Dunlop opens a Blavatsky Institute in Hale,
regularly holds theosophical lecture courses
and published the magazine “The path”

Dunlop organizes several theosophical
summer schools



1910

Dunlop publishes the
magazine BEAMA, which
is continued under the
name World Power from
1923

1915

1920

Dunlop applies for
membership in the
Anthroposophical
Society



1922

Dunlop is introduced to Rudolf Steiner in London. Steiner visits him at his home in Wimbledon while he is ill

The idea of summer courses and a series of the "World Conferences" is born and Steiner is asked to take on the presidency of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain



1924

The first World Power Conference is held in London and opened by the Prince of Wales



1926

The first part of second World Power Conference is held in Basel

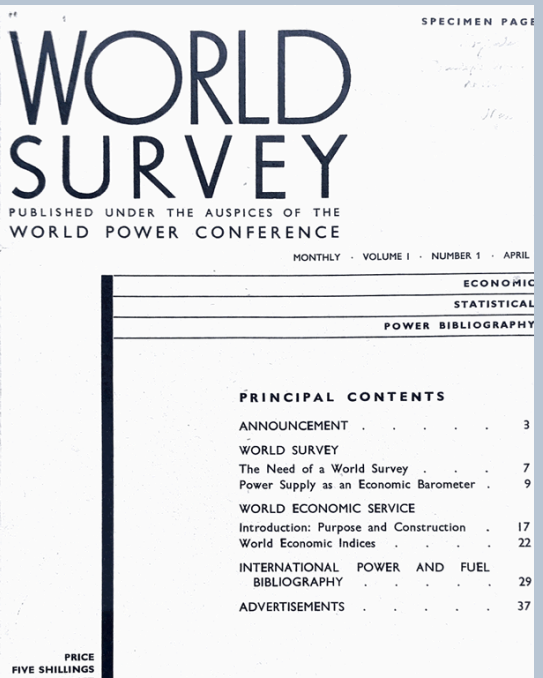


1930

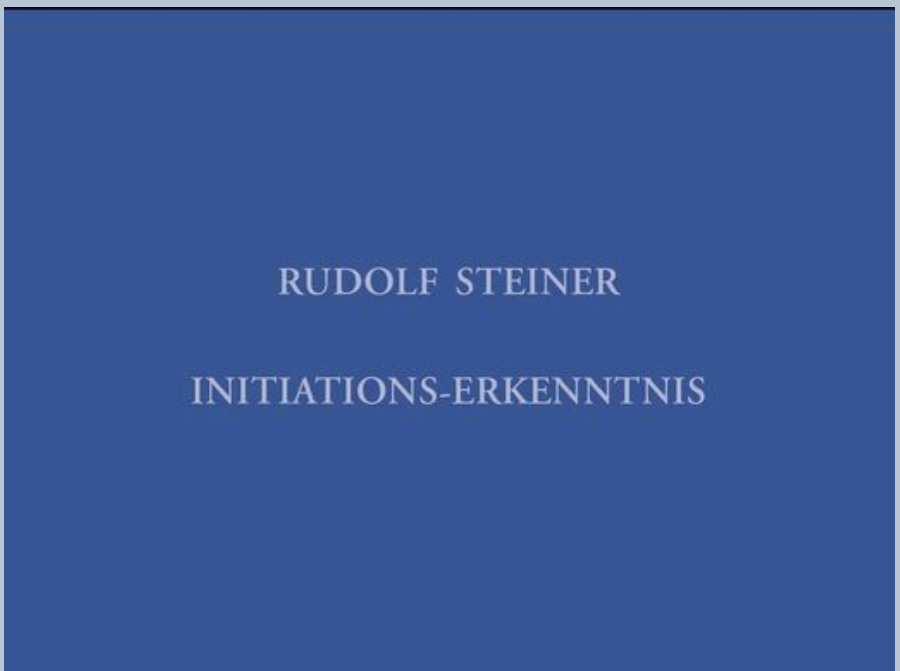
Dunlop falls ill, missing the World Power Conference in Berlin, which featured speakers such as Einstein

1935

The board members Ita Wegman and Elisabeth Vreede, along with Dunlop and others are excluded on April 1935 from the Anthroposophical Society after a period of conflicts

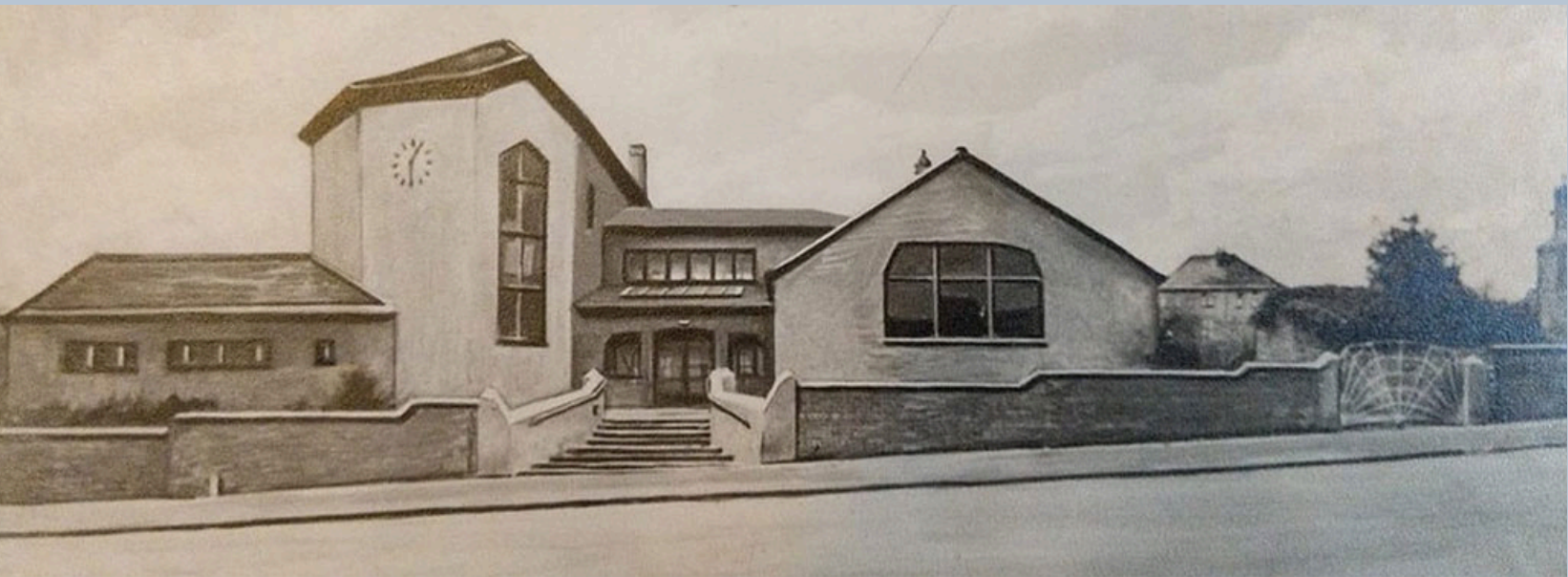


The first issue of the magazine World Survey is published



Steiner gives the cycle "Initiate Consciousness" at the Second International Summer School in Torquay

Dunlop participates in the foundation of the British Weleda Company and works together with Ita Wegman in publications



1923

At the First International Summer School, Steiner gives the cycle "Initiation Knowledge" in Penmaenmawr

Rudolf Steiner dies in Dornach

1925

Study "Power Resources of the World" is published

1929



Dunlop calls W. J. Stein to England to work on plans for a Wold Economic Conference

1933

Dunlop falls ill and dies on May 30th