

tendency seems to be that they want a little more money for what they are furnishing, and they are trying to find out which way they can make more, and for that reason, more than any other, the report could not be completed. It would only be a half report, and I thought it best not to make a half report when, no doubt, we could make a full and complete one later.

On motion the report as read was approved.

The President called for the report of the Committee on Meter Inspection.

Mr. J. J. Wright : That committee has had no meetings during the past year. There have been no measures taken in regard to the inspection of meters by the government that would necessitate the calling together of the members of that committee.

The President : That would appear to be all the reports. The next order of business is General Business.

Mr. A. A. Dion : There may be no other opportunity of bringing up a question which is suggested by Mr. Wright's report, and it is this : We as a company in Ottawa propose to take up with the Inspection Department the question of the possibility of making such departmental regulations as would allow of meter seals being broken for cleaning and adjusting the meters without paying an extra fee. As the law is at present, you are aware that meters have to be inspected every five years. There are not a great many meters that will run for five years without some adjustment or cleaning, and this cannot be done under the present regulations without breaking the seal and paying an additional fee. I take it that the intention of the government is not to compel companies to pay for meter inspection more than once in five years for each meter in service; therefore it is a proper question to ask them if some regulation cannot be made whereby the privilege of breaking seals will be allowed under certain restrictions. The question arises whether this Association should not take this matter up; possibly the Committee on Meter Inspection might be continued with the hope of taking this question up during the present year. I think it is one of considerable importance. The cost of meter inspection is quite a large item to some of the companies, and having to pay extra fees makes it still greater. Mr. Wright no doubt has had considerable experience in using meters in large numbers, and he can probably see the value of the suggestion.

The President : It appears that the programme of part of the proceedings to-morrow will be the election of the standing committees, which will undoubtedly result in the continuance of the committees that have been already approved of, and thus accomplish the purpose Mr. Dion has suggested. Under the head of general business I am desired to say on behalf of the manager of the Hamilton and Dundas railroad that at five o'clock this afternoon he will be pleased to give the pleasure of a trip on that road to any and all of the members of the Association who may desire to participate. I presume that you will be able to enjoy this and be back in sufficient time to also enjoy the trip arranged for this evening at half past seven, as appears by the programme, to Burlington Beach, by courtesy of the Hamilton Radial railway and the Hamilton street railway. Another topic of general business, the Executive Committee at its session this morning thought it advisable to endeavor to crystallize or make deliberate the action of the Association in making nominations for the officers for the incoming year. Without undertaking to in any way restrict the individual action of the members of the Association, but simply for the purpose of exercising a deliberation and offering suggestions, it was desired that I would appoint a nominating committee. The election, as you are aware does not take place until Friday, but I will now announce the nominating committee who will take the matter in hand and present for our consideration to-morrow the names of the gentlemen whom they offer for your suffrages on Friday morning. As I stated before, this will not prevent any and all members of the Association from making nominations on their own account in contradistinction to the nominations offered by the committee. I now appoint as the nominating committee Mr. Cary, Mr. Carroll, Mr. J. J. Wright,

Mr. Yule and Mr. Wyse, and I commend to their kind and early consideration the adoption of a ticket that I trust will meet with the universal approval of the members and will not call for any opposing nominations.

Mr. John Yule. Do I understand that this committee will nominate the members of the standing committees?

The President : No; they will nominate the members of the Executive Committee, and the gentlemen up for the offices of president, first vice-president and second vice-president.

Mr. J. Yule : Hasn't it been the practice heretofore for the President to nominate a small committee to confer in the nomination of the standing committees?

The President : That, I understand, is the action to be taken to-morrow. I may be incorrect about it, but there seems to be no provision made for any other method in the programme. I am entirely willing, Mr. Yule, to leave to this committee the selection of the standing committees for the year. If they are good enough to select the candidates for offices, they will be good enough to do that. I understand it is in the nature of an advisory board to the President in appointing the standing committees.

Mr. Yule : I think you will find the committee to nominate the standing committees was always nominated the first afternoon and reported the next day.

The President : Very well ; I will entrust that to this same committee.

Mr. J. J. Wright : When is this committee to report?

The President : To-morrow ; preferably as early as possible.

The President read two communications, one from C. S. Cochran, photographer, and the other from Mr. G. A. Browne, traffic manager of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company.

The President : Has any member anything of general business purpose to offer for consideration now? (No response.) There being none, the next order of business is the presentation of papers. I will call upon Mr. A. A. Dion to read his paper entitled "Meters and Meter Rates." You all have copies. You will find it is exhaustive and enters into the question fully, and I hope and solicit most earnestly that, as the reading progresses, you will all make notes and bring up matters for discussion. Let us have all the papers fully discussed. I am sure that the writers of papers will feel no injury to their feelings whatever in having all sorts of discussion brought out in order to make clear to ourselves and perhaps to assist them in a further exposition of their subject.

Mr. A. A. Dion, of Ottawa, read his paper entitled "Meters and Meter Rates," which is printed on page 156.

The President : I think, gentlemen, that the Association can take exception to the last paragraph of Mr. Dion's paper in which he intimates that he has not treated satisfactorily this subject. I think in that we must disagree with him. But there is much in this paper which, while coinciding with the experience of many of us in almost every particular, ought to arouse a great amount, not of discussion in the sense that it may mean objection to what is said, but for the purpose of reinforcing what Mr. Dion has said in many particulars, and I think if I call upon Mr. Gossler, who is quite familiar with the system in Montreal and what our practice there is, it may assist in promoting further talk on the matter.

Mr. P. G. Gossler : Mr. President, before the convention comes to discuss that part of Mr. Dion's paper relating to meter rates, which I presume is by far the most interesting part of the paper to us all, there are several points in connection with testing meters which I should like to bring up for discussion for my own information. I first refer to that part of Mr. Dion's paper under the head of "meter room," where he says "The meters should be connected in series, and the circuit, which must be of large wire, should pass through a main switch and cutout, a rheostat or choking coil to adjust the voltage." It has been the result of our experience and some exhaustive tests to determine the