

AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

Thirty-Ninth Annual Convention in Buffalo Last Week Had
Record Attendance—Next Convention to be
Held in Montreal

THE thirty-ninth annual convention of the American Water Works Association, held last week in Buffalo, was a complete success. From very small beginnings in 1881, this organization has grown to be an important factor in connection with the design, construction and operation of water works plants and exerts considerable influence in that particular branch of engineering. During this long period the association has always been most intimately linked up with all movements that have been in the best interests of sanitary engineering. Since its founding the association has had but three secretaries, the present officer, J. M. Diven, having filled this position since 1902.

Monday, June 9th, was devoted to registration and the "getting together" of the delegates as they arrived from practically all sections of the United States and Canada. A glance through the list of delegates shows conclusively that the association's membership is very widely scattered, touches every state of the union and every province in Canada, as well as many points in foreign countries. The association's membership practically circles the globe.

Entertainment, Then Business

On the evening of the first day, a most delightful function was held at Hotel Lafayette, where the Water Works Manufacturers' Association acted as hosts at a reception and dance for the members and guests who up to that time had registered. The ball-room of the Hotel Lafayette was cleared and dancing was indulged in until a late hour, after which refreshments were served.

A pleasant surprise on this occasion was the arrival of the well-known band of the Shredded Wheat factory of Niagara Falls, N.Y., accompanied by a pipers' band from the same city. This item was not on the program but it added immensely to the pleasure of the evening.

Tuesday morning, June 10th, at 9 o'clock, the convention proper got down to business, the first item on the program being an address of welcome by the Hon. Arthur W. Kreinheider, Commissioner of Public Works for the city of Buffalo.

At this session Leonard Metcalf, of Boston, read a paper dealing with the effect of the war period, 1914-1918, and public control upon the water works of the United States. This was listened to with a great deal of interest by a large audience and was highly appreciated by those present.

Round Table Discussion

Following Mr. Metcalf's address a round table discussion on means of "Preventing Hydrant Damage by Motor Vehicles and Remedies Therefor," was indulged in as well as a general discussion on the "Placing of Post Fenders Around Hydrants," "The Moving of Hydrants from Curb to Building Line," together with an exchange of experiences, all of which brought out some very interesting points that will probably prove helpful to the water works men who were present.

In the afternoon of the same day the meeting opened with a paper by John Knickerbocker, president of the Eddy Valve Co., on "An Investigation of Question of Flanges for Light Cast-Iron Pipe." An excerpt from this paper appears on another page of this issue.

Papers Read at Convention

Following this paper Nicholas S. Hill, Jr., who is chairman of the "Committee on Private Fire Protection Service," presented the report on that subject.

The evening session opened at 8 o'clock, with a paper by H. F. Wagner, chemist of the Bureau of Water, Buffalo, on "Buffalo Water Supply, with Special Reference to the Filtration Problem." At this session George C. Andrews, Water Commissioner of Buffalo, N.Y., read a very interesting paper on "The Reduction of Water Consumption by Means of Pitometer Survey and Constant In-

spection," an abstract of which appears on another page of this issue. Another paper read at this session was that of D. A. Decrow in which he went into a description of the development of the "Unaflo" pumping engine. This was particularly interesting inasmuch as arrangements had been made by a local pump manufacturer for the display of an engine of this type, especially for the inspection and information of the delegates to the convention. This engine was the centre of interest on the occasion of the delegates' visit the following day to the Porter Ave. pumping station where it was again interestingly described by Mr. Decrow.

At this same session a paper by John Oliphant, of the Sullivan Machinery Co., on "Air Lift and Water Purification" was read by a substitute, Mr. Oliphant being unavoidably absent on account of sickness. This paper will appear in an early issue of *The Canadian Engineer*.

By courtesy of the American Water Works Manufacturers' Association, the ladies of the party were that evening tendered a party at Shea's Theatre.

Montreal Gets 1920 Convention

The Wednesday morning session opened with a paper by John A. Kienle, the genial hard working secretary of the American Water Works Manufacturers' Association, on "The Relation of the Chemical Industry of Niagara Falls to the Water Works." This was illustrated by a large number of interesting slides and was thoroughly appreciated by his hearers, of which there were many.

Incidentally it might be in order here to refer to the unusual interest that was taken in the meetings of the convention. Almost every technical session of the convention was well attended in spite of the fact that the room, being situated in the corner of the building and between two car lines, was not the best place in which to hear the speakers.

Following Mr. Kienle's paper there was a symposium by government officials and others on the trend of prices; reports of officers, standing and special committees, as well as a report of the committee on electrolysis.

Invitations were received from the following cities for the holding of the convention next year: Philadelphia, Pa.; San Francisco, Cal.; Detroit, Mich.; Tampa, Florida; Asbury Park, N.J.; Atlantic City, N.J.; Washington, D.C.; Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and Montreal, P.Q. Under the association's constitution it is necessary for any city or place to receive the convention that it should have a majority of the votes cast. There being 121 votes cast, it required 61 votes in order to swing the convention. After the votes had been taken the scrutineers reported that Montreal had secured 62 votes, the nearest other city being Detroit, which polled 29, so that the next place of meeting will be Montreal.

Visit to Pumping Station

On the afternoon of Wednesday, June 11th, the city of Buffalo provided a sail on Lake Erie on the steamer "Canadiana." After sailing around the lake for about two hours, the boat pulled alongside the Porter Ave. pumping station of the Buffalo water works, but unfortunately was unable to land owing to the shallowness of the water. This did not, however, prevent the local water works officials from seeing to it that the 500 delegates and guests who took the trip should see the plant, for immediately upon returning to the city dock, automobiles were provided which took the delegates to the pumping station, where a very pleasant hour or two were spent looking over the plant. Refreshments were served and return was made to the city by motor cars. A group photograph was taken on the steps of the pumping station.

That evening the ladies of the party were guests of the Water Works Manufacturers' Association at the Lafayette Hotel, at a card party, while the men were invited to a smoker at the Hotel Statler.

The first session of Thursday, June 12th, was devoted to the reading of papers by William H. C. Ramsay, on "The Water Distribution Systems of Industrial Housing Problems for Shipbuilders"; and Dabney Maury, on "Water Supply for the Cantonments and Other Construction Division Activities." In the afternoon the Water Works Manufac-